

MIGRATION AND INCLUSIVE CITIES: A GUIDE FOR ARAB CITY LEADERS



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Large scale migration and propelling rapid urbanization are two key and intrinsically related facets of the 21st century. People have been increasingly on the move into cities, following economic opportunities voluntarily or escaping forcibly from mounting political conflicts or unprecedented natural disasters. Associated with this development is the overwhelming demand for affordable housing, adequate jobs, quality health care, education facilities, social protection and other basic infrastructure and services in cities.

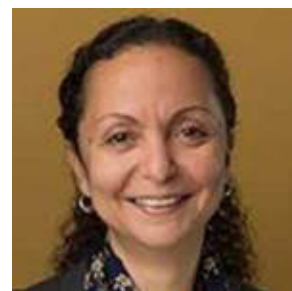
In that context, city leaders have been assuming growing responsibilities of including increasingly diverse newcomers into the urban fabric of their cities and enhancing their accessibility to services and opportunities. However, with already strained resources and limited capacities, local authorities' response has been mainly precarious, exposing migrants in addition to their local residents in conditions of exclusion and vulnerability. Migration, when adequately managed through inclusive urban planning and governance at the local level, could be turned into an opportunity to contribute to the socio-economic dynamism and sustainable development of host cities. As the New Urban Agenda states, city leaders must be equipped with enhanced capacities and tools to design, plan and manage inclusive urban development.

Arab cities are among the world's top destinations for migrants and displaced, owing to a multitude of reasons. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), they host more than 38 million international migrants (including registered refugees), 45 percent of the world's refugees and around 16 percent internally displaced persons. Although sudden surge in flows of migrants had different impacts on Arab countries, the protection and inclusion of these new entrants fell primarily upon local government.

The publication *Migration and Inclusive Cities: A Guide for Arab City Leaders* is part of the UN-Habitat City Leaders Guide series. It was developed to assist Arab city leaders with practical and insightful guidance to better understand both the pattern and causes of migration impacting the Arab region and how they can positively contribute to the development of the respective urban areas. Taking into consideration the variety of existing governance frameworks in Arab countries at the local level, the guide discerns the main pillars of an inclusive local governments that would enable them to engage successfully with the respective communities. It provides city leaders with evidence-based tools and well-grounded experiences to pursue in order to unravel the tremendous potential of migration that would bring mutually beneficial effects to both host communities and migrants; and drive the sustainable urban development of cities. Inclusion of displaced with host communities into the urban context can transform cities into melting pots of a wide array of social and economic groups, to serve as engines of productivity and sustainable service delivery.

Zena Ali-Ahmad
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Arab and international migrants have been driving forces in this region's economic, social and cultural development, but the benefits and costs of migration often are unevenly distributed. Cities are the crucible where policy and practice determine whether migration advances or undermines greater equality and access to rights for all.

The Ford Foundation Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Office was pleased to support UN Habitat's Regional Office of Arab States to learn from the experiences of MENA cities and make them available to a larger audience of city leaders, urban practitioners, national governments, and humanitarian and development agencies and organizations. We believe that with the right support city leaders can play a crucial role creating the conditions for just, inclusive cities where both migrants and host communities can thrive. That support must begin with recognizing the city level leadership and successes already taking place, and connecting city leaders to each other and to other levels of government for mutual learning and regional solidarity.

The Ford Foundation's MENA Office is delighted that this publication and the accompanying toolkit and pilots can contribute to the shared goal of just, inclusive cities for all. This publication would not have been possible without the rigor and thoughtfulness of Katja Schäfer, Human Settlements Officer at the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States and the stewardship of Zena Ali Ahmad, Regional Director as well as Clarisa Bencomo, Program Officer for Migration and Equitable Development at the Ford Foundation.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CMI	Centre for Mediterranean Integration
COP21	21st Conference of the Parties
EU	European Union
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
Habitat III	United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NUA	New Urban Agenda
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
ROAS	Regional Office for Arab States
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UiO	University of Oslo
UN	United Nations

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