The role of secondary cities for the implementation of global agendas

Joint Work Program on Cities and Migration
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Local initiatives and Global agendas
Some Facts & Figures

- **Migration** is a global phenomenon whose realities and impacts are mostly felt at the local level.
- Most migrants, whether they move internally or internationally, settle in urban areas. They move to cities seeking opportunities for jobs, access to education, services, for connectivity, to tap into social networks or to enjoy urban anonymity.
- 60% of refugees and 80% of IDPs live in urban areas, with local governments playing a key role in fostering local integration and re-thinking durable solutions.
- **Urbanisation trend**: By 2050 more than 68% of global population will live in cities. Secondary cities in the Global South will be the most affected by urban population growth.
- Today 25% of the world’s poor live in urban areas, with 50% forecasted by 2040. Migrants are disproportionately represented among the urban poor.
- Uncontrolled urban growth leave new arrivals and poor urban residents with limited access to the formal infrastructure, local labour market and services of cities, fuelling social tensions and increasing exposure to exploitation and exclusion.
Potential of secondary cities

• Despite these challenges, cities have the potential to effectively absorb populations on the move. Their proximity to the local population allows them to form innovative partnerships and to tap on the potentials offered by diaspora (IOM).

• Informed territorial planning reflecting mobility patterns and rural-urban dynamics / interconnected secondary cities have the potential to reduce poverty and inequalities and to boost local economic development.

• Vertical coherence of policies and good urban governance (devolution of function and fiscal autonomy) are decisive factors that allow secondary cities to be inclusive, economically vibrant and resilient.
Migration & Development Global Agendas

• Cities recognized as key actors in global agendas
• 2030 Agenda, New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement
• Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
• Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)
Contribution of the Joint Work Program to the global agenda

- Local authorities are enabled to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration through improved local migration governance which builds on inclusion and social cohesion (SDG 10, 10.7, SDG 8.8, SDG 11.A); (GCM, Objective 1, 4, 15, 16, 17)
- Local authorities and key support partners are strengthened in their capacities and mandate to receive, manage, and integrate labour migrants (SDG 8); (GCM, Objective 6, 7, 16, 18)
- Local authorities and key support partners are strengthened in their capacities and mandate to receive, manage, and integrate involuntary migrants displaced by conflict or environmental shocks (SDG 10.7); (GCM, Objective 4, 7, 16)
- Cities Alliance members and partners are facilitated to engage in global cooperation, partnership, and advocacy for safe, orderly and regular migration to cities (SDG 17) (GCM, Objective 23).
Discussion

• What is the most relevant role secondary cities play in your specific context for the realisation of the global agendas? What are the hampering factors to realise it fully?

• What should still be addressed in regional & international debates on migration? Are the position and role of secondary cities sufficiently reflected?

• What could strengthen the linkages between local realities and global debates on migration?
Agenda 2030

Migration and the 2030 Agenda

1. No Poverty
   - Migration can be an effective poverty reduction tool for migrants and their families and can make significant contributions to development efforts in both countries of origin and destination.

2. Zero Hunger
   - Food insecurity can be a driver of migration for individuals and their families.

3. Good Health and Well-being
   - Addressing the health and well-being of migrants is a precondition for social and economic development.

4. Quality Education
   - Education can facilitate migrant children’s social-economic integration and improve their livelihoods as adults.

5. Gender Equality
   - Migration can be a source of empowerment for women and girls, but they can also be especially vulnerable to violence, sexual abuse and exploitation.

6. Clean Water and Sanitation
   - Water scarcity and related issues may impact or be driving standards. Limited availability and health which in turn can be drivers of migration.

7. Affordable and Clean Energy
   - Inexpensive and alternative energy solutions can benefit vulnerable or displaced communities with limited or no access to electricity.

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
   - Decent jobs and safe and secure work environments for migrants are essential if they are to become productive members of society and contribute to economic growth.

9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
   - Migrants can transfer valuable knowledge and skills to their countries of origin and destination, helping to support technology.

10. Reduced Inequalities
    - Effective migration governance is vital for safer, more orderly and regular migration.

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
    - Migrants help cities thrive and become more vibrant, connected centres of economy and life.

12. Responsible Consumption and Production
    - Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns can help to protect migrant workers from exploitation.

13. Climate Action
    - Migration can be a precursor to climate change adaptation strategy and a way to build resilience.

14. Life Below Water
    - Combating marine and coastal ecosystem degradation and diversifying the livelihoods of communities that are dependent on marine resources can help address forced displacement and migration.

15. Life on Land
    - Deformation, land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss can have profound impacts on communities whose livelihoods rely on natural resources and can be drivers of migration.

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
    - Stronger, more transparent and accountable institutions and improved access to justice can help uphold and promote migrant rights.

17. Partnerships for the Goals
    - Timely, reliable and comparable data on migrant can help policy makers devise evidence-based policies and plans to address the migration aspects of the SDGs.