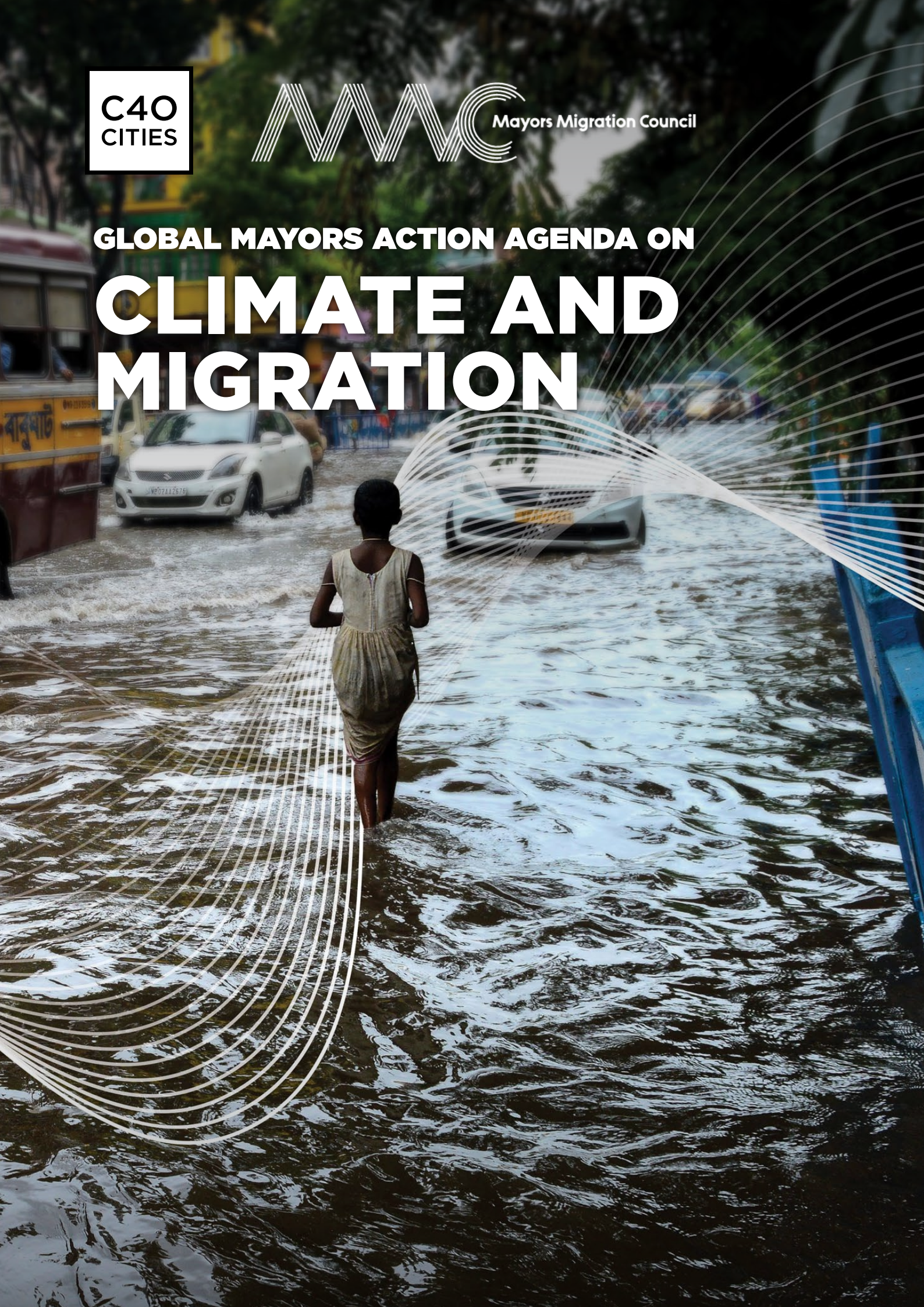


**C4O
CITIES**



GLOBAL MAYORS ACTION AGENDA ON

CLIMATE AND MIGRATION





GLOBAL MAYORS ACTION AGENDA ON CLIMATE AND MIGRATION

Report available at <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/c40-mmc-action-agenda>

Website: <https://www.c40.org/what-we-do/raising-climate-ambition/inclusive-thriving-cities/c40-mmc-partnership-on-cities-climate-migration/>

Twitter: @C40Cities @MayorsMigration #C40MMCTaskForce

Credits

C40 Cities Leadership Group Mayors Migration Council November 2021

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FOREWORD



Mark Watts

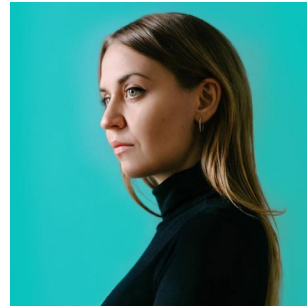
Executive Director,
C40 Cities Leadership
Group

Without urgent action on climate, many parts of the world will soon become uninhabitable. Sea-level rise, crop failures, and record temperatures will drive an unprecedented movement of people. According to a World Bank report, by 2050, climate impacts could force more than 200 million people to move within their countries across six regions¹. Globally, it is estimated that up to a billion people could be driven from their homes within the next 30 years² – less than half a lifetime. If this happens, human civilisation will not have experienced migration on such a scale in its history.

It is likely that those who leave their homes will settle in cities, which are already the primary destination of international and internal migrants and home to 70 per cent of the world's refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless people³.

Moving to cities does not come without risks. Here, migrants and displaced people may settle in already marginalised neighbourhoods and be vulnerable to labour exploitation, dangerous working and living conditions, or trafficking. And cities themselves are often acutely vulnerable to climate hazards, meaning that new arrivals may end up swapping one set of climate risks for another.

This leaves cities facing multiple pressures, as in-migration increases demand on services and infrastructure, while climate impacts – from extreme heat and fires to flooding and landslides – may displace people within city boundaries. Despite this, mayors are taking action to protect their new and existing residents while preparing



Vittoria Zanusso

Executive Director,
Mayors Migration Council

for an inclusive and green path forward that recognises the vital contributions newcomers make and the assets they bring.

In Freetown, where the population is expected to double over the next ten years, due in great part to climate migration from across Sierra Leone, the Freetown City Council has been working with migrant youth to improve waste services in informal settlements. In Bangladesh, an estimated 2,000 people arrive in Dhaka daily, having migrated from other cities along a coastline that is increasingly affected by storms and rising sea levels. In response, the Dhaka North City Corporation is working with the national government and utility providers to improve living conditions in informal settlements – where most newcomers settle – including the provision of a more reliable, climate-resilient water supply.

By 2050 climate impacts could force more than 200 million people to move within their countries across six regions.

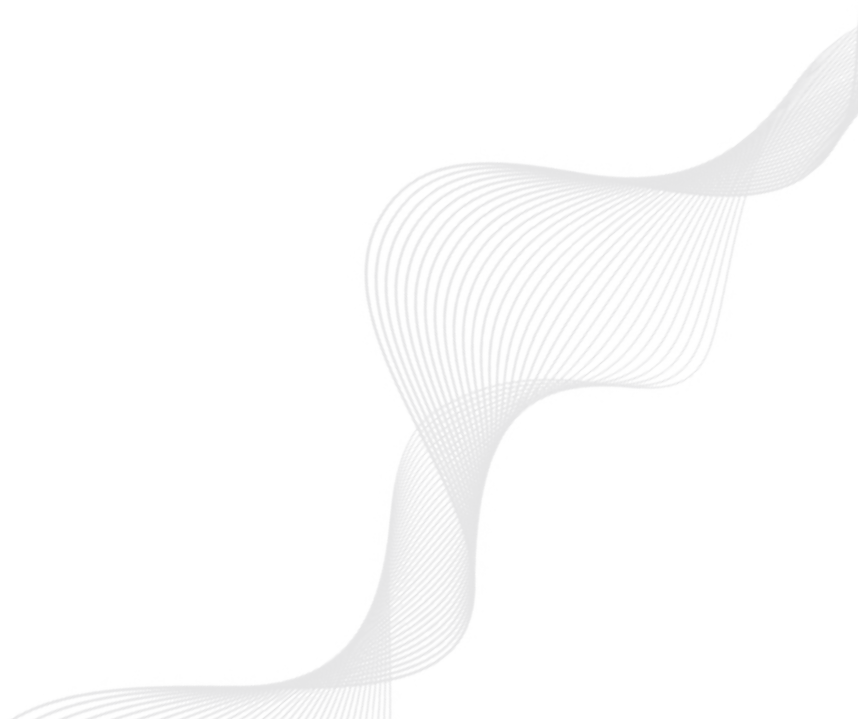
Recent months have seen greater global recognition of the issue of climate migration and its impact on cities. In October 2021, US President Biden issued a Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration⁴, marking the first time the US government has officially recognised the impact of climate breakdown on migration. The report comes after Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles, Mayor Sylvester Turner of Houston, and other US mayors sent a joint letter to President Biden⁵ calling on his administration to partner with cities to proactively plan for the impact of the climate crisis on migration at home and abroad. The report responds to this call by committing to ‘scaling up support to urban areas to help localities plan for, accommodate, and integrate migrants and those displaced’ and to ‘build resilient urban systems’.

In January 2021, a French court ruled that a Bangladeshi man with asthma could not be deported due to high levels of air pollution in his country of origin⁶, while the same month a year earlier the UN Human Rights Committee determined that countries cannot deport people when climate hazards violate their right to life⁷. At the UN Security Council’s high-level open debate on climate and security in February 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for deep partnerships to address the impact of climate change on migration patterns, food insecurity, and increasing tensions⁸. Over the past few years, the leading UN organisations on human mobility – the UN Refugee Agency and the UN Migration Agency – both developed dedicated strategies on climate-related migration and displacement and appointed senior special representatives for climate action. Most recently, they joined forces to call on states to strengthen the protection of and assistance to people displaced by disasters and climate hazards⁹.

While these are all positive steps, the policy frameworks that acknowledge climate and migration contain few accountability mechanisms. This means that those responding on the front lines – mayors – are left without the necessary legal, financial, or policy support they need to prepare, increase resilience, adapt, and protect their communities.

Recognising the urgent need to build practical knowledge on this frontier policy space, in 2020, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) partnered together to investigate how the climate crisis and migration intersect in cities. Following a year of consultation with cities and experts around the globe, we issued a detailed analysis – Cities, Climate and Migration: The Role of Cities at the Climate-Migration Nexus – which provides city officials with a clearer understanding of how climate migration plays out in cities, identifies promising practices, and guides city diplomacy on this issue¹⁰.

In June 2021, we doubled our efforts to build political momentum and launched the C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration¹¹ (C40-MMC Task Force), inspired by the successful model of the C40’s Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force¹². Guided by the mayors of Barcelona, Bristol, Dakar, Dhaka North, Freetown, Houston, Los Angeles, Lima, and Milan, the C40-MMC Task Force is a mayor-led initiative to accelerate local, national, regional, and global responses to the climate crisis and human mobility in cities.



The C40-MMC Action Agenda is the result of our work for presentation at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in November 2021 in dialogue with national and regional counterparts.

This report sets out the collective vision of the C40-MMC Task Force for inclusive climate action that protects people affected by climate displacement and leaves no one behind in the green transition. It calls on others – national and regional governments, financial institutions, and businesses – to join mayors and support their efforts. Lastly, it provides examples of promising practices from the C40-MMC network, showing how the ‘new normal’ is already materialising

in cities –demonstrating that it is possible to ‘put people at the centre of climate action’. The report was developed in consultation with leading experts, including local representatives of affected migrant communities.

Cities are ready to meet the challenges and harness the opportunities at the climate and migration nexus. Yet mayors cannot change business-as-usual alone. We urge national governments and international bodies to join us in recognising the role of mayors in this space, giving them a seat at the decision-making tables, and unlocking the financial support they need to realise smart and inclusive practices that improve the quality of life of migrants and displaced people, as well as the communities that receive them¹³.



Gaziantep, Turkey

Credit: Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality

C40-MMC TASK FORCE MEMBERS



“Our cities are deeply committed to promoting inclusive climate action that takes into account the needs of vulnerable groups, including migrants. The C40-MMC Task Force calls on national governments to join us in protecting the rights of those moving for climate-related reasons and fostering an inclusive green transition.”

Ada Colau

Mayor of Barcelona, Spain.
C40 Vice Chair.



“To address climate and ecological breakdown and related migration, cities need sustainable and predictable resources for retrofitting our homes, for creating green jobs, and for investing in long-term sustainability. We are inviting donors and the private sector to work with us pro-actively to implement the principles of the C40-MMC Task Force to take action and are calling to make funding directly available to the cities now rather than tie up funds in bureaucracy.”

Marvin Rees

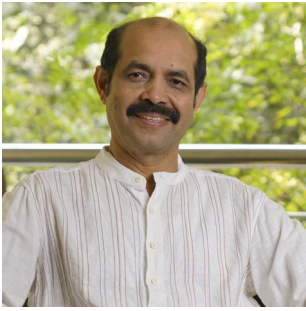
Mayor of Bristol (United Kingdom).
MMC Leadership Board Founding Member.



“Extreme rainfall events are a significant hazard for our region, where thousands of people have been displaced due to rain flooding and where 60 percent of internal migrants in Senegal settle, often in risk-prone areas. The C40-MMC Task Force’s call for better municipal access to climate adaptation finance is critical for Dakar and other African cities at the forefront of the climate crisis and human mobility.”

Soham El Wardini

Mayor of Dakar, Senegal.



“In Bangladesh, an estimated 2,000 people arrive in Dhaka daily, having migrated from other cities along a coastline that is increasingly affected by storms and rising sea levels. To manage this urban growth, we need better policy coordination across levels of governance and better access to international funding.”

Mohammad Atiqul Islam

Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh.

C40-MMC Task Force co-lead and C40 Chair.



“85% of climate finance targets global north countries. If we want to address climate and migration, the majority of which occurs in Africa, Latin America and Asia, it is critical we focus on equity - not just within countries but across countries.”

Her Worship Yvonne Aki-Sawyers

Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone.

C40-MMC Task Force Co-Lead, C40 Vice Chair, and MMC Leadership Board Founding Member



“We need to secure national and local government investment to better adapt in place and reduce displacement. But we must also facilitate the dignified movement of those who live in risk-prone areas, preserving their assets, rights, and agency. Through the C40-MMC Task Force, we will share, scale, and replicate successful approaches in Houston and other contexts.”

Sylvester Turner

Mayor of Houston, United States.



“To address climate migration, we need a new global commitment to build local resilience and adaptation capacity, while including all regardless of their status. With our endorsement of the C40-MMC Task Force’s principles we call on national and international partners to work with us and create a new scenario for the future together.”

Jorge Muñoz Wells

Mayor of Lima, Peru.



“The climate crisis is a threat our residents confront on a daily basis, and our decisions as Mayors must account for the changing circumstances that can uproot people’s lives. As we continue to forge ahead in this make-or-break decade of climate action, we have to ensure that nobody is left behind — and this pledge reinforces our commitment to ensure that our cities are ready to welcome people displaced by climate impacts with open arms.”

Eric Garcetti

Mayor of Los Angeles, United States.

C40 Chair and MMC Leadership Board Founding Member.



“To promote a just transition to a greener and more inclusive economy, we need to acknowledge the intersection between climate change and migration, leveraging the power of city diplomacy to unlock resources, both for cities of origin, to avert displacement in the first place, and for cities of destination, to facilitate the inclusion of migrants in our local economy through green and just job creation.”

Giuseppe Sala

Mayor of Milan, Italy.

MMC Leadership Board Founding Member.

01 INTRODUCTION AND VISION

INTRODUCTION AND VISION

Climate migration and displacement are a reality today. Extreme weather events and their effects on livelihoods are impoverishing and uprooting people across the world. This summer alone, floods displaced more than 800,000 people in China, 12,000 in Germany, and 35,000 people across West Africa¹⁴. Globally, over 30 million people were newly displaced by disasters in 2020, with Asia being the most heavily affected region¹⁵.

As we approach COP26, climate migration and displacement seem to be referenced everywhere, except squarely on the conference agenda. While research and media attention are growing, states remain at odds about how to frame and address the climate-related movement of people. We come together as C40-MMC mayors to raise awareness on the urban dimension of the climate crisis and human mobility and to showcase a way forward by proposing concrete actions.

Some of us are motivated by the realities of climate displacement into and within our cities. Others have experienced large movements of people that were not driven by climate factors but hold valuable lessons for how we might approach a future of greater human mobility. All of us are focused on making our cities' green transition just and inclusive, using climate action to advance the social and economic inclusion of migrants and other marginalised communities.

DISPLACED PEOPLE

Extreme weather events and their effects on livelihoods are impoverishing and uprooting people across the world. Globally, over 216 million people might be displaced by 2050.



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

86 million



SOUTH ASIA

40 million



LATIN AMERICA

17 million



Together, as C40-MMC mayors, we have identified three priority areas for action that are critical to address the climate crisis and migration in our cities and to accelerate global responses:

Increase the resilience of our residents in the face of climate hazards and climate displacement, particularly addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of marginalised communities, including migrants, displaced people, and lower-income groups.

Preparedness, resilience, and adaptive capacity in the face of climate impacts are essential to save lives and protect people from harm, including displacement – both within and across national borders. We must recognise that the effects of climate-related hazards are largely unequal, with migrants and marginalised communities being always the worst affected.

Ensure the protection and inclusion of people who move into our cities, including those in the context of natural disasters and climate displacement.

As the primary destinations of migrants and displaced people, cities play an important role in granting newcomers access to fundamental rights and basic services – regardless of their motivation for moving or their legal status – filling the gaps left by national and international protection systems.

Deliver a green and just transition in partnership with migrants and displaced people, harnessing their key contributions to the economy and turning the COVID-19 recovery into an opportunity to forge more inclusive urban communities.

Cities are playing their part to halve emissions by 2030, while also leading the way in showing that a just transition is one that provides accessible, decent, and green jobs to all, leaving no one behind. This is especially important for those who work in high-carbon industries, with limited re-skilling capacity, or in the informal sector, including migrants and other marginalised groups.



Maturu, India

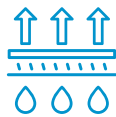
Credit: C40 Climate Photo

Our cities and others are already taking concrete actions in these areas, demonstrating that solutions exist and that an inclusive, green future is possible. We are committed to taking our actions to scale, promoting innovation and replication in other cities around the world.

This Action Agenda presents our approach to the complex links between climate and migration in our cities. It presents the principles that guide our approach, actions we need global and international partners to take with us, and areas where we are already leading by example.

We invite you to join us.

OUR PRIORITIES



Urban Resilience

Increase the resilience of our residents in the face of climate hazards and climate displacement, particularly addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of marginalized communities, including migrants, displaced people, and lower income groups.



Urban Inclusion

Ensure the protection and inclusion of people who move into our cities, including those in the context of natural disasters and climate displacement.



Urban Transformation

Deliver a green and just transition in partnership with migrants and displaced people, harnessing their key contributions to the economy and turning the COVID19 recovery into an opportunity to forge more inclusive urban communities.





02 CITY PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE AND MIGRATION



CITY PRINCIPLES

for inclusive
action on climate
and migration

As mayors of major cities across the globe, we deal with the realities of the climate crisis and migration on a daily basis. This includes protecting residents from extreme heat, flooding, or other hazards; welcoming people displaced by climate impacts domestically or internationally; and promoting climate justice and leaving no one behind in the green transition. To date, our efforts have been delivered with limited resources and fragmented policy and financing regimes.

Together, we commit to accelerating global responses to climate and migration and to governing our action and advocacy by the following principles:

1 Put people at the center of our climate action

by protecting them from climate hazards and by leveraging our green and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic to create opportunities for all, especially the most marginalised.

2 Promote inclusive and equitable climate action

recognising that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts vulnerable and marginalised groups, including migrants and displaced people.

3 Help people adapt in place or move away from hazard-prone areas

in a way that preserves the assets, rights, and dignity of those who move, and is ecologically sustainable.

4 Endeavor to welcome people moving or displaced into our cities, including for climate-related reasons

ensuring fundamental rights and equitable access to services, regardless of migration or legal status.

5 Deliver a just transition that provides good quality jobs to migrants and displaced people

in our cities, including in the informal sector, and recognises their contributions to greening our local economies and delivering climate action.

6 Partner with migrants, displaced, and diaspora communities

listening to and amplifying their voices in our local policy-making and our national and global advocacy on climate and migration.

7 Pursue and share data and information

to help our cities and residents assess and reduce climate risks and increase resilience.

8 Advocate for supportive national and international policies and direct funding to cities

to meet and exceed the goals set in the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees, the Paris Agreement, and other global agendas.

9 Engage in multi-stakeholder partnerships to address climate and migration challenges

enhancing our efforts to cooperate with national governments, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector.

10 Model behaviour by investing our own city resources in inclusive climate action

leading the way in planning, preparing, and responding to the impact of the climate crisis on migration now.



03

CITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

CITY RECOMMENDATIONS

for national governments
and the international
community

As mayors, we are already working to put people at the centre of our climate action. We call on national and regional governments, central banks and international financial institutions, and international organisations to join us.

Like us, they must commit to addressing the impact of the climate crisis on migration and take direct action to increase the resilience of our urban residents, protect and include those who move for climate-related reasons, and deliver a green and just transition in partnership with migrants and displaced people. By investing in the future, not the past, we will contribute to more equitable, thriving, and sustainable societies.

We commit to collaborating with others to design and deliver inclusive climate action that can power national and global efforts, and urge that the central role of cities be recognised.

OUR CALLS TO ACTION



Urban Resilience

Recommendations to increase the resilience of urban residents in the face of climate hazards and climate displacement.



Urban Inclusion

Recommendations to ensure the protection and inclusion of people who move into our cities, including those in the context of natural disasters and climate displacement.



Urban Transformation

Recommendations to lead a green and just COVID-19 recovery and climate transition for and in partnership with migrants and affected communities.



A photograph of a flooded street in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The street is filled with brown, murky water. Several cars are stuck in the water, including a silver car in the foreground and a white car further back. A rickshaw with a red canopy is also in the water. In the background, there are buildings, trees, and a traffic light. A white curved structure is visible on the left side of the street.

URBAN RESILIENCE

Recommendations to increase the resilience of urban residents in the face of climate hazards and climate displacement.

Mayors play a key part in helping our residents build resilience and move out of harm's way, by either adapting in place or facilitating dignified movement. Yet we cannot address these challenges alone. We need greater support from national governments and the international community, to ensure that the urban dimension of climate and migration is adequately recognised in local, national, and international action, leaving no one behind — including migrants and displaced people.

1

Significantly increase planning for – and public and private investment in – urban climate adaptation, especially in low-income countries.

- a. **Devolve authority and build local capacity for urban and land use planning** to enable effective adaptation and hazard mitigation strategies at the city level.
- b. **Allocate 50 per cent of all climate finance for adaptation**, including concessional finance, and support cities in attracting resilience investments to be channelled directly to the benefit of frontline, vulnerable, or marginalised communities.
- c. **Facilitate municipal access to sustainable, adequate, and predictable finance for local climate adaptation**, increasing intergovernmental fiscal transfers and direct funding and/or financing to cities.
- d. **Expand support for the use of climate risk transfer mechanisms** in urban contexts, including the development of subnational risk pools for local governments, catastrophe and resilience bonds, and micro-insurance for vulnerable households.
- e. **Offer debt relief and incentives for investments in urban adaptation**, including shock-responsive social safety nets, through debt-swaps or by reimbursing external debt service for lower-income groups and countries that are vulnerable to climate change.

2

Recognise migration as a form of adaptation when mitigation or in-place adaptation is no longer viable, incorporate migration-related considerations into national climate action strategies, and vice versa, and include migrants in disaster risk reduction and response.

- a. **Recognise the urban dimension of climate and migration in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, especially focusing on i) climate-related vulnerability and climate-induced displacement, ii) protection of people moving because of climate-related events, and iii) inclusion of migrants in the green and just transition.
 - b. **Establish a clear institutional lead on climate migration** at national, regional, and multilateral levels and ensure coordination across sectors and with local governments.
 - c. **Develop national and regional climate displacement vulnerability assessments** and establish fully funded early warning systems, contingency plans, evacuation, and reception mechanisms.
 - d. **Anticipate the need for planned, community-led relocations** and establish rights-based rules, clear institutional competencies, and participation and accountability processes for affected populations, as well as funding and support mechanisms such as climate land banks that hold public land in trust for resettlement.
- 



URBAN INCLUSION

Recommendations to ensure the protection and inclusion of people who move into our cities, including those in the context of natural disasters and climate displacement.

Mayors are essential in facilitating newcomers' access to fundamental rights and basic services, often filling the gaps left by national and international protection systems. As we strive to make our cities welcoming, inclusive, and sustainable places to live, we need our national and international counterparts to better support, consult, and work with cities, to address the protection needs of migrants and displaced people and remove barriers to their inclusion.

3

Recognise and address the protection needs of climate migrants and displaced people.

- a. **Adopt and implement national laws and policies on internal displacement that address climate hazards and disasters** as drivers of displacement, that are in line with human rights standards, the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and the Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement Within States.
- b. **Adapt national immigration and asylum laws to facilitate legal entry and stay of people displaced by disasters and climate hazards**, including by increasing resettlement, offering humanitarian visas, and expanding labour, education, and family reunification pathways.
- c. **Integrate climate-related displacement into national development plans and allocate national funds to support local governments**, ensuring that funding allocations are based on actual regional and municipal population figures, including the displaced, and reflect their distinct service needs.
- d. **Increase consultation with local governments at the national level** in the design, implementation, and funding of immigration policy to facilitate the settlement and socio-economic inclusion of newcomers.
- e. **Include, empower, and engage migrants and displaced people and their organisations** in the design of policies and programmes that affect their lives through representative bodies, public consultations, and participatory processes at all levels of government.
- f. **Strengthen State-to-State and multi-stakeholder coordination on climate-related migration and displacement pathways**, where multilateral, national, and local governments can come together to discuss challenges, share experiences, and build partnerships along free movement agreements and mobility corridors.

4

Remove barriers and support communities in welcoming migrants and displaced persons.

- a. **Expand social safety nets and guarantee non-discriminatory access to services**, including for informal dwellers and workers, by removing legal and administrative barriers that discriminate against and marginalise migrants and displaced people.
- b. **Ensure a fair and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines** across countries and universal, non-discriminatory access to vaccination to all, regardless of migration status.
- c. **Establish national legal requirements to channel more humanitarian resources into local service-delivery** mechanisms rather than creating parallel response systems.
- d. **Provide funding and/or financing directly to municipalities addressing climate-related human mobility** by establishing new dedicated mechanisms or expanding the thematic focus of existing ones, such as the Global Cities Fund and the International Municipal Investment Fund.
- e. **Promote a whole-of-government approach to multilateral funding and/or financing** by adjusting the operation modalities of international funds or facilities, such as the Green Climate Fund, to include local governments as eligible implementation partners in line with the innovative models of the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund and the EU Lives in Dignity Grant Facility.
- f. **Enhance cities' access to predictable technical assistance**, from the UN, international organisations, and think tanks and universities providing expert capacity to local governments on project design and delivery.



URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Recommendations to lead a green and just COVID-19 recovery and climate transition for and in partnership with migrants and affected communities.

Mayors are playing their part in halving emissions by 2030, while also leading the way in showing that a just transition is one that provides accessible, decent, and green jobs to all. As we work to put equity at the heart of our priorities, delivering health benefits, creating jobs, and tackling systemic inequality, we need national governments and international donors to better support urban climate action, by capitalising on opportunities in cities and adapting national legislation to include migrants and displaced people in our green and just transition.

5 Invest in a green and just transition in cities to create secure and sustainable employment for all, including migrants and displaced people.

- a. **Ensure cities are direct receivers of national COVID-19 recovery funds** and stimulus packages. Incentivise private-sector investment in the creation of green and good jobs that benefit frontline communities, including migrants, using public-private partnerships, social impact bonds, blended finance, or insurance mechanisms to lower the risk of investment.
- b. **Establish social dialogue and inclusive participatory processes that engage governments, unions, employers, and urban residents** – including migrants and displaced people – to co-design and -deliver inclusive climate action and just transition plans.
- c. Generate local and context-specific data **on the potential for green and just job creation** in different sectors – both formal and informal – and how these are distributed across demographics (gender, age, and migration status).

6 Harness the skills and contributions of migrants and displaced people for the green transition.

- a. **Develop in-country and cross-country migration partnerships and offer work permits, skills development,** and recognition for migrants and displaced people in sectors that enable the transition to a green economy, such as energy efficiency in buildings, green and resilient infrastructure, circular economy, waste management, public transport, and others.
- b. **Modify national legislation to allow the integration of informal workers – including migrants and displaced people – into green development plans.** Recognise the critical contribution of the informal sector in the provision of essential services, and enable low-level formalisation strategies in the green economy by supporting the self-organisation of informal workers into cooperatives and unions, and encouraging their participation in decision-making processes.
- c. **Partner with migrants and diasporas to increase knowledge and technology transfer and financing** to countries and communities of origin by removing barriers to the use of digital transfers and lowering transaction costs – in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10 and Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Objective 20 – and creating green and sustainable opportunities for remittances-based investments.

A low-angle, back-view photograph of three construction workers wearing blue protective suits and yellow hard hats. They are standing on a structure made of orange vertical poles, looking up towards a clear blue sky. The worker on the right has '42 RAJ' on their hard hat, and the worker in the middle has '67 RAJ'.

04

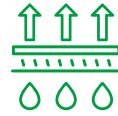
**CITY LEADERSHIP
AND INCLUSIVE
ACTION ON CLIMATE
AND MIGRATION**

CITY LEADERSHIP

and inclusive action on climate and migration

Cities are already leading the way in putting people at the centre of climate action. While our immediate priority as mayors is tackling the climate crisis and related human mobility, we are also preparing proactively to build more inclusive, green, and just communities for the future.

For each of our priority areas, we have identified concrete actions from C40-MMC Task Force cities and others, demonstrating that solutions exist and that an inclusive, green future is possible. We are committed to implementing these actions at scale in our respective contexts, promoting innovation and replication in other cities around the world.



Urban Resilience

We will lead on increasing the resilience of our residents in the face of climate hazards and climate displacement.



Urban Inclusion

We will lead on ensuring the protection and inclusion of people who move into our cities, including those in the context of natural disasters and climate displacement.




Urban Transformation

We will lead a green and just COVID-19 recovery and climate transition for and in partnership with migrants and affected communities.

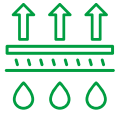


Bogotá, Colombia

Credit: Thomson Reuters Foundation_Fabio Cuttica



**WE WILL LEAD
ON INCREASING
THE RESILIENCE
OF OUR RESIDENTS
IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE
HAZARDS AND CLIMATE
DISPLACEMENT.**



Urban Resilience

Current and past greenhouse gas levels have locked in unavoidable climate risk. Climate-related hazards already account for three-quarters of disaster damage globally and are likely to contribute more – both in frequency and severity – if no action is taken. It is essential to step up our resilience to save lives, mitigate economic losses, and protect people from harm. Most emerging climate hazards – from fast-onset disasters, like hurricanes and flooding, to slow-onset consequences like extreme heat and water scarcity – are increasingly concentrated in urban areas, yet their impacts are rarely evenly distributed. Poorer and marginalised residents – including migrants, refugees, and displaced people – are often most severely affected due to their concentration in under-serviced areas – including informal settlements – with inadequate housing conditions, poorer outcomes in terms of health and wellbeing, and higher exposure to risk.

It is critical to invest in adaptation measures in-place, which will protect those who are disproportionately exposed to climate impacts because of where they live or their disadvantaged socio-economic status. Cities’

investment in adaptation can be directed towards both systemic resilience (e.g. embedding risk reduction practices in urban planning) and hazard-specific actions (e.g. targeting urban flooding or extreme heat). Preventive measures to anticipate and mitigate disaster losses range from data-informed risk and vulnerability assessments to anticipatory land-use planning, and from early warning systems to climate insurance provision.

When in-place adaptation measures are unviable or exhausted, cities can incentivise movement out of hazardous areas by offering housing buy-in and buy-out options for affected households and making urban land and housing available to accommodate movements into safer areas, using mechanisms like land banks and community land trusts. As a last resort, relocations that are planned jointly with affected communities and preserve people’s rights, assets, and cultural identities can serve to prevent future harm, break continuous cycles of destruction and reconstruction, and avert forced displacement; but this usually requires support from higher levels of government.





Anticipate climate impacts and invest in adaptation to protect communities at risk and avert forced displacement.

- Use anticipatory land-use planning to prevent urban growth from happening in hazard-prone areas.
- Make use of nature-based solutions to adapt in place, mitigating climate impacts.
- Conduct evidence-based assessments on climate impacts, mapping vulnerable communities and exposure to hazards.
- Develop inclusive early warning systems to make sure that all vulnerable groups have equal access to risk and evacuation information.
- Work with private partners to quantify losses averted and benefits reaped from green investments.
- Promote the sustainable upgrading of informal settlements to reduce vulnerable communities' exposure to climate risk and avoid displacement in the first place.
- Invest in housing retrofits to reduce exposure to climate hazards and improve thermal comfort among vulnerable households.

PROMISING PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Freetown, Sierra Leone, invests in land-use planning to prevent new construction in hazard-prone areas.

Freetown's population has increased rapidly in the last two decades and is expected to double from its current level of 1.2 million towards 2030. Due to a lack of effective land-use planning at the national and regional level, the expanding population has been largely settled in informal housing – often in risk-prone areas along the coastline and on the hillslopes. This contributes to biodiversity loss and deforestation and exacerbates exposure to climate risk, especially flooding and landslides. To avoid more people settling in hazard-prone areas – potentially increasing the number of people at risk of harm and forced displacement due to natural events – Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr has dedicated part of her Transform Freetown Agenda to developing a Freetown Structure Plan, including Local Area Plans, to ensure new developments abide by building regulations. These efforts depend upon the devolution of land-use planning functions to sub-national governments and the implementation of necessary capacity-building activities within the city.

Dakar, Senegal, improves blue infrastructure to mitigate flooding impacts and displacement risk.

An estimated 40 per cent of Dakar's population is highly exposed to flooding events, which have been displacing tens of thousands of people within the city itself since 2005. This has caused significant damages and losses to urban infrastructure. While Dakar's exposure to rain flooding has multiple interrelated causes, including rapid urbanisation, insufficient waste-management infrastructure – particularly sewage networks – and changes in land use, it is clear that changing climate patterns are resulting in the increased frequency and intensity of short-term rainfalls. To safeguard the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities, and avert forced displacement, the city of Dakar has taken action on the hydraulic and

landscaping redevelopment of the Grand Yoff district's stormwater retention basin. In addition to mitigating risk in one of the city's most flood-prone districts, the project is expected to create green spaces, prevent the discharge of wastewater and household waste into the basin, and consequently reduce health-related hazards for the neighbouring residents, especially more vulnerable households.

Austin, US, takes a data-driven approach to mapping heat risk, focusing on lower-income communities.

Over the last two decades, extreme heat events have become increasingly frequent in Austin, with areas subjected to the urban-heat-island effect being disproportionately exposed. Acknowledging the disproportionate exposure of these communities to heatwaves, the city partnered with the University of Texas at Austin and a community organiser (Go Austin/Vamos Austin) *to gain a better understanding of how the heat risk is distributed around the city and how this overlaps with social and ethnic inequalities*. The mapping was carried out in the framework of a broader multi-risk assessment – also encompassing flooding and wildfires – wherein data on the demographic composition of different neighbourhoods (income, education, ethnic background, gender, and age, among others) was compared with information about the risks in those areas. Evidence showed that lower-income neighbourhoods, with a higher prevalence of communities of colour – mainly Hispanic – are disproportionately underserved in terms of green infrastructure and have high levels of impervious covers (horizontal areas such as roofs that cannot absorb water). This makes these neighbourhoods more exposed to the urban-heat-island effect. The city is building on these findings and complementing them with qualitative data from community organisers to tailor its heat prevention and mitigation strategies.



Develop inclusive solutions for dignified, community-led movement away from hazard-prone areas.

- Develop options for voluntary relocation through housing buy-in/buy-out programmes.
- Engage with affected communities to facilitate movement with dignity through inclusive resettlement plans.
- Hold land in public trust to support community development in areas that are not exposed to climate risk.

PROMISING PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Houston, US, develops just relocation strategies for residents in high-flood-risk areas, through housing buy-in/out programmes and the Houston Land Bank.


Houston is the fourth-largest city in the United States and has experienced seven federally declared disasters in six years, five of which resulted in extreme flooding. Following Hurricane Harvey (2017), when Houston was flooded with one trillion gallons of rain – the equivalent of the total yearly average in five days – the Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability published a long-term resilience framework for adapting to the effects of shocks and stressors, including flooding-induced displacement. As a part of this strategy, Houston aims to provide resources for just housing buyouts and relocation opportunities. This will allow Houstonians to 'buy in' to the strength and safety of their community, while also implementing projects that prioritise risk reduction in the most vulnerable and marginalised communities that historically are most impacted by climate and environmental crises. In parallel to this, the city and its partners reimagined the Houston Land Bank – originally created in 1999 – to operate in historically underserved neighbourhoods across the city. The Land Bank has a positive track record of reactivating more than \$76 million worth of property in the last 15 years, transforming abandoned properties, structures, and sites of illegal dumping into liveable centres for affordable homes and mixed-income housing that maximise community benefits.

Iloilo, Philippines, promotes community-led resettlement in the face of natural hazards.

The low-lying coastal city of Iloilo, Philippines, is highly vulnerable to high tides, storm surges, and overflow of the Iloilo, Tigum, and Aganan rivers. Its exposure is compounded by poor solid-waste management, blocking drainage, and the development of informal settlements alongside riverbanks and coastlines. This situation culminated in the disastrous events of 2008, when a landslide submerged a large portion of the city, resulting in 25 deaths and affecting more than 260,000 people. The local government partnered with the Iloilo City Urban Poor Network to reduce the threat to local communities and relocate them to less exposed areas. While part of the programme involved technical activities such as dredging and drainage, the city also factored social considerations into the process. For example, besides ensuring that communities were not moved more than a few kilometres from their original site, the city took a range of preparatory activities such as stakeholder consultations, awareness raising, and a survey of potential impacts. The city also provided compensation and a variety of support services, including microfinance, skill development, and recapitalisation of local businesses, to help residents maintain and develop livelihood opportunities¹⁶.



Texas, United States
Credit: Roschetzky_Shutterstock



**WE WILL LEAD
ON ENSURING THE
PROTECTION
AND INCLUSION
OF PEOPLE WHO MOVE
INTO OUR CITIES,
INCLUDING THOSE IN THE
CONTEXT OF NATURAL
DISASTERS AND CLIMATE
DISPLACEMENT.**





Urban Inclusion

The role of climate hazards in driving human mobility is not straightforward. The link between people's movement and climate factors is clearer with sudden-onset disasters such as storms or flooding, which lead to the immediate destruction of assets, housing, and livelihoods. It is more complicated in the case of slow-onset disasters such as drought, coastal erosion, or land degradation, where climate could be one of several contributing factors that drive people's decisions to move. What is clear is that people on the move tend to head to cities to look for opportunities. With 70 per cent of the global population projected to live in cities by 2050¹⁷ and 70 per cent of displaced people living in urban areas, climate hazards will likely reinforce these patterns. Moreover, while a larger share of climate-related mobility happens internally, travel restrictions introduced due to COVID-19 have significantly affected migratory trends across borders, with over 3 million people stranded globally in 2020 alone¹⁸.

When people move within countries into cities, unplanned in-migration and urban growth can increase pressure on local services and infrastructure, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities in the affected neighbourhoods. Where migrants come from abroad, urban

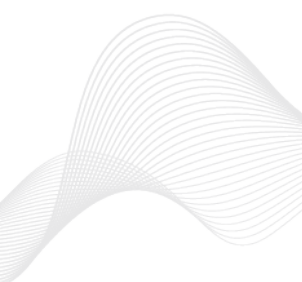
growth challenges are compounded by the fact that immigration status is determined by national authorities, while inclusion is often a local responsibility. Legal barriers imposed by immigration laws can easily mean migrants are excluded from access to fundamental rights and essential services such as health, education, and housing. Many cities are proactive in providing sanctuary to people regardless of their legal status, promoting inclusion, and tackling xenophobic attitudes at the community level, while also filling some of the gaps left by national and international protection systems, which currently do not recognise climate change as a driver of migration and displacement.

Peer-to-peer cooperation among cities within and across countries can help local administrations anticipate and manage the movement of people by gaining a better understanding of the profile and needs of migrants before they arrive or transit onwards to another city. Cities coming together can also exert pressure on national governments to create better alignment between immigration and inclusion policies, support local responses, and help scale up innovative approaches that have proven to work.



Quito, Ecuador

Credit: Diego Delso, Wikimedia [CC BY-SA 4.0]



Mobilise a city-wide approach to welcoming and inclusion, to ensure equal and equitable access to services and economic opportunity, regardless of a person's legal status.

- Help migrants to access non-discriminatory, basic medical services, including COVID-19 testing and vaccination, regardless of legal status.
- Ensure access to affordable housing for migrant and displaced families.
- Support non-discriminatory access to education for migrant youth and children.
- Create designated points of contact that serve as a gateway for newcomers into the city, connecting them to available services.
- Coordinate with the third sector and civil society associations to facilitate the delivery of essential services to newcomers.

PROMISING PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Dhaka North City Corporation, Bangladesh, improves water management in informal settlements to reduce vulnerability to health and climate hazards.

Thousands of internal migrants move to Dhaka every day, in search of better livelihood opportunities, but also – and increasingly – pushed by extreme climate events affecting other regions of Bangladesh (cyclones, sea-level rise, and extreme flooding events are all prevalent). But Dhaka itself is far from immune to these kinds of impacts; one of the most densely populated cities in the world, it is actually highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. An estimated 40 per cent of residents live in informal areas, with limited access to essential services – notably a fresh water supply and sanitation – and many factors that result in poor health outcomes, including economic instability, limited access to high-quality education and healthcare, poor conditions in their built environments, and unstable levels of support in the social and community context. Acknowledging the urgency of addressing climate and health risks in vulnerable communities, Dhaka North City Corporation has been working with the national government of Bangladesh to improve living conditions in the city's informal settlements including the provision of a more reliable, improved, and climate-resilient water supply. The expected beneficiaries of these actions are Dhaka North's most vulnerable residents, including households who have moved to the city, from other parts of the country, due to climate impacts.

Beirut, Lebanon, helps undocumented migrants access non-discriminatory basic medical services, including COVID-19 testing and vaccination.

As a recipient of the Mayors Migration Council's inaugural Global Cities Fund, the city of Beirut was able to purchase and operate the first Municipal Mobile Health Clinic, providing free and non-discriminatory COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and other basic medical services to individuals who would otherwise be unable to

access them. While over \$500 million in foreign aid has poured into Lebanon following the Beirut port explosion on 4 August 2020, the vast majority has gone to international or national actors, with a fraction left to municipalities and civil society organisations operating within the city. Through the Global Cities Fund, the municipality of Beirut is directly channelling international funding to the most vulnerable residents, ensuring their access to basic public health services, regardless of their immigration status. The mobile clinic goes where it is needed most, focusing on neighbourhoods with a high percentage of refugees, migrants, and vulnerable Lebanese who were severely impacted by the explosion, such as working-class neighbourhoods bordering the port.

Barcelona, Spain, strengthens coordination with the third sector and civil society organisations to ensure the inclusion of newcomers.

Since 2007, the municipality of Barcelona has been running the Reception and Assistance Network for Immigrant Persons, to *better coordinate the city's delivery of essential services to migrants and displaced people. In partnership with third sector and civil society organisations, the city is working on the reception and inclusion of migrant communities at the local, regional, and national level.* The municipality provides training and technical and economic support to the third parties involved, and the ultimate goal of the initiative is to coordinate the public and the non-profit sectors so that immigrant persons can access inclusive services and equal opportunities in Barcelona. The services delivered include: reception and orientation to enable access to legal information, referral for access to basic services (healthcare, education, housing, social emergencies, learning of languages), legal advice, training, social participation and integration, and actions targeting youth, women, and vulnerable groups, among others.



Build city-to-city partnerships for the safe, orderly, and dignified movement of people, and leverage these partnerships for our advocacy with national governments.

- City-to-city cooperation focused on information-sharing and peer learning.
- Cooperate to facilitate skills development, mobility, and reception (technical assistance and project funding).
- City-level networks and initiatives to influence policy discussions at the national and international level.

PROMISING PRACTICE EXAMPLES

City Champions for Heat Action.

In April 2021, the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center launched the City Champions for Heat Action (CCHA)¹⁹, as a part of its Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance (EHRA)²⁰, with Miami-Dade County (US), Athens (Greece), and Freetown (Sierra Leone) as founding members. The EHRA brings together global cities' leaders and subject matter experts to tackle the growing threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people worldwide. The growing frequency, duration, and intensity of heat waves will affect more than 3.5 billion people globally, by 2070; 1.6 billion of whom will be in urban areas. As temperatures rise, children, the elderly, and lower-income groups will likely remain susceptible. They are at risk of a combination of medical conditions (e.g., cardiovascular or respiratory diseases) exacerbated by heat, and have insufficient means to reduce its adverse effects (e.g., inadequate housing conditions, energy poverty, or limited resources to invest in tree cover, among others). Following a devastating summer of heatwaves, Miami-Dade County, Athens, and Freetown respectively appointed the US's, Europe's, and Africa's first Chief Heat Officer²¹, a government position focused on the threat that extreme heat poses to city and county residents.

US localities call for equitable and inclusive action on climate and migration.

In April 2021, in response to President Joe Biden's Executive Order 'Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration'²², mayors from across the United States signed a joint letter calling on the president to support local governments in preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change on migration and to include their voices in US climate migration policy at home and abroad. Led by the Mayors Migration Council, the letter was signed by mayors of over a dozen major US cities – including Los Angeles, Houston, New York City, and San Diego – and was endorsed by key city-led organisations. Following this joint letter,

the administration invited Los Angeles and the MMC to participate in formal consultations on US climate migration policy. In October 2021, the administration issued its 'Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration', marking the first time the US government officially recognised the impact of climate breakdown on migration. The report responds to the mayors' recommendations by committing to 'scaling up support to urban areas to help localities plan for, accommodate, and integrate migrants and those displaced' and to 'build resilient urban systems'.

MENTOR Mediterranean Network for Training Orientation to Regular Migration.

Within the framework of the Mobility Partnerships between the European Union, Morocco and Tunisia, the municipalities of Milan and Turin (Italy), together with local actors in Béni Mellal, Khouribga, Fquih Ben Salah (Morocco), and the City of Tunis (Tunisia), jointly developed the project 'MENTOR: Mediterranean Network for Training Orientation to Regular Migration'. MENTOR offered new opportunities for the professional growth and development for high-skilled young Moroccans and Tunisians and made available guidelines and recommendations on traineeships, study visits, the selection of young candidates for traineeships, and awareness raising and information campaigns on temporary and circular migration targeting youth in Tunisia and Morocco. The project combined two complementary needs: the interest of non-EU young professionals to build skills they can capitalise on when returning home, and the desire of Italian companies to have a temporary native language resource to support their plan for internationalisation in Northern Africa.

**WE WILL LEAD A GREEN
AND JUST COVID-19
RECOVERY AND
CLIMATE TRANSITION
FOR AND IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH MIGRANTS
AND AFFECTED
COMMUNITIES.**





Urban Transformation

COVID-19 has heavily impacted cities, and within cities it has had deeply unequal effects. Informal workers and migrant workers, who often play a vital role in guaranteeing the continuity of key urban services and sectors (e.g. waste collection, waste management, transport, and food markets, among others) were disproportionately exposed to the health and economic effects of the pandemic, given their lack of secure employment status and social protection.

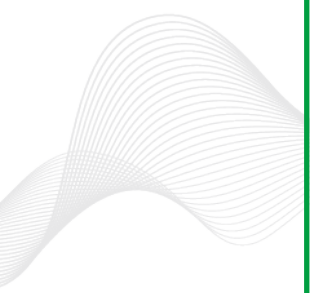
As we recover from COVID-19 we have an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate our green transition efforts and redesign our urban systems to forge more socially, economically, and environmentally just cities for all, regardless of age, gender, origin, or legal status. And we can do this in collaboration with our diverse communities. To this end, divestment from fossil fuels and investment in climate solutions must be partnered with policies that evaluate and mitigate the way impacts are distributed among communities, and support workers in transitioning towards low-carbon sectors.

Local authorities can play a critical role in the delivery of active labour market policies that provide training, upskilling, and reskilling for city residents – regardless of age, gender, or migration status – so that they can have equitable access to green jobs at different levels of professionalisation. In contexts where the informal economy constitutes a major source of income – and often absorbs migrant newcomers – cities can integrate these informal systems into their service delivery mechanisms and engage informal workers in decision-making processes. This recognises the sector’s critical role in the green transition, and facilitates the gradual formalisation of informal workers, including through nascent social protection schemes.



London, England

Credit: Natasha Alipour Faridani _ Getty Images



Boost ‘green’ skills for marginalised workers, including migrants, and assess how the impacts of climate interventions in local labour markets are distributed among communities.

- Create professional growth and development opportunities, in partnership with the private sector, including for migrants and displaced people.
- Establish vocational training and upskilling programmes for marginalised groups – including migrants – targeting green sectors.
- Support migrant youth employment and entrepreneurship through temporary circular migration.
- Quantify the equity impact of green investments on jobs among different population groups.

PROMISING PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Freetown creates green and good-quality jobs for disadvantaged youth, as a part of its Community Tree Growing and Environmental Stewardship programme.

Rapid and largely unplanned urban growth has taken a heavy toll on forested areas in and around Freetown. Acknowledging the importance of green infrastructure both from a mitigation and an adaptation perspective, Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr set a target of achieving an increase in tree and vegetation cover through reforestation, with important social benefits. The *#FreetownTheTreeTown* campaign launched in January 2020, with the objective of planting one million trees by 2022, targeting both private and public land. At its heart, the campaign contains a wealth of ecosystem benefits that include heat stress reduction, air and water quality improvements, and reduction of flooding and landslide risk. To date 550,000 trees have been planted in 300 communities across four different areas of land use. Tree planting and growing is carried out through community growers and supported by community climate action ambassadors, pioneering an innovative model that harnesses digital technology to create employment opportunities, and thereby to directly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Community growers use the Greenstand's TreeTracker app to create a geotagged record for trees planted and receive mobile money micropayments for ensuring their maintenance. Since 2020, more than 600 green jobs, especially for marginalised, vulnerable, and underemployed women and youth have been created.

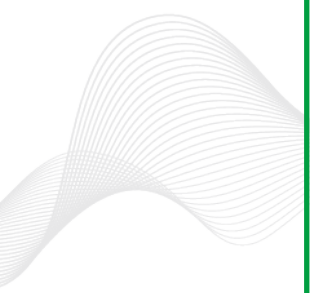
Los Angeles, US, invests in providing equitable access to training and seed capital for underrepresented communities.

The City of Los Angeles has invested in several training and upskilling initiatives to accelerate a green and just recovery from the COVID-19 recession and foster the inclusion of marginalized community members. Among the initiatives receiving municipal funding is the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI). LACI is a non-profit that supports underrepresented business owners and startups, pairing them with executive advisors, entry to the Los Angeles innovation ecosystem, access to capital, and pilot project

opportunities. Black and Latino participants who once made up just a tenth of LACI's founders now account for more than 30%. LACI empowers startups to unlock innovation in zero emissions transportation, clean energy, and sustainable cities, and enhances communities through pilot programs created with and for underserved communities. LACI also hosts a tiered workforce training program that provides technical education, interpersonal skills development, and industry-recognized certifications to help underrepresented groups succeed in the green economy. Select fellows are also matched with LACI startups and partners for internships and job opportunities. LACI supports Mayor Garcetti's Green New Deal L.A./Sustainable City pLAn goal of creating 300,000 green jobs by 2035 and 400,000 by 2050, with an emphasis on equitable access to these opportunities.

Milan quantifies the equity impact of job growth tied to green investments per different demographic groups, including foreign-born workers.

Milan enjoys lower unemployment levels, as well as a higher proportion of non-Italian citizens in the labour force, compared to the national average (15 per cent vs 10 per cent). The sectors with a higher proportion of non-Italian citizens are the construction and agriculture and forestry sectors – where lower educational level is demanded – suggesting that a large proportion of the labour in these sectors is carried out by low-skilled, foreign-born workers. As part of its efforts to develop green transition policies that are targeted to its local context, the city of Milan has joined a pilot project with the C40 Cities network, to assess the equity impact of jobs supported by future climate interventions. The assessment shows that between 2021 and 2030 Milan could support over 50,000 jobs from a green and just recovery. Notably, the construction and manufacturing sectors can drive stable supported employment with full-time opportunities open to non-Italian residents. Climate interventions like the deep retrofitting of public, social, or low-income housing are crucial inclusive, just, and bold actions: not only do they generate many local jobs, but also have the potential to improve energy poverty while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Include, recognise, and seek collaboration with informal workers and systems in the delivery of urban services.

- Integrate informal workers into urban public-service-delivery systems.
- Promote a shift in perceptions about informal economies, seeking dialogue with informal workers on local green and just transition strategies.
- Scale up the provision of health and social protection to informal workers.

PROMISING PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Accra, Ghana, strengthens dialogue with informal workers – including migrants – on how to shape local climate action.

In Greater Accra, 83 per cent of total employment is in the informal sector (87 per cent among women; 79 per cent among men), mainly in domestic and home-based work, market trade, street vending, and waste picking. Although no official figures are available on migrants' participation in the labour market, Ghana's high levels of informal employment, coupled with legal barriers to accessing regular jobs, suggests that migrants are disproportionately represented in the city's informal employment, especially in the waste management sector. Since 2016, the city of Accra has been integrating informal waste collectors in its official waste management system, improving municipal collection by 28 per cent to 48 per cent in only two years, and regularising 600 workers. As a part of its work with C40's Global Green New Deal pilots, the city is also opening spaces of dialogue with informal workers – including migrants – to ensure their participation in the planning, policy, and implementation of its climate actions, ensuring more decent working conditions and safeguarding livelihoods.

Greater Amman municipality, Jordan, engages with international donors to expand access to green livelihood opportunities for both Syrian refugees and vulnerable local residents.

Jordan hosts the third highest number of Syrian refugees, after Turkey and Lebanon. Ninety per cent of Syrian refugees in these countries live in cities, creating pressure on municipal capacities to deliver services such as waste management, housing, and water. National and local governments have worked closely with international organisations – such as EBRD²³ and ILO²⁴ – to provide cash-for-work opportunities to both vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees, mainly targeting green sectors, such as agriculture and maintenance works. In the ILO-led Employment Intensive Infrastructure Programme, beneficiaries include 50 per cent Jordanians and 50 per cent Syrians, with 20 per cent being women and 30 per cent persons with disabilities. Through the involvement of the Greater Amman municipality, the project provides employment opportunities to disadvantaged Jordanians and refugees within public parks managed by the municipality. *The Greater Amman municipality and other local governments in Jordan play a key role in adapting national efforts to local needs, developing inclusive and sustainable solutions that target all vulnerable residents regardless of their gender, origin, or legal status.*



Freetown, Sierra Leone
Credits: Freetown City Council



Engage migrants and refugees in envisioning and building the future of our cities.

- Engage with frontline communities to evaluate the impact of climate interventions.
- Create opportunities for participatory planning that fosters the inclusion of migrant and displaced communities.
- Promote language-sensitive approaches to inclusive service delivery.
- Work at the neighbourhood level to promote inclusion and counter xenophobia.

PROMISING PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Lima, Peru, engages with local communities to counter xenophobic narratives.

Peru has welcomed over 860,000 international migrants from Venezuela (2021), with 66 per cent of people in transit indicating Lima as their journey's final destination. Politically and economically driven displacement to Lima adds to pre-existing rural-urban migration flows – partly driven by climate impacts (droughts, water scarcity, and extreme temperatures). Within this context, despite Peru's reputation as the second most welcoming country in Latin America after Colombia, xenophobia has reportedly been on the rise, particularly in the wake of the socio-economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognising a challenge to social cohesion, as a part of its Municipal Office for the Attention to Migrant and Foreign Residents, the city of Lima has launched an array of actions to tackle xenophobic discourses, enhance migrants' leadership, enhance intergenerational cohesion, and promote social inclusion in its neighbourhoods. To achieve this the city is fostering cultural and sporting activities among local communities and newcomers, and engaging migrants and refugees in the maintenance and greening of public spaces.

Bristol, UK, includes migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the shaping of a greener and more inclusive city.

Following Bristol's year as European Green Capital (2015), city partners led by Ujima Radio and Bristol Green Capital Partnership – including the City Council – developed and co-delivered the Black & Green Ambassadors programme. The initiative connects, empowers, and celebrates diverse leadership and community action on environmental issues in Bristol and beyond. The city invests in leaders – 'ambassadors' – to support connections, challenge preconceptions,

and promote community leadership to create new opportunities and actions. The aim is to ensure that the environmental movement is inclusive and representative of all communities. A key method of engagement is the ambassadors' own radio show. The project recognises the intersection of climate resilience and engaging diverse populations, including migrants and refugees, in the city. It leverages the climate and integration angles to actively empower all residents to take actions that increase collective social resilience, drive individual and collective climate efforts, and ensure inclusion to build solutions that lead to an environmentally and socially just future for all.

Boston, US, engages with frontline communities to inform the retrofitting of residential buildings.

To accelerate progress towards the goal of making Boston carbon neutral by 2050, the city developed and passed a Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO 2.0), targeting building owners who likely need to undertake deep retrofits to meet these targets. The ordinance covered deed-restricted and naturally occurring affordable housing, including in environmental justice communities (those with a high proportion on foreign born, minority, or non-English speaking residents) and low-income communities. The city adopted a stakeholder engagement approach to not only consult with technical experts from the building sector, but to make impacted residents co-designers of the policy. The city directly engaged the frontline groups most likely to be affected by the policy – including foreign-born tenants – in a series of multilingual conversations. Citizens co-designed the policy to limit unintended consequences for building residents (e.g. landlords increasing rents after carrying out renovations) and to secure improvements to residents' quality of life through more comfortable and healthier buildings, lower fuel bills, and better indoor air quality.

CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS

The last year has seen attention to climate migration growing considerably, on the agendas of both national governments and of international organisations. Just in the months leading up to COP26, the US government has issued its 'Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration', and the Global Parliament of Mayors, the Platform for Disaster Displacement, and the UN Migration Network have all issued recommendations for action.

As C40 and MMC mayors, we will harness and expand this momentum for COP27, building coalitions with others working on this topic and reaching out to more mayors and cities to join us and commit to action. As Africa is bound to host COP27, and make climate adaptation a centrepiece of that agenda, we see a window of opportunity to engage with governments, donors, and other stakeholders in 2021 and 2022 to advance our Action Agenda for the future we wish to see. Over the course of 2022 and beyond, we will bring our voices and this Action Agenda to migration-related spaces such as the International Migration Review Forum and the Global Forum on Migration and Development to offer our support, share our solutions, shape the narrative, and build partnerships to take local actions to scale.

Given the unequal distribution of climate risks and vulnerabilities across the globe, we also see significant opportunities to advance policy development and cooperation at the regional level. Through the C40 and MMC networks, we

will pursue regional exchanges among cities to address the specific climate and migration challenges that arise in different contexts and engage with regional bodies to gain a seat at the table in climate and migration-related processes and policy dialogues.

Foundational to mayors' continued leadership on climate and migration will be sustained efforts to improve data availability for our cities locally and globally, to build our cities' capacities, and to unlock more resources. By launching and growing a Global Cities Fund for Inclusive Climate Action, the MMC, with the strategic partnership of C40, will directly support city-led action in line with the priorities and recommendations of this Action Agenda. With inaugural support from the Robert Bosch Stiftung in 2022, the Global Cities Fund for Inclusive Climate Action will bring practical support to African cities working in collaboration with local migrant- and/or refugee-led partners.

This Action Agenda makes clear that, as mayors, we are already committed to taking bold, decisive, and inclusive action on climate and migration in our cities, to advance:

Urban resilience: increasing the resilience of our residents, in the face of climate hazards and climate displacement.

Urban inclusion: ensuring the protection and inclusion of people who move into our cities.

Urban transformation: delivering a green and just transition in partnership with migrants and displaced people.



Lima, Peru

Credit: Myriam Borzee - Getty Images

But we are also aware that other cities face similar challenges with different mandates, capacities, and access to resources, as well as with different levels of support from their national counterparts. Acknowledging these contextual diversities, as C40-MMC mayors, we commit to collaborate, work in partnership with one another, and speak with one voice, seeking to inspire, mobilise, and corral others, including national governments and international organisations, financial institutions, private and civic partners, to join us in building the future we want.

A future where climate finance and policies – at all levels of governance – support adaptation, resilience, and inclusive urbanisation,

particularly in low-income countries, to the benefit of frontline, vulnerable, or marginalised communities, including migrants and displaced people.

A future where migration is recognised in national climate action strategies – including

as a form of adaptation when mitigation or on-the-ground adaptation is no longer viable – and where the need for planned, community-led relocation is anticipated, before people's lives are endangered and their assets depleted.

A future where the needs of climate migrants, and of those who move in the context of climate displacement, are adequately addressed

– incorporating climate-related considerations into existing national and international migration frameworks, in consultation with local governments.

A future where the legal and financial barriers to the inclusion of migrants and displaced people are removed,

supporting welcoming cities in their efforts to expand social safety nets, guarantee fundamental rights, and ensure equitable access to services – including COVID-19 vaccines.

A future where national governments and donors invest in cities to support a green and just transition for all – including migrants –

leveraging COVID-19 recovery funds, promoting social dialogue, and recognising the urban dimension of climate and migration in NDCs.

A future where migrants' skills and contributions to our green and just transition are fully harnessed – including in the informal sector – and where countries work in partnership

to create corridors, provide work permits, and offer skills development programmes that focus on green, equal, and sustainable employment.

Cities are at the frontline of climate and migration challenges. As mayors, we know we have the chance to lead and set the agenda for our national and international counterparts to follow, rather than the other way around.

We stand together to deliver on our shared vision for an inclusive action on climate and migration.

We invite you to join us.



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Experts consulted - This report was also enriched by the ideas and scrutiny of experts and policymakers consulted during its drafting. The inclusion of their names below in no way implies an endorsement of the report, but instead reflects the deep appreciation of the C40-MMC Task Force and drafting team for their generous contributions: Neil Adger, University of Exeter – Alex Aleinikoff, The New School – Dorcas Ansah, WIEGO – Vicente Anzellini, International Displacement Monitoring Centre – Caroline Beatty, Bristol City of Sanctuary – Filiep Decorte, UN-Habitat – Giulio Di Blasi, Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative – Elizabeth Ferris, Georgetown University – Saleemul Huq, International Centre for Climate Change and Development – Achilles Kallergis, The New School – Cerin Kizhakkethottam, UN-Habitat – Claire Kumar, ODI – Scott Leckie, Displacement Solutions – Ricardo Safrá de Campos, University of Exeter – Atle Solberg, Platform for Disaster Displacement – Koko Warner, UNFCCC – Asia Yousif, Bristol Black & Green Ambassador – Yuleima Sifontes Cardizo, Venezuelan Residents and Newcomers' Council of Cercado (Lima).

ABOUT

About the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities who are working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. Through a Global Green New Deal, mayors are working alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to go further and faster than ever before. The current Chair of C40 is Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti; and three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board. C40's work is made possible by three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Realdania.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit [our website](#) and [C40 Knowledge Hub](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the Mayors Migration Council

The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) is a mayor-led advisory and advocacy organization that helps cities shape national and international policy on migration and displacement. Our mission is to ensure that global responses to pressing challenges—from pandemics to climate change—both reflect and address realities on the ground for the benefit of migrants, displaced persons, and the communities that receive them.

Member of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, we also sit on the Advisory Committee of the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the Steering Committee of the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund and the Mayors Mechanism of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

We are led by a Leadership Board composed of the mayors of Amman, Bristol, Freetown, Kampala, Los Angeles, Milan, Montreal, and Zürich, as well as the former mayor of Athens. We operate with the financial support of Open Society Foundations, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Robert Bosch Stiftung, and we are managed as a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

To learn more, please visit our [website](#) and [Climate Migration Resource Hub](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the C40 Cities-Mayors Migration Council Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration (C40-MMC Task Force):

The [C40 Cities](#) (C40) and the [Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC) [Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration](#) is a mayor-led initiative to address the impact of the climate crisis on migration in cities, inspired by C40's Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force.

The C40-MMC Task Force will drive forward an Action Agenda in partnership with migrant and refugee community leaders, business leaders, and experts to be presented at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in November 2021 in dialogue with national and regional counterparts. The C40-MMC Task Force is co-led by the Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh and the Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone and includes as members the Mayors of Barcelona, Spain; Bristol, United Kingdom; Dakar, Senegal; Houston, United States; Lima, Peru; Los Angeles, United States; and Milan, Italy.

For more information on the C40-MMC Task Force visit our [webpage](#).

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