

Training Program on Migration Policy and Governance with a local and municipal level approach

CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA
16-20 August 2021

INTRODUCTION

The last five years have seen significant changes in international migration. The growth in the number of international migrants has been constant over the past two decades, with 281 million people living outside their country of origin in 2020 -about 3.6% of the world's population¹.

These changes create different challenges and opportunities in the countries of origin, transit, destination, and return with respect to migration governance. While migration governance is traditionally and mainly defined by norms, practices, and institutions at the national level, the impacts of migration (its benefits and the challenges of its management) have a direct impact at the local level, demonstrating the increasingly important role played by local actors. Migrants, as well as their families, are subject first to local conditions, such as the presence of basic education and health services, access to the labor market, and housing. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stressed the importance of working to build inclusive cities, expanding affordable housing, promoting participatory urban planning to include migrants, and including migrants in risk and disaster management².

The relationship between migration and subnational entities (states, provinces, municipalities) is not a recent phenomenon. In 2015, in its global report the IOM addressed the relationship between migration and mobility in cities³. Then it was estimated that, every week, 3 million people around the world were settling in cities. It is estimated that by 2050 the urban population will reach 6,400 million. About 50% of international migrants reside in ten highly urbanized countries, which involves exposure to social, cultural, economic, and migration dynamic that can affect their full integration into their host communities.

¹ UNDESA (2020) International Migration 2020 Highlights, available at <https://www.un.org/en/desa/international-migration-2020-highlights>

² Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. For more information about the relationship between migration and Agenda 2030 go to: <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-and-2030-agenda-guide-practitioners>

³ IOM (2015), *Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility*, available at: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/wmr2015_en.pdf

Dealing with these and other migration challenges at the local level has been recognized among the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration⁴. This voluntary global framework includes cross-cutting participation by local authorities and communities to achieve its objectives and, in particular, underscores the need to “integrate migration in development planning and sector-based policies at the national, regional and global level, taking into account relevant guidelines and policy recommendations, such as the Global Migration Group’s publication entitled *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners*, in order to increase policy coherence and the effectiveness of cooperation for development” (Objective 19, paragraph 35.b)⁵.

In its Objective 23 (Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration), subsection 39, the Global Compact calls to “Involve and support local authorities in the identification of needs and opportunities for international cooperation for the effective implementation of the Global Compact and integrate their perspectives and priorities into development strategies, programs and planning on migration, as a means to ensure good governance as well as policy coherence across levels of government and policy sectors, and maximize the effectiveness and impact of international development cooperation”⁶.

In addition, the Global Compact recognizes the importance of minimizing adverse drivers and structural factors that force people to leave their countries of origin. It also highlights the need to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration (particularly those that use irregular pathways to migrate), providing access to basic services for migrants, eliminating all forms of discrimination, and promoting an evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions on migration. All this will help empower both migrants and societies to achieve full inclusion and social cohesion.

The recent regional review on the progress in implementing the Global Compact (April 2021)⁷ were brought together ministers, vice-ministers, and government officials from 29 Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as well as three associate members. In addition, representatives from intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, funds and programs, migrant organizations, diasporas, communities and local authorities, civil society, academia, employers and workers, parliamentarians, human rights institutions, media and other interested parties participated in this three-day event.

⁴ More information is available at :

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

⁵ United Nations, Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:

<https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=es/A/RES/73/195#:~:text=El%20Pacto%20Mundial%20es%20un,nivel%20internacional%2C%20regional%20y%20bilateral.>

⁶ Idem.

⁷ For more information, please go to: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/latin-america-caribbean>

All panel discussions during this regional review process noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact had worsened the structural inequalities of a region that is already very unequal; however, it was also stressed that migration is not only a challenge but also an opportunity. The roundtables reaffirmed the importance of pan-governmental and pan-social approaches with a strong focus on human rights, gender, and age, as well as other guiding principles of the Compact⁸.

To formulate and implement effective migration policies and practices, it is necessary to adopt a whole of government approach to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence in all sectors and levels of government. Given the heterogeneity and the high number of Government areas whose tasks touch some aspect of migration, it is necessary to generate the articulation and horizontal coordination of all its branches to integrate, among others, the following spheres: social, economic, foreign policy, labor, trade, health, culture, education, communication and security, gender, children, human development, and environment⁹.

Therefore, coordination between the institutions in charge of these issues is critical. This is valid and necessary for national or central government agencies or local governments. It is critical to ensure vertical coordination between the different stakeholders. An effective implementation of immigration policy at the national level requires a comprehensive and integrated approach to governance, involving, as a formal and institutionalized public policy, horizontal coordination between the different parts of the Government that address the issue from different perspectives, and which may have divergent priorities. The complexity of horizontal coordination increases with the need for vertical coordination between different government levels, and with both governmental and non-governmental actors such as civil society organizations.

In response to the series of challenges stated above, in 2020 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) submitted to the consideration of the Member Countries of the RCM the first “Training Program on Migration Policy” aimed at capacity building on migration policy and other related public policies for public actors¹⁰. The program included a virtual course on migration trends, a panel of high-level international experts, and three virtual sessions seeking to develop the capacities of public actors in the RCM Member Countries regarding the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies on migration, so that they have the essential elements for managing orderly, safe, and regular migration.

⁸ Over 980 representatives registered for the high-level meeting, which was transmitted through Facebook Live.

⁹ IDB-IOM (2020): Virtual course on “Intergovernmental Migration Management”, available at:

<https://cursos.iadb.org/es/indes/migraciones-y-pol-ticas-p-blicas-intergubernamentales-e-intersectoriales-0>

¹⁰Additional information about the program can be found at the following link: <https://portal.crmsv.org/es/eventos/programa-de-formacion-sobre-politicas-migratorias>

RATIONALE

As highlighted in the introduction, it is critical that local (state and municipal) governments be involved in the governance of migration. This is consistent with the guidelines and aspirations of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the Global Compact, and the Agenda 2030 itself. In addition, the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) states that “the processes of human mobility are configured as a major global challenge, whose approach has different angles ranging from local politics to the adherence to international cooperation mechanisms and instruments”¹¹.

Increased mobility, reflected in a greater number of mixed migratory flows, is multiplying the presence of “arrival (host) cities”, since hometowns also become places of transit and destination. Migration flows transform cities into centers of diversity and innovation, and local authorities are the first to respond to the needs of migrants. Given this scenario, it is essential to think about the actions that can be carried out to facilitate the process of economic recovery and building more resilient societies.

Strengthening existing capacities in RCM Member States for the design, implementation, and evaluation of migration policies at the local and municipal levels is becoming more relevant within the context of a health crisis, in which all aspects of the migration phenomenon and its relationship with other public spheres becomes evident; therefore, this requires joint effort from public actors at different government levels, as well as the contribution of other actors such as the private sector and civil society.

Last but not least, the International Organization for Migration, in its capacity as coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, is interested in promoting spaces like this to facilitate in-depth analyses of the connections and mutual contributions of local policies to achieve the objectives of the Compact, particularly as a prelude to the International Migration Review Forum in 2022.

The aim of the *Training Program on Migration Policy and Governance with a local and municipal level approach*, herein, is to contribute to this purpose and delve into what the benefits and appropriate methodology are to design, implement, and evaluate migration policies from an integrated approach at the subnational level.

In that sense, this training program is essential to understand the needs and priorities of local governments, the tools available to international organizations, and the importance of a holistic perspective of migration governance. The Training Program is an activity carried out by the

¹¹ Government of Mexico, Presidency Pro Tempore of the XXVI Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla Process) Mexico 2021, work context

Working Group on Irregular and Massive Migration of the RCM, with support from the International Organization for Migration.

OBJECTIVES

General Objective:

Strengthen the capacities of public actors at the local level in the Member Countries of RCM regarding the design, implementation, and evaluation of public migratory policy in order to improve migration governance.

Specific Objectives:

1. Identify the needs and priorities of local governments with respect to migration governance and its role in the implementation of global agreements.
2. Analyze the benefits of integrating local actors in migration governance processes.
3. Disseminate and promote the use of data generation tools and evidence on migration for the design, monitoring, and evaluation of migration policies.
4. Share best practices and lessons learned from specific locations, both in RCM Member Countries and outside the RCM, which have had successful experiences in the development of migration governance at the local level.

METHODOLOGY

The *Training Program on Migration Policy and Governance with a local and municipal level approach* will be implemented by a combination of techniques, which will include: a virtual self-study course on migration trends in Latin America, presentations by experts, opportunities for dialogue, and presentations by representatives from local governments of the Member Countries. It will comprise three virtual sessions, as follows:

Structure of the Training Program:

Activity	Content
Virtual course on the IOM's E-Campus platform ¹²	Course on Migration Trends in Latin America (https://www.ecampus.iom.int/)
Webinar 1	It will focus on Specific Objective 1 (diagnosis of needs and priorities of local governments in migration governance)
Webinar 2	It will focus on Specific Objectives 2 and 3, to address migration governance and its processes from a local point of view, as well as existing tools for improving migration governance at the local level (Migration Governance indicators at the local level).
Webinar 3	The third virtual session will focus on Specific Objective 4 through the analysis of local experiences, good practices, and lessons learned.

Prior to the development of virtual sessions, and in coordination with the Executive Secretariat of the RCM, a brief online consultation will be sent to the participants to assess their level of knowledge on the subject and their expectations for this activity. After the virtual sessions finish, an online consultation will be sent again to the participants in order to evaluate any changes in their level of knowledge about the subject, their level of satisfaction with respect to their expectations, and any possible use of the knowledge acquired in their daily work.

In addition, the International Organization for Migration, together with the Working Group on Irregular and Massive Migration, will circulate a Program report to the Member Countries of the RCM summarizing the key findings and needs that could be further addressed in this forum.

PARTICIPANTS

The aim of developing the Training Program is to achieve the specialization of the participants on issues related to the design, implementation, and evaluation of migration policies at the local level.

The Program is intended for **six representatives per country**. The persons designated by the RCM Member Countries are expected to participate in **all the sessions** described in the methodology section, above. The participants who successfully attend all activities (online course and virtual

¹² Participants who have already taken this course during the 2020 Training Program on Migration Policy may show the certificate obtained at that time.

sessions) will receive a certificate of completion of the Training Program. It is recommended that Member Countries evaluate the participation of people with the following profile:

- 2 mayors or political authorities at the state or municipal level,
- 2 technical staff from local governments,
- 1 representative from migration institutes or directorates related to the topic of migration and/or planning,
- 1 representative from the ministry of foreign affairs or foreign office.

The RCM focal points shall send to the RCM a list of candidates by country with their names, surnames, and e-mails. With this information, IOM will register the applicants in the Training Program section on the IOM E-Campus. On this platform, participants will receive an opening questionnaire, access to the online course, virtual meetings (to be held using the Zoom platform), which will be recorded and be hosted on the E-Campus platform, with access restricted to the program's participants). The final questionnaire and certificate of participation will also be posted on the Program's platform.

Likewise, the virtual sessions will be posted on the YouTube page of the Regional Conference on Migration and the Microsite of the Presidency Pro Tempore of Mexico.

There will be interpretation services during the virtual meetings. RCM Observer agencies and the Regional Network of Civil Society Organizations for Migration (RNCOM) that wish to participate are welcome.

AGENDA

16-17 August 2021

Online course on migration trends in the region

- Participants who have registered are asked to complete the IOM online course (E-Campus platform) on migration trends in Latin America¹³. Approximate course duration: 4 hours
- Link: [Migration trends in Latin America](#)
- The IOM online course (E-Campus platform) will be available one day after the notice is sent by the Executive Secretariat of RCM. The recommendation is to complete the course before starting the virtual sessions. This online course should be completed **no later than Friday 20 August 2021**.

18 August 2021

Virtual Session 1: Diagnosis of the needs and priorities of local governments

CDMX time	Activity	Facilitated by
09:00-09:15	<p>General Instructions</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Klein-Solomon, Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) • Rocío González Higuera, Unit for Migration Policy, Registration, and Personal Identity, Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB), Presidency Pro Tempore of RCM 	Luis Alonso Serrano, Executive Secretary - RCM
09:15-09:50	Needs and priorities of local governments: Panel discussion with representatives from local governments (Guatemala, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Costa Rica) and the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations (FLACMA)	Presidency Pro Tempore (to be confirmed)
09:50-10:00	Questions and answers from participants Instructions for group work	Luis Alonso Serrano, Executive Secretary - RCM

¹³ The course is available only in Spanish. This course provides fundamentals about the characteristics and trends of international migration, and facilitates a general understanding of migration dynamics in Latin America, providing a first approach to the reality of the different populations involved. It is aimed at anyone who wants an overview of migration in the region, whether they are government officials involved in migration management, journalists, students, or civil society organizations, among others.

10:00-10:30	Group work: Challenges for migration governance at the local level ¹⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States or municipalities of origin and return • States or municipalities of transit • States or municipalities of destination 	Fabio Jiménez (IOM) Yoselin Manzano (IOM)
10:30-10:45	Plenary session and presentation of each group	Presidency Pro Tempore (to be confirmed)
10:45-10:55	Questions and answers from participants	Luis Alonso Serrano, Executive Secretary - RCM
10:55-11:00	Closing of the meeting	Presidency Pro Tempore (to be confirmed)

19 August 2021

Virtual Session 2: Tools to improve migration governance at the local level		
CDMX time	Activity	Facilitated by
09:00-09:30	The framework for migration governance and the role of local governments	Rudi Maxwald (IOM)
09:30-10:00	Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) at the local level	David Martineau / Yoselin Manzano (IOM)
10:00-10:45	Panel discussion on experiences in the use of MGIs at the local level (panel discussion with guiding questions for each panelist)	Representative from Mexico Representative from Colombia Representative from Canada
10:45-10:55	Questions and answers from participants	Luis Alonso Serrano, Executive Secretary – RCM
10:55-11:00	Closing of the meeting	Luis Alonso Serrano, Executive Secretary – RCM

20 August 2021

Virtual Session 3: Best practices and lessons learned at the local level (outside and inside the RCM)		
CDMX time	Activity	Facilitated by
09:00-09:45	Initiatives to improve migration governance at the local level: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certification course of El Salvador at the municipal level 2. Municipal Migration Policy (San Marcos, Guatemala) 3. Brazil: Certification course on migration policy for cities. 	Fabio Jiménez (IOM)

¹⁴ Each group will analyze the main challenges to improve migration governance at the local level. At least three challenges will be presented during the plenary session, which must be addressed as a priority in the short, medium and long term.



09:45-9:55	Questions and answers	
09:55-10:00	Break	
10:00-10:45	<p>Panel discussion on initiatives for the socio-economic integration of migrants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion of migrant workers (Municipality of Coto Brus, Costa Rica) 2. Chihuahua (Mexico): COESPO Temporary Employment Program, Municipal Migrant Assistance Office. 3. Training of local governments in Santiago (Chile) and Mexico City to strengthen the socio-economic integration of migrants, refugees, and forcibly displaced persons through access to decent work, sustainable livelihoods, and social dialogue “ (ILO, UNHCR, IOM). 	Heidy Gonzalez (IOM)
10:45-10:55	Questions and answers	
10:55-11:00	Conclusion	Presidency Pro Tempore (to be confirmed)