

Tenth GFMD Summit Meeting

Overarching Theme: **“Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development”**

All GFMD 2017 Summit delegates are invited to attend the following side event, to be held on 28 to 30 June 2017 in Berlin, Germany. This side event will be held upon the initiative of the organizers. While the topic to be discussed may be relevant to GFMD themes and roundtable discussions, **in particular Roundtable Session 2.1**, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs and Taskforce, as well as the GFMD Support Unit, are not directly involved in its organization.

For registration and/or any question, please contact the organizers directly.

*Title of the Side Event: **Development Solutions to Mass Displacement in Cities – The Case of Syrian Refugees***

Date and Time	29 June 2017 (Thursday) ; 10h50 – 11h50
Organizers	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) United Nations Development Programme(UNDP)
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Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yehia Daher, Mayor of Qaraaoun, Lebanon • Osman Toprak, Vice Mayor of Gaziantep, Turkey • Michael Spindelegger, Director General, ICMPD • Sarah Poole, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP • Michele Cavinato, Head of the Asylum and Migration Unit, Division of International Protection, UNHCR
Background materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Alliance for Urban Crises, Report presented at the World Humanitarian Summit, in partnership with the Urban Expert Group, 2016 • The State of Resilience Programming – The Syria Regional Refugee and Resilient Plan (3RP), Report commissioned by the UNDP Subregional Response Facility (SRF) (Syria related crisis), 2016 • Global Civil Society Consultation on Migration and Local Development - A Synthesis Report prepared for the 3rd Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development, 2016

Brief description of the side event

Background and Rationale

The majority of refugees now live in cities. City life for refugees can be precarious, but also provides opportunities to contribute to the host community's economy and society, build a future and live independently. The Syria crisis is a case in point as the majority of refugees fleeing the conflict are not in camps but have rather (informally) settled in urban areas of neighboring or nearby countries while waiting for conditions that would enable them to voluntarily return in safety and dignity.

Large refugee influx changes the demographic balance of cities, heightening social tensions and increasing competition over resources. The magnitude of these pressures and the opportunities they can provide challenges host countries and the

international community to think and act differently. Refugee protection and humanitarian assistance need to be complemented with a development approach that builds resilience and maximizes the social and economic opportunities of displacement situations for both refugees and the communities that host them.

Development solutions to mass displacement systematically analyze public sector costs, fiscal stress and disequilibria created by displacement and the ways these can be mitigated by governments with support from humanitarian and development actors. They engage the potential of the private sector to improve the lives of refugees and their hosts while expanding the productive capacity of the host economy. Development solutions further encourage host governments, and in particular cities' authorities which are at the forefront of responses to mass displacement, to incorporate the needs of refugees in area development plans, promoting livelihoods and self-reliance for refugees, and enabling their access to national services, including justice, housing, healthcare, education, for the period that refugees are hosted.

Objectives

This side event provides a space to share lessons and good practices on development approaches to refugee displacement at the city level. This includes who needs to do what, how to cope with the demographic pressures on services as well as how to take advantage of the skills of the new arrivals and achieve positive outcomes for the whole population.

As such, this side-event will provide a platform for **exchange between representatives of cities, national authorities, and international actors on experiences in planning for and delivering development solutions to refugees and host communities at city level** and will **explore roles and responsibilities between the municipal and central levels**.

The side-event will pay special attention to lessons learnt in how to phase short-, medium- and long-term development solutions and policy options to address the needs of refugees and host communities in cities, including by examining what constraints cities have faced and how to overcome them in the future. It will also focus on what international actors have done and could still do to reshape development assistance to fit the specific socio-economic dynamics and governance architecture of cities.

This side event builds on discussions in Roundtable session 2.1 "Moving beyond emergencies – Creating development solutions to the mutual benefit of host and origin communities and displaced persons" as well as in the Fourth Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development preceding the 2017 GFMD.

Format

ICMPD will introduce the side event and set the scene with a short intervention. In a panel discussion consisting of two rounds of questions, each introduced and moderated by UNDP and UNHCR, the Mayor of Qaraaoun and Vice Mayor of Gaziantep will share their practices and experiences in applying resilience-based development measures in the face of large-scale refugee displacement in the context of the Syria crisis. The audience will then be invited to ask questions and share their views and experiences and the event will be wrapped up by final comments from the Mayors, as well as take away messages from UNDP and UNHCR, and closed by ICMPD.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the key resilience-building interventions that municipal authorities need to plan for and put into place from the outset of a crisis? How are they distinct from interventions at the national level?
- What policy changes have to occur for these resilience-based interventions to be implemented?
- What is the best way to sustain support from and engagement of host communities' members?

Expected Outcomes

The side-event's outcomes will be summarized as take-home outlining lessons and best practice based on the experiences of cities, national authorities and international actors on addressing refugee displacement through development solutions.

<http://www.icmpd.org/gfmd-side-event-2017>
