

MIGRATION AND THE INCLUSIVE CITY

Over the past few years, increasing attention has been paid to the impacts of urbanisation, and the important contribution that cities can make in responding to both local and global challenges.

In order to further strengthen this new and more optimistic narrative, the Cities Alliance believes that there are critical policy areas that are still hampered by poor information and analysis, longstanding prejudices, and inappropriate public responses.

At its inaugural meeting in January 2015, the Cities Alliance Management Board decided that the focus of the Catalytic Fund in 2015 should be on migrants, and the challenge of their systematic inclusion into cities of all sizes.

Why migration?

Around the world, migration patterns differ widely and are influenced by the specific social, economic and political contexts in countries and cities of origin and destination. Currently, more attention has been paid to migration through media coverage of recent events in the Middle East and North Africa, where migrants increasingly cross national borders and even the Mediterranean in desperate search of livelihood opportunities and/or sanctuary.

However, in its 2009 Human Development Report, UNDP estimates that 85 per cent of the approximately one billion migrants worldwide are internal migrants. These less visible but major migration flows stay within their countries of origin, such as in China and India, where the greatest internal movement of people in history is happening as a natural part of the urbanisation process.

While over 50 per cent of the global population already lives in cities, this process will continue to accelerate as humanity witnesses the final chapter of the shift from a rural and agricultural life to urban living.

Within these global flows, cities have thus become the arrival spaces for different kinds of migrants, whether pulled by social and economic opportunities, services and modern life styles or pushed by conflict, political upheaval, social repression as well as environmental and other disasters. Migrants

Documents

[Concept Note Template](#) [EN] [ES] [FR]

[TOR for Sponsors](#) [EN] [ES] [FR]

[TOR for Recipients](#) [EN] [ES] [FR]

[Call for Proposals 2015](#) [EN] [ES] [FR]

[Calendar](#) [EN]

The International Organisation for Migration defines migration as “the movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification.”

are as heterogeneous as their experiences, not only in terms of their trajectories, reasons for migrating, skills, legal status and existing networks, but also in relation to their various identities of race, religion and class.

Why migration and cities?

Regardless of their diverse characteristics and experiences, at some point in their journey most migrants arrive in domestic or foreign cities – either as their new home, a temporary place of residence or a transit space. Due to the lack of planning and resources, many also frequently end up in overcrowded slums and settlements that lack the most basic services, social protection and access to the labour market. Excluded from the very opportunities they pursue, these men and women are often stigmatised as a problem rather than recognised for the energy and enterprise they seek to contribute.

While migration is generally addressed through national policies, the lived reality of integration in settlements is uniquely local. Even where migrants are international, the results of migration flows around the world are largely managed at the local level. Outdated policy frameworks and weak local administrations often result in tensions between new migrants and the existing, settled population over access to services and social and economic opportunities. This is often particularly acute in the case of cross-border migrants, and has sometimes led to xenophobic responses or violence.

Yet, it is also in cities where solutions for intercultural dialogues and new forms of conflict resolutions are found and ethnic tolerance is practiced. The extent to which migrant families in informal settlements are included or excluded by public authorities and the social and economic fabric of the city can be critical to the long-term potential of both community and city.

The topic of migration touches upon the very essence of a city: The notion of cities as a melting pot, whose characteristics are determined by their ability to assimilate and empower people of different backgrounds. Cities providing urban citizenship and opportunities to their new residents stand to benefit as migrants in informal settlements gradually evolve into tomorrow's middle classes. Ignoring this global development, on the other hand, can cause social tensions and worsen poverty and inequalities.

It is in cities where aspirations for social and economic mobility can be realised or existing forms of exclusion and deprivation fortified. The difference depends on a city's policy response to migration and its ability to plan and develop practical solutions that take into account how migration transforms, expands and diversifies a city. These solutions and policy approaches often need to be found in very difficult circumstances. In fact, those cities experiencing the greatest impact from migration are often the ones with the greatest backlogs, and weakest capacities in urban planning and management – cities that are often already struggling to fulfil the most basic needs of their citizens.

Migration Facts

- Over 50 million people around the world were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict or human rights violations. (UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2013)
- An estimated 4.3 to 7 million refugees reside in urban centres. (UNHCR 2011)
- Half of the world's refugees are children. (IOM 2014)
- Women comprise 48 per cent of all international migrants. (IOM 2014)

Underpinning all of these variables and processes is the gendered aspects of migration. Even though nearly half of the world's migrants are women, it is recognised that they experience significant and very specific gender, ethnic and racial discrimination in accessing the labour market and social protection systems. Existing legal frameworks and policies on migration are often neither gender responsive nor supportive of the most marginalised, vulnerable and exploited women migrants.

Through its work, the Cities Alliance recognises migration as an integral part of the development challenges shaping patterns of urban growth and, depending on the response, also shaping the economic, social and cultural vibrancy of cities. The flow of money, knowledge and ideas between destination and origin cities can catalyse innovation and development at both ends, potentially making migrants key players in city growth, resilience and sustainability.

With this call for proposals, the Cities Alliance seeks innovation in policy responses and practical approaches that increase spatial, social and economic inclusion by also extending to migrants the rights to the city: access to land, services, opportunity, as well as to an urban citizenship.

Focus areas for proposals

Proposals should promote innovation and catalytic impact in support of the strategic goal of the Catalytic Fund, which is to stimulate transformational change in cities. Innovation is measured in the development of concepts, products and processes which are either new in absolute terms or a novelty in their application and adaptation to a different context. Innovation should also be able to create societal value and trigger longer-term impacts.

Proposals are requested on one or more of the following focus areas. They can address international and/or internal migration. **All proposals should demonstrate clear attention to the issue of gender equality.** Additionally, proposals could also address the special needs, capacities and potentials of the most vulnerable migrant groups (such as children).

1. **LIVE:** Migrants' access to basic urban services, livelihoods and social protection.
2. **WORK:** The access, integration and role of migrants in the city labour market and local economy.
3. **CONNECT:** Social integration and inclusion of migrants in the city.
4. **PARTICIPATE:** Migrants' inclusion into city planning and local decision-making processes.

Eligibility

- Proposed projects must meet the objectives of the chosen theme and the Catalytic Fund in general. They must also fall within the scope of the Cities Alliance Charter.
- Proposed projects must limit grant size requests to between USD 50,000 – USD 200,000.
- The Cities Alliance will cover up to 80 per cent of the total cash requirements for the project. The remaining balance will need to be contributed in cash by the recipient organisation, the sponsoring organisation and/or other partners and sources. Please note that if this concept note is approved for further processing, proof of the co-financing will need to be provided.

- Projects must be sponsored by at least one Cities Alliance member. However, multiple sponsors are strongly encouraged. Sponsorship(s) must be secured prior to submission of the proposed project. Proponent and sponsor(s) must discuss and endorse the Concept Note of the proposed project including the role of the sponsor(s) prior to submission. **Support documentation will need to be provided.**
- Consistent with the emerging Sustainable Development Goals framework, Cities Alliance now has a universal mandate. However, because of its focus on poverty reduction, preference will be given to applications from low- and middle-income countries. Preference will also be given to those countries where the Cities Alliance does not have a Country Programme (The six Country Programmes are Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda and Vietnam).

Guidelines

All applications must adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Deadline.** All Concept Notes must be submitted by **midnight 8 May 2015** Central European Time.
- **Format.** All submissions must use the Cities Alliance Concept Note template.
- **Language.** Concept Notes can be in English, French or Spanish.
- **Completeness.** Concept Notes must provide all of the information and support documentation requested.
- **Submission via e-mail.** Concept Notes should be submitted via e-mail only to the Cities Alliance Secretariat at CATF@citiesalliance.org by 8 May 2015.