

## ICCS FORUM BRUSSELS

### “International Cooperation: Building Inclusive Cities and Solidarity Communities with a Territorial Approach in Latin America & Africa”

**Date:** June 13th, 2024.

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (GMT+2)

**Venue:** Citadines Toison d'Or Brussels, 61-63, avenue de la Toison d'Or 1060 Brussels, Belgium

**Modality:** Hybrid

### Background

By 2050, the global population will reach 9.7 billion, with 70% living in urban areas, an increase from the current 55%. This growth, driven equally by natural population increase and migration, emphasizes the need for effective urban management. Migration, including rural-urban, cross-boundary, and forced displacement, significantly contributes to urbanization. The Global Compact for Migration stresses the importance of providing basic services like healthcare and education to all migrants and promoting social inclusion and cohesion. Climate change and conflicts are increasing forced displacement, with most refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) moving to urban areas as they seek refuge and self-reliance. The UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement advocates for coordinated efforts to support IDPs in cities by integrating their needs into urban planning and ensuring access to services and legal support.

Addressing urban displacement requires collaboration with local authorities, institutions, and communities. Effective strategies depend on local data and spatial analysis to identify and prioritize needs. Approaches should be context-specific, integrating humanitarian and development assistance, and fostering inclusive local governance. Sustainable financing, leveraging diverse sources including private sector contributions, is also crucial. A well-planned urban response aims to make displaced populations self-reliant and turn demographic changes into positive economic, social, and cultural impacts.

### Objective

The ICCS Forum on 13 June 2024 aims to promote an international dialogue by sharing experiences from the Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity Project in Latin America. It also provides for exchanging experience with other urban displacement settings, including in West and East Africa, and to strengthen collaboration and alliances towards integration and inclusive local development in crisis situations.

### Overview

The morning session will centre on the "[Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity](#)" (ICCS) in Latin America. This is a joint initiative of UNHCR, IOM, UN-Habitat and the European Commission that responds to the mass movement of refugees and migrants from Venezuela to surrounding countries, which had a significant impact on cities. It addresses challenges of socio-economic integration in host cities, and vulnerabilities of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Dominican Republic, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago, by strengthening the response capacity of local authorities, civil society and communities.

Working with 10 local governments the ICCS main objectives include:

- generating tools for effective local decision making
- developing inclusive urban socioeconomic and integration strategies
- undertaking joint actions against xenophobia that promote social cohesion
- strengthening capacities of local and national governments, civil society, and other actors
- generating of communities of practices for solidarity and the exchange of experience.
- developing and implementing socioeconomic integration strategies.

Over a four-year timeframe, the initiative has impacted on beneficiary communities with improvements to neighborhoods and public spaces, while ensuring the basic needs of the most vulnerable refugees are met through cash-based interventions. It has directly benefited approximately 10,000 people through capacity building, social cohesion activities, entrepreneurship actions, cash-based initiatives and others; and has indirectly benefitted more than 160,000 people with improvements to neighbourhoods and public spaces, through socioeconomic integration strategies.

The afternoon session centres on a policy dialogue. It brings together the ICCS city leaders with academics, policy makers and technical experts working in other regions, including East and West Africa, to share experiences and contribute to global discourse responding to forced displacement in cities. Linkages will be made the following initiatives:

- "Spatial Development Strategy for the Sahel (SDSS)," identifies anticipatory actions in response to complex challenges in the region, including climate change and conflict that leads to protracted displacement. Spatial development strategies in four transboundary areas are derived from an analysis of anticipated population flows and territorial economy and infrastructure mapping. Priority infrastructure investments are then identified to strengthen a network of human settlements, with effective rural-urban connections and economic opportunities, that improve safety, inclusivity and resilience. [UN-Habitat, UNDP co-funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SDC) via UNDP].
- "Out of camp or out of sight? Realigning responses to protracted displacement in an urban world" led by the International Institute for Environment and Development (2020-2024) assesses urban versus camp responses to displacement in Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, and Afghanistan. It aims to provide evidence for policymakers, advocate for displaced people's rights and economic contributions, and promote self-reliance in urban settings through surveys, interviews, and forums. [funded by UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund, IKEA Foundation, SDC and Bernard Van Leer Foundation].
- "Addressing urban displacement in Burkina Faso through inclusive area-based approaches" by UN-Habitat supports the integration of displaced people in four cities by building housing, services, and infrastructure, emphasizing community participation and local capacity-building; funded by the European Commission.
- The Cities and Migration Global Programme by Cities Alliance in partnership with SDC and EC supports cities affected by migration and displacement and is currently active in more than 20 secondary cities in Tunisia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, DRC and Guatemala. It provides tailored financial and technical assistance to cities and local stakeholders for improved local migration management, while fostering partnerships among local, national, and global actors to address the informality of migration and displacement.

## Agenda

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

| Time       | Topic / Speaker / Responsible Entity  |
|------------|---|
| 9:00 am    | Registration  |
| 9:30 am    | <b>Opening and welcome greetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Francesco Luciani, Head of Unit for Migration and Forced displacement, DG INTPA</li> <li>– Elkin Velasquez, UN-Habitat ROLAC Director</li> <li>– Ana Duran, IOM Deputy Regional Director for the Americas IOM</li> <li>– Marco Formisano, UNHCR Senior Regional Liaison Advisor for the Americas, Regional Bureau for the Americas</li> </ul>   |
| 10:15 am   | <b>Presentation “Pathways to Effective Integration: Results and Impacts of the Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity Project”</b><br><i>*Presented by Roi Chiti, Coordinator HUB Andean Countries UN-Habitat.</i>   |
| 10:40 am   | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 11:00 am   | <b>Discussants RoundTable: “Latin-American voices for integration”</b><br>Dialogue on integration experiences in Latin America based on community processes as a fundamental basis for the transformation of cities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cintia, Loaza, Mayor of Surquillo, Lima, Peru</li> <li>• Ricardo Perez, Mayor of San Luis, Peru</li> <li>• Faaïq Muhammad, Chaguanas Mayor</li> <li>• Diego Martin Franco, Deputy Mayor of Manta, Ecuador</li> <li>• David Alvarado, Secretary of Housing of the Municipality of San José de Cúcuta(TBC)</li> <li>• Community Champions ICCS Project: Andreina Briceño from Chaguanas, T&amp;T; Yasmina Herrera from Quito, Ecuador; Luis Castillo, Community from Lima, Peru; Monica Hernandez from Cucuta, Colombia; and Diego Peñaranda from Villa del Rosario, Colombia</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Marco Formisano, UNHCR.</p> <p><i>Guiding Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>How was community participation key to enhance the impact of the project in cities, communities and/or organizations?</i></li> <li>– <i>What has been the greatest example of inclusion that the project had in its city/neighborhood? Why?</i></li> <li>– <i>How have the results and lessons learned in the framework of the project been integrated in your daily activities and actions?</i></li> </ul> |
| 12:30 p.m. | <b>Concluding Remarks “Moving Forward: Perspectives on Urban Integration and Human Mobility in Latin America”</b><br>Social, Political, and Geopolitical Context of the Region, Reality of the Effects of the Ongoing Migratory Wave, What Is Happening, and What Can Be Done?<br><i>Presented by: Ana Duran, IOM Deputy Regional Director for the Americas IOM</i>   |

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|---------------|--|
| 1:00 pm       | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 2:00 pm       | <p><b>Policy Roundtable: Global policy exchange on inclusive cities and solidarity communities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– European Commission: DG INTPA</li> <li>– Mayors and City Representatives: ICCS Mayors; Silvia García Vettorazzi, Planning Manager, Municipality of Guatemala; Andrés Segura, Manager of Migration Affairs of Bogotá, Colombia; Mayor of Kaya, Burkina Faso.</li> <li>– International Experts: Dr Lucy Earle, International Institute for Environment and Development; Florence Lozet, Cities Alliance; Mathias Spaliviero, UN-Habitat (West Africa and the Sahel); Marco Formisano, UNHCR</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Dyfed Aubrey, Chief, UN-Habitat Brussels Office</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>How can mobility, which in principle could be seen as a challenge, be an opportunity for cities?</i></li> <li>– <i>How can we consolidate sustainable strategies for territorial integration in the cities and finance them?</i></li> </ul> |
| 3:30 – 3:45pm | <p><b>Closure and Coffee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Elkin Velasquez, UN-Habitat ROLAC Director</li> <li>– Diana Montero Melis, Deputy Head of Unit for South America, DG INTPA</li> </ul>  |