



# International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement

*From emergency to resilience and development*  
26-27 November 2019, Gaziantep, Turkey

## SUMMARY REPORT





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## Context and background

In 2019 alone, 70 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced as a result of conflict or natural disasters. Large movements of migrants, refugees and internally displaced groups across the world and their hosting communities are faced with significant challenges to cope with and recover sustainably from the impact. At the same time, solutions may provide also opportunities to transform development processes and systems allowing for improved resilience moving forward.

The role of municipalities in creating inclusive communities and fostering local development in response to large scale displacement has never been as important. Mayors, local authorities and their communities have long been at the forefront of responding to displacement and migration. Municipalities have led social and economic inclusion efforts, such as facilitating access to services for refugees and migrants and implementing expanded infrastructure and administrative systems to accommodate increased demand. In many cases they have provided access to employment and livelihoods opportunities, housing, health care, education, and skills and language training for newcomers and long-term residents alike.

Mayors have played a central role in not only meeting immediate needs of newly arriving refugees and migrants, but also capitalizing on the opportunities that new residents bring in terms of longer term social and economic growth and building urban resilience. Local authorities are those closest to the people and confronted with challenges and opportunities on a daily basis. They are therefore in an unique position to transform local development and accelerate innovation by facilitating the inclusion of refugees and migrants.

The Global Municipal Forum, which took place on 26-27 November 2019, brought together over 400 participants from all regions, including 60 high level speakers of which more than 35 mayors. The forum was co-organized by UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, the Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep, United Cities and Local Governments Middle Eastern and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and WALD. The Forum was hosted in Turkey, currently home to the largest number of refugees in the world. The forum took place in Gaziantep City, which hosts 500,000 Syrian under temporary protection.

- The Forum was opened by the Vice President of the Government of Turkey, Fuat Oktay and attended by other high-level representatives including:
- The Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep, Fatma Şahin
- UNDP Deputy Regional Director and Deputy Assistant Administrator, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (RBEC), Agi Veres
- UNHCR Director of the Global Refugee Forum, Daniel Andres
- IOM Director for International Cooperation and Partnerships, Jill Helke
- 20 international mayors from Australia (Knox City Council, Victoria), Bosnia-Herzegovina (Bihac), Bulgaria (Vitosha district of Sofia), Germany (Altena), Japan (Kyoto), Lebanon (Donnieh and Sarafand), Pakistan (Peshawar), Serbia (Sombor and Pirot), Sierra Leone (Bo City), Spain (Villamarinque and Merida), and Ukraine (Ivano-Frankivk) and representatives from international associations of local authorities or national government from Spain, Sweden, and China.
- 15 Turkish Mayors
- 14 embassies including three Ambassadors
- Private Sector Representatives and national civil society representative including refugee women representatives.
- The Forum counted 19 women high level speakers, including 2 international mayors and 4 moderators.

The Municipal Forum emphasized the importance of comprehensive responses facilitating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities to large movements of refugees and migrants. The Forum also highlighted how cities are successfully responding to these challenges, and better enable all actors in a whole-of-society response to understand how best to support cities and local authorities in their endeavors.

Consistent with the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and both global compacts, municipalities have transformed refugee and migration challenges into opportunities to catalyze local development, social cohesion and inclusion. Local authorities often see migrants and refugees into a new and positive light since they are not focused on border control, return and readmissions, but rather economic growth and inclusion that works for the benefit of all residents. Examples of best practices are key to provide practical tools and guidance on bridging the humanitarian and development nexus.



By highlighting the responses of cities in the largest refugee-hosting country in the world, the forum will build on the momentum generated by a number of emerging initiatives including the Mayors Migration Council and the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) Mayoral Mechanism. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has encouraged the exchange of good practices to identify what elements are missing for more comprehensive responses.

Following the affirmation of the Global Compact on Refugees and adoption of the Global Compact on Migration by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, the global Municipal Forum 2019 was organized to provide a platform to share and document experiences of mayors around the world to support and achieve the objectives of the global compacts in their communities as local development actors- which led to the adoption of the Gaziantep Declaration 2019. Highlights of the Municipal Forum and the Gaziantep Declaration was presented by Fatma Şahin, the Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva on December 16, 2019 in the spotlight session on 'Realizing Refugee Inclusion with City and Refugee Leaders.'

The Gaziantep Declaration 2019 presents commitments and pledges to promote, deepen and replicate at scale forward-looking and accelerating efforts to transition from emergency to resilience, to solutions and development in responding to complex refugee and migration situations. The Declaration consolidates global good practices from a Mayor's perspective in responding to migration and displacement, with a specific focus on the linkages with local development. The Declaration indicates how principles agreed in the Global Compact for Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration can be implemented in practice. The Declaration was signed by 38 stakeholders, including Mayors, representatives from local development actors, civil society and UN agencies.

In addition to the Declaration, the Forum launched the establishment of a Global Task Force on Migration under the UCLG- MEWA Committee for Social Inclusion that will be tasked on following up on the outcomes of the Forum and the pledges made in the Gaziantep Declaration. More than 30 local authorities, UN agencies and other representatives joined the Task Force during the forum.

The Municipal Forum received broad international and national media coverage. Please see Annex I with highlights of news items on the forum to date.

## Opening Remarks



Although we have limited resources we have the policy not to turn our backs to our neighbours. We don't discriminate races, religions. We have never did. As Turkey we didn't do just our part we also took on our backs the responsibilities of international communities in order to leave a better legacy.



**Fuat Oktay**  
Vice President, Republic of Turkey



“ Mayors play a key role in the process for economic inclusion. Mayors mechanism development a roadmap to contribute implementation of global compact. They can help and ensure local policies and attitudes shaped to leave no one behind. Role of mayors and local governments increase in national level. We hope can inspire one another even faster. ”

**Jill Helke**  
Director, International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM, Geneva

“ Many of you are the key agents of change. All of you in this room has valuable insights and practices to share. Solidarity is essential. We will have to work differently. Returning to the example of Turkey, I would like to stress the strategic importance of further support to local authorities. ”

**Daniel Endres**  
Director of Global Forum for Refugees,  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
(UNHCR)



“ We believe that; what we do that is not a favour for refugees but an international and humanitarian responsibility. ”

It is high time for the 'world' migration is not a problem to be solved but a reality to be managed ”

**Fatma Şahin**  
Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality,  
Former President, UCLG-MEWA President of UMT



The number of international immigrants has reached 270 million since 2010 and 90 percent of these immigration is because of economic reasons.

The response of Turkish municipalities hosting record number of refugees and migrants is an example showing the world how to act. This event is a milestone.



**Agi Veres**

Deputy Regional Director,  
UNDP Europe and the CIS



Local governments have a significant role in creating sustainable solutions and solving instant problems.

We can clearly see how the refugees were adapted to life in a participatory way, especially in Istanbul.



**Alvaro Rodriguez**

UN Turkey Officer in Charge



The Municipal Forum was opened by the Vice President of Turkey, Fuat Oktay, Fatma Şahin (Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep), Alvaro Rodriguez (UN Turkey Officer in Charge) Jill Helke (IOM Director International Cooperation and Partnerships), Daniel Endres (UNHCR, Director of the Global Refugee Forum) and Agi Veres (UNDP, Deputy Regional Director and Deputy Assistant Administrator, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS)

The first part of the opening remarks was dedicated to welcoming international participants to Turkey and highlighting key features and best practices from the Turkey context.

■ The mayor of Gaziantep, Fatma Şahin, showcased the generosity of her municipality in responding to Syrian refugees, explaining how a strong sense of moral responsibility towards refugees led to developing the Gaziantep model of local refugee response, notably by being the first municipality in Turkey to set up a department dedicated to refugee response.



■ The UN Officer in Charge for Turkey, Alvaro Rodriguez, focused his remarks on the support provided by the United Nations and other 3RP partners to the Government in that respect. The speaker particularly highlighted how the refugee and resilience response in Turkey is directly drawing from the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, and notably how UN agencies, NGOs and Turkish municipalities have built up innovative partnerships to address the needs of refugees and host communities, aligning with the essence of SDG 17 on global partnerships in action.

■ The Vice-President of the Republic of Turkey, Fuat Oktay, explained how the Government policy towards refugees is enabling municipalities such as Gaziantep to implement responses at the local level. The Vice President echoed the mayor in reiterating Turkey's call for greater burden sharing with refugee-hosting countries, in line with the commitment of the Global Compact for Refugees.

The Global Representatives from the three co-hosting UN Organizations – UNDP, IOM, and UNHCR – built on this to link the discussion of the Municipal Forum with Global Process on Migration and Displacement Management.

IOM's Jill Helke recalled how mayors played a key role in the process leading to agreement on the text of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration adopted last year in Marrakech. The compact is the first document adopted by the UN General Assembly that recognizes so explicitly the role and importance of local authorities in fostering good migration governance. IOM encouraged mayors to use this recognition to push for more systematic and regular consultation between national and local authorities on migration issues. The Mayors Mechanism of the GFMD is one result of such recognition, while its recent call to action offers a way to exercise local leadership for global impact.

UNHCR's Daniel Endres reiterated how the Global Compact on Refugees singles out local authorities deserve to receive much greater international recognition and support for their work. The first Global Refugee Forum will provide a space for cities to share some of the lessons learnt, good practices developed and strategies adopted in responding to refugee arrivals. The World Urban Congress in Durban mid-November offered an early opportunity for cities to indicate commitments they would be willing to make to improve refugee and migration-related governance; support inclusive economic development; foster (more) inclusive societies; prevent and counter xenophobia and discrimination and protect the most vulnerable refugees and migrants.

UNDP's Agi Veres emphasized the importance of a resilience approach to migration and development response to cope with and recover from shocks and sustain development gains. UNDP always connects interventions, including humanitarian and crisis response processes, to national and sustainable development priorities. The response of Turkish municipalities such as the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality and other municipalities throughout Turkey hosting record numbers of migrants and refugees is a global example of linking successfully humanitarian assistance and development goals. It demonstrates how refugees can be actively included into national and local services and effectively contribute to the local economies.

## Mayoral Panel 1 - Localization of the SDGs through governance and inclusive planning in response to migration and refugees.

### Key Points:

- Municipalities play a key role in including migrants and refugees into local development strategies and in making the link with their localization of SDGs: while municipalities first deliver humanitarian support to migrants and refugees, the mayors explained how they quickly transitioned towards social inclusion issues, and how they have leveraged the resources and capacities of migrants and refugees as a potential development resource.
- Equal opportunities and equal access to services was highlighted as particularly key in that respect – migrants and refugees should benefit from the same local services as the host community to ensure that we leave no one behind.
- Cooperation with other local, national and international stakeholders remains key – this includes cooperation with other municipalities as well as providing the right national legal framework on the role of municipalities related to migration and displacement to ensure complementary between local and national levels.



**Mohamad Saadieh**  
President of  
UCLG-MEWA  
President of Union of Dannieh  
Municipalities, Lebanon

“  
 Revolution of our cities are linked to movement of people. Migrants are our neighbours who live in our city and work with us. It is the role of local authorities to support newcomers and to showcase how migrants contribute to local economy.  
 ”

**Mohamed Boussraoui**  
 Director of Programmes, UCLG

## Mayoral Panel 1-composition and highlights of contributions

**Moderator: Cecile Riallant, Head of the Migration and Sustainable Development Unit, IOM**

### **Abdurrahman Dursun - Mayor of Sultangazi Municipality**

Presentation highlighted the transition from immediate assistance and distribution to working towards the socio-economic integration of refugees through language classes and integrated protection services. Employment projects are provided as a result of which migrants and refugees are enabled to open up their own stores

### **Diğer Orkan - Mayor of Karesi Balıkesir**

The contribution focussed on the importance of addressing public health and education certification as well as the need to provide equal opportunities for migrants and the development of common strategies. Municipalities should be working in coordination with the government, NGO's and INGO's

“  
 We have to make a distinction between a refugee and a migrant. A migrant is someone who choose to move, while a refugee is forced to move  
 ”

I would like to thank the Turkish Government, all municipalities and especially Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality for their efforts.

**Mohamad Saadieh**  
 Mayor of Deirnbouh, Lebanon  
 President of UCLG-MEWA  
 President of Union of Dannieh Municipalities





### Mohamad Saadie- Mayor of Deirnbouh, Lebanon and President of UCLG-MEWA

Remarks underlined the importance of the implementation of the 2030 agenda and SDG's as the right way to improve better future. Job opportunities need to be provided in cooperation with the host communities. Transparency is the tool for the good governance, including fostering of dialogues and trust building. The speaker also highlighted the importance of health, education, and women's empowerment to reduce inequality.

### Mohamed Boussraoui -Programme Director, UCLG

The presenter spoke about the importance of reducing any form of discriminatory barriers to reduce the risks of exclusion and marginalization. Local authorities should aim to provide the same type of service provision to all. A solid legal framework is a critical basis to enable effective cooperation and coordination between local authorities and national Government.

### Susana Garrido Gandullo - Mayor of Villamanrique, Spain

The Mayor spoke about how as a municipality they are working towards achieving the SDG goals (across SDG 1, 2 and 10).

■ However, international support and the presence of humanitarian organizations in municipalities concentrating on transiting migrants can have a high impact on the local economy due to the number of local residents gaining employment in these organizations.

■ On the other hand, the example of Gaziantep shows that win-win solutions are possible, capitalizing on the entrepreneurial spirit of refugees. Syrian businesses have helped significantly expand exports and access to new markets in Gaziantep for instance. Local authorities have played a key role in supporting the Syrian business association, and the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce proactive role in providing vocational classes to refugees to match market demand.

■ Access to finance and in particular consumer finance is critical to support migrants and refugees financially and contribute to the local economy. The example from Australia highlighted how this can be brought to scale, to access education opportunities and critical assets for employment.

■ Although jobs are created mainly by the private sector, the contribution of the municipalities is very high. Municipalities are key to identify the specific needs of the local labour market. They also ensure continuity of efforts and longer-term planning in line with local development strategies. As such international partners and NGOs should focus on providing employment services through the municipalities and other local institutions.

## Parallel Session 1.1 - Mayors Driving Job Creation, Partnership with Private Sector and Sustainable Livelihoods

### Key Points:

- While job creation is key for the successful management of migration and displacement and the integration of refugees, mayors and participants highlighted the complexity of the issue.
- Municipalities in transit countries like Bulgaria and Bosnia have difficulties to address livelihoods and employment related issues as migrants often do not stay long enough to gain the necessary pre-requisites to be employable (such as language, skills certification and accommodation).



There's no immigration crisis in Bosnia but there was a crisis in my city. Cihac as its in EU border zone. We have more than 40.000 migrants and refugees - mostly from Pakistan and Central Asia - they're trying to reach EU countries in our city. We started to work with NGOs and international community, we focused on job creation for migrants and refugees. Now they actually became one of the main pillars of our local economy's growth. We invite local authorities to learn from Bihac example.



**Suhret Fazlic**  
Mayor of Bihac,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



In order to contribute to social peace, Gaziantep Chamber of Industry started a Vocational Training Program in our city - which is hosting 550 thousand Syrians - and trained 6 thousand migrants and refugees. 35% of these trainees now work in our workplaces. This program is a role model for Turkey. Now we are working with Adana Chamber of Industry to spread the program



Adnan Ünverdi

President of Gaziantep  
Chamber of Industry

## Parallel Panel 1.1- composition and highlights of contributions

**Moderator: Arda Batu, Secretary General, TURKONFED**

**Suhret Fazlic – Mayor of Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Presentation showed that Bosnia is becoming a hotspot for migration. The Mayor spoke about the support provided to migrants and refugees to find access to employment opportunities in cooperation with civil society, UN Agencies and the private sectors. More than 500 people refugees found sustainable employment as a result.

**Khaled Babilli – Chairman of the Executive Board of the Syrian Businessmen's Association (SIAD)**

The speaker highlighted that sustainability is one of the most important issues in responding to large scale displacement. There should be coordination and cooperation between the public sector, private sector and international organizations to ensure this. The presentation highlighted that 18% of Gaziantep exports are coming from-

Syrian owned businesses thanks to the support from Turkish local authorities, municipalities and local Chambers. The aim of the Syrian Businessmen Association is to contribute the Turkish economy while at the same time helping Syrians to create their own welfare. It is a win-win situation, since there is a contribution to the Turkish economy while refugees are employed.

Syrian owned businesses thanks to the support from Turkish local authorities, municipalities and local Chambers. The aim of the Syrian Businessmen Association is to contribute the Turkish economy while at the same time helping Syrians to create their own welfare. It is a win-win situation, since there is a contribution to the Turkish economy while refugees are employed.

**Teodor Bogomilov Petkov – Mayor of Vitosha Municipal District in Sofia, Bulgaria**

The presentation highlighted the importance of language skills to facilitate socio-economic integration. The speaker also mentioned that as EU member state, we have housings available for refugees, but the family size of Bulgarian is generally limited to 5 people, which is generally not large enough to host larger Syrian families. The contribution also highlighted that a lot of migrants and refugees who received ID cards in Bulgaria, moved to Germany and Netherlands afterwards. Bulgaria has largely been a transit country. Refugees and migrants were mostly supported to enter the restaurant and textile sectors through job creation, but only a limited number of refugees stayed.

**Ayşegül Yalçın Eris –Deputy General Coordinator, ASAM**

The presentation indicated the importance of cooperation between municipalities and civil society. And where possible, allow for civil society partners to provide services within municipalities or community centers to provide support. ASAM has prepared a guide to facilitate collaboration.

**Gordon Noble – Head of Policy and Advocacy Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative**

Based on the experience from Australia, the speaker highlighted the importance of consumer finance for migrants. He underlined the need to unlock financial access for refugees, with very low interest rates. The speaker recommended to explore the opportunities for partnership building for instance through the provision of access to finance and support to establish their own businesses. The presentation overall emphasized the importance of economic integration as of the key contribution for social integration.



Economic integration is one of the keys for social integration. Therefore, for refugees and immigrants to access finance is critical. But it's hard for displaced populations to do that in their host countries. The work we are trying to do is to unlock financial access to these groups with innovative financial tools.



**Gordon Noble**

Head of Policy and Advocacy,  
Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative

## Parallel Session 1.2 - Cities as safe havens: Municipalities ensuring safe and protective environments

### Key Points:

- Mayors identified four phases in refugee and migration management at the local level: reception, settlement, co-existence and integration. Mainstreaming protection concerns throughout these four stages is key to successful integration.
- For example, healthcare access can be an immediate concern upon the reception stage, particularly for unaccompanied minors, while the integration stage requires looking at local governance features such as the participation of refugees in local consultation structures.

- The experience from Australia for instance indicated that leadership, community engagement, holistic support, accommodation, sharing of cultural practices, employment and recognition of champions were key factors to successful socio-economic integration.

- Local authorities play a significant role in creating inclusive policies of all refugees and migrants and defuse social tensions by managing scarce resources such as housing options and job opportunities. Both negative and positive reactions both happen in societies towards refugees and it is municipalities' responsibility to be able to monitor this and provide inclusive services for all. Kyoto municipality has developed an app on cultural etiquette to facilitate intercultural understanding with migrants and tourists.

- Similarly, municipal gateways for migrants and refugees such as local migration units and social centres are very important in terms of access to services, but also information on rights and obligations. In that respect, migration and displacement can have a positive impact on changing harmful cultural practices. The representative of the Tomorrow's Women Committee which just won a prize at the Paris peace conference, shared that Syrian women realized the need to address earlier practices such as school dropout and early marriage.

- Sharing information and data is crucial on a national basis to connect all local governments. Urban management, migration management and local exchange should happen between all local authorities.

- When municipalities are faced with international displacement and migration, they can also be better equipped to deal with internal migration which is a major phenomenon as well.





## Parallel Panel 1.2- Composition and highlights of contributions

**Moderator: Şenay Özden, Researcher in Antropology**

**Bojan Randjelovic - Assistant Mayor of Pirot City, Serbia**

The speaker highlighted the importance of health care. In Serbia, for instance, at first, host communities were scared that health services would not be sufficiently provided and that migrants would bring more or different diseases with them. The most significant support was provided by the EU to improve capacity and infrastructure and to hire new people. UNDP renovated sport halls in schools and provided with vehicles to allow for a scale up of health care services provided.

**Shoichiro Suzuki - Deputy Mayor of the City of Kyoto, Japan**

The Deputy Mayor shared the experience from Kyoto, focussing on how the municipality dealt with intercultural issues for migrants and refugees. He presented the application that they developed to familiarize migrants with Japanese etiquette and guidance on where relevant services are provided in the city.

**Gayed Sened – Representative of Tomorrow's Women Committee**

The presentation focussed on initiative that was selected as one of the top 10 projects during the Paris Peace conference which took place in October 2019. The speaker explained that women refugees face similar challenges and experiences and benefit from sharing those, including issues related to education and language. In addition to that, it was highlighted that with SADA's support, women became aware of how to relate to and address child marriage and other aspects that are difficult to raise, such as domestic violence and access to education for women.

**Hülya Alper – Director WALD**

The Director from WALD spoke about the importance of social cohesion and the role of local governance in this process. She explained, for instance, that teaching Turkish language is not enough. It also requires awareness raising and education around rights and liabilities.

Migration units and social centers are very important in terms of providing access to refugees and migrants and support socio-economic integration. The centers have also proven to be essential to raise awareness around issues of child marriage, child labor and other practices. Lastly, the speaker also raised attention to the fact that it is important for refugee representatives to be part of local governance structures and consultation processes, as they are a significant group within communities.

**“** Gaziantep embraced refugees like a mom so far. Regardless of their ethnicity and religion we are embracing all women. In 2015 we started as 9 Syrian women and established an NGO. Women should not be married before the age of 18. We are dealing with many significant problems in society. In respect of domestic violence we are taking steps. We are doing our best to support women. **”**

**Gayed Sened**

Representative, Tomorrow's Women Committee

**“** Turkey's efforts for Syrians deserve praise and appreciation. A lot of work has been carried out both for them to live decent lives here and to go back safely to their home country. Kyoto which has been among the top 10 of World's Most Livable Cities list two years in a row, owes its development to embracing the newcomers to the country. Our aim is to combine different cultures and have a multicultural society **”**

**Shoichiro Suzuki**

Deputy Mayor of the City of Kyoto,  
Japan



### Kenan Gültürk - Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Bağcılar, İstanbul

The speaker referred to a number of stages of the process İstanbul districts went through in terms of receiving refugees, including a reception phase, then settling the refugees, supporting co-habitation and lastly encouraging social cohesion. The mayor explained for instance that they organized consultation meetings with NGO's and established harmonization commissions within the municipality carried out various inter-cultural activities. The most important aspects in this process, based on the İstanbul experience, have been language, language, co- habitation, a sense of belonging, respect and reducing risks of discrimination. The Municipality of Bağcılar has established 6 voluntary councils in which refugee representatives are also included. The speaker lastly recommended that NGOs and INGOs are included to allow for more involvement in harmonization activities.

### Tony Doyle – Chief Executive Officer, Knox City Council, Australia

The speaker shared factors for successful integration based on the experience in Australia, including leadership, community engagement, integrated support, access to accommodation, facilitation of cultural exchanges, access to employment and the recognition of champions. He shared the experience with the integration of Karen Refugees in Nhill, Victoria. Some of the companies they established have grown into enterprises that are now competitive nationally and are providing a lot of employment for the local communities. In addition to that, Karen refugees found work in schools and hospitals in jobs that were hard to fill with local employees, especially in rural areas.

**“**

Local authorities assume important roles in response to migration and they should be provided with many instruments. Municipalities are the main service providers. We come up with ideas and projects. Our municipalities welcomed refugees with great dedication until today. From now on, we will develop solutions towards settlement and living together.

**”**

Sinan Özden  
M. Sinan Özden, National Project Coordinator,  
SKL International RESLOG-Turkey Project



### Sinan Özden - SKL International RESLOG – Turkey Project

The presenter explained that migration management was first seen as a charity activity, but now there is a more settled and established understanding of migration and acknowledgement that it has become a normal role of services provided by municipalities. Municipalities are there critical to ensure sustainability of services, after support from UN and civil society. One of the main recommendations of the presentation was to empower local co-operations at the regional level. Turkey should invest in knowledge management to capture practices to contribute to further policy development for migration.

## Mayoral Panel 2: City networks and cooperation: how to replicate and scale success stories in local responses

### Key Points:

- While the speakers came from very different contexts, all emphasized the need to learn from each other and the importance of exchanging of experiences to foster durable solutions. The Serbian city of Sombor emphasized the need for education and safety for refugees transiting through the municipality, while the presenter from Colombia capitalized on employment opportunities and partnerships with the private sector to address the influx of Venezuelan refugees.
- While Lebanon is a small country, its diversity led to very different practices at the municipal level. This highlighted the need to localize responses as much as possible and build a bottom up adaptation of international standards rather than top-down replication of international models.
- One such bottom-up initiative is the model put in place in Sultanbeyli to cater for refugees in the municipality, including a widespread use of new technology and social media to provide information and access to services for refugees which was deemed directly relevant by other panellists.
- Finally, the four speakers all highlighted the importance of a gender perspective in local responses to refugees and migrants, in particular the different types of leadership brought by female mayors.



## Mayoral Panel 2- Composition and highlights of contributions

**Moderator: Maria Ramos, TRT World**

**Dusanka Golubovic - Mayor of Sombor, Serbia**

The City of Sombor has provided services to migrants for a long time and today still applies similar integration models. The mayor highlighted also the importance of providing refugees with a safe space. As a transit country, security, protection, and health services for migrants are of key concern. The city of Sombor established 17 migrant centres to solve accommodation issues and established a special refugee centre for families organized in coordination with local and regional governments offering a range of social activities and education courses. The presentation also underlined the need for good risk assessments to be able to provide sustainable solutions. Integration starts with education and raising awareness around cultural differences, to increase tolerance through education.

**Dalia Rosa Delgado Burbano - UNDP Colombia**

The speaker from Colombia highlighted the impact of the 1.5 million Venezuelans that have recently entered Colombia, of which 50% are not registered. This includes for instance the need to move populations in need to provide access to education, health care and employment opportunities. In addition to that, Dalia shared highlights of the response and support provided to date, such as forging partnerships with the private sector and local institutions and the strengthening of government policies to be better able to provide the required protection and services. In terms of job creation she explained how they have for instance with local producers which hire refugees and how those companies were able with the support to export products to international markets, expanding their capacities and allowing for more jobs to be created in host communities.

**Rouba Mhaissen - SAWA for Development and Aid Syria, Lebanon**

The speaker from SAWA indicated that an adequate response requires a unified policy framework which does not exist in Lebanon. Regional capacities in Lebanon vary and therefore municipal responses differ, further reinforced by differing religious groups across the country. She explained that SAWA tried to localize the response through collaboration with different actors, such as media and local authorities.

**“ Lebanon hosts 800 thousand Palestinian refugees and 2 million Syrian refugees. Even with the best of intentions municipalities there have insufficient resources. We have adopted an approach looking at the community. We looked at what the available resources are, who the stakeholders are, what they can provide. We need to keep people always at the center. Lebanon is the country with the highest number of refugees per capita. ”**

**Rouba Mhaissen**  
Founder & Director,  
SAWA for Development and Aid

**“ For many years Serbia had problems about migration issues. After 90s we had a heritage of migration in this region, much from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. We developed a number of models. Local authorities and municipalities had a critical role. We had 17 refugee centers. This is how we solved the accommodation problem. ”**

**Dusanka Golubovic**  
Mayor of the City of Sombor,  
Serbia



SAWA adopted an approach focusing on the community first, looking at resources available and how they can be mobilized through a participatory approach, always putting beneficiaries first. There are no women mayors in Lebanon. The speaker indicated to have been inspired by Fatma Şahin's model of municipal work and leadership and to explore how this could be used for Lebanon.

#### Huseyin Keskin - Major of Sultanbeyli, Istanbul

The main element of the presentation of the Mayor of Sultanbeyli, Istanbul, is the use of technology to facilitate a network/platform of municipality and the sharing experiences through technology. Data and automation systems also play a key role in assuring quality services of the centre as well as cooperation with funders and I/ NGOs. Psychological support is also provided through community centres. The link between schools and out of school children has been established. The services are available on the multilingual website of the municipality. There are also WhatsApp and telegram applications available for those who need help. The applications allow direct access to service providers. The municipality has also invested in campaigns to address misperceptions around refugees.

### Mayoral Panel 3 - Governance as a catalyst: linking national-local governance and the role of small and intermediary cities

#### Key Points:

- Intermediary cities are a central part of the migration discourse around localizing SDGs. There are 30,000 intermediary cities in the world. They have a unique potential to ensure increased levels of resilience at the global level. Intermediary cities have an important role in terms of connecting both rural and metropolitan areas. For instance, in terms of territorial governance, they need to connect to both metropolitan and rural levels. Intermediary cities therefore also have an important role in migration management.

- All mayors also highlighted their important role in shaping positive narratives and fostering social cohesion, as their main challenge is to fight against this discourse of xenophobia. Perceptions might be misleading, and this negative discourse can increase when unemployment rate is high. Intermediary and small cities are also best placed for mediation efforts between groups when needed.

- Harnessing the generosity of the host community is capital in that regard, as highlighted by the presentations from the Mayors of Merida and Altena who relied on volunteers to accompany refugees in their adaptation period to their new cities.

- The panel also confirmed the economic opportunities that migrants and refugees can bring to small and intermediary cities. Two municipalities like Gebze (industrial) and Urla (agricultural) were able to increase their respective productions thanks to the labour force provided by refugees.



I cannot influence the global population but I can influence my people. We had a godfather-godmother volunteering system. We saw that this system worked. We had 14 houses run by volunteers. we see refugees as new citizens. They had special problems that caused them to move but they made our small community richer than before. If we want to build a new world we need to bring our citizens to work.



Andreas Hollstein

Mayor of the City of Altena



The migration issue should be addressed at the local level. We used all our available resources not just for welcoming but also for integrating migrants. We established a delegation and decided to transfer funds to this delegation to provide services to migrants. Our city is small and global solutions do not fit work out the support of local governments. We could scale up these resources if local governments contribute.



Antonio Rodrigues Osuna

Mayor of Merida,  
Extremadura, Spain



## Mayoral Panel 3- Composition and highlights of contributions

**Moderator: Salim Korkmaz, General Coordinator UCLG-MEWA**

**Antonio Rodriguez Osuna, Mayor of Merida, Spain**

The Mayor explained that resources were provided by the national government in addition to local funds which helped the city of Merida a lot to provide the required support for migrants and refugees for their socio-economic integration. The delegation of authority to use the funds and develop the required policies proved to be critical. During their first-year migrants were accompanied by experts to support them with the language barrier.

**Dr. Andreas Hollstein, Mayor of Altena, Germany**

The Mayor underlined the fact that integration primarily takes part at the local and individual level. In Altena, for instance, first housing was decentralized. Secondly, the city established a system with a voluntary godfather and godmother system to take care of the houses. Third, every week 14 courses were run by voluntary teachers. The approach was quite successful to integrate the new citizens. With the arrival of new migrants, the small city became richer due to the new culture. Fear has been used as the narrative and it should be changed with a new one. Most of the migrants who came to Germany are employed now. The duty of a mayor is to eliminate any discriminatory narrative.

**Firdaous Oussidhoum, UCLG**

The speaker highlighted that intermediary cities are the future of local governance. This was also reflected in the Declaration of the Intermediary Cities of the World addressing human values and economy. Human capital must be a priority investment. Intermediary cities will become a part of migration narrative through localizing SDGs. There are currently around 30,000 intermediary cities in the world. They together carry the unique potential of the global resilience.



Let's invest in the human capital. Migration is a universal and timeless movement throughout the planet, investing in the human value and capabilities, wherever they are, building the future resilience. What kind of cities and environments are we building for refugees and for us, knowing that today's actions are tomorrow's legacy?



**Firdaous Oussidhoum**

Coordinator of UCLG Intermediary  
Cities Forum

**Zinnur Büyükgöz, Mayor of Gebze Municipality, Istanbul**

The Mayor presented his experience from Istanbul Gebze municipality as an intermediary city and its role to bridge to the metropolitan level. People passing through Gebze come as unskilled and leave as skilled workers. There are 200,000 laborers in Gebze and since it is an industrial city, it attracts new migrants, both internal and external. The greatest advantage of Gebze is local operations that are taking place quickly due to the size of the city.

**Mehmet Murat Çalık, Mayor of Beylikdüzü, Istanbul**

The Mayor spoke about the importance of availability of data and information about the number of migrants, where they are living and their profiles. This information is not only key for the services and other support provided to facilitate local integration, but also to feed into national level policy development.

**İbrahim Burak Oğuz, Mayor of Urla, Izmir**

The Mayor spoke about the experiences in Urla, which is a small city, which provided access to agricultural work to migrants. The structure in Urla is very different since it is an agricultural city not an industrial one. Urla did not have a lot of migrants in the past due to its location, but it considers migrants as having enriched their culture and diversity in the city. In addition to that, For instance, with the arrival of migrants, clearly a lot of new food products have become available on the market as a result. Specific support has been provided to women and children.





## Parallel Session 2.1 - Anchoring Success for all: gender equality and youth empowerment

### Key Points:

- The session focused on women, youth and children, who are disproportionately more affected by crisis.
- Women empowerment not only benefits individual women, but also their whole families, as well as women leadership in the local communities.
- Speakers provided strong evidence of the success of initiatives aiming at gender and empowerment of other marginalized groups in refugee contexts. This includes for instance the establishment of centres providing integrated services, facilitation of the role of women in fostering social cohesion and cultural integration, and their high potential as entrepreneurs.
- Experience from the various speakers shows that with minimum support, women can become a key actor on the local level by working with the municipalities.
- Gender responsive budgeting at the local level remains a key tool towards gender equality and should be applied in refugee and migration contexts as well.



Migration is experienced differently by women and men. This is a humanitarian drama. During migration women suffer common challenges due to gender inequality. As KA.DER we are fighting for women to live without discrimination. Being gender responsive is an awareness itself.



Nuray Karaoğlu  
KA.DER Chairwoman



As people of Lebanon we are putting every effort to support refugees. We in our towns willingly welcome our displaced brothers. We include them in our education and health systems. We share everything with them. What we have done in Sarafand municipality is to seek better conditions for them. We try to empower them.



Ali Haidar Khalifeh  
Mayor of Sarafand Municipality,  
Lebanon





## Parallel Panel 2.1- Composition and highlights of contributions

**Moderator: Rumiko Seya, Director of the Japan Center for Conflict Prevention**

**Ruslan Martskiniv, Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine**

The mayor explained how its city Ivano-Frankivsk focussed on small and medium entrepreneurs, highlighting that 57% of entrepreneurs are females. To support integration of migrants and other displaced people, the city focussed on increasing competitiveness and marketing strategies to increase women opportunities and capacities for entrepreneurship. In addition, small grants were provided for women entrepreneurs for start-up competitions. The city also invested in literacy for women who want to start their own business and provided female-friendly infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks).

**Ali Khalifeh, Mayor of Sarafand, Lebanon**

The Mayor shared the experience from Sarafand indicating that Lebanese municipalities do not get enough support from the central government to address integration issues for refugees. Absence of policies have created chaos, since different municipalities were implementing different laws and rules. Refugees have been critical for the expansion of the local markets, but often perceptions are still negative and focussing around refugees having reduced access to employment opportunities for host communities. The city worked in close partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs to improve the conditions of youth and to raise awareness on sexism amongst youth. The municipality also ensured the participation of displaced Syrian youth and women in many of the activities carried out by the municipality, including artistic, sports, social, educational and recreational activities. Most of the displaced Syrian youth suffer from lack of affection, lack in self-confidence, and many of them wander in their memories from the war. The municipality worked closely with civil society to address this, for youth to socialize despite trauma and discrimination.

**Ömer Arsoy, Mayor of Zeytinburnu, Istanbul**

The Mayor of Zeytinburnu established a Family Woman and Disability Support Center where they implement activities with migrants and refugees. The municipality established a migrant women club, to facilitate experience sharing and socializing amongst women refugees and from host communities.

**Carlos Mascarell Vilar - CEMR**

The speaker called for the need for a national agenda on women empowerment, where all actors are included to jointly advocate for a change in policies or look for partners that can support this. Pilot projects are carried out for unaccompanied children in the European cities. It is the responsibility of the Government to support them until 18. However, after 18 years old needs remain and surveys indicated that youth felt unprotected.

**Íris Bjorg Kristjandottir, UNWOMEN**

The speaker highlighted the fact that women and children are disproportionately affected by crisis. She therefore also underlined the fact that it is critical to provide support to empower women as well as their families. With the right support, women can become activators and leaders in their communities. With minimum support, women can become a key actor on the local level by working with the municipalities.

**Nuray Karaoğlu, KA-DER Association**

The presentation focused on the fact that mayors are pressed between serving the host community and responding to the basic needs of the migrants. They need to have balanced budgets. She also highlighted the importance of gender responsive budgets to allow resource prioritization to provide the required gender responsive services.

## Parallel Session 2.1 - Anchoring Success for all: gender equality and youth empowerment

### Key Points:

- The panel confirmed that inclusive, equal access to services is paramount – even when budget constraints are strong, ensuring equity and fairness in access to services at the local level – from health and education services to financial services.
- This includes developing services that are particularly needed for refugees, notably psycho-social support, as well as targeted interventions to address the specific vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants, including the ones from the LGBTQ



community (in Istanbul) or the ones at risk of trafficking (Cyprus). In addition, municipalities can provide more immediate services (humanitarian services) to refugees upon arrival.

■ Implementing the above requires courage, leadership and strong political will from mayors and municipalities – civil society should support and encourage them in their endeavour to further strengthen local resilience.



## Parallel Panel 2.2- Composition and highlights of contributions

**Moderator: Vural Çakır, President of INGEV**

**Asim Khan, former Mayor of Peshawar, Pakistan**

The Mayor explained that after the Pakistan Afghanistan conflict, refugees came to Peshawar due to its geographic location. The integration of refugees was manageable since the language and religion were same. UNHCR and other UN agencies stepped in and assisted Peshawar. There are 350.000 refugees in Peshawar today, all are eligible to access the same services of health and education. They are free to move and settle as Pakistani citizens do. Refugees are the major runners of gemstones-

and are active in carpeting. Their contribution to the local economy cannot be denied. The Government has also paved the way for bank account openings. Registration has also been an advantage in terms of tax payments.

**Mehmet Harmancı, Mayor of Lefkoşa Türk Belediyesi, Nicosia, Cyprus**

The Mayor shared that although people with work and residence permits can benefit from basic services such as education and health, polarization has been fuelled for years because there are no public policies for integration. The informal working ratio is around 20%, which is a very high rate for Cyprus. Migrants may become victims of human trafficking and have limited access to basic services. Another issue is the fact that migrants come as student who end up in the informal labour market instead of accessing higher education services.

**Muammer Keskin, Mayor of Sisli, Istanbul**

The Mayor highlighted that fact that one of the strongest aspects of Şişli Municipality is that it paid attention communication and referral mechanisms. The city invested a lot in the provision of consultation services. Psychological support for refugees was also provided and considered important. Refugees could access services centers anonymously. Any kind of health support is provided freely for refugees. A refugee council was established which has now been operational for the last 3 years. Specific services are also provided for LGBTI+ populations in Şişli.

**Meryem Aslan, OXFAM Turkey**

The speaker indicated that refugees should be considered as human and require access to basic services. The solutions require their participation in decision making processes, including for instance refugee women to participate and have access to women centres and city councils. Local governments are the ones that will provide this leadership where central government is insufficient. And the Director presented on how resilience in service delivery is critical to local governance.

**Mehmet Tahmazoglu, Mayor of Şahinbey, Gaziantep**

Şahinbey city has over 900.000 citizens and hosts over 150.000 refugees. Gaziantep is right at the border with Syria and has been one of the first entry points for refugees. The Mayor indicated that there has not been any discrimination towards refugees in terms of access to services. Şahinbey municipality created a garden for El-Bab city of Syria and provided sports equipment, clothes, toys for children. Refugees are visiting these parks often. In addition to that, language trainings, vocational trainings and courses are provided to refugees. There are over 1,000 Turkish language courses training over 150.000 Syrians. 15.002 families were provided with furniture, clothing and appliances. People who want to open their businesses were able to do so under the same rules and regulations as Turkish citizens.



## Parallel Session 2.3 - A vision of sustainable & smart cities, circular urban economies, the role of new technologies and the impact of migration and displacement on environment

## Parallel Panel 2.3- Composition and highlights of contributions

### Key Points:

- Environment and the use of new technology are both closely connected to each other and to migration and displacement management for municipalities.
- Panellists emphasized that managing the environmental consequences of population increase requires integrated urban planning, which in turn relies heavily on good data management.
- In terms of environment, it is important for municipalities not only to focus on coping with the immediate environmental consequences of refugee influx but also to adapt, recover and transform from the influx by adopting new technologies, more sustainable practices, and service delivery approaches.
- Panellists also showed how smart technologies can be used for a variety of other purposes, from public information campaigns or integration of unaccompanied minors in Spain to information of migrants, cash payments and registration in Shanghai.

### Moderator Seher Alacalı Ariner, UNDP Turkey

### Carmen Velez - Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation, Spain

The speaker focussed on the fact that the work of the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation is largely guided by the 2030 Agenda, particularly with respect to strategic alliances and responsibility sharing as well as the importance of fostering synergies amongst humanitarian and development actors. She also highlighted the importance of encouraging a sense of belonging to society among citizens. Racist and xenophobic attitudes of media towards migrants cause discriminative behaviour of host communities and must be avoided and addressed at all times. The agency invested in campaigns to address misperceptions and support a positive narrative around migrants. In addition to that, the agency provided significant support to the integration of unaccompanied minors amongst migrants.

### Mehmet Cemil Arslan - Marmara Municipalities Union

The presenter indicated that migration should be considered as a part of development. Urban identity and identity-based needs exist. Rapid increase in population has proven to support development. Mayors are often not well aware of the influence and importance of data management. With a secure and good data base, allow for better leadership and management.

### Harold Logie Tucker – Mayor of Bo City, Sierra Leone

The Mayor spoke about how Bo City won the Cleanest city award in Sierra Leone despite being affected by internal displacement. The Government is very sensitive about protection of the environment and collaborates with city councils to guarantee clean cities and protected environment. The Mayor also referred to the use of new technologies in urban planning and the fact that this may lead to transferring the environment to next generations.





### **Sertaç Turhal, UNDP Turkey**

The speaker indicated that municipalities receive budgets accordingly population projections. With the arrival of large numbers of refugees in Syria, the allocated budget felt short to meet the needs of refugees. In Gaziantep the volume of waste of a member of host community and a member of Syrian community is almost same. Fundamental needs had to be met urgently since the very beginning of the influx. For example, the increase in the fires and the need for necessary vehicles to extinguish fire. Solid waste is one of the costliest works for the municipalities. Planning for the efficient transfer of the solid waste will result in decreased numbers of carbon footprint and less costs for the municipalities. Well planned investments of municipalities can save up to 40%. Rather than a plastering approach long term planning and major transformations are needed.

### **Baodi Cai - Division of Foreigners' Travel Documents Administration; Exit and Entry Administration Bureau; Shanghai Public Security Bureau; China.**

The presenter shared the experiences of the Immigration service center that was established to support visa applications, family reunions and other migration related services. Consultation around employment and accommodation was provided in addition to protection services. E-businesses and applications for foreigners are now accessible through online application rather than visiting police stations. Services can be paid for through credit cards, rather than cash, which has proven to facilitate timely service delivery and management of services.

### **Baran Bozoğlu - Environment Engineers Chamber**

The representative spoke about the fact that air quality is a serious problem for Turkey, especially in winter. The municipality prohibits the use of coal and that expanding the use of natural gas to rural areas is not possible to date. Half of the migrants use coal and others who cannot afford coal and they use what they find to burn from the waste. UN and international organizations should be more flexible to provide decent heating opportunities to migrants. It should not be evaluated as cash support. There is an urgent need to renovate infrastructure to prevent the usable water shortage. Disadvantaged socio-economic parts of the society suffer more pollution than higher income groups.



## **Closing Remarks and Signature of the Gaziantep Declaration**

The closing speeches were delivered by representatives from the co-host organizations:

■ Mr. Mehmet Duman from WALD and UCLG-MEWA singled out some good practices from Turkish municipalities hosting refugees that could be relevant elsewhere: this included establishing a specific department to deal with refugee / migration issue, facilitating refugees and migrant participation in consultative and participatory local governance structures, and developing strategies based on solid data management.

■ Jean-Marie Garelli from UNHCR confirmed that such lessons learnt from and good practices will feed into the policy debates at the Global Refugee Forum and will be followed up under the auspices of UCLG Global Task Force. UNHCR particularly highlighted that panel discussions outlined the important linkages between municipalities and central governments and decision-makers on resource mobilization and ensuring that environmental concerns resulting from increased populations are integrated from the start. Practical and innovative examples provided on how to create safe spaces for refugees and maintaining social cohesion between different communities, while promoting self-reliance.

■ IOM Chief of Mission in Turkey Lado Gvilava also pointed out that the discussion in the forum would be of great help to further develop support provided by the UN and other partners in Turkey. This will be particularly the case to expand work on integrated service centres for migrants and refugees, as well as the increased focus being placed in creating public and recreational spaces where communities can interact and foster social cohesion.

■ UNDP's Claudio Tomasi underlined how the Forum key added value was to facilitate discussion and recommendations that went beyond general principles and commitments, but provided concrete, tangible, and practical example on what can be done at the local level to better support migrants, refugees, host communities and the institutions that serve them. The Forum also laid bare key challenges and gaps that require our urgent attention, all of which are reflected in the Gaziantep Declaration. In a context where financial resources and budgets are unlikely to be sufficient to meet the full scale of needs, such concrete commitments will be key to build partnerships and continue improving our responses.



Speech by UNDP Resident Representative Claudio Tomasi.

“ In these days we have been very firmly grounded in reality. Reality is what we have to focus on. Local authorities shared their very partial actions. In each single context and culture they are quite different but actually they are all in the same direction. Hope is not a dream, it is possible. We are meeting in global levels. There will be a lot of talks in the Global Refugee Forum. These voices must be heard. What mayors and local authorities experience should be shared in global talks. ”

**Claudio Tomasi**  
Resident Representative,  
UNDP Turkey



Latif Karadag, Deputy Mayor of Gaziantep Municipality, closed the forum and made the final signature to the Gaziantep Declaration.

“ Here we found an opportunity to listen to experiences from different parts of the world. We have listened to different approaches and a variety of recommendations. First of all, under municipalities there is a need for establishing a unit and harmonization. Municipalities should have another unit for migration and social cohesion. Lack of information is another issue. If you cannot measure something you cannot solve it. Our local governments should have their own statistics departments and evaluations should take place. If we know what is going on and who lives in our town, we can make statistical analysis and achieve good results. ”

**Mehmet Duman**  
Secretary General,  
UCLG-MEWA / President of the Executive  
Committee, WALD



## Annex I- Media report

### PRESS COVERAGE

As of 29 November, 2019, 5 pm Turkey time, 70 news articles were published in national and local print media, 429 in online media, and 3 news were broadcasted on TV. Please find below the links to some of the news published/broadcasted in major media outlets, including TRT World, Anadolu Agency, Hürriyet Daily News, Hürriyet, Milliyet and Habertürk.

As of now, 83 news pieces have been published in international online media with a potential reach of 73 million people.

\*Please note that Piotr Zalewski, Turkey correspondent for The Economist and Barçın Yinanç, journalist from Hürriyet Daily News attended the Municipal Forum and their articles have not yet been published. Please note that a more detailed report including these articles will be prepared next week.

#### Hürriyet Daily News:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/global-forum-urges-change-in-migration-approach-149215>

#### Anadolu Agency:

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-global-forum-urges-change-in-migration-approach/1657399>

#### Anadolu Agency:

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/turkey-370-000-syrians-return-to-terror-free-areas/1655713>

#### Hürriyet:

<http://web.interpress.com/app/document/viewer/b8cd76d4-6926-4971-a996-c0b74430ce4c?cid=w1lfcx7EsKI%3D>

#### Milliyet:

<http://web.interpress.com/app/document/viewer/9d2ba865-2637-4286-b28a-f2e3b9e8011c?cid=w1lfcx7EsKI%3D>

#### Habertürk:

<https://www.haberturk.com/gaziantep-haberleri/73740775-uluslararasi-belediye-forumu-2019-sona-erdi2019-gaziantep-bildirgesi-yayimlandi>

**RTL Deutschland:** On 28 November, 2019 a caption on Municipal Forum was broadcasted at 16.22.

#### TRT World:

<https://www.trtworld.com/turkey/turkey-says-around-370-000-syrian-refugees-return-to-terror-free-areas-31720>

#### TRT World:

<https://twitter.com/TRTWorldNow/status/1199783774969483264>



#### TRT World:

<https://twitter.com/trtworldnow/status/1199447830160535552?s=12>





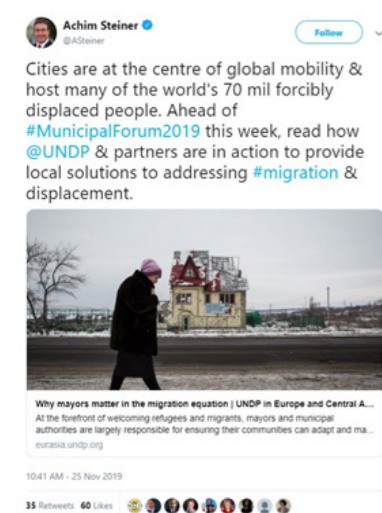
## PRESS RELEASES and BLOG POSTS:

Three press releases were published on UNDP Turkey web site. You may find their links below:

- <https://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/11/municipal-forum-2019.html>
- <https://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/11/municipal-forum-2.html>
- <https://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/11/gaziantep-declaration.html>

A blog post and a press release were published on UNDP Eurasia web site. You may find the links below:

- <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/blog/2019/why-mayors-matter.html>
- <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/world-mayors-sign-migration-declaration-.html>



**Tweet by Mr. Achim Steiner:**  
<https://twitter.com/asteiner/status/1199035345792311297?s=21>



**Tweet by Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric:**  
<https://twitter.com/SpoljaricM/status/1199458868612534273>



**Tweet by Ms. Agi Veres:**  
<https://twitter.com/agiveres/status/1199289108968988673>

## Annex 2 - Sample of Good Practices Highlighted by Participating Municipalities

- The closing speeches were delivered by representatives from the co-host organizations:
- Kyoto municipality has developed an app on cultural etiquette to facilitate intercultural understanding with migrants and tourists.
- The Municipality of Bağcılar has established 6 voluntary councils in which refugee representatives are also included.
- In Australia, some of the companies established by Karen refugees have grown into enterprises that are now competitive nationally and are providing a lot of employment for the local communities. In addition to that, Karen refugees found work in schools and hospitals in jobs that were hard to fill with local employees, especially in rural areas.
- In Serbia, the city of Sombor established 17 migrant centers to solve accommodation issues and established a special refugee center for families organized in coordination with local and regional governments offering a range of social activities and education courses. In Pirot municipality, UNDP renovated sport halls in schools and provided with vehicles to allow for a scale up of health care services provided.
- The model put in place in Sultanbeyli to cater for refugees in the municipality includes a widespread use of new technology and social media to provide information and access to services for refugees which was deemed directly relevant by other panelists.
- is capital in that regard, The Mayors of Merida (Spain) and Altena (Germany) harnessed the generosity of the host community, relying on volunteers to accompany refugees in their adaptation period to their new cities.
- In Turkey, two municipalities like Gebze (industrial) and Urla (agricultural) were able to increase their respective productions thanks to the labour force provided by refugees.
- In Ukraine (Ivano-Frankivk), small grants were provided for women entrepreneurs for start-up competitions. The city also invested in literacy for women who want to start their own business and provided female-friendly infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks).
- In Lebanon, the city of Sarafand worked in close partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs to improve the conditions of youth and to raise awareness on sexism amongst youth. The municipality also ensured the participation of displaced Syrian youth and women in many of the activities carried out by the municipality, including artistic, sports, social, educational and recreational activities.
- The Mayor of Zeytinburnu (Turkey – Istanbul) established a Family Woman and Disability Support Center where they implement activities with migrants and refugees. The municipality established a migrant women club, to facilitate experience sharing and socializing amongst women refugees and from host communities.
- Şişli municipality (Turkey – Istanbul) invested a lot in the provision of consultation services. Psychological support for refugees was also provided and considered important. A refugee council was established which has now been operational for the last 3 years. Specific services are also provided for LGBTI+ populations in Şişli.
- In Gaziantep, Şahinbey district municipality created a garden for El-Bab city of Syria and provided sports equipment, clothes, toys for children. Refugees are visiting these parks often. In addition to that, language trainings, vocational trainings and courses are provided to refugees.





## International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement

*From emergency to resilience and development*  
Gaziantep, November 26-27, 2019

### The Gaziantep Declaration

A Declaration adopted by participants at the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement.

The Forum was co-hosted by the **United Nations Development Programme**, the **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**, and the **UN Migration Agency (IOM)**, together with the **Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep**, the **Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT)**, the **World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD)**, and **United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA)**

The Declaration<sup>1</sup> is a reflection of and builds on the recognition of the important role of municipalities and cities confirmed by the **Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)** and the **Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**.

#### The Gaziantep Declaration:

We, the Mayors, gathered with stakeholders drawn from United Nations agencies, governments, municipalities, cities, international and local NGOs, the private sector and civil society, have adopted the following declaration at the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement, meeting in Gaziantep on 26-27, November 2019:

<sup>1</sup> The Declaration builds on the Regional Meeting of Local Authorities in Turkey and the Western Balkans that took place in Belgrade, Serbia, on 4-5 October 2016, as part of the conference, "Migration, Displacement and Community Resilience."

Recognizing the fundamental importance of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)<sup>2</sup>, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)<sup>3</sup>, the New Way of Working<sup>4</sup> the drive to effectively localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>5</sup>, the New Urban Agenda (NUA)<sup>6</sup>, and building on the cooperation in response to the Syria crisis within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2018-2019 (3RP)<sup>7</sup>;

Recognizing the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD)<sup>8</sup>, including: the new GFMD Mayors Mechanism<sup>9</sup>, its annual Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration, and Development; and the conclusion<sup>10</sup> of the GFMD Regional Workshop on Arrival Cities<sup>11</sup>;

Building on the Marrakech Mayors Declaration<sup>11</sup>, as well as the evolving work of the Mayors Mechanism<sup>12</sup> to translate these commitments into action through its Call to Local Action on Migration;<sup>13</sup>

Preparing for the Global Refugee Forum taking place in Geneva 17-18 December 2019 by articulating a critical global voice of Mayors and their experiences in responding to migration and displacement at the local level;

Recognizing the important role of local and regional governments to co-create innovative solutions and mobilize resources among their communities and partners;

Supporting efforts to strengthen the link between national and local level governance actors in pursuing SDGs, including with a view not to leave anyone behind;

Supporting cohesive policy approaches at the local, national and international levels which optimise the mutually reinforcing potential of developmental and humanitarian responses;

and

commending the innovative and forward-looking leadership of the Government of Turkey and the localized action taken by Metropolitan Municipalities such as Gaziantep in the inclusion of refugees in national systems and in pursuing harmonization. Turkey, hosting the largest number of refugees in the world since 2014, has demonstrated how resilience and development approaches can provide a critical added value complementing and building on humanitarian responses.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711\\_final\\_draft\\_0.pdf](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/NWOW%20Booklet%20low%20res.002\\_0.pdf](https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/NWOW%20Booklet%20low%20res.002_0.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

<sup>6</sup> <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org>

<sup>8</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 (HLPF) meeting annually at UNHQ, NYC, to review progress towards the SDGs

<sup>9</sup> <https://gfmd.org/process/gfmd-mayors-mechanism>

<sup>10</sup> Arrival Cities' should function as places of opportunity and upward mobility for newcomers, creating conditions conducive to newcomers establishing, connecting and belonging. See: <https://gfmd.org/news/arrival-cities-4th-regional-gfmd-workshop-lima-peru>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.migration4development.org/en/node/47272> - the Declaration is a city-led initiative resulting from the joint effort of an informal coalition of cities to gather the voices of over 60 Mayors.

<sup>12</sup> Mayors Migration Council, UCLG and IOM

<sup>13</sup> launched at the recent UCLG congress in Durban (11-15 November 2019) and to be propelled at the GFMD in Quito (20-24 January 2020). - <https://www.docdroid.net/enGaoJH/call-to-local-action-on-migration.pdf>

## We commit to:

Promoting, deepening and replication at scale of the forward-looking and accelerating efforts in a range of communities globally to transition from emergency to resilience, to solutions and development in responding to complex refugee and migration situations.

Contributing to the development of robust pathways for such transition, informed by good practices in local responses to migration and displacement, which are tailored to the specific local context and to the priorities of different population segments in these contexts

Deepening our collective knowledge of how strong examples of municipal level pragmatic action both build resilience and accelerate the integration of refugees within host communities and migrant cities into a positive socio-economic dynamic.

Advocating for mutually supportive responses, local leadership as well as whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, including at the municipal and local levels.

Emphasizing the benefits of welcoming refugees in our work and to use language of inclusion, welcome and belonging, while condemning discrimination and the use of dehumanizing language in relation to migrants and refugees.

Ensuring that we integrate gender, age, and diversity considerations throughout responses and support provided.

Working with those host communities supporting refugees and migrants and drawing from our deeper collective knowledge accelerate informed collective action to scale and replicate models that work.

Contributing to the on-going and future global, regional and national level discussions on the implementation of the evolving vision, strategies, frameworks, goals and objectives of the GCR and GCM.

Communicating this Declaration, with specific reference to SDGs 11 and 16, to the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. Building on the refugee and migration focus at the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), continue during subsequent HLPF annual reviews to promote the principles, goals and objectives of the Declaration as key components in strengthening responses to refugee situations and migration at the municipal level, building on the December 2018 Marrakesh Declaration “Cities working together for Migrants and Refugees.”<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.migration4development.org/sites/default/files/en\\_mf\\_declaration.pdf](http://www.migration4development.org/sites/default/files/en_mf_declaration.pdf)

We consider the following nine aspects key to a successful pathway of refugee and migration responses at the local level from emergency to resilience and development:

1. Raising awareness on the localization of the SDGs – notably SDG 11 and SDG16 - through governance and inclusive planning at all levels of government;
2. Empowering city networks within existing organizations that enable and support replication and scaling of success stories in local responses.
3. Job creation and partnerships with the private sector at the local level, including public-private job creation initiatives at municipal level, expansion of decent employment opportunities, and the potential of refugees and migrants as factors of economic growth.
4. Protection and social protection as a key foundation for successful integration; including the importance of promoting social dialogue towards the observance of the rights of migrants, refugees and host communities;
5. Multi-level governance, including effective data sharing, and the role of small and intermediary cities as a catalyst for stability;
6. Civil society, gender equality and social cohesion as an anchor for long-term success;
7. Inclusive access to quality services;
8. Smart urbanization to stabilize migration and displacement while maximizing opportunities;
9. The important role of new technologies, innovation, and data management.

Recognizing these key aspects, we **pledge** to:

1. Highlighting the critical importance of cities being at the centre of global efforts to secure safe, inclusive and sustainable living environments;
2. Working with international donors, as well as other sources of public and private finance, to support local municipalities with adequate resources as they create innovative approaches to delivery of tailored services for men, women and children in refugee and migrant communities; Promoting early integration of digital tools for those communities, families and individuals impacted by migration and displacement;
3. Contributing our learning and practical examples of successful approaches into the global agendas and deliberations on migration, displacement and local development;
4. Work with international and local media to highlight and promote examples of successful and harmonised integration of refugee and migrant populations.
5. Conceiving, formulating and implementing city level partnerships and supportive networks of relevant local development partners responding to migration and displacement.

The UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion and its Global Task Force on Migrations will follow up on the outcome of the International Forum and work to deepen exchanges, relationships and technical debates initiated in Gaziantep.

	Name	Institution	Country	Title
1	Dinçer Orkan	Municipality of Karesi,Balıkesir	Turkey	Mayor
2	Abdurrahman Dursun	Municipality of Sultangazi,Istanbul	Turkey	Mayor
3	Mehmet Duman	UCLG-MEWA	Turkey	Secretary General
4	Hüseyin Keskin	Municipality of Sultanbeyli,Istanbul	Turkey	Mayor
5	Mehmet Harmancı	Municipality of Nicosia	Cyprus	Mayor
6	Muammer Keskin	Municipality of Şişli,Istanbul	Turkey	Mayor
7	Zinnur Büyükgöz	Municipality of Gebze,Kocaeli	Turkey	Mayor
8	İbrahim Burak Oğuz	Municipality of Urla,Izmir	Turkey	Mayor
9	Mehmet Murat Çalık	Municipality of Beylikdüzü,Istanbul	Turkey	Mayor
10	Hülya Alper	Wald Academy	Turkey	Director
11	Ömer Arisoy	Municipality of Zeytinburnu,Istanbul	Turkey	Mayor
12	İbrahim Evrim	Mersin Metropolitan Municipality	Turkey	Consultant of the Mayor
13	Susanna Samids	FAMSI		
14	Jean Marie Garelli	UNHCR	Turkey	Dep.Representative
15	Claudio Tomasi	UNDP	Turkey	Resident Representative
16	Latif Karadağ	Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality	Turkey	Deputy Mayor
17	Dusanka Golubovic	Municipality of Sombor	Serbia	Mayor
18	Khaled Babli	Executive Board of the Syrian Businessmen's Association (SIAD)	Turkey	Chairman
19	Suhret Fazlic	Municipality of Bihac	Bosnia & Herzegovia	Mayor
20	Mohamad Saadieh	UCLG MEWA Union of Donnieh Municipalities Lebanon	Lebanon	President
21	Bojan Randelovic	Municipality of Pirot	Serbia	Assistant Mayor
22	Carlos Mascarell Vilar	CEMR	EU	Policy Officer
23	M.Asim Khan	Municipality of Peswahan	Pakistan	Former Mayor
24	Dr. Rauba Mhassien	SAWA for Development and Aid	Lebanon	Director
25	Dr. Ali Khalifeh	Municipality of Sarafand	Lebanon	Mayor
26	Ghassan Zawai	Ambassy of Kuwait	Turkey	Ambassador
27	Dr. Andreas Hollstein	Municipality of Altena	Germany	Mayor
28	Antonio Rodriges Osuna	Municipality of Merida	Spain	Mayor
29	Ruslan Martsinkiv	Municipality of Ivano-Frankivk	Ukraine	Mayor
30	Dr.Harold Tucker	Municipality of Bo City	Sierra Leone	Mayor
31	Carmen Velez	Andalusian Agency for International Development Coopertion	Spain	Director
32	Teodor Petkov	Municipality of Sofia	Bulgaria	Mayor
33	Lado Gvilava	IOM	Turkey	Chief of Mission
34	Rumiko Seya	Japan Center for Conflict Prevention	Japan	Director
35	Paul Clements-Hunt	The Blended Capital Group	England	CEO
36	Stephanie Loose	UN HABITAT		Programme Manager Human Settlements Officer
37	Isabelle Kronish	ILO	Turkey	
38	Arda Batu	TURKONFED	Turkey	



## UCLG-MEWA COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

### Terms of Reference for the Global Task Force on Migration

#### Background

Migration and displacement has now become a part of daily life in many parts of the world. Whether national, regional, or international, it is one of the constant realities of a world in constant motion. Every woman, man, and child have their own story – whether they were forced to leave their homes, or embarked upon their journeys in search of better lives and greater opportunities elsewhere.

The Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) is a fragile and volatile geographical region that has been affected by protracted conflict and displacement, as well as substantial immigration and emigration. Border and migration management are primary responsibilities of States; however, the impact of migration and displacement is often felt most acutely at the local level. Forced to respond, local authorities have therefore often found themselves in a position of having to address some of the foremost global challenges, and their consequences.

As UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion, we believe that refugee integration is always also a local issue. In the end, it is often primarily an issue for the communities in which they will live. The way in which cities will respond to migrants and refugees, the services they provide and the manner in which these are provided, as well as their efforts to promote inclusive urban development, will determine the success of the global response to migration and displacement.

In light of what is mentioned above, UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion unanimously agreed to establish the Global Task Force on Migration within the Committee as a result of the decision taken during its Presidency Meeting held on 11 October 2019 in Mersin, Turkey. The Global Task Force will be established at the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement to be held in Gaziantep, Turkey on 26-27 November 2019. The Global Task Force will be composed of cities and city networks which are leading and contributing to the global efforts on migration management at the local level. Representatives of private sector, NGOs, INGOs, international organizations (UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, etc.) and academia will have an observatory role in the Global Task Force.

#### 1. Objective

The purpose of the Global Task Force is to develop a rights-based strategy to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated local response for the protection and humanitarian needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, to conduct projects, research and workshops in order to guide its members with the objective to enable cities to learn from each other. Improving the evidence-base on needs, gaps and opportunities regarding the arrival and presence of refugees and migrants in urban spaces would allow local, national and global decision-makers to better target and address the major challenges ahead in this field and to support the adoption of relevant strategies and actions. The Global Task Force aims to capitalize on the experiences and strategies developed at the local level.





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This Global Task Force is envisaged to serve as a network to follow up on the commitments of Gaziantep Declaration, which was launched during the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement. The Global Task Force will be a part of the global ecosystem of migration and its work will feed into the policies and practices of the Mayors' Mechanism, consisting of UCLG, IOM and Mayors Migration Council (MMC)<sup>1</sup>, as well as other, city-related work streams taken forward jointly with UN agencies.

### 2. Membership

The complex nature of the topic requires that this Global Task Force be carried out with close collaboration of different stakeholder groups, such as local governments and administrations, private sector, NGOs, INGOs, international organizations and academia who will contribute their know-how and expertise to identify the underlying challenges in the local context.

The Global Task Force will be created through an open call for membership during the the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement. The Global Task Force will remain open for additional membership after the Forum. All members will be invited to nominate a representative from their institution to serve on the Global Task Force. Since the Global Task Force is a technical group, it is important that participants have an interest and expertise in the area of migration and displacement.

The political leadership of the Global Task Force will be led by the President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion. Technical affairs of the Global Task Force, including but not limited to implementation of the work plan and admission of new members, will be managed by a Steering Committee, which will consist of the partners of the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Global Task Force will include but not be limited to:

- Participate in quarterly Global Task Force online meetings as well as one annual face-to-face meeting to progress collective work, contribute to decision-making and to highlight advancements made in relevant national and global Fora;
- Coordinate the work of the Global Task Force, facilitate and minute these regular meetings;
- Contribute to the development of the Global Task Force work plan, which could build on existing relevant frameworks, tools and actions, and identify linkages with other initiatives or actors relevant to the Global Task Force;
- Actively lead /contribute to work plan activities and provide regular updates on progress to the Global Task Force leads;

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org>



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- Provide technical contribution to agreed joint pieces of work, such as tools, training and guidance materials, policy and advocacy papers;
- Offer its support to cities and local authorities faced with refugee and/or migrant arrivals, including with a view to sharing good practices, practical recommendations and support;
- Follow up with the requests sent by other members in a timely manner (including providing feedback on key documents, emails, etc.);
- Be responsible for keeping their institutions (or regions/countries) informed about achievements, requests, etc. of the Global Task Force, as well as the achievements made under the aforementioned key documents/resources;
- Oversee the full implementation of the Global Task Force on Migration's work plan;
- Finalize key documents with consideration of the members' feedback, including but not limited to the annual work plan;
- Seek synergy in collaboration between the Global Task Force on Migration and other coordination groups, including at local, national but also global levels;
- Contributing to advancing the priorities of the MMC's Call to Local Action<sup>2</sup> on Migration launched at the recent UCLG congress in Durban (11-15 November 2019)<sup>3</sup>;
- Lead resource mobilization and coordinate fundraising efforts to support the Global Task Force's work plan.

### 3. Reporting and Follow Up

The progress related to the work of the Global Task Force will be reflected in the yearly report of the Global Task Force by UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion. The implementation of the pledges of the Gaziantep Declaration will be followed up regularly through the quarterly online meetings as well as the annual face-to-face meetings. The work of the Global Task Force will be reported annually to the UCLG Governing Bodies, to ensure that the outcomes will be shared throughout the global local government community and other UCLG partner organizations.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.docdroid.net/enGaoJH/call-to-local-action-on-migration.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.durban2019.uclg.org/>



International Forum on  
**Local Solutions to Migration and  
Displacement**

*From emergency to resilience and development*  
26-27 November 2019, Gaziantep, Turkey

