

Event: "Inclusive Cities: the role of urban centers in the inclusion of migrants and refugees"

Venue: UN HQ

Date: May 19th, 2022

Time: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Host: UN-Habitat, Andean Countries Hub



Background information

The 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda identifies as one of their pillars, the purpose of overcome all forms of segregation, marginalization and exclusion of territories and people. Leaving no one or any territory behind has been the urge for every city, to promote the social, economic, cultural, spatial, and political inclusion of their inhabitants, without distinction. This situation is exacerbated when cities face the challenges of human mobility, where forging inclusive territories, advancing in the guiding principles of the right to the city, and recognize diversity as a source of prosperity, is essential for having inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable cities.

Over the last few years, the cities and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have faced a phenomenon of mixed migratory flows resulting from refugees and migrants fleeing Venezuela. According to data from national migration authorities and other sources an estimated 6.04 million refugees and migrants have moved around the world, of which around 4.9 million are in Latin America and the Caribbean. These refugee and migrant populations reside primarily in Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador and impact cities in significant ways, presenting important challenges for local governments and host communities.

In this context, the European Union has decided to support the strategic alliance between UNHCR, IOM, and UN-Habitat for the project "Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity" (ICCS) that is underway in nine pilot cities and six countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The ICCS project promotes an innovative urban-territorial approach that addresses existing vulnerabilities while leveraging social and territorial assets in the provision of effective responses to refugees' and migrants' integration. This creates the conditions for local governments to forge more prosperous and inclusive cities under the universal principle of the "right to the city".

To promote strategic actions from local governments, the Inclusive Cities, Communities of solidarity project has created several innovative tools such as urban profiling, data analysis and monitoring instruments, participatory urban planning tools, territorial and socioeconomic strategies, new generation of social integration centers¹, and the consolidation of regional and global community of practice.

For more information: <https://en.ciudadesincluyentes.org>

Objective of the event

To position the New Urban Agenda (NUA) principles in policy directions and programmatic initiatives at the global level to highlight its impact in the effective inclusion of refugees and migrants in cities in the long-and-medium-term, as well as to transform migration into a territorial asset in host urban areas.

¹ For more information, visit <https://en.ciudadesincluyentes.org/integration-toolbox/co-creation-of-habitat-and-the-right-to-the-city/integrha-bitat/>

Key objectives of this particular event would be:

- Present the UN-Habitat's, IOM's and UNHCR's approach as an innovative one to tackle the challenges of effective medium-and-long-term integration of vulnerable communities in the cities in line with the principles of the NUA.
- To exchange experiences and solutions from the local government's perspective and gather/mobilize support to the implementation of strategies and plans at the city level.
- Acknowledge opportunities of scaling up or replicating the successful experiences and good practices stemming from the different cities' representatives present.
- Establish a dialogue between different cities and civil society organizations to broaden the scope of the work done by all agencies in other cities and countries where the strategy is not implemented yet.

Expected outcomes

- Community of practice and local governments network of inclusive cities implementing innovative territorial approaches to refugees' and migrant' integration is expanded and consolidated.
- Mayor of other cities are encouraged to seek UN-Habitat, IOM and UNHCR in order to work on migrants and refugees inclusion along the lines of the framework presented, and potential donors are approached to fund said initiatives.
- The IntegrHa-bitat's International Network strengthens its scope and capacity, connecting more centers around the world and engaging organizations and donors towards effective integration.

Description of event

UN-Habitat, IOM and UNHCR propose to establish a dialogue with mayors and civil society from different cities in Latin America on the role cities can play in the inclusion of refugees and migrants. The 2030 Agenda and the NUA identify both the need to overcome all forms of segregation, marginalization and exclusion of territories and people. Forging inclusive territories, advancing in the guiding principles of the right to the city, and recognizing diversity and territorial assets as a source of prosperity is essential to achieve prosperous and sustainable cities for all.

Interested mayors are invited to a dialogue and make the case on the need to mobilize international support to implement the territorial approach with all tested tools and methodologies developed by the alliance among UNHCR, IOM, UN-Habitat, and the European Union.

The event will be organized as a roundtable (fishbowl), counting on the active participation of all stakeholders mentioned, and allowing for the audience to interact. It is expected to run for 60 minutes and will be live streamed and facilitated in both English and Spanish, with interpretation available.

5 min	Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU Ambassador of Ecuador, Mr. Charles-Michel Geurts - Jose Samaniego, UNHCR Director of Regional Bureau of Americas in representation of the ICCS Project.
10 min	The territorialization of integration: How can cities play a key role in integrating migrants and refugees?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andean Countries Coordinator of UN-Habitat and ICCS Project Coordinator, Mr. Roi Chiti
40 min	<p>The role of Cities and of Civil Society in the inclusion of migrants and refugees: sharing successful experiences</p> <p><i>Moderated by: UN-Habitat</i></p> <p>What are the challenges and how can be improved the articulation between the local level and the national decisions on migration issues, to guarantee protection and social integration of the population in human mobility in the host communities?</p> <p>How is it possible to incorporate the dynamics of human mobility into local strategies and plans to transform this challenge into a development opportunity?</p> <p>How can local communities and other relevant civil society actors (including the private sector and international cooperation) facilitate the effective integration of the migrant and refugee population in the city? How to achieve more inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, such as women, LGBTQ+ communities, etc., in the solutions for the effective integration of Refugees and Migrants in the cities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mayor of Bucaramanga, Colombia, Mr. Juan Carlos Cardenas. - Secretary of Territory, Habitat and Housing of Quito, Ecuador, Mr. Vladimir Tapia. - CSO Representative of Veneactiva, Perú, Ms. Cristabel Cartaya - CSO Representative of Fudela, Ecuador, Ms. Edith Paredes
5 min	Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IOM Director General's Special Envoy for the Regional Response to the Venezuela Situation, Mr. Diego Beltrand in representation of the ICCS Project.