

GFMD  
Regional consultation - Bali Process  
Webinar

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# INTRODUCTION

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Since 2018 GFMD has played an important role in bringing the voice and expertise of LRAs to state-led deliberations and intensifying the dialogue between different levels of government and different stakeholder groups. Thanks to the team effort we are gathered here today to share opinions that we hope to be fruitful for all of the parties.

**The GFMD 2020 – Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates**

# INTRODUCTION

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As we are one of the founders of GFMD, UCLG, as a global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments and their associations, is committed also to:

- Representing, defending, amplifying the voices of local and regional governments to leave no-one behind and
- Enhancing the Capacity of Local Governments in Localizing the SDGs.
- Empowering LRGs to face enormous challenges: working with high level of solidarity to confront and fight COVID-19 through a platform that allow us to exchange our experiences.

# COVID-19 might serve as a test case to discuss existing policy frameworks in the region

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- The humanity is facing an enormous challenge.
- The COVID-19 crisis has an impact in all dimensions of our lives: the public health, the labor systems, the social interaction, the political debate, the use of public spaces, the economy, the environment, and the cultural life.
- We already face everyday many challenges: discrimination, vulnerability, inequality, Syrian crises...
- We need full cooperation and a participatory approach with all relevant stakeholders and on all levels, to have a comprehensive planning based on democracy and human rights
- The major challenge is represented by refugees, especially those who live in camps

# About Migration situation

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The nation's biggest concern for the future isn't pollution or climate change – it's immigration.

- Worldwide, there is an estimated 191 million immigrants
- 1 of every 7 people in the world is a migrant
- 1 in every 113 is either an asylum-seeker, a refugee or an internally displaced person.
- 75% live in just 28 countries
- Over 60% of refugees and about 35% of the internally displaced reside in urban and sub-urban areas.
- There is no region of the world not affected, whether as a producer or a receiver of refugees, or as a country of transit
- Demographic forces, globalization and environmental degradation mean that the migration pressures across borders will likely increase in the coming decades.
- The refugee crisis dominates the image of immigration.

# Migration as an opportunity

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Migrants are important contributors to local development, they choose to move to improve the future and they contribute to the social and economic development of their host and home territories,

Unlike refugees that are forced to leave their home countries with no source of income. They depend on aids and donations of NGOs.

Migrants and diasporas are building development links between territories of origin and destination through international remittances, investment, skills, expertise and labor.

Migration powers economic growth, reduces inequalities and, connects diverse societies.

**Yet it is also a source of political tension if refugees are not integrated into a new society**

# Migration history

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- The Euro-Mediterranean region has always experienced significant migratory movements, which have shaped its current demographic, social, economic, and cultural landscape, resulting in humanitarian crises and creating sustained pressure on the host countries' governments and LAs.
- One of the most challenges faced by our regions is “**irregular migration**”
- In recent years, the Mediterranean has witnessed tragedies in which thousands of people have lost their lives trying to enter the EU irregularly.

# CASE of Lebanon

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- Starting in the second half of the nineteenth century, the migration flows were a response to several factors, WW1, occupation, WW2, Palestinians transfer, Israeli invasion, civil war, and recently Syrian Crisis. 1@1
- The term refugee does not exist in some countries like Lebanon, it only refers to the status of asylum seekers and the Regulation of the Entry, Stay, and Exit. Noting that Lebanon is agreed on the obligation of non-refoulment.
- The 1991 bilateral agreement between Lebanon and Syria allowed to citizens to move without a visa.



# Migration and local government

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- The arrival of migrants and refugees takes place in territories managed by local governments who, despite limited resources and competences, providing them with accommodation, food, healthcare, protection, etc.
- Their role is therefore essential, not only in protecting and ensuring the inclusion of migrants and refugees in host cities, but also in building cohesive and sustainable societies, where peaceful coexistence among newcomers and local populations can be a reality, in addition to taking action **to combat discrimination, inequalities, vulnerabilities, and segregation and promote intercultural dialogue and social cohesion.**
- For this reason, it is crucial to support their action by **providing more competences and resources, and by including local authorities in the governance of migration.**

# Conclusion

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- We must fulfill our basic obligations to safeguard the lives and human rights of those migrants, and also we have to empower and save the vulnerable cities receiving them because they are on the front line, receiving, managing, and integrating migrants and refugees, and **they need more support.**
- We should assure inclusion and more adequate central-local authorities linkages.
- We need to engage the private sector, civil society and international organizations and create common space for dialogue and partnership and real cooperation between all actors.
- Start implementing the SDGs, especially goal 10.7 that aims to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

# Recommendations

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- No country can manage the refugee issue on their own, cross border challenges demand cross border solutions.
- Protection strategies need to be redesigned, reformulated, and implemented in different ways
- This regional consultation is an opportunity to put on the table all the outputs that can contribute to solving the challenges resulting from the migration, in a constantly changing world where protection of migrants must not be noticed on the economic level but also as human development.
- Migrants should be treated as workers or a range of solutions needed to recover from crises because we are living in a multi-hazard world where risk is unpredictable and threaten our lives. Therefore, we must deal with those challenges with flexibility and openness to can achieve our goals.

# Recommendations

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- We should work in solidarity to apply the BALI Process ( to facilitate discussion and information sharing about issues relating to people smuggling, human trafficking, and related transnational crime and appropriate responses to these issues.)
- We should elaborate on refugees a long term strategy and one strategy applicable in all countries in the world based on human rights and conducted by the UN .

# Thank you

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