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City of Johannesburg:

Tackling the challenges and opportunities of migration in cities – policy and institutional aspects

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GFMD Preparatory Workshop,
Mauritius



- City of +4 million residents
 - Johannesburg gateway
 - Migrants: significant role in South Africa's economic development and regional integration
- 2005 city decision to develop plans to manage migration: internal & cross border migrants
 - Started as an information desk 2007
 - Seven years later: evolved into -
 - *City approved policy on integrating migrants*
 - *Collaborating with UNDP to replicate the model in three cities in RSA*
 - *Collaborating with NEPAD for cross border city collaboration*

- City Approach evolved to 4 Action Areas
 - **1st Action: Reception For New Arrivals: Single point of contact**
 - *Migrant Help Desk*
 - *Language Centre*
 - *Orientation Programme*
 - *Education Programme targeting locals*
 - *Capacity Building and Awareness Building/ Mobilisation Strategy*
 - **2nd Action: Migration Data**
 - **3rd Action: Inter-sectoral Collaboration**
 - **4th Action Lobbying Agenda**
 - *Tracking role regarding irregular migrants*
 - *Implementing partner status with multi-lateral bodies*
 - *Managing migrant access rights and status in other spheres of government*

- 2040 GDS : inspirational strategy
- One of the key outputs in the next 30 years is:
 - ***“building a city that is “characterised by social inclusivity and enhanced social cohesion***
 - city will become more diverse and culturally plural over the coming decades
 - city envisages a future where communities will display greater levels of confidence in respect of their abilities to influence and control their own urban environments

MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT DYNAMIC & CHALLENGES THAT MAKE A MAINSTREAMING APPROACH MORE URGENT?

- Migration & development dynamics & challenges that makes a mainstreaming approach more urgent : e.g.
 - globalisation, climate change, natural resource scarcity, technological innovation, inequality, competition for limited resources/ opportunities like housing, trading space
- To cope with these drivers of change the city must build its adaptive capacity, ensuring it is more resilient to change and more adept at seizing opportunities as they arise.
- 2040 GDS practical response to build resilient communities, resilient economy,

MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT DYNAMIC & CHALLENGES THAT MAKE A MAINSTREAMING APPROACH MORE URGENT

- Participatory engagement has been key
 - Creation or setting up of platforms to facilitate inclusion of multi-agency and multi stakeholder participation in the development of policy, interventions mechanisms, implementation and monitoring.
 - Driven & strengthened through ongoing dialogues that makes a mainstreaming approach more urgent
- Johannesburg Advisory Panel
 - (CBO, city departments, advocacy groups)
 - Issues addressed: lack of shelter, access to basic services like health and schooling, banking facilities, community conflict.
 - *e.g. Introduction of interpretation services in inner city clinics facilitated by migrant health professionals.*
- Johannesburg Migration Council
 - Chaired by Executive Mayor assisted by MMCs, Government Departments like Home Affairs, Education, Economic, Social Development; NGOs, Academic institutions, Business, Trade Unions, UN agencies and NEPAD.
 - *e.g. Development of Johannesburg Migrant Integration Policy product of this engagement.*

MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT DYNAMIC & CHALLENGES THAT MAKE A MAINSTREAMING APPROACH MORE URGENT

- Partners concrete commitment
 - assisting city to work towards achieving its 2040 commitment on enhancing social cohesion
 - *UNDP: strengthen the city's migrant desk reception strategy*
 - *Home Affairs provides training to the frontline staff/ city officials/ community interventions*
 - *NEPAD: host city and sending cities engagement*
- Evidence Based
 - Myths & misconception regarding migration e.g. migrants cause crime, take away jobs and opportunities,
 - Collaboration with research institutions
 - *e.g. conflict between local traders and South Africans. Centre for Migration in Africa at the University of Witwatersrand has done a lot of research in this area.*
- A systematic promotion of regional economic growth would result in lower levels of migration driven by desperate economic circumstances



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AREAS OF CITY PLANNING & POLICY MAKING NEEDING TO BE MOST RESPONSIVE TO MIGRATION & ITS IMPACT ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- City seeks to build liveable communities as part of the 2040 GDS.
 - Ability to access key infrastructure (e.g. transportation, water, sanitation and means of communication), food, clean air, affordable housing, meaningful employment, and green parkas and spaces- and the opportunity to be an active participant in democratic processes that addresses one's needs.
- City planning important – migrant group usually outside the planning parameters can lead to less than optimal results & based on inadequate projections (Population dynamics)
 - Need to find way to ensure catered for in the long term planning of the city.



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AREAS OF CITY PLANNING & POLICY MAKING NEEDING TO BE MOST RESPONSIVE TO MIGRATION & ITS IMPACT ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- With overcrowding comes a range of other stresses related to safety, resources, livelihoods, and others
- Provision of infrastructure
 - Migrants already use available resources e.g. transport, sanitation – need to cost it
- **Planning of facilities:** Designate areas for trading
 - e.g. Somali Traders = capacity:
- **Skills & Innovation:** Low and High Technical skills
 - Johannesburg attracting highly skilled and qualified migrants
 - Migrant Skills can be translated into small business/entrepreneurial - have development impact
 - Question how to transfer skills to locals

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTN PLANS AFFECT URBAN POLICY MAKING ON MIGRATION & DEVEOPMENT

- Chapter 7 of the RSA National Development Plan 2030 looks at Positioning South Africa in the World.
 - Recognises that the world over past 3 decades have become increasingly interconnected & as such countries have become increasingly interdependent & more exposed to financial, social and economic crises of a global character.
- Public policy making & provision of public goods has taken on a more global aspect
- Plan re-enforces the notion that policy makers need to address the core objectives of growing the domestic economy, reducing poverty and improving the quality of life of all the country's citizens.
- At the same time policy making should improve the country's functional integration in the region, on the continent, among developing countries – especially key states like Brazil, India and China and in the world with measurable outcomes.
- Cities like Joburg are at the coalface of the changes that are brought by the national development plans and thus have to assess quickly how to plan for



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AFFECT URBAN POLICY MAKING ON MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

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- Joburg through 2040 GDS: City's efforts will focus on ensuring all feel a part of this cosmopolitan reality- through active engagement, facilitation of cultural cross-pollination and sharing of experiences, and the establishment of bridges between diverse communities.
- In addressing this long term output the city will:
 - Ensure that the places in which communities live are distinctive, and that the built form becomes an expression citizens cultural identity- through designing for inclusion:
 - Make participation more-meaningful, representative and just, thereby bringing diverse communities closer to planning and decision making (e.g. by providing platforms and opportunities through which multiple voices can be heard)
 - Provide social infrastructure to support the socially excluded, ensure awareness and education of their rights and entitlement among all, provide social support – and share in debates on the role and importance of and inclusivity, with all



MIGRATION MAINSTREAMING APPROACH ROLE IN HELPING TO BETTER PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS

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- Joburg experience illustrate that the mainstreaming approach can contribute in improving the ability to respond to protect the interest of the vulnerable groups
- Some of challenges facing the city includes
 - foreign women, children, blind adults who are of cross border beggars
 - Victims of Human Trafficking
 - Elderly migrant forced to live on the street in the twilight of their lives
 - Unaccompanied minors
- Stakeholder engagement has created a platform to bring together various role players dealing with migrant issues resulting in the following:
 - Improved access to the critical service providers or role players to migrant communities including
 - Coordinated Referral systems for assistance and services
 - Joint efforts to address identified challenges, whenever, there is an outbreak or threat of xenophobic attacks the parties act as collective, undertake joint educational programmes (Joburg Africa Week Programme, international events)
 - At the same time has engendered a sense of collective responsibility on the part of migrants of migrant communities in seeking common solutions with the locals
 - Facilitate access of children excluded from schooling system

MIGRATION MAINSTREAMING APPROACH ROLE IN HELPING TO BETTER PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Some of the practical engagements by the city
 - Women Support Programme: looks at issues affecting migrant women and creating networks with local women
 - Human Trafficking- training by IOM has assisted and led to the establishment of multi-stakeholder local forums that will deal with the issues
 - The Technical Task Team supporting the work of JMAC contributes in monitoring and tracking the commitments made in this Forum

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Currently global coordination strong but at regional level needs to be strengthened
- Sharing of lessons to strengthen efforts of managing migrants at local level – needs to bring more cities to collaborate on this front
- Supporting and strengthening the local spheres of government – to implement an agenda informed by their realities and initiated by them
- Engagement between host city, sending city and department impacted by migration
- Heighten awareness on the impact of environment/ climate change on migration*