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The role of secondary cities for the implementation of global agendas

Joint Work Program on Cities and Migration
Regional Peer Learning Event, 9-10 September 2019
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 of 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