

DECEMBER 2023

# GLOBAL CITIES FUND FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES PROGRESS REPORT



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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE





# Dedication

This report is dedicated to the dozens of public servants of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees who are working tirelessly in support of mayoral leadership and on behalf of — and alongside — their migrant and displaced communities. ***The Mayors Migration Council is grateful to them.***



**Cover page:** The Accra Metropolitan Assembly, People's Dialogue, community leaders, and the MMC in front of a childcare center supported by the GCF in Accra, Ghana.

**This page:** Local community mobilizers of Beira, Mozambique.

**Credits:** Samer Saliba for the MMC.



## About the MMC

The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) is a mayor-led coalition that accelerates ambitious global action on migration and displacement. With most of the world's migrants and displaced people living in cities, our mission is to use the power of city-led diplomacy and action to create a world where urban migrants, displaced people, and receiving communities can thrive.

To achieve our mission, we provide mayors with advocacy, coordination, and communications support to influence policy decisions at the national and international level, and connect city governments to the knowledge, technical, and financial resources they need to accelerate and scale local solutions.

Created by mayors for mayors, we are a nimble team of political advisors and urban practitioners guided by a Leadership Board of global city leaders, including the Mayors of Amman, Bristol, Dhaka North, Freetown, Kampala, Milan, Montevideo, Montréal, and Zürich. As a Sponsored Project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, our work is made possible by philanthropic and government funders.

**To learn more visit** [www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org](http://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org)

## About the GCF

The MMC's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees (GCF) responds to the unmet needs of cities as they support migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs) in the face of pressing challenges, from global pandemics to the climate crisis.

By directly funding cities to implement inclusive programs of their own design, the GCF builds precedents of fiscal feasibility in city governments that are often disregarded by donors with low risk tolerance.

The GCF is supported by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the IKEA Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the Robert Bosch Stiftung. It is led by the MMC in partnership with six key Strategic Partners: the C40 Cities Leadership Group (C40 Cities), the UN Migration Agency (IOM), Metropolis, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

**To learn more visit** [www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf](http://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf)



# Acknowledgments

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# Glossary of Terms

AMA - Accra Metropolitan Assembly

C40 - C40 Cities Leadership Group

CAFAM — Caja de Compensación Familiar en Colombia

COOPI — Cooperazione Internazionale

E-LICO — Energy and Livelihoods for Communities

FCC — Freetown City Council

FUDELA — Fundación de las Américas

GCF — Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees

GCM — Global Compact for Migration

GCR — Global Compact on Refugees

IDPs — Internally Displaced Persons

IIED — International Institute for Environment and Development

IOM — The United Nations Migration Agency

INGOs - International Non-Government Organizations

MM — Mayors Mechanism

MMC — Mayors Migration Council

UCLG - United Cities and Local Governments

UNHCR — The United National Refugee Agency

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

UN-Habitat — The United Nations Human Settlements Programme





# Foreword

The Mayors Migration Council created the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees (GCF) in 2021 to address a fundamental gap in how we support migrant and displaced communities: while most migrants and refugees live in cities, city governments do not have enough access to international resources to support these communities at the level of their ambition. The overwhelming majority of resources tied to migration and displacement goes to international NGOs or central governments, missing opportunities to leverage the local knowledge, long-term plans, and willingness of cities and the mayors who lead them.<sup>1</sup>

In just three years, the GCF has turned from a USD 1 million initiative supporting five cities into a USD 8 million fund, helping 28 cities help thousands of people through lasting solutions on health, economic inclusion, climate migration, early childhood development, and more. Ninety percent of the cities who have completed their grant term have continued or expanded their projects by using our seed funding to independently secure additional international investments or by committing their own resources, doubling our original investment in their work. From entrepreneurship in Freetown to housing in Medellín, this report shows how our cities are both meeting the urgent needs of migrant and displaced communities while laying the foundation for a more inclusive future.

Now that we have set the precedent, we have an obligation to build on it. The need is greater than ever: climate change is pushing migrants to cities by the millions; global conflicts are driving unprecedented urban displacement; anti-immigration policies are on the rise; and cities are growing while their access to international resources is not. While full reform of the international humanitarian and development system will take time, we are making the case for the world-changing impact of directly investing in cities today. The stories and testimonials in this report not only show how far we've come; they also shine a light on the potential of all city governments to help tens of millions of migrants and displaced people build a dignified life in the cities they call home.

<sup>1</sup> Saliba, S. and Zanuso, V. Municipal Finance for Migrants and Refugees: The State of Play. April 2022. Available at: <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/news/municipal-report>. Accessed October 18 2023.

To drive momentum and transformative change, we are now setting a vision for the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees to reach USD 50 million — starting with USD 25 million by 2025. This will allow us to scale the GCF to support more cities and deepen its impact through larger multi-year grants and more predictable funding rounds, bring GCF support to every region of the world, generate and share evidence from city actions, and deliver the Global Compacts at the local level.

We are grateful to our partners and donors whose early support of the GCF made it a success. We are inspired by our cities and their migrant and refugee partners who are showing that a new way of working is possible. And we hope you will join us to help more cities help more people.

**Samer Saliba, Director of City Practice, Mayors Migration Council**





JANUARY

2021

Official launch of the Global Cities Fund supported by Open Society Foundations, announcement of inaugural 5 city grantees, strategic partners, and '22 by 2022' call to action

JUNE

2021

Announcement of the next 4 grantees supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, nearly doubling the fund's initial amount, and publication of GCF project prospectus



OCTOBER

2020

First invitation for proposals in response to the Covid-19 pandemic

NOVEMBER

2021

GCF selected as a Paris Peace Forum Scale Up Project and announcement of GCF's added focus on inclusive climate action supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung



MAY 2022

GCF recognised as a Fast Company's 2022 World Changing Idea, announcement of first five city grantees focused on inclusive climate action

NOVEMBER 2022

Announcement of 6 new city grantees focused on inclusive climate action supported by the IKEA Foundation

DECEMBER 2022

Global invitation for proposals for city projects focused on children and caregivers, achievement of 22 by 2022

JUNE

2023

Announcement of 6 new city grantees focused on children and caregivers supported by the Bernard van Leer Foundation and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation







"Together we can achieve anything." A community center in Quito. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

# The Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees

The MMC's **Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees** (GCF) responds to the unmet needs of cities as they support migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs) in the face of pressing challenges, from global pandemics to the climate crisis. By directly funding cities to implement inclusive programs of their own design, the GCF:

1. Offers international donors a pipeline of vetted city-led proposals backed by strong mayoral leadership.
2. Directly channels international resources to city governments, building precedents of fiscal feasibility.
3. Respects the agency, authority, and capacity of city governments and their local partners to implement projects of their own design.
4. Accelerates local efforts by providing city grantees with customized technical, advocacy, and networking services.
5. Elevates city leadership and actions to a global audience, ensuring that global responses reflect and respond to local needs.
6. Serves as a flexible, simple, and predictable funding mechanism with low overhead and high efficiency.
7. Encourages collaboration and accountability between city governments and their migrant and displaced communities.
8. Advances the local implementation of the Global Compacts for Migration and on Refugees while creating a marketplace of city-led solutions ready to be scaled and replicated.

Beginning in 2021 with a USD 1 million seed investment to support five cities in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, in just a few years the GCF has become a USD 8 million fund supported by five donors with a pipeline of 28 city grantees delivering solutions on health, economic inclusion, climate migration, early childhood development, and other topics — exceeding our goal to raise funding for 22 cities by the end of 2022.



## PARTNERS

A Paris Peace Forum Scale Up Project and a Fast Company World Changing Idea, the GCF is supported by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the IKEA Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the Robert Bosch Stiftung. It is led by the MMC in partnership with six key Strategic Partners: the C40 Cities Leadership Group (C40 Cities), the UN Migration Agency (IOM), Metropolis, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

## CITY GRANTEES

The GCF supports city-led interventions with average grants of USD 200,000 to each grantee over a period of up to 18 months. Proposals are by invitation only and evaluated by a Selection Committee of senior leaders, including former mayors, subject-matter experts, foundation CEOs, and leaders with lived experience. Once selected, the MMC and its Strategic Partners provide city grantees with customized technical, advocacy, fundraising, communications, and networking support to accelerate, institutionalize, and/or scale local impact beyond the duration of the grant.

## CITY GRADUATES

MMC's engagement with GCF cities continues long after their projects have concluded. Once a city's GCF grant closes, they join a pool of GCF "graduates" directly supported by the MMC to secure new local, national, and international funding sources to sustain their work.

In successfully delivering their projects, GCF cities are building their case for more direct funding to continue their actions and drive progress towards global goals. To date, 90 percent of cities who benefited from the GCF have already used our seed funding as proof of concept to independently unlock additional investments to continue or expand their projects.

Today, the GCF serves as a marketplace of investment-ready, city-led solutions for migrants and refugees with the potential to recenter humanitarian and development responses around city action.

"What came as a small grant from the Mayors Migration Council's Global Cities Fund has become a nine-million-dollar fundraising effort that has directly impacted people's lives. By identifying and providing jobs for migrants, we bolstered economic growth and supported local businesses."

**Jaime Pumarejo, Mayor of Barranquilla**

### THE CALL TO LOCAL ACTION FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

All GCF grantees elevate their projects as pledges to implement the UN Global Compacts through the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, the official pathway for cities to commit to the GCM and the GCR and receive UN recognition for meeting global goals.

Led by the Mayors Mechanism—a partnership between UCLG, the MMC, and IOM—in collaboration with UNHCR, the Call to Local Action is an effort to:

- Expand the number of cities publicly endorsing the GCM and GCR through the Marrakech Mayors Declaration.
- Create a repository of city-led solutions that achieve the GCM and GCR to facilitate peer learning, replication, or scaling through new partnerships and investments.
- Showcase city leaders engaged in GCM and GCR implementation to build awareness and support among global audiences.



MEXICO CITY  
MEXICO

GUAYAQUIL  
QUITO  
ECUADOR

BARRANQUILLA  
BOGOTÁ  
MEDELLÍN  
COLOMBIA

LIMA  
PERU

MONTEVIDEO  
URUGUAY

## GLOBAL CITIES FUND GRANTEES

● Graduate Cities ● Active Grantee Cities

DUNAIVTSI  
UKRAINE

MILAN  
ITALY

CASABLANCA  
MOROCCO

FREETOWN  
SIERRA LEONE

MONROVIA  
LIBERIA

ACCRA  
GHANA

NYAMAGABE DISTRICT  
RWANDA

ARUA  
KAMPALA  
UGANDA

BEIRUT  
LEBANON  
AMMAN  
JORDAN  
RAMALLAH  
PALESTINE

HARGEISA  
SOMALILAND  
ADDIS ABABA  
ETHIOPIA  
NAIROBI  
KENYA  
DAR ES SALAAM  
TANZANIA

BEIRA  
MOZAMBIQUE  
ETHEKWINI  
JOHANNESBURG  
SOUTH AFRICA





An Iraqi resident of Beirut donating blood through the Municipal Mobile Health Clinic. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

## Impact of the Global Cities Fund

By the end of 2024, GCF projects will have directly served over 25,000 migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and receiving community members while indirectly serving tens of thousands more.

**28**  
**City Grantees**  
from 22 Countries

**11**  
**City Graduates**

Over  
**25,000**  
**People**  
Directly Served

**90%**  
**City Graduates**  
Secured Resources to Continue  
Their Projects After Granting  
Close

Over  
**\$6.3 M**  
Unlocked as Additional Direct  
Investments in Cities

Over  
**\$1 M**  
Unlocked in Project Support from  
Cities' Own-Source Revenues





# PROGRAM AREAS

**Cities are inherently good multitaskers.** They can address multiple needs of large and diverse populations while building connections between internal and external programs. As city led actions, GCF projects are always multi-sectoral. They address numerous challenges facing migrants, displaced persons, and marginalized members of receiving communities with holistic projects that cover several program areas.

These areas of intervention include, but are not limited to:

- Children and caregivers
- Climate migration
- Disaster risk reduction
- Early childhood development
- Economic inclusion
- Food security
- Health
- Housing
- City-led pathways to inclusion
- Localizing knowledge
- Participatory governance
- Public spaces
- Renewable energy
- Social cohesion
- Waste management

The following sections give examples of how cities are addressing some of these program areas.

## CLIMATE MIGRATION

**Half of all GCF projects address the impact of the climate crisis on migrants and displaced people in cities.** GCF cities are championing a range of actions from restoring green infrastructure to adapt in place and reduce displacement in Monrovia; to facilitating dignified planned relocation away from severe climate hazards while preserving the assets, rights, and agency of communities in Beira and Hargeisa; to creating green jobs for urban migrants and displaced people in Accra, Arua, Freetown, and Nairobi; to environmental stewardship programs for refugee children in Amman and Ramallah. In many cases, cities are using GCF funding to implement their Climate Action Plans developed in partnership with C40 Cities, a Strategic Partner of the GCF.

“The idea [of the GCF] is quite innovative in a landscape with a very limited set of funds for climate, development, migration, and humanitarian action, to provide direct access for cities. The GCF provides proof of concept that city-led projects can be delivered at high quality and be equally innovative.”

**C40 Cities, Strategic Partner of the GCF**

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**Recognizing that young children serve as the foundation for a more inclusive future, many cities use their GCF funding to invest in early childhood development among migrant and displaced communities.** From Milan’s tailored education plans for asylee children, to Dunaivtsi’s inclusion of IDP children in the local community through after-school and sport groups, to Ramallah’s redesign of a public park in its Qaddura refugee camp, cities are taking their own unique approaches to promoting education and healthy play among migrant and refugee children in their most formative years.

## ECONOMIC INCLUSION

**The most common theme among GCF projects is economic inclusion.** Eighty-five percent of city projects include a focus on economic inclusion, either bringing migrants and refugees into the urban workforce or helping them start new businesses to bolster the urban economy. This includes entrepreneurship support through training and/or start-up capital, such as through microgrants in Kampala or waste management cooperatives in Accra as well as employment assistance and referrals, such as job placements in Barranquilla or job readiness training in Milan. Many GCF cities view migrant and refugee communities as catalysts in their transition to a greener economy and are using their projects to pilot inclusive green jobs programs, such as Arua’s employment of refugees in its first municipal-led recycling plants or Nairobi and Freetown’s support of green start-ups led by young entrepreneurs.



“Many GCF projects, especially in the waste sector, put emphasis on the economic inclusion of migrants in green livelihoods. There is strong alignment with the C40 priority of enhancing the creation of good green jobs in cities.”

**C40 Cities, Strategic Partner of the GCF**

## HEALTH

**The GCF was first launched in response to the unmet needs of cities to improve the health of migrants and displaced people during the Covid-19 pandemic. From emergency pandemic response to non-discriminatory access to care, health is a core component of many GCF projects.** Some cities directly provided health services, such as Beirut launching the city’s first ever Municipal Mobile Health Clinic or Bogotá establishing the city’s first Nutritional Center for Migrant and Refugee Children. Others such as eThekweni, Lima, and Milan conducted education campaigns to raise migrants’ and refugees’ awareness about their healthcare rights and how to access healthcare providers. Accra connected migrants and displaced people to national healthcare systems, directly registering over 200 informal waste workers with Ghana’s National Health Insurance Scheme which grants them access to public and private hospitals free of charge.

## PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

**A defining characteristic of the GCF is that it encourages collaboration and accountability between city governments and their migrant and displaced communities.** The MMC requires that all GCF city grantees develop community engagement plans that outline how the city will work with affected communities as equal partners in the design and/or implementation of their projects, regardless of project typology. This includes Quito’s first ever District Human Mobility Plan, developed in close consultation with migrant and refugee communities, Kampala’s work with the refugee led Makasi Rescue Foundation to deliver direct cash assistance to refugee families, and Accra’s registration of informal migrant waste workers in marginalized neighborhoods with the support of People’s Dialogue, a local civil society organization led by representatives of these neighborhoods. By encouraging collaboration between city governments and migrant and displaced communities — including migrant and refugee-led organizations — the GCF builds social accountability and further advances the localization agenda.

## SOCIAL COHESION

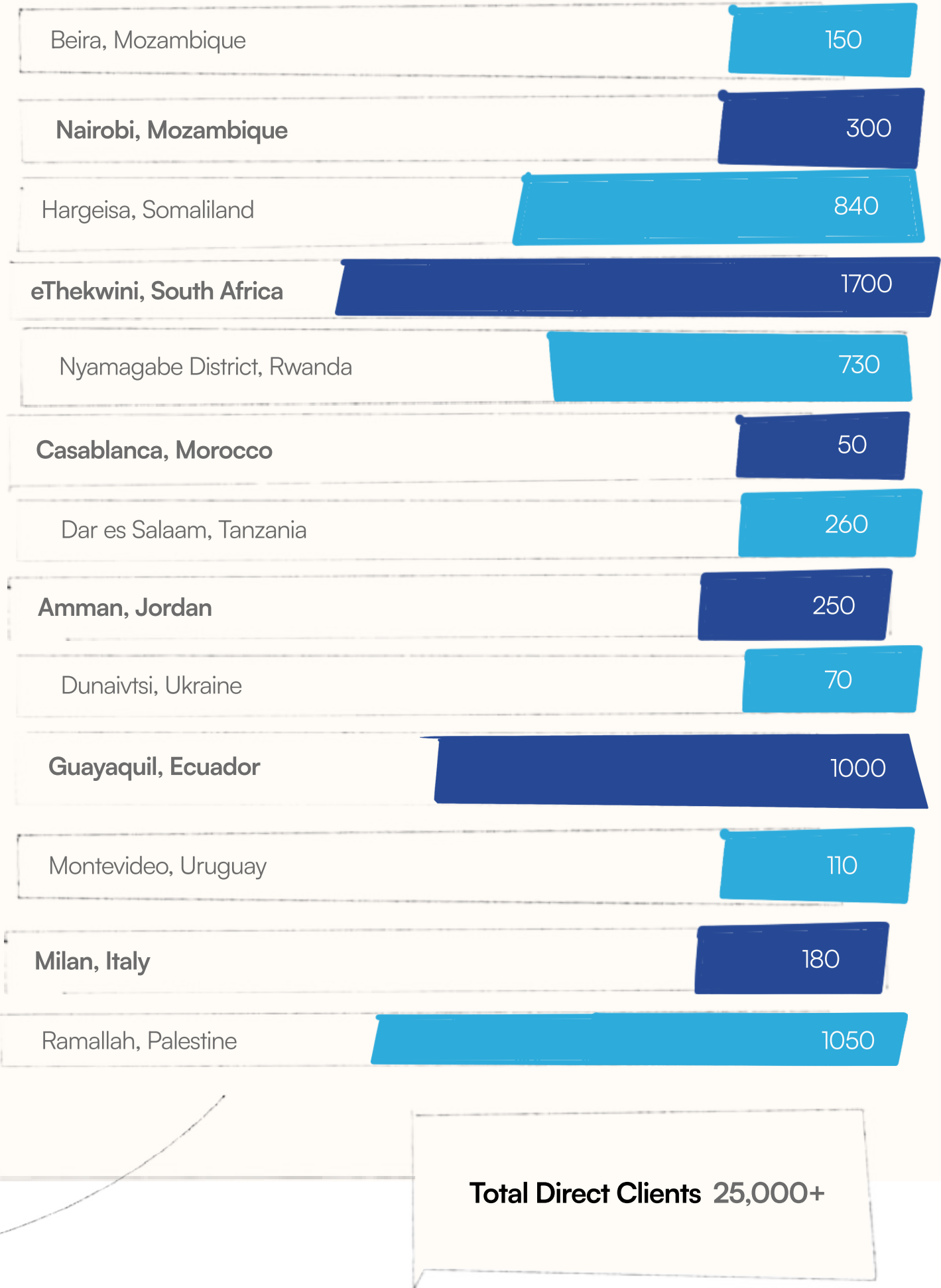
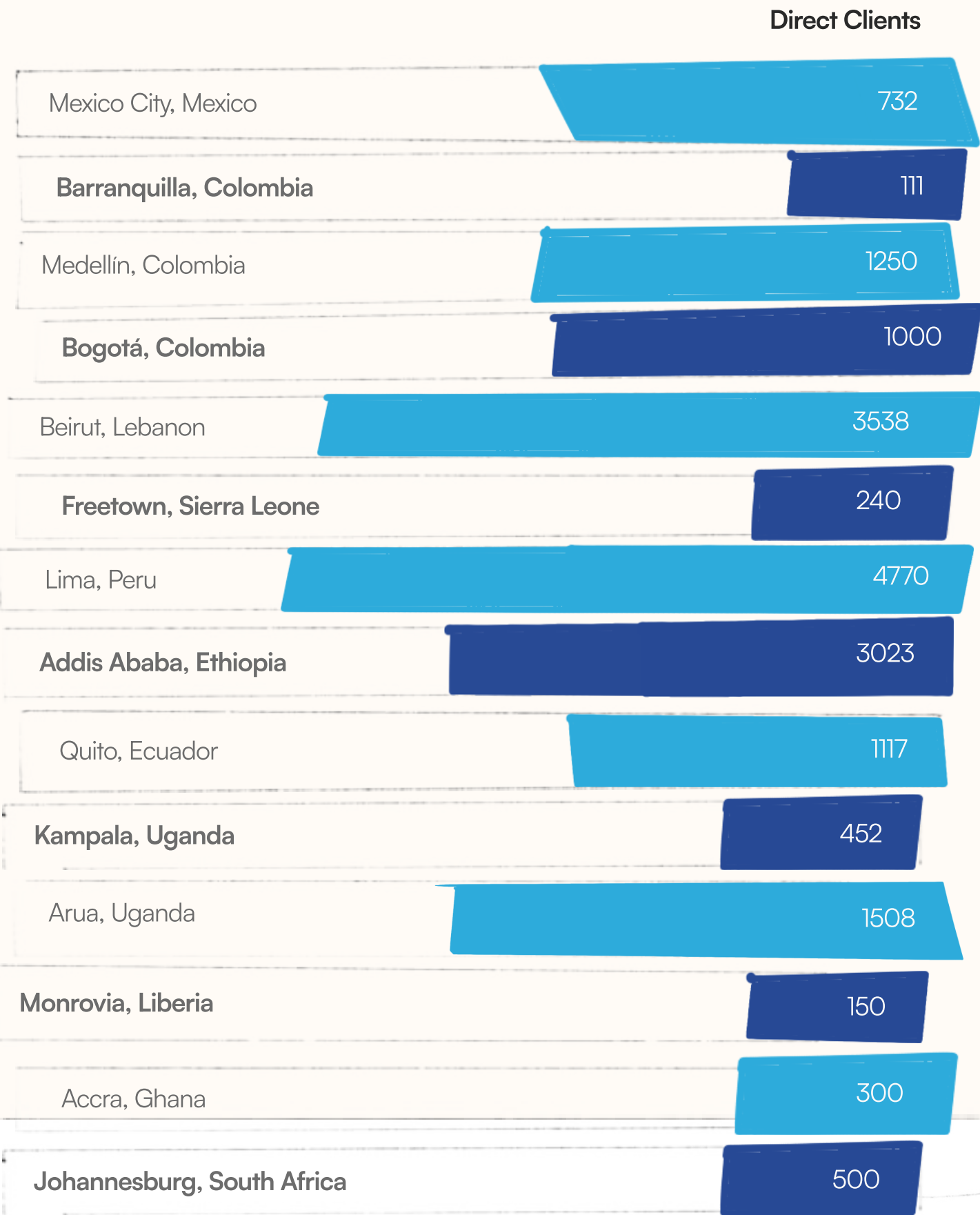
**GCF projects build social cohesion by addressing the overlapping needs of different marginalized communities rather than creating competition over scarce resources by supporting migrants and refugees exclusively.** Given that urban migrants and refugees tend to settle in preexisting marginalized neighborhoods, cities are using the GCF to provide services to these receiving communities as well as newcomers, building social cohesion in the process. In some cases, this means cities creating opportunities for receiving and displaced communities to celebrate their shared cultures, such as Lima’s murals painted by both Peruvians and Venezuelans. In others, cities are providing physical spaces where migrant or displaced people and receiving communities can interact, such as Casablanca’s Souk of African Solidarity or Amman’s Maysaloon Park.

“The GCF demonstrates that solutions for better migration governance that work for all communities are possible. It works against the ‘us’ versus ‘them’ narrative. The GCF shows that cities with appropriate support can find creative solutions that further strengthen their sense of value and community.”

**UCLG, Strategic Partner of the GCF**



DIRECT CLIENTS SERVED BY GCF CITIES







An internal migrant working a shelter garden in eThekweni. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

# SUSTAINABILITY

The GCF demonstrates the sustainability of city-led solutions. All GCF grantees have made institutional commitments to support their migrant and displaced communities beyond their project time frames.

Barranquilla, Colombia, used its GCF grant to expand its Opportunities Center to connect over 100 migrants and displaced people to the formal labor market. Using this as a proof of concept, the city independently unlocked an additional USD 2 million from other international donors to expand the center and begin new projects that benefit migrants and refugees. Medellín and Addis Ababa have received similar follow-on funding support.

“The GCF helped us recognize the value of our strategy and areas where we still need funding and share them with partners. This in turn helps partners to recognize where they can contribute resources.”

## Project Lead, Medellín, Colombia

Freetown used its GCF grant to create a waste management program that loans tricycles to micro-enterprises run by youth living in informal settlements — many of whom are rural migrants — to collect waste. Two years later, these enterprises are still active and have paid back 50 percent of the cost of each tricycle, which the city is using to establish additional youth enterprises and expand the project’s impact while helping them secure over USD 1 million in related funding from a multilateral development bank.

Other cities delivered projects with longer shelf-lives. Quito used its GCF grant to develop the city’s first ever human mobility plan, setting a city-wide policy to protect and provide for Quito’s migrants and refugees until 2026. To ensure uptake of this new policy, the city trained 200 of its public officials on how to implement the policy daily, while piloting legal, psycho-social, shelter, and economic support activities that reached over 600 migrants and refugees. Beirut used its GCF grant to purchase and operate its first ever Municipal Mobile Health Clinic, which provides free and accessible healthcare services to residents, regardless of origin. After vaccinating over 2,000 Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, and Iraqi residents of Beirut during the project’s timeframe, the clinic is now a permanent fixture of the city’s healthcare system.

In successfully delivering their projects, GCF cities are building their own case for more direct funding to continue their actions and drive progress towards global goals. **To date, 90 percent of graduate cities have used GCF seed funding as proof of concept to independently unlock additional investments to continue or expand their projects.**





A market in Beira's Praia Nova. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

# WAY FORWARD

## A Marketplace of City-led Solutions

Currently, city leadership far exceeds available resources. As outlined in the MMC's brief, *Municipal Finance<sup>1</sup> for Migrants and Refugees: The State of Play*, cities face systemic barriers to access finance. Locally, city governments have limited channels of raising their own revenues. At the national level, central governments often restrict cities' international borrowing ability and give highly restricted, non-discretionary cash transfers that hamstring local innovation. Internationally, most financial investment institutions require national sovereign guarantees or high levels of credit worthiness that cities — especially those in low-income countries — rarely have. Cities' access to International humanitarian funding is also not fit for purpose within cities as it is often inaccessible to city governments, limited in scope, and tied to shorter time frames.

“Cities need financial support to accommodate refugees, migrants, or displaced people. It cannot be expected that cities would be able to fully cover increased costs in trying to accommodate displaced populations. This is part of the reason why the fund and direct budget support is necessary.”

**UN-Habitat, Strategic Partner of the GCF**

<sup>1</sup> Saliba, S. and Zanuso, V. *Municipal Finance for Migrants and Refugees: The State of Play*. April 2022. Available at: <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/news/municipal-finance-report>. Accessed October 18, 2023.



# MMC Marketplace

Supply

MMC Practices

Demand

Donors

Philanthropic  
Foundations

National Governments

Multilateral  
Development Banks

UN Agencies

Direct Granting

Proposal Support

Matchmaking

Project Visibility

GCF Graduates

GCF Applicants

Call To Local  
Action Cities

Cities



A Burundian entrepreneur pitching her idea for a green business in Nairobi. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

## BARRIERS TO MUNICIPAL FINANCE FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

- In 2022, only 1.2 percent of total international humanitarian assistance was given to local and national actors, including cities — the target was 25 percent.<sup>2</sup>
- Only 4 percent of the 500 largest cities in developing countries are creditworthy in international markets and 20 percent in local markets.<sup>3</sup>
- 60 percent of local government revenue in low-income countries comes from grants and subsidies from national governments, often as earmarked non-discretionary funds.<sup>4</sup>
- 72 percent of the OECD's funding for refugees is solely humanitarian, ignoring the longer-term inclusion and development needs of refugees and host communities.<sup>5</sup>

The MMC was founded by mayors in part to break down these barriers to municipal finance for migrants and refugees. Central to this mission is the GCF. In funding city grantees, providing support to city graduates, and offering a conduit for international donors, **the MMC is building a marketplace of city-led solutions ready to be scaled and replicated.** What's more, the MMC is demonstrating that cities are effective implementors of the GCM and GCR and central to the international community's localization agenda.

<sup>2</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2023. 2023. Development Initiatives. Available at: <https://devinit.org/resources/global-humanitarian-assistance-report-2023>. Accessed October 18, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Hogg, John. Financing Sustainable Cities: How We're Helping Africa's Cities Raise Their Credit Ratings. October 24, 2013. The World Bank. Available: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/10/24/financing-sustainable-cities-africa-creditworthy>. Accessed October 18, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> 2019 Report of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment — Key Findings. 2019. OECD/UCLG. Available at: [OECD/UCLG 2019 Report of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment](https://www.oecd.org/publications/2019-report-of-the-world-observatory-on-subnational-government-finance-and-investment-key-findings). Accessed October 18, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> "Financing for refugee situations." OECD Development Policy Papers, No. 24. 2019. OECD Publishing, Paris. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1787/02d6b022-en>. Accessed October 18, 2023.



The MMC's marketplace model involves support and engagement on both supply and demand sides, working with donors as well as cities.

**On the supply side,** the GCF offers international donors a pipeline of vetted city-led proposals backed by strong mayoral leadership and with the potential to be scaled and replicated. The GCF is currently supported by five key donors and is adding more as its reach increases. These donors both channel resources through the GCF and receive guidance on directly funding city governments on their own.

The MMC also works with multilateral development funds to make them more accessible to city governments. Between 2019 and 2022, the MMC played an active role as a member of the Steering Committee of UN Start-Up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Migration MPTF),<sup>6</sup> a USD 47 million UN financing mechanism to support GCM implementation projects. As a result of MMC advocacy, 75 percent of MPTF funded projects entered into implementation agreements with local governments (the original target was 30 percent), directing more than USD 12 million to city-level projects. Building on this precedent, in 2021, the MMC secured a seat on the Lives in Dignity Grant Facility set up by the European Union (EU) and UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS),<sup>7</sup> a EUR 24 million mechanism to channel funding to promote development approaches to displacement crises. As a result of its advocacy, the MMC unlocked nearly EUR 4 million for city-level projects in Bangladesh, Colombia, and Costa Rica.

**On the demand side,** the GCF provides cities with a flexible, simple, and predictable direct funding mechanism. At the same time, it accelerates local efforts by providing city grantees with customized technical, advocacy and networking services through MMC and its strategic partners, supporting their projects and elevating city actions to a global audience. Rather than navigating complex funding requirements and a myriad of partners, the GCF streamlines the process for cities, making it simple to apply for funding and supporting cities to identify areas of collaboration with international partners. This support continues well after cities' grant term ends as the MMC provides proposal writing, project development, and broader fundraising support to GCF graduates. Five graduates have received direct international funding on the back of their GCF projects (Addis Ababa, Barranquilla, Kampala, Freetown, Medellín) while seven are using own-source resources to continue their projects (Bogotá, Beirut, Freetown, Medellín, Mexico City, Monrovia, and Quito).

<sup>6</sup> Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund'. United Nations Network on Migration. 6 August 2023. Available at: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/mptf#:~:text=The%20Start%20Up%20Fund%20for,implementation%20of%20the%20Global%20Compact>. Accessed October 18, 2023.

<sup>7</sup> 'Lives in Dignity Grant Facility'. European Commission. March 2022. Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/programmes/lives-dignity-grant-facility\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/programmes/lives-dignity-grant-facility_en). Accessed October 18, 2023.

## The MMC has unlocked over \$31M for city-led solutions to date, including:

# \$16 M+

By Influencing Multilateral Funds

# \$8 M

Through the GCF

# \$6 M+

Through the MMC marketplace

# \$1 M+

Through Cities' Own Source Revenue to Support GCF Projects



## NEXT UP

The significant finance gap for city-led inclusion of migrants and displaced people requires a fundamental shift in how governments, donors, and global institutions partner and operate. This type of systemic change does not happen overnight — it requires a multi-year, multi-pronged approach, and a movement of innovative, disruptive leaders to change the system tomorrow and invest in city actions that support migrants and refugees today.

To change the system:

1. **International and national capital markets** need to include an urban migration lens in large scale infrastructure and development investments.
2. **UN, multilateral, and national governments** need to establish funding and financing mechanisms that are accessible to city governments.
3. **Philanthropic and private funders** need to lead by example and start localizing their giving now by investing directly in city governments and city-led solutions.

The success of GCF cities presages the potential of all cities to welcome migrants and refugees. To realize this potential, the international humanitarian and development community, together with national governments and multilateral funding mechanisms, must use the GCF as evidence of the impact of directly investing in cities.

When the GCF launched in 2021, the MMC and its partners called on international actors to bring the fund to at least 22 cities by the end of 2022. In June 2022, we exceeded this goal by securing funding for 28 city grantees.

The MMC and its partners call on the international community to

**bring the GCF to a  
\$ 50 million fund.**



# CITY SOLUTIONS



The Medellín and MMC teams meet with families receiving temporary housing. Credit: City of Medellín.





Manuel Trujillo of Barranquilla presenting to graduates of Todos Somos Barranquilla. Credit: City of Barranquilla.

## CITY SOLUTIONS: GRADUATE CITIES

Addis Ababa  
 Barranquilla, Colombia  
 Beirut, Lebanon **(Deep Dive)**  
 Bogotá, Colombia  
 Freetown, Sierra Leone **(Deep Dive)**  
 Kampala, Uganda  
 Lima, Peru  
 Medellín, Colombia **(Deep Dive)**  
 Mexico City, Mexico  
 Monrovia, Liberia  
 Quito, Ecuador



# Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Water is Life

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, health, public spaces, economic inclusion

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** October 2021 — November 2022

Managed independently by the Addis Ababa City Administration, the Koyefeché settlement houses 1,700 internally displaced households with insufficient access to water and sanitation services. The results are severe public health risks, the spread of water-borne disease, and pollution of water sources.

With the added impacts of Covid-19, Addis Ababa's Water is Life project came at a critical time. **In partnership with Koyefeché's local committee, Addis Ababa installed public water points to improve the community's access to clean water services.** The city also provided emergency financial assistance to forty highly vulnerable internally displaced people — fifty percent of them women — and supported their livelihoods through entrepreneurship training and seed capital to start their own small businesses. Using their project as a proof of concept, the city unlocked an additional USD 1.6 million from international philanthropic donors to expand the city's services to the thousands of migrants, refugees, and IDPs living in Addis Ababa.

The Addis Ababa City Administration with the local committee of Koyefeché IDP settlement. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



“I'm very proud of providing access to clean water to those who had been denied it. Water is life. The support of the Global Cities Fund helped save the lives of many IDPs and refugees by improving target groups' livelihoods, by enhancing their access to clean water, and by establishing greater food security. The city is doing its best to address additional challenges, but to solve these issues, we need a concerted effort from different development partners and more support — financial and technical — from international partners as well.”

Moges Tadesse, Addis Ababa's Chief Resilience Officer

## Impact

**600 IDP households, over 3,000 individuals, have direct access to water.**

**40 vulnerable community members, half of them women, started their own businesses.**

**Addis Ababa unlocked USD 1.6 million from international donors** to continue its efforts supporting migrant and displaced communities.

The Koyefeché IDP settlement. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.





# Barranquilla, Colombia

Todos Somos Barranquilla

**Areas of intervention:** City-led pathways to inclusion, economic inclusion, social cohesion

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** February 2021 — March 2022

Barranquilla is home to over 100,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees, as well as a large population of Colombian returnees. These displaced populations face barriers to finding formal employment, including limited job opportunities, a lack of social networks, and unfamiliarity with the job market. These challenges were only compounded by Covid-19's impact on the local economy.

Todos Somos Barranquilla, one of the first five GCF projects, addressed these issues by **providing over 100 migrants, IDPs, and returnees with job training, psychosocial support, and assistance with legal documentation** through the city's Opportunities Center. The city received and evaluated more than 6,000 applications to an open call and selected 100 recipients, prioritizing people who have fewer opportunities to find formal employment, such as people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQI+ community, or people serving prison sentences. The center provided clients with skills trainings for industries relevant to Barranquilla's economy while matching clients with formal jobs among Barranquilla's private sector employers. Using their project as proof of concept, the city unlocked an additional USD 2 million from international philanthropic donors to expand the city's services and meet the needs of the thousands of migrants identified in the pilot phase.

An employment training of Todos Somos Barranquilla. Credit: City of Barranquilla.



“In Barranquilla, we are only 200 miles from Venezuela and the Darien Gap, where thousands of migrants pass through or settle. Our community and local government know that welcoming these migrants is also an economic opportunity for our residents. By identifying and providing jobs for migrants, for example, we bolster economic growth and support local businesses. Scaling similar programs requires more direct funding.”

Jaime Pumarejo, Mayor of Barranquilla.

## Impact

Over 110 migrants and displaced people supported in entering the job market, with **39 graduates securing formal employment or continuing employment training**.

**Over 100 companies informed on migrant-inclusive hiring practices.**

**Barranquilla unlocked USD 2 million from international donors to continue their efforts in supporting migrant and displaced communities.**

Graduates of Todos Somos Barranquilla. Credit: City of Barranquilla





Non-discriminatory healthcare wherever it's needed most:

# Learning from Beirut



A blood drive hosted by the Municipality of Beirut Mobile Health Clinic.  
Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

## Beirut, Lebanon

Municipal Mobile Health Clinic

**Areas of intervention:** Children and caregivers, health, social cohesion

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** April 2021 - December 2022

**Implementing partner:** UN-Habitat Lebanon



“With the support of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, our Mobile Health Clinic has helped our city reach migrant and refugee residents in the neighborhoods they live in. We’ve been able to provide critical healthcare services — regardless of ability to pay or migration status — to those who would otherwise be left behind.”

Jamal Itani, Mayor of Beirut



# Overview

Beirut, Lebanon, provided free and non-discriminatory healthcare access to over 3,000 people, including migrants and refugees in marginalized neighborhoods, through the city's first Municipal Mobile Health Clinic.

Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



# Context

Lebanon, a country of approximately 5.5 million people, hosts an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees and 490,000 Palestinian refugees, in addition to refugees and asylum seekers from other countries in the region. An additional 400,000 migrant workers live in Lebanon, the majority of whom have settled in the country's capital, Beirut.

Beirut has undergone a series of devastating crises in recent years: an economic crisis since 2019, a devastating explosion at its main port in 2020, and the substantial effects of Covid-19, which accelerated the decline of the already unstable political and economic situation. A 2020 World Food Programme survey directed towards the Lebanese population, as well as Syrian and Palestinian refugees living in the city, found that the pandemic and corresponding containment measures pushed one in three respondents into unemployment, while one in five saw their salary reduced.<sup>8</sup>

The city's marginalized neighborhoods, where many refugees and migrants live alongside Lebanese residents, experience acute vulnerabilities, marked by limited access to social services such as medical care, which was particularly critical during the Covid-19 pandemic. These healthcare barriers result from compounding factors, including limited financial resources and rising healthcare costs in the wake of the financial crisis; constricted visiting hours due to frequent lockdowns and limited access to transportation; and fragmented information on health services available in the city. While over USD 500 million in foreign aid poured into Lebanon following the 2020 explosion, the vast majority went to international or national actors, with only a fraction left for the Municipality of Beirut and civil society organizations operating in the city.

<sup>8</sup> Assessing the impact of the economic and COVID-19 crises in Lebanon. World Food Programme. June 2020. Available: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000116784/download/>. Accessed October 31, 2023.



# Solution

“We were in need during the Covid-19 pandemic in particular,” says Yusra Sidani Balaa, Beirut Municipality Council Member. “People could not afford testing and hospitals were not equipped for it. The grant allowed us to hire two nurses and a manager, which was a major factor in the success of the clinic. Otherwise Covid-19 would have been fatal for many more citizens.”

The Mobile Health Clinic provides free and accessible healthcare services to all, regardless of country of origin. Going where it's most needed, the clinic focuses on neighborhoods many refugees, migrants, and marginalized Lebanese residents call home. Since its inception, the clinic has visited most areas of the city, but has become a fixture in neighborhoods where people often struggle to receive health services, such as Tariq el Jdideh and Karantina, which borders the port and was severely impacted by the 2020 explosion.

Council member Yusra Sidani (middle in yellow) with the projet team. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



“I explained to the communities that this clinic is for all,” says Yusra. “After that, social cohesion was tighter as they saw that everyone could benefit from it. And coming together in public places has also raised respect amongst the different community groups. The kids play together, and this leads to decreased tensions too.”

While the clinic was initially focused on Covid-19 testing and vaccinations, the municipality quickly adapted to community needs, providing routine vaccinations for children, psychosocial support, advice on healthy behavior and disease prevention, referrals to other health services, and administering medical kits, sanitation kits, and protective equipment. The clinic has also been used as a central base for blood drives, primary healthcare screenings, and health awareness events, such as on breast cancer, childhood cancer, cardiac diseases, post-Covid-19 mental health issues, and hepatitis.

“The clinic informed and encouraged vulnerable community members to go and get tested for Covid and register for vaccinations - they would not go if they did not have this easy access,” says Aziza Yassine, Beirut Municipality Council Head of Social Cell and Community Mobilizer. “The visibility triggered people to get tested and vaccinated. Once it was up and running, people were always asking about it. It was a great opportunity for the community.”



## Legacy

After Beirut's GCF grant ended, the municipality sought out local partners to keep the clinic running. Today, the project is a long-term fixture in the city's healthcare system and operates in partnership with local hospitals. However, further international support is needed for the creation of new, permanent clinics in Beirut's underserved neighborhoods. The city is dedicated to building on the experience of the Mobile Health Clinic to continue delivering flexible services to those who need them most, while strengthening its accountability toward all of Beirut's residents. To close other gaps in service delivery, the municipality will maintain and expand its close relationship with project partners and other humanitarian organizations.

“There are still many people with health issues that are not addressed in Covid-19 responses, such as cholera and hepatitis,” says Yusra. “People need to be taken care of and we need more support. We can handle any project very efficiently, but we need to improve infrastructure, we need medications, doctors and hospitals. The clinic is a great start as it has helped us better understand the needs.”

## Impact

**The Municipality of Beirut set up its first mobile health clinic in 2021** as an emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**The clinic provides free and non-discriminatory healthcare in all areas of the city** and has served over 3,500 people, including Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, and Iraqi residents, to date.

**Almost half of all clients are non-Lebanese.**

The clinic expanded its services to **offer first aid training, administer vaccines for children not previously immunized against diseases like polio and measles, and organized a blood drive**, with migrants and refugees donating blood to aid Port of Beirut explosion survivors.

The Municipality of Beirut strengthened partnerships to respond to the urgent and increasing public health needs in a **coordinated, complementary, and effective manner.**

The clinic created new channels for Beirut to **engage with underserved neighborhoods and better meet their needs.**



# Bogotá, Colombia

## Nutritional Center for Migrant and Refugee Children

**Areas of intervention:** Children and caregivers, early childhood development, health, food security

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** November 2022 — November 2023

**Implementing partner:** CAFAM

Food insecurity and malnutrition are critical issues facing migrant children and pregnant or breastfeeding women in Bogotá, where over 500,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees live. Lack of documentation, discrimination, and economic insecurity often prevent migrants in Bogotá from accessing basic healthcare and income, leaving many children malnourished and at risk of further health complications.

Addressing a key gap in its overall service provision for migrants, the City of Bogotá established its **first-ever center dedicated to improving the nutritional conditions of migrant and refugee children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers**. The center provides nutritional support and treatment to newborn babies with low birthweight, children who are acutely malnourished or at risk, and malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women. To prevent malnutrition, project staff also conduct home visits and workshops to educate families on healthy eating and provide them with food vouchers. To address families' unmet needs, the project also refers caregivers to education, legal support, and employment services.

A workshop for caregivers at the Nutritional Center. Credit: City of Bogotá.



“Our city is committed to guaranteeing the socioeconomic inclusion of our most vulnerable new Bogotanos. With the support of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, we are strengthening Bogotá’s commitment to defend the rights of all residents - especially our youngest and newest residents - to access critical public services.”

Claudia López Hernández, Mayor of Bogotá

## Impact

**Over 300 children and mothers screened for malnutrition**

**71 children treated for malnutrition**, including over 20 cases of acute malnutrition

The City of Bogotá conducted **99 home visits** that strengthened caregivers’ awareness of healthy childcare and hygiene practices.

The center **distributed 616 food vouchers worth USD 115,000** to help clients feed their children.

The City of Bogotá is **keeping the center open for the duration of 2024** through its city budget.

The exterior of the Nutritional Center. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.





Greener jobs and cleaner streets:

# Learning from Freetown



Youth entrepreneurs of Freetown's GCF project. Credit: Freetown City Council.

## Freetown, Sierra Leone

Waste Management Micro-Enterprise Program

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, economic inclusion, health, public spaces, waste management

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** February 2021 — April 2022



“Freetown belongs to everyone who has chosen this city as their home. All residents, including migrants, have a role to play in helping our city emerge from this pandemic more equitable, more sustainable, and more prepared for the future. The Mayors Migration Council’s Global Cities Fund is a crucial component to helping all Freetonians reach this goal.”

Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown



# Overview

Freetown, Sierra Leone, created 40 entrepreneurial teams of 240 waste collectors, including rural migrants, to clean streets and public spaces, leading to new green jobs and the closure of informal dumpsites.

The launch of Freetown's GCF project. Credit: Freetown City Council.



# Context

Over the past 20 years, Freetown, the largest city in Sierra Leone, has seen its population double. This growth is driven largely by internal mobility, which includes those who were displaced during the Sierra Leone Civil War and those whose rural livelihoods were impacted by climate change. UNFPA's 2015 population census showed that half of Freetown's residents were born outside the city and almost 23,000 residents are from other countries, figures that are likely higher today.<sup>1</sup>

As a result of rapid urban growth and inadequate urban planning, over 35 percent of Freetown's 1.2 million residents live in low-income informal settlements marked by overcrowding, sanitation concerns, and income insecurity. Improper waste management hazards are particularly acute in informal settlements, where up to 44 percent of residents report that they dispose of their refuse in open drainage, contaminating the environment and contributing to the spread of water-borne diseases and direct contact infections.<sup>2</sup>

Public health issues became especially prominent following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic as preventative measures such as handwashing were not always available to residents without direct access to running water. Wider prevention measures led to a loss of work opportunities and hunger amongst families dependent on daily wages. From August 2019 to June 2020, national food insecurity in Sierra Leone rose sharply from 53.4 percent to 63 percent.<sup>3</sup>

In response to these challenges, the Freetown City Council committed to both supporting their migrant and displaced populations and improving public infrastructure — including waste management — through an inclusive, data-driven approach. When Mayor Aki-Sawyer took office, her administration set out to increase waste collection from a baseline of 21 percent to 60 percent by the end of 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census Thematic Report on Migration and Urbanization. UNFPA, December 2017. Available at: <https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/publications/sierra-leone-2015-population-and-housing-census-thematic-report-migration-and-urbanization>. Accessed October 31, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Freetown City Council Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees project proposal. January 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



## Solution

One of the GCF's first five city grantees, Freetown City Council (FCC) expanded the pilot phase of its Waste Management Micro-Enterprise Program funded by the EU and IOM. The program ensured that youth living in informal settlements could improve both their livelihood opportunities and the public health of their communities.

The GCF grant helped Freetown expand the pilot from 80 micro-enterprise teams to 120 — employing 240 youths in total. The teams collect waste from households in informal settlements, as well as public spaces around the city. Each micro-enterprise team was provided with initial business investment support: a motorized tricycle cart, sanitation tools, business registration, assistance opening a bank account, business development mentoring and marketing, and registration with the city's [www.findmeinfreetown.com](http://www.findmeinfreetown.com) platform. One project client used his income from his micro-enterprise to pay his college tuition fees and recently graduated as a lawyer.

The project included an innovative loan repayment scheme where a portion of the cost of the tricycles was provided as a loan and paid back over two years through a “pay as you earn” model. This unlocked funding for more youth to participate in the program after the city's GCF grant closed. Many micro-enterprises also extended their customer base by selling organic waste to the Freetown Waste Transformers for additional revenue. Through the momentum generated by the expansion of the program, FCC also worked with waste collection groups around the city to form a waste collectors' union, the Waste Collection Management Association.

The GCF grant and micro-enterprise teams also supported FCC to clear and close three illegal dumpsites in Freetown. Waste pickers can now take their waste to one of seven newly established transfer stations or legal dumpsites in the city.



Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer. Credit: Freetown City Council.

**“As we collected waste from illegal dumping grounds to stop communities from dumping waste in those locations, we started the ‘brown to green space’ concept. We worked with the youth groups to also plant flowers and trees in these spaces. Now we have three beautiful spaces in the city, working together with youth groups to create them.”**

**Eugenia Kargbo, GCF Project Lead and Chief Heat Officer, Freetown City Council**



## Legacy

Two years after the project began, the micro-enterprises supported by the GCF grant are still collecting waste and earning income. To date, 80 percent of participants from the GCF grant phase have fully paid off their tricycle loan, enabling the city to establish additional youth enterprises and expand the project's impact. By 2022, the total waste collection rate in Freetown had increased to 34 percent and by 2023, 1,200 waste collectors were involved in the program. Freetown has secured direct funding from a multilateral development as part of a wider project in collaboration with the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), which will support an additional 40 youth waste collection groups in Freetown.

“The plan is to continue to build on this. It is going to take a lot to address the problems we face. We need to ensure we can scale this to the best of our ability. We are looking for additional funding and working on models to ensure this can be more sustainable [...] Using this as a base to ensure we can provide for rural migrants to become more resilient to problems they face is something we are determined to push for as a city, to better the lives of residents, not only to improve sanitation. It was very helpful and important that we had the funding from the GCF.”

Eugenia Kargbo, GCF Project Lead and Chief Heat Officer, Freetown City Council

## Impact

**240 youths from informal settlements secured green jobs,** 75 percent of whom were migrants and IDPs and 30 percent of whom were women.

**Over 2,600 households registered for waste collection** from the micro-enterprises, reducing illegal dumping and improving health and hygiene conditions in informal settlements.

**Over 65 percent of youth waste enterprises supported by the GCF grant reported profits** from November 2021 to April 2022.

Loan repayments for tricycles purchased through the GCF grant have **enabled FCC to bring another 20 waste collection groups into the project.**

“Because of the employment opportunity, some of our members are returning to school to further their education and some are now providing for their families and finding more affordable housing in Freetown.”

Umaru Sorie Ibrahim Bangura, Group Leader, Reliable Waste Collectors



# Kampala, Uganda

Kampala for All

**Areas of intervention:** Economic inclusion, social cohesion, education

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** June 2022 — November 2022

**Implementing partner:** Makasi Rescue Foundation

Refugees in Kampala — estimated to number over 100,000 — have been severely affected by the impact of Covid-19. Uganda imposed the longest running school closures in the world, and many migrants and marginalized Ugandans reliant on informal jobs lost their daily income. At the height of the pandemic, Kampala's Lord Mayor, Erias Lukwago began personally distributing food and personal protective equipment to residents who couldn't afford it.

To help refugees meet their basic needs with agency and dignity, **the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) delivered cash assistance to over 400 refugees and marginalized Ugandans.** The project also offered skills training and granted seed capital to refugee entrepreneurs and paid school fees for refugee and receiving community families. Implemented with the support of the Makasi Rescue Foundation, a refugee-led organization, the project reached the most marginalized refugee families while improving KCCA's social accountability and collaboration with other refugee-led organizations, an alliance which continues today.

Refugee leaders at Makasi Rescue Foundation. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



“I wanted to be responsive to the residents in our great city, which is why I took the initiative to deliver essential supplies myself to those who are in greatest need. We will recover from this pandemic and come back stronger by helping each other through this unprecedented crisis.”

Erias Lukwago, Lord Mayor of Kampala

## Impact

**400 refugee and receiving community heads of household received direct cash assistance.**

**31 entrepreneurs launched micro-enterprises** in fashion, artisanal crafts, and hairdressing.

**52 refugee and receiving community children enrolled in education** with their school fees covered for two terms.

**KCCA continues its partnership with refugee-led organizations** while the Makasi Rescue Foundation received follow-on funding from an international foundation to continue project activities.

Women entrepreneurs at Makasi Rescue Foundation. Credit: Helen Elizabeth Yu for the MMC.





# Lima, Peru

Office of Migrant Neighbors

**Areas of intervention:** City-led pathways to inclusion, economic inclusion, health, participatory governance, public spaces, social cohesion

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** February 2021 — April 2022

Lima is home to more than one million Venezuelan migrants and refugees. Despite the city's efforts to include and welcome its newest residents, Lima's migrant communities face significant obstacles to employment, health, housing, education, and early childhood services. The Covid-19 pandemic only exacerbated these challenges.

As one of the five inaugural grantees of the GCF, Lima established six new Municipal Offices in Service of Migrant Neighbors (OMA) in the Cercado de Lima district, the gateway into Lima. These offices serve as inclusion hubs for newcomers and long-standing Lima residents alike, offering clients a range of services from city government departments and civil society partners including employability workshops, healthcare, social assistance, and legal support. The OMAs also strengthen ties between locals and their migrant neighbors by hosting community events, called migratones, and providing safe public spaces for joint artistic and cultural activities. In the absence of a national policy on migrant and refugee communities, Lima's project shows how city governments can lead holistic and collaborative approaches to migrant and refugee inclusion in partnership with migrants and refugees themselves.

A mural painting in Cercado de Lima. Credit: Municipality of Lima.



"Lima ratifies its commitment to welcoming all foreign citizens who choose it as their home. In doing so, we wish to send a message to other cities of the world regarding the power and importance of inclusion as one of the main values of society. With the support of the Mayors Migration Council's Global Cities Fund, we will create Lima's Oficina Municipal de Atención al Vecino Migrante [in January 2021] which will allow us to better serve all migrants and refugees in the Cercado de Lima district at a time so complex as the one humanity is facing as a consequence of Covid-19."

Jorge Muñoz Wells, Former Mayor of Lima

## Impact

**Over 4,700 people accessed comprehensive social services** including legal support, healthcare, employment, and education.

**Venezuelan civil society organizations formally registered** with the city, enabling their participation in municipal activities such as participatory budgeting.

The city **celebrated shared cultures** between migrants and receiving communities, reducing discrimination and xenophobia.

Children at one of Lima's Migratones. Credit: Municipality of Lima.





A new model for housing migrants and refugees:

# Learning from Medellín



Medellín comunas.

## Medellín, Colombia

Housing Assistance for Migrant and Displaced Families

**Areas of intervention:** City-led pathways to inclusion, children and caregivers, economic inclusion, health, housing,

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** October 2021 - October 2022



“In Medellín, we seek to positively impact the lives of migrant and displaced people and families. Our project offered a way for the city to effectively reach refugees and other vulnerable groups, many of whom prefer to stay anonymous, with assistance and to inform them of their rights, including the right to adequate housing, health, and nutrition.”

Daniel Quintero, Mayor of Medellín



# Overview

Medellín, Colombia, provided emergency shelter for over 300 migrant and refugee families at risk of homelessness while connecting them to social services that helped them find permanent housing solutions.

Medellín comunas, where over 100,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees reside.  
Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



# Context

Since 2015, over seven million Venezuelans have been forced to leave their homes as a result of political turmoil, socio-economic instability and the ongoing humanitarian crisis.<sup>12</sup> An estimated 2.5 million are hosted in Colombia, now one of the top five refugee hosting countries in the world.<sup>13</sup> Colombia is also home to 4.8 million internally displaced people (IDPs).<sup>14</sup>

Colombia's third largest city, Medellín hosts the second largest population of refugees and migrants in the country,<sup>15</sup> including 190,000 from Venezuela as of early 2022.<sup>16</sup> For some, Medellín is a destination. For others, it is a transit point on a route towards Panama and North America. While many Venezuelans consider Medellín to be more welcoming than other destinations, refugees and migrants still face significant challenges in finding housing and employment, as well as accessing legal and mental health services.

Covid-19 pandemic severely affected displaced families' ability to generate an income and pay rent. In the first three months of the pandemic, the city's emergency hotline (Línea 123 Social) responded to 7,674 Venezuelans seeking assistance, more than 1,900 of them specifically seeking housing support. While the city sought to provide families with emergency shelter or accommodation, demand outweighed supply. This was especially the case for refugees and asylum-seekers who fell outside central government social safety nets. As a result, many recently arrived Venezuelan families spent their first few nights in Medellín sleeping on the streets.

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR Venezuela Factsheet. UN Refugee Agency. March 2023. Available at: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/venezuela-situation-factsheet>, Accessed October 31, 2023.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Colombia Country Profile. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. May 2023. Available at: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/colombia>, Accessed October 31, 2023.

<sup>15</sup> 4Mi Cities: Medellín City Report. Mixed Migration Centre. January 2022. Available at: [https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/223\\_4mi\\_cities\\_data\\_collection\\_on\\_urban\\_mixed\\_migration\\_medellin\\_city\\_report.pdf](https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/223_4mi_cities_data_collection_on_urban_mixed_migration_medellin_city_report.pdf), Accessed October 31, 2023.

<sup>16</sup> Distribución de Venezolanos en Colombia. Migración Colombia. February 2022. Available at: [https://unidad-administrativa-especial-migracion-colombia.micolombiadigital.gov.co/sites/unidad-administrativa-especial-migracion-colombia/content/files/000042/2066\\_distribucion\\_venezolanos-en-colombia\\_feb.pdf](https://unidad-administrativa-especial-migracion-colombia.micolombiadigital.gov.co/sites/unidad-administrativa-especial-migracion-colombia/content/files/000042/2066_distribucion_venezolanos-en-colombia_feb.pdf), Accessed October 31, 2023.



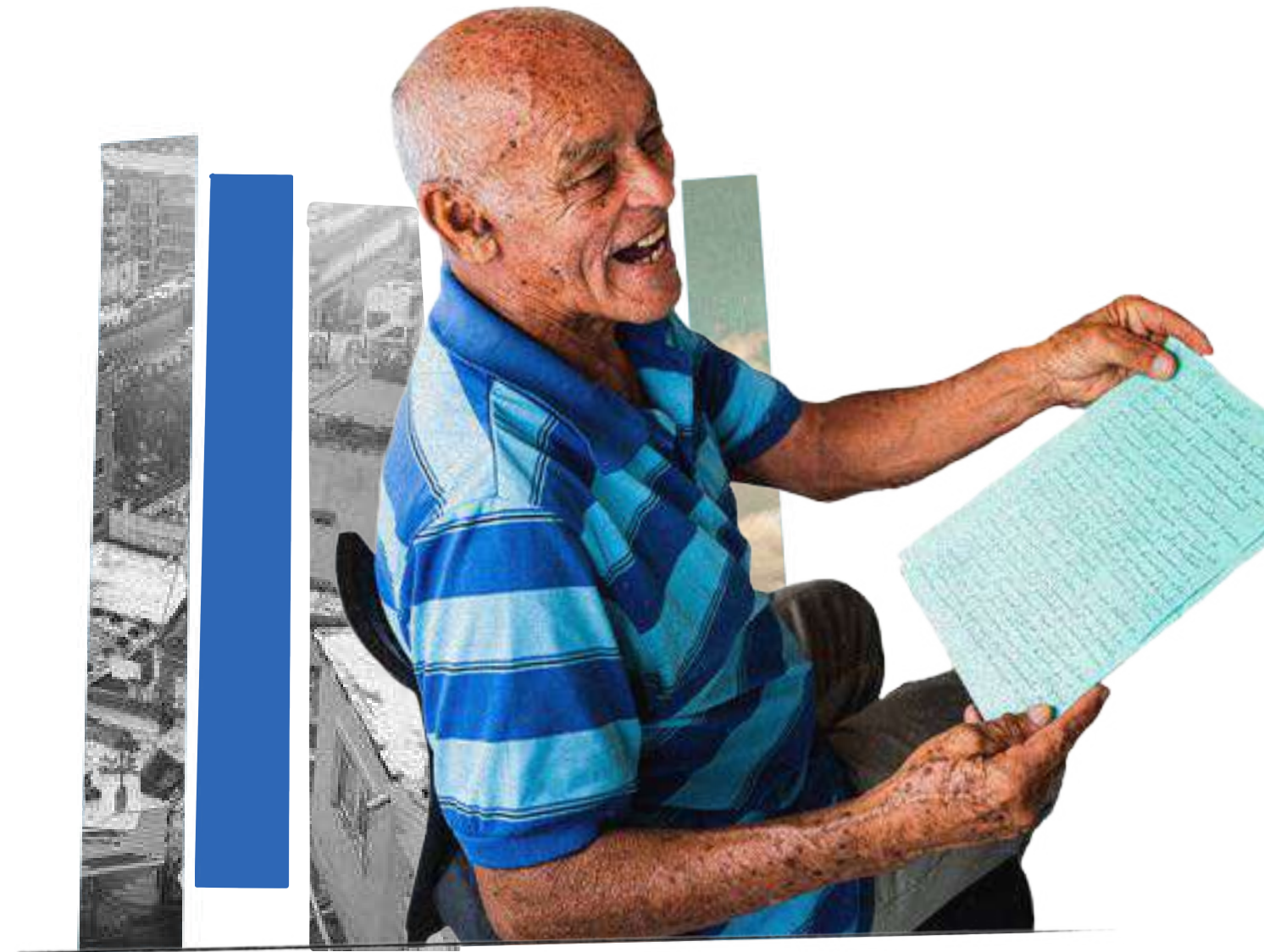
## Solution

With support from the GCF, the City of Medellín expanded its existing transitional housing program to explicitly include Venezuelan families for the first time. Using the city's emergency hotline to identify families who were either unhoused or at risk of homelessness, the city transported them to a diverse stock of emergency housing. Housing typologies included hotels, shared houses retrofitted to accommodate between eight and 10 families, and inquilinatos, private rooms provided to families with shared kitchen and laundry facilities on the same floor of a hotel. Over the course of the year-long project, the city provided up to three months of transitional housing to over 300 refugee and migrant families, a total of over 1,250 people.

While the project's primary goal was to provide transitional housing, it also used housing as an entry point to help the families find their footing in the city. Without needing to worry about shelter, the families had time to use city and partner services to find employment, enroll their children in school, access healthcare, regularize their status, and find long-term housing. The project also offered protective spaces that allow the identification, case management, and onward referral of survivors of violence and exploitation. Medellín provided each family with tailored support based on an individual needs assessment, resulting in a Family Action Plan that connected them with the specific services.



A client of Medellín's housing project in her room provided by the city. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



A Venezuelan client celebrates his housing with a letter to the City of Medellín. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

**“We’ve been able to help many, many families. Based on the housing and accompanying services we’ve provided, these families now have the opportunity to stay here.”**

**Luz Angela Alvarez Henao, Project Lead, City of Medellín**

With the the City of Medellín's Secretary of Social Inclusion, Family and Human Rights as the lead implementer, Medellín's GCF project used housing as a foundation for the long-term socioeconomic inclusion of Venezuelan families. Of the families who received transitional housing, over 75 percent found permanent housing on their own.



## Legacy

The City of Medellín is currently adapting the project into a city-wide approach in response to rising numbers of arrivals from more diverse countries of origin and the increasingly transitory nature of journeys through the city. To expand the program in 2022, Medellín's Secretary of Social Inclusion, Family and Human Rights budgeted USD 6,000,000. In 2023, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation gave the city government a direct, multi-year grant of over USD 1,000,000 to continue its project and expand the city's service offering to migrants and displaced people.

To further scale this work, the City of Medellín has recently received support from UNHCR and the International Rescue Committee in response to increasing human mobility through the city. These partners are now replicating Medellín's GCF model in their own programs.

Medellín's GCF project has also influenced its long-term planning. The city's Social Service to Populations in Emergency Situations Strategy has set housing as a key priority in addressing the needs of migrants and displaced people. The Plan de Desarrollo Medellín Futuro 2020-2023 includes an objective to provide social and emergency services to persons at risk of or in social, natural, or man-made emergencies, which includes a commitment to caring for migrants. The plan commits to develop a public migration policy is currently in its final stages and has key elements already being practiced by the city's newly established inter-institutional committee on migration flows.

“In five years, I want a Medellín that is prepared to address any amount or type of migration.”

Luz Angela Alvarez Henao, Project Lead, City of Medellín

## Impact

**Medellín re-envisioned Covid-19 emergency measures** to support the long-term socioeconomic inclusion of migrant and refugee families at risk of homelessness.

**Over 300 families received up to three months of transitional housing** and wrap-around services related to employment, education, healthcare, and legal support.

**Over 75 percent of families found permanent housing** on their own.

The City of **Medellín turned a USD 200,000 grant from the GCF into more than USD 1,000,000** in funding from international donors.

A temporary housing location of Medellín's GCF project. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.





# Mexico City, Mexico

## Inclusive Income Protection

**Areas of intervention:** City-led pathways to inclusion, economic inclusion, health, localizing knowledge

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** March 2021— February 2022

Half of Mexico City's residents work in the informal economy, and the impacts of Covid-19 and infection-prevention measures took a severe toll on their livelihoods. This economic downturn disproportionately affected migrants, refugees, returnees, and internally displaced people in the city, who had already faced barriers to financial inclusion and stability.

As one of the five inaugural grantees of the GCF, **Mexico City implemented an Inclusive Income Protection Program to provide cash assistance to over 450 migrants, refugees, and IDPs affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and connected them to support services related to employability, regularization of status, and health care.** To deliver the project, the city established a partnership between three key government secretariats — the Secretariat of Labor and Employment Promotion, the Secretariat of Social Inclusion and Welfare, and the Secretariat of Health — to deploy a coordinated response to the overlapping needs of migrants, refugees, and IDPs for the first time in the city government's history. This coordinated response continues today.

Clients receiving cash cards. Credit: City of Mexico.



“With support from the Mayors Migration Council, Mexico City is expanding financial assistance to those who have lost their income due to the impact of Covid-19 in the informal economy, the lifeblood of our city. We are grateful to the Global Cities Fund, an innovative funding instrument that arrives at a critical time of need as we stand up and honor the city's history of pacifism, solidarity, hospitality, and asylum.”

Claudia Sheinbaum, Former Mayor of Mexico City

## Impact

**495 migrants and refugees received direct cash assistance** during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Over 80 percent of clients reported an improved ability to meet basic needs.**

**The city connected over 700 clients to social services** related to employment, healthcare, financial and legal support.

Mexico City registers clients for their GCF project. Credit: Mexico City.





# Monrovia, Liberia

## Monrovia Grow Green

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, public spaces, economic inclusion, social cohesion

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** October 2022 — October 2023

One of the most vulnerable African cities due to sea level rise and the wettest capital in the world due to rainfall, Monrovia has also seen massive coastal deforestation that further increases the risks of flooding and erosion. In the last decade, coastal erosion has caused the city's largest low-income informal settlements to sink thirty meters, resulting in the destruction of over 670 homes, many of them belonging to migrants.

To combat this challenge, the City of Monrovia's Grow Green project enlisted 150 internally displaced people and migrants to plant 20,000 mangrove and coconut trees around coastlines and the Mesurado River to protect the soil, provide tree cover, and absorb excess ground water and carbon emissions. Project clients also attended technical and vocational trainings, helping them to find stable employment or open small businesses. Among these clients were 50 women to whom the city provided seed capital to start their own green businesses. Mayor Kojee has committed to plans to triple the number of trees planted and project clients using the city's own budget in 2024.

Mayor Kojee of Monrovia with an entrepreneurship client. Credit: Michael Roberts for the Monrovia City Corporation.



“The climate crisis poses enormous risks for Monrovia, and especially our migrant and internally displaced residents, who often live in neighborhoods prone to flooding due to accelerated coastal erosion. The Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will empower us to green our city, proactively mitigate climate vulnerabilities, and provide the requisite skills and competencies for our youngest citizens to compete in the labor market and contribute to the sustainable economic development of Monrovia and Liberia at large.”

Jefferson Kojee, Mayor of Monrovia

## Impact

**Over five kilometers of coastline protected** from soil erosion and storm surge

**50 women from flood-affected communities opened new businesses.**

**Over 100 youth received business and vocational support.**

**Mayoral commitment to triple the project's impact in 2024**

Women entrepreneurs supported by Monrovia's GCF project.  
Credit: Michael Roberts for the Monrovia City Corporation.





# Quito, Ecuador

## Planning for Human Mobility in Quito

**Areas of intervention:** City-led pathways to inclusion, participatory governance, social cohesion

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** October 2021 — October 2022

**Implementing partner:** FUDELA

Ecuador is home to the fourth largest population of Venezuelan migrants in South America, nearly 30 percent of whom live in Quito. Most of Quito's migrant communities survive on daily wages from informal labor. The Covid-19 pandemic severely impacted the informal economy, curtailing migrants' livelihood opportunities, increasing their health risks, and exacerbating housing insecurity.

The Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito strengthened its public policy on issues of human mobility by improving access to social services, creating shared community spaces to foster social cohesion, and supporting over 800 people with employment, legal, and psychosocial support services through the city's multiple community centers. To achieve these aims, **Quito developed and implemented its first-ever District Human Mobility Plan with the active involvement of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and trained over 200 public servants on its implementation.** The city's close collaboration with migrant communities on this policy led to the establishment of a permanent communication channel for Quito's newest residents to participate in city planning.

A Venezuelan father and his son outside of a social service center in Quito. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



## Impact

**Quito ratified its first District Human Mobility Plan** in partnership with displaced people and receiving communities to guide its policy until 2026.

**204 public officials and 68 municipal entities participated in trainings** on effective service provision for migrants and refugees.

**218 migrants and refugees received livelihoods support** in soft skills, trades, and entrepreneurship.

The city established **two community centers** that provided 355 people with legal advice to regularize their status and 278 people with mental health support.

Makeshift shelter in Quito. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.







20 de Agosto Fish Market in Beira before renovations. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

## CITY SOLUTIONS: ACTIVE GRANTEES

Accra, Ghana  
 Amman, Jordan  
 Arua, Uganda  
 Beira, Mozambique (**Deep Dive**)  
 Casablanca, Morocco  
 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
 Dunaivtsi, Ukraine (**Deep Dive**)  
 EThekweni, South Africa  
 Guayaquil, Ecuador  
 Hargeisa, Somaliland  
 Johannesburg, South Africa  
 Milan, Italy  
 Montevideo, Uruguay  
 Nairobi, Kenya  
 Nyamagabe District, Rwanda  
 Ramallah, Palestine



# Accra, Ghana

## Creating Livelihood and Environmentalism in Accra Now (CLEAN)

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, waste management, public spaces, economic inclusion, social cohesion, early childhood development, participatory governance

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** October 2022 — December 2023

Accra is a primary destination for internal migrants in Ghana and those from West Africa, including those displaced due to climate change. Upon arrival in the city, many migrants struggle to access livelihoods, healthcare, childcare, and other basic social services due to language barriers, discrimination, and lack of documentation. As a result, many resort to unsafe work in Accra's informal waste management value chain, where they are often underemployed, work in hazardous conditions, and risk criminalization. They are also disproportionately exposed to the impacts of climate change, including heat-related stress, increases in vector-borne disease, and food insecurity. Poor data collection and a lack of community engagement with the informal waste economy has hindered the Accra Metropolitan Assembly's (AMA) efforts to promote economic, financial, and social inclusion for migrant and non-migrant waste workers alike.

**To promote financial inclusion and sustainable waste management practices, AMA is helping over 200 informal migrant waste workers register for national health insurance and enroll in formal waste cooperatives.** Implemented in close partnership with People's Dialogue, a community-based organization, this dual approach provides migrant waste workers with access to healthcare and employment protection while helping fill gaps in the city's formal waste management value chain, including sorting and recycling waste. The city is also building a daycare to support migrant caregivers involved in the project so that they do not have to bring their children to hazardous dump sites. Accra's GCF project is built on a needs assessment developed by C40's inclusive planet action team as part of its Global Green New Deal pilot.

The MMC's Helen Elizabeth Yu with a member of the Cable and Wireless waste cooperative.  
Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



The Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will empower us to better understand the experiences of Accra's migrant communities, especially those in the informal economy displaced by the climate crisis, and mold our services and programs around their needs while making our city more ecologically sustainable."

Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey, Mayor of Accra

## Expected Impact

**60 percent of informal waste sector workers** identified in baseline study are registered as organized cooperatives.

**35 migrant-owned informal sector businesses** benefit from business and advisory services.

**Over 200 clients enrolled or renewed** in the National Health Insurance Scheme.

**A new childcare center** provides children of informal waste sector workers a safe space to learn and play.

A migrant waste worker and his tricycle. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.





# Amman, Jordan

## Children's Climate Academy and Park

**Areas of intervention:** Children and caregivers, early childhood development, social cohesion, climate migration, public spaces

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** October 2023 — September 2024

An estimated 400,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Amman since the start of the Syrian conflict, more than the population of Jordan's two main Syrian refugee camps combined. Over a decade into their displacement, refugee children have had little opportunity to engage in healthy play to support their development.

To address this, the Greater Amman Municipality is creating the Amman Children's Climate Academy and Park, providing both refugee and Jordanian children with a recreational space to play and interact while teaching environmental stewardship to the city's youngest residents.

Located in the Al-Hussein Refugee Camp, a low-income area near downtown Amman, the park features climate-smart infrastructure such as permeable surfaces to reduce water runoff, green cover and shading, and vegetation to absorb rainfall. The park also includes age- and gender-responsive playspaces and will be free for all to use. With the park's construction, the city aims to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the project site by twenty percent.

Within the park, Amman is introducing its first Children's Climate Academy. The Academy will host educational activities like nature walks, gardening, and workshops on climate change for children ages zero to twelve to learn more about environmental stewardship and inclusive climate adaptation. Both the park and the Climate Academy will connect refugee children to the local community, helping them and their caregivers grow relationships with other families of different backgrounds.

Children planting in Amman. Credit: Greater Amman Municipality.



“Amman has shown remarkable compassion and embraced migrants and refugees, offering them a sanctuary of safety, hospitality, and opportunity, where social inclusion and justice are prioritized for all residents. The Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will allow us to introduce new green and climate resilient spaces where children, including refugees, can play, socialize, and learn about the environment to maintain a united community.”

Yousef Al-Shawarbeh, Mayor of Amman

## Expected Impact

**Hundreds of children and caregivers have a safe and welcoming place to play and interact.**

**200 refugee children have an increased awareness of climate issues** and appreciation for environmental stewardship.

The Al-Hussein refugee camps sees improved air quality and a **20-percent reduction in the concentration of greenhouse gases**.

Refugee children playing in Amman, where hundreds of thousands of refugees reside. Credit: UNHCR.





# Arua, Uganda

## Recycle and Green Arua

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, waste management, public spaces, economic inclusion, social cohesion, renewable energy

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** October 2022 — April 2024

The large-scale arrival of refugees in Arua has placed pressure on already scarce natural and economic resources in the city. Population growth across the city has contributed to increases in the generation of solid waste, particularly plastics whose production increases greenhouse gasses and contributes to deforestation.

**Recycle and Green Arua introduces recycling to the city's residents while creating employment opportunities for migrants and refugees.** The city hired eight migrants and refugees to lead environmental clubs at schools, where over 1,500 students have planted trees across 40 schools and public institutions.

The city is also establishing Uganda's first municipally run recycling plant. The city is distributing plastic waste receptacles while migrants and refugees have mobilized to form plastic collection teams to transport plastic from households to local collection centers. The central recycling plant shares a space with ongoing composting operations and will be powered through new solar panels, purchased with GCF funding.

The city is also conducting environmental awareness campaigns to encourage residents to use the plastic waste receptacles and take care of the tree seedlings. These efforts will improve social cohesion, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability in the city.

Children participating in Arua's environmental clubs. Credit: Arua City.



"This support will unlock our city's potential to accelerate the establishment of the first recycling center managed by a city government in Uganda. This will address the plastic menace in Arua City and neighboring urban centers, as well as strengthen our efforts to safeguard the welfare of our migrant and displaced residents who play a valuable role in sustaining our economy."

Sam Wadri Nyakua, Mayor of Arua City

## Expected Impact

**Arua establishes Uganda's first city-led recycling plant,** powered by solar energy and serving at least ten percent of Arua's households.

**Arua employs migrants, refugees, and receiving community members** in the city's most ambitious environmental stewardship campaign to date.

**Over 1,500 youth plant indigenous and climate-adapted trees at 40 public institutions** across the city.

Children of Arua's environmental clubs. Credit: Arua City.





Dignified and voluntary relocation in practice:

# Learning from Beira



Children in Praia Nova after a storm. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

## Beira, Mozambique

Praia Resilience Project

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, economic inclusion, health, disaster risk reduction, housing

**Status:** Graduate

**Timeframe:** October 2022 - February 2024



"Thanks to the support of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, Beira will complete long overdue repairs to the Praia Nova market, which has been ravaged by the sea and intense storms due to climate change. We will ultimately work with the displaced communities in our city to ensure their relocation to safer land."

Albano Carige, Mayor of Beira



# Overview

Beira, Mozambique, is piloting the voluntary and dignified relocation of 30 families impacted by storms and rising sea levels while refurbishing damaged city assets as both temporary shelters and a hub for disaster risk preparedness, responses, and livelihood support.

The Praia Nova local disaster management committee. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



# Context

Africa's coastal regions are anticipated to experience the highest rates of population growth in the world driven by the economic significance of the blue economy, comprising ports, fisheries, tourism, and other economic draws. By 2030, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies estimates that as many as 116 million people in Africa will live in low elevation coastal zones. This figure is projected to double by 2060.<sup>17</sup> Without proper climate adaptation, this means that more people than ever before will live in high-risk areas. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts as high as USD 86.5 billion of damage due to sea level rise and extreme sea level events in 12 major African coastal cities by 2050 under medium/high emissions scenarios.<sup>18</sup> People living in these coastal areas are already facing climate-induced risks that threaten their lives and livelihoods, making relocation a necessity for many coastal communities.

Mozambique's coastal communities have long faced natural hazards, and extreme weather events have become more frequent and intense in recent years. A low-lying secondary city located on the country's central coast, Beira is not only highly exposed to the risks of tropical cyclones, storm surge, coastal erosion, and sea level rise, it is also home to many internally displaced people (IDPs) who have fled conflict in the country's North in search of safety and economic opportunities.

Over 100,000 people, most of them new arrivals to Beira, live in Praia Nova, a low-income informal neighborhood precariously constructed on a sandbank in the Bay of Sofala. Following tropical cyclones Idai, Chalane, and Eloise from 2019-2021, residents of Praia Nova have repeatedly been forced to flee their homes and rebuild once the stormwater has subsided. Even under less extreme rainfall, residents report having to sit on their tin-roofed dwellings to keep them from being swept up by the tide and to avoid contracting water-borne diseases. Extreme weather has also damaged local infrastructure and public spaces, including the once thriving 20 de Agosto Fish Market.

With a growing population and insecure job opportunities, Praia Nova also faces a dearth of basic service provisions such as fresh drinking water, sanitation, and drainage networks. In a September 2021 survey of a sample of Praia Nova residents conducted by the Mixed Migration Centre, nine out of ten said they were considering moving or had plans to move from their homes. However, the vast majority lacked the resources to do so.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Rising Sea Levels Besieging Africa's Booming Coastal Cities. Africa Center for Strategic Studies. November 2022. Available: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/rising-sea-levels-besieging-africas-booming-coastal-cities>. Accessed October 31, 2023.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Climate and mobility case study: Beira Mozambique: Praia Nova. Mixed Migration Centre. January 2023. Available: [https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/259\\_Case\\_Study\\_3\\_Mozambique.pdf](https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/259_Case_Study_3_Mozambique.pdf). Accessed October 31, 2023.



# Solution

The Praia Resilience Project takes a multi-pronged approach to serving families at risk, maximizing sustainable impact for both the most vulnerable and the wider community. The city is repairing and refurbishing the 20 de Agosto Market in Praia Nova while supporting the voluntary and dignified relocation of families to a less at-risk part of Beira, Muave. The fish market, once a key economic asset used by 100 vendors, was badly damaged and made inoperable by multiple coastal storms.

“After the market was damaged, people were selling out under the sun,” says Arcacédio Chihanhe, architect and coordinator of the Praia Resilience Project. “We can see the people of Praia Nova are very excited and happy about the project, especially fishermen, as their products will be preserved and sold in better conditions.”

In addition to providing a reconstructed space for vendors, the 20 de Agosto Market is now serving as a multipurpose hub for disaster preparedness and response. It includes emergency shelter for residents with impaired mobility and acts as the base of operations for Beira's local Committee for the Management and Reduction of Risks of Disasters in Praia Nova, Praia Nova's first line of defense against extreme weather events. As part of the city's GCF project, the city is training the committee through evacuation simulation exercises and providing equipment to alert Praia Nova residents to impending storms.

The city is also facilitating the dignified and voluntary relocation of 30 households from Praia Nova's highest flood risk area to Muave, a planned extension zone in Beira Municipal Council's Urban Structure Plan which is less prone to storm surge and flooding. The city intends Muave to house over 1,000 new families in the years to come, starting with the first 30 supported by the GCF.

To support their long-term inclusion, the Beira Municipal Council is providing relocated families with housing and a plot of land to grow food. The city is also in the process of finalizing infrastructure and service provisions, including bore holes for water, roads, electricity, and a cold storage system to reduce the distance people must travel in order to preserve and prepare fish for the market. The city is prioritizing sustainable construction practices, such as reusing stones and sand from coastal protection activities for housing.

“These families have wanted to leave for a long time as they know the hazards, but they couldn't do it on their own,” says Arcacédio. “We would like to serve more families in this way, but it's better to do this for less people with greater impact and good resettlement. The current residents in Muave are also very excited - especially about the new cold storage system. The project brings good for all people living there.”

The Praia Resilience Project relies on consultation with community groups, including local leaders, women's groups, religious leaders and the Praia Nova Fishermen's Association. At the outset, the city council held a community information session to inform Praia Nova residents about the project. Local leaders, including women and youth, then formed sub-committees to guide each activity, going door-to-door to ensure that families interested in relocating were aware of their rights and that the broader community was familiar with the Committee for the Management and Reduction of Risks of Disasters in Praia Nova.



## Legacy

The Praia Resilience Project is Beira Municipal Council's first step in the broader voluntary and dignified relocation of all Praia Nova families to safer locations in the city. In its Master Plan for 2015—2035, the council presents Praia Nova as one of the areas most impacted by extreme weather events. The city is currently seeking further funding to relocate more families based on the model established for the first 30 families through the GCF grant and is in active conversations with multilateral development banks to substantially invest in Muave.

“The project is particularly interesting for the mayor as the municipality has been trying to relocate people from Praia Nova for some time, but they weren’t able to due to a lack of funds,” says Arcacédio. “Mayor Carige wants to support the people of Beira. He loves his people and doesn’t want to lose anyone - natural disasters in Praia Nova can result in the loss of lives. We all want them in a safer place. It’s been his objective, even before the project, and he’s very engaged in supporting every aspect of it.”

## Impact

**Repair of key infrastructure damaged in past storms**, providing renovated space for vendors, a base of operations for the neighborhood’s Disaster Management Committee, and emergency shelter for people with mobility impairments

**Capacity building for Praia Nova's local Disaster Management Committee**, improving their readiness to prepare for and respond to extreme weather events and help community members adapt to climate change

**30 families, an estimated 150 people, voluntarily relocated to safe and permanent housing** in Muave, setting the stage for a resilient and sustainable future for 1,000 families in the years ahead.

Praia Nova is an informal coastal community that is prone to storm surge and flooding.  
Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.





# Casablanca, Morocco

## Souk of African Solidarity

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, economic inclusion, social cohesion, public spaces, renewable energy

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** April 2023 — June 2024

Morocco is both a destination and transit country for migrants from across sub-Saharan Africa. More than 100,000 migrants live in the country, many of them undocumented. Migrant communities in Morocco, especially Black migrants, face discrimination and often struggle to access the formal economy and essential services.

**The City of Casablanca is renovating its Souk (Market) of African Solidarity to provide a safe and welcoming environment for sub-Saharan migrant entrepreneurs, attract more customers, and introduce green technologies.** The existing Souk of African Solidarity is both a lifeline and public health risk for sub-Saharan migrants in Casablanca. Its state of disrepair is slowing sales for migrant-run shop owners and putting them at risk of disease and further economic marginalization. The souk's renovation serves as an opportunity for the city to both introduce new green technologies to a public marketplace and invest in their migrant business community. The renovation includes solar-powered public lighting, rainwater harvesting, composting facilities, and upgraded sanitation. By engaging migrant communities in the renovation, the city expects to improve working, health, and safety conditions for migrant traders, reduce the souk's impact on the environment, elevate its cultural and architectural heritage, and increase its appeal to tourists. The city is using the souk as an example of Casablanca's dedication to a more inclusive and sustainable future, promoting it as an example of good practice in a public awareness campaign celebrating environmental stewardship and social cohesion.

Current and opposite page: The current state of the Souk of African Solidarity. Credit: City of Casablanca.



“While climate-related migration is among the factors driving Casablanca’s population growth, we must ensure the socio-economic inclusion and financial self-sufficiency of our migrant and refugee neighbors while transitioning to a greener economy. The support of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will bring our vibrant street market culture into the 21st century. This market will provide the space and resources for African migrants and refugees to contribute to a greener and more inclusive local economy.”

Nabila Rmili, Mayor of Casablanca

## Expected Impact

The City of Casablanca **responsibly manages natural resources and reduces its carbon footprint.**

**40 sub-Saharan business owners benefit from healthy, safe, and sustainable working conditions** while increasing their profits.

**Improved social cohesion between African migrants and Moroccan communities.**





# Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Enhancing Urban Migrant Resilience through Sustainable Waste Management

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, waste management, economic inclusion, social cohesion

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** February 2023 — January 2024

**Implementing partner:** E-LICO

As planning and infrastructure fail to keep pace with rapid urbanization in Dar es Salaam, hundreds of thousands of people have resorted to living in informal and unplanned settlements. These settlements contribute to the depletion of natural resources like water and wood and create major waste management and environmental challenges. Most of Dar es Salaam's thousands of displaced people call these settlements home and must cope with these challenges while also facing barriers to employment given Tanzania's encampment policy.

**The Dar es Salaam City Council is unlocking circular economy opportunities within the city's waste management value chain and connecting migrants and refugees to green and equitable entrepreneurship and employment.** The city is training 200 migrants and refugees to collect and sort waste to be sold to five waste processing cooperatives (also supported by the project), three pre-existing waste processing companies, and 35 horticultural farmers (also supported by the project), creating linkages between all groups. Project clients may also purchase and resell the waste once processed into reusable or recyclable material, like compost or animal feed. To ensure the environmental sustainability of these new market connections, the city is introducing electric three-wheelers to support waste transportation.

Through a combination of education, incentives, technology, and community engagement, the city is also encouraging residents of selected wards to adopt more environmental purchasing and disposal habits. The project serves as a model for municipal solid waste management that engages climate migrants and refugees to create a better future for their communities. Dar es Salaam's project is a part of the city's C40 Climate Action Plan, demonstrating how politically validated climate action can create space for more migration-specific work.

"Dar es Salaam welcomes 100,000 people every day, largely due to the climate crisis. It is critical we address unplanned growth and the unsustainable use of our city's natural resources. The Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will help us respond inclusively and equitably by creating more employment and entrepreneurship opportunities across the waste management sector for migrants, refugees, and marginalized Tanzanians."

Omary S. Kumbilamoto, Mayor of Dar es Salaam

## Expected Impact

**Over 200 migrants and refugees** access green and equitable jobs.

**Low-income informal communities have improved public health** thanks to more effective waste management practices.

**The Dar es Salaam City Council builds new connections between actors in the waste value chain** to stimulate the local economy and make it more inclusive of migrants and refugees.

Dar es Salaam's "Wastepreneurs." Credit: E-LICO.





Building inclusivity by providing homes:

# Learning from Dunaivtsi



IDP children in Dunaivtsi. Credit: Dunaivtsi City Council.

## Dunaivtsi, Ukraine:

A Home Away from Harm

**Areas of intervention:** Children and caregivers, early childhood development, social cohesion, housing

**Status:** Active Grantee

**Timeframe:** September 2023 - August 2024



“Since the beginning of the war, Dunaivtsi has received over 10,000 people coming from different regions of Ukraine. The Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will help us improve the lives of children and families displaced today, while building our capacity to address future needs once the war is over.”

Velina Zaiats, Mayor of Dunaivtsi



## Overview

Dunaivtsi is repurposing an abandoned hospital to create a family center that will provide dignified housing to 30 internally displaced families with children. In addition to fulfilling essential shelter needs, the center will provide internally displaced children and their caregivers psychological counselling and access to social services to support their well-being, inclusion, and healthy development.

Credit: Dunaivtsi City Council.



## Context

Over five million people are internally displaced in Ukraine, the majority due to Russian's invasion of the country in early 2022.<sup>20</sup> Humanitarian needs are high across Ukraine, particularly in areas close to the front line and occupied by Russia.<sup>21</sup> Accommodating displaced families with children poses a particularly pressing issue; UNICEF reports that 2.5 million children are internally displaced in the country.<sup>22</sup> Children have also been severely impacted by the conflict across the board, with many having lost parents, suffering from post-traumatic distress and experiencing disruptions in their schooling.

In Western Ukraine's Khmelnytskyi Oblast, the town of Dunaivtsi — home to 15,000 residents — has received over 10,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) since February 2022. The war has also impacted the city's financial resources, with disruption of local businesses, the requirement for all able-bodied civilians to enlist in the fighting, and the additional costs associated with the needs of returned army personnel. Despite these challenges, the Dunaivtsi City Council has made a concerted effort to welcome and provide for the needs of all IDP families in the city. The council supports accommodation for IDPs both through the private sector and on public property. However, it has been a struggle for the small city to meet almost double the accommodation needs compared to pre-war times. When Dunaivtsi was selected as a GCF grantee, over 500 children were among the community of IDPs still in need of proper housing.

<sup>20</sup> Ukraine Emergency Factsheet. United Nations Refugee Agency. October 2023. Available: <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/ukraine/>. Accessed October 31, 2023.

<sup>21</sup> Ukraine: Humanitarian Response Plan. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. February 2023. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-response-plan-february-2023-enuk>. Accessed October 31, 2023.

<sup>22</sup> Two million refugee children flee war in Ukraine in search of safety across borders. UNICEF. March 2022. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/two-million-refugee-children-flee-war-ukraine-search-safety-across-borders>. Accessed October 31, 2023.



# Solution

Dunaivtsi City Council, in partnership with Khmelnytskyi Oblast Military Administration and Khmelnytskyi Regional Development Agency, is repurposing an abandoned hospital to provide housing and social services to internally displaced children and families. The hospital is one of 14 communally owned properties identified by the Council and approved for use in temporarily housing IDPs. It is located in Mynkivtsi Village in the Dunaivtsi territory and is near a school, kindergarten and health clinic. While some displaced families are already living on the first floor of the hospital, the building requires major repairs, renovations and the installation of heating in order to open up other parts for housing.

“The people who have come here, the IDPs, have been living here for more than one year. We can notice they have already made friendships with the local population, with the residents, and they don’t want to leave this place anymore. They have good communication with locals, and we may say they have become our community, and they just need their living conditions to be improved.”

## Dunaivtsi City Council

The space will also operate as a family center, offering psychological services, family trainings, visits to the mobile museum and science lab for children, trips to central Dunaivtsi to participate in after-school music, crafts and sports clubs, and educational excursions to Kamianets-Podilskyi and Khmelnytskyi. These activities are specifically designed to support inclusion in the community and for displaced children to learn more about the region. Moreover, a Mobile Administrative Services Center will make stops at the center to assist with registration documents and other legal services.

**"On the issue of children, we have organized several excursions and explored the possibility of using the youth center," says Mykola Helyardovych Ostrovsky, Head of the Department of Social Protection and Labor. "Our goal is integration between children from Dunaivtsi and the internally displaced children. We hope that the IDP children can attend school next year."**

## Dunaivtsi City Council

In addition to employment support, caregivers in the renovated housing will receive a small plot of land and seeds to start farming activities and are invited to join the city’s Agricultural Service Cooperative. Dunaivtsi’s GCF project has been designed and will be developed in collaboration with IDPs already living in the facility, who will continue to advise on the construction work and the inclusion activities. Qualified residents will also be offered paid work once renovations get going.

The large, abandoned hospital site was chosen as a multipurpose space that allows for a flexible design appropriate for evolving needs and rapidly shifting dynamics in the war, also encompassing a longer-term view for its use. Housing at the center is being provided as an entry point for the provision of holistic services to displaced children and their families, in collaboration with relevant municipal institutions. This includes a focus on social inclusion, education, psycho-social support, employment, mobile administration services, food security, and education.

**“People who were forced to leave their homes due to the war and have found shelter in the Dunaivtsi community will be able not only to get decent living conditions, but also to psychologically comfortably integrate into the life of the community. Great attention is paid to the educational needs of children who will be able to access education and social adaptation services.”**

## Dunaivtsi City Council



## Legacy

Dunaivtsi strategically identified the abandoned hospital campus with multiple available buildings so that the renovation work could be phased to accommodate additional IDP families should demand increase. If families choose to return to the places they fled after the conflict is over, the restored apartments could be converted into social housing units, a children's camp or a rehabilitation center for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. In addition to funds from the GCF, other local and international organizations have committed to specific parts of the renovation, such as the international charitable foundation, Friends' Hands, which is supporting the creation of a playroom and outdoor playground.

Children visiting their new housing. Credit: Dunaivtsi City Council.



## Impact

**30 IDP families provided shelter for as long as they need it,** helping them regain a sense of hope and agency

**Displaced children have access to educational and recreational services that improve their social and emotional development.**

Families have access to psycho-social counseling, employment support, mobile administration services, help with school enrollment, and food security.

“We recognized and understood that repurposing the former hospital into a family center requires non-standard and thoughtful solutions. Therefore, the design of the family center required the participation of qualified specialists. In the course of the project, cooperation between partners and beneficiaries has been growing continuously.”

Dunaivtsi City Council



# EThekweni, South Africa

## Karibu Community Care Center

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, economic inclusion, housing, food security, public spaces, localizing knowledge

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** February 2023 — January 2024

**Implementing partner:** City People eThekweni

Many migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have moved to eThekweni due to climate impacts remain undocumented, which inhibits their access to housing and other essential services. Throughout the city, it is estimated that there are almost 600 informal settlements and 12,000 people who are unhoused. Climate-related natural disasters in eThekweni, including a 2022 flood that displaced over 40,000 people and killed hundreds, have highlighted the urgent need to provide for undocumented migrant and refugee communities who are out of reach of public services.

**The eThekweni Municipality created the Karibu Community Care Center to connect migrants, refugees, and IDPs to the city's social services.** The center provides a holistic suite of care services under one roof, including legal support, documentation and housing assistance, psychosocial support, a food bank, broadband connectivity, and showers. The center also helps migrants, refugees, and IDPs find sustainable livelihoods by offering job readiness training and employment opportunities at the center's permaculture garden, integrated waste management facility, and kitchen space.

Accompanying the center is the Karibu Care Portal, an online self-registration platform where otherwise undocumented residents can share their information with the eThekweni Municipality and access information on social services, including shelters. The portal also acts as a disaster warning and recovery platform, helping the city alert registrants of imminent climate events and account for their safety in the aftermath. The city is aiming to connect migrants to skills training opportunities and potential employers through the portal.

An urban farm within an IDP settlement in eThekweni. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



“Recent floods in eThekweni have highlighted the need to provide for our migrant and refugee residents who remain undocumented and out of our reach. It is an issue that drives homelessness and erodes these communities’ connection to basic services like healthcare and emergency response. Financial resources from the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will be critical to launching our self-registration platform, which will give identification to eThekweni’s most vulnerable, help our city better understand the needs of our displaced populations, and ensure essential public services are readily accessible by all, especially in the aftermath of future climate shocks.”

Mxolisi Kaunda, Mayor of eThekweni

## Expected Impact

**500 people register their presence within eThekweni,** unlocking their visibility and access to social services.

**50 people** participate in sustainable employment activities, including recycling.

**At least 20 families and 100 people** have consistent access to basic services.

**eThekweni Municipality has established a permanent physical and online platform to address the needs of migrants, refugees, and IDPs** and has improved its overall acceptance of new arrivals and inclusive climate disaster response.



# Guayaquil, Ecuador

## Ciudadanos Integrados Guayaquil

**Areas of intervention:** Children and caregivers, early childhood development, economic inclusion, public spaces, legal pathways, health

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** October 2023 — September 2024

**Implementing partner:** COOPI

New arrivals in Guayaquil, including a high percentage of Venezuelan migrants and asylum seekers, face multiple barriers to building a new life in the city and accessing services to meet their basic needs. One such barrier is a gap in public and non-governmental service provision focused on the unique protection needs of migrants and refugee children and caregivers, particularly families who have recently arrived in Guayaquil.

Ciudadanos Integrados Guayaquil provides comprehensive and coordinated care to newly arrived migrant children, adolescents, and caregivers. In partnership with COOPI, an international NGO, **Guayaquil's project refurbishes a physical space in the Guayaquil Terrestrial Terminal — a public transit station that is the first point of arrival for many migrants — as a care center where clients can access information and referrals to essential services.** Families who arrive at the center are greeted by a specialized, multidisciplinary team capable of delivering services such as psychosocial care, legal advice for caregivers, spaces for unaccompanied or separated children, childcare and breastfeeding facilities, and services for survivors of gender-based violence. The project brings together twenty local and international humanitarian organizations under the leadership of the city government.

The bus terminal where Guayaquil's care center is located. Credit: City of Guayaquil.



“Migrants, refugees, and Ecuadorian returnees arriving in Guayaquil will benefit immensely from the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, which will make it possible to open a new Municipal Center for Citizen Integration in the city's Bus Terminal to provide key services for those who need them the most.”

Aquiles Álvarez, Mayor of Guayaquil

## Expected Impact

**The Municipality of Guayaquil leads the coordinated protection and inclusion of migrants, refugees, and IDP families.**

**The Center serves at least 960 people** in its first year.

**20 organizations provide direct humanitarian assistance** through the Integrated Municipal Center.

Credit: alejomiranda.





# Hargeisa, Somaliland

## Daami's Dignified Relocation

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, public spaces, economic inclusion

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** February 2023 — January 2024

IDPs in the Daami B camp in Hargeisa Municipality live under the constant threat of the Daami Dam flooding during rainy seasons. Several children have drowned due to the flooding and many households are exposed to risks that endanger their informal housing and livelihoods.

**Hargeisa Municipality has voluntarily resettled 140 of the most vulnerable households Daami to safer areas of the city.** The city moved families 100 families to Abdi-bidar Village and 40 to Nasa-hablood, giving each family a certificate of land ownership and financial support to build resilient livelihoods. At these new sites, families benefit from increased safety, security of land tenure, and eight months of direct cash assistance. Hargeisa Municipality is also helping launch twenty small businesses in Abdi-bidar Village, providing heads of households with business training and USD 1,000 in start-up grants. The municipality is also providing 25 youths with water tank tricycles and delivery motorcycles to help them generate income.

Homes are reconstructed after dignified and voluntary relocation from Daami B camp. Credit: Hargeisa Municipality.



“We feel the impacts of the climate crisis daily in Hargeisa. In communities near urban dams, torrential rains have resulted in dangerous floods that sweep away homes and upend livelihoods in an instant. Our municipality is focused on providing relocation and financial support to protect our city's most vulnerable families living in high-risk zones, including internally displaced Somalis seeking safety in Hargeisa. This wouldn't be possible without the assistance of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.”

Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge, Mayor of Hargeisa Municipality

## Expected Impact

**140 at-risk households** voluntarily resettle and are granted land ownership in safer areas of Hargeisa.

**20 heads of households start new businesses.**

100 families will be provided land ownership certificates in their new neighborhood. Credit: Hargeisa Municipality.





# Johannesburg, South Africa

## Grow Joburg

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, economic inclusion, social cohesion, housing, food security

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** October 2022 — April 2024

Migrants, refugees, and IDPs living in situations of homelessness in Johannesburg have limited access to livelihood opportunities, which severely impacts their food security, health, and wellbeing. These challenges will only become more acute as Joburg welcomes 1.3M more migrants by 2050 — with many new arrivals displaced due to climate change in southern Africa — further exacerbating food security and housing availability in the years ahead.

Working in partnership with migrant-led organizations, **the City of Johannesburg is rehabilitating shelters to better accommodate a growing number of migrants and internally displaced people arriving in Johannesburg in search of a better life.** The city is also training migrants living in shelters in climate-smart urban farming, including aquaponics and rooftop gardening, as well as in business skills. In addition, the Grow Joburg project is partnering with migrant-led organizations to provide their clients with farmable land where they can grow and sell produce. These agricultural micro-businesses not only generate income for project clients and increase food security, but they also bring migrants and receiving community members together and enhance social cohesion. In turn, the city learns from the local agricultural expertise migrants bring, such as organic farming and the propagation of indigenous vegetables.

An urban garden on the roof of an IDP shelter in Johannesburg. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.



## Expected Impact

**Over 200 migrants, IDPs, and refugees have improved and equitable access** to productive land and improved urban agricultural skills.

**20 new agriculture plots** are accessible to migrants, refugees, and IDPs.

**500 people gain access to safe temporary housing** in free, city-run shelters within the project's first year.

A migrant with access to one of Johannesburg's urban farms. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.





# Milan, Italy

## First Steps in Milan

**Areas of intervention:** Children and caregivers, early childhood development, social cohesion, economic inclusion, localizing knowledge

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** October 2023 — September 2024

Around twenty percent of Milan's residents are foreign-born and many of the city's migrant community meet administrative obstacles to accessing local services essential to their wellbeing. This has particularly detrimental impacts on migrant children and their caregivers. Inadequate documentation, for example, can keep children out of education, which delays their long-term development and hinders their socioeconomic inclusion.

First Steps in Milan delivers education and orientation services for families with children aged zero to six, particularly families who have recently been reunified or granted asylum in Italy. Through the project, these families have access to a team of education, psycho-pedagogical, and neuropsychiatric experts responsible for delivering personalized educational plans for children and support their enrollment into existing educational services, including Milan's school system. Children who participate in First Steps in Milan also have access to creative workshops and group visits to local playgrounds. While children receive early childhood and education services, the project provides caregivers time and resources to complete job readiness, job placement, and Italian language courses.

In implementing First Steps in Milan, the Comune di Milano is building its capacity to deliver early childhood development services to migrant families. The city is training its education and social affairs service providers to better assess the needs of and carry out activities with displaced communities; enhancing cooperation between the Welfare, Health, and Education Departments of Milan; and promoting the long-term socioeconomic inclusion of migrant and displaced families by taking a two-generational approach focused on both children and caregivers.

Credit: City of Milan.



“In our city, over 20 percent of the population is foreign residents, more than twice the national average. With the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, Milan aims to further improve the provision of services dedicated to early childhood. This project will demonstrate the ability of cities to address human mobility through a long term and inclusive approach in line with the Global Compacts.”

Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan

## Expected Impact

**100 newly reunited refugee and migrant children** in vulnerable conditions have access to quality educational services and childcare.

**Caregivers undertake job readiness training and Italian language courses** to support their employment.

**The Comune di Milano builds its capacity to assess needs and deliver early childhood development services** to migrant and displaced families.

**Asylee families achieve socioeconomic inclusion in Milan** through the education of their children.

The MMC meeting staff at one of Milan's childcare centers. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.





# Montevideo, Uruguay

Resound

**Areas of intervention:** City-led pathways to inclusion, Children and caregivers, early childhood development, economic inclusion, health, food security

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** October 2023 — September 2024

The number of refugees and asylum seekers entering Uruguay has tripled in recent years, with thousands of people seeking safety and opportunity for themselves and their children in the capital city of Montevideo.

Recognizing the importance of prioritizing children's needs and how their wellbeing is linked with that of their caregivers, **the City of Montevideo created its first ever early childhood care center for migrant and displaced families.**

Taking a two-generational approach, the center focuses on providing female caregivers with legal, medical, and employment support while offering their young children access to food, recreational activities, and a safe space to play and learn. The center's model gives mothers and children greater access to their rights while also supporting children's development and families' overall wellbeing. The city expects to help over forty migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women find stable employment in the project's first year. The center's care team will also work with caregivers to enroll their children into Montevideo's public school system, ensuring children's education continues once they age out of daycare.

Migrant children in Montevideo: Credit: City of Montevideo.



“The City of Montevideo is thrilled to be a grantee of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees. This funding will help us create our city's first ever early childhood aid and care center for migrant and displaced families, which will offer social support for marginalized migrant women and children.”

Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo

## Expected Impact

**80 migrant caregivers receive legal, medical, and employment support.**

**40 migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women find employment within the project's first year.**

The Center provides **30 boys and girls between 0-4 years of age** free meals and recreational and learning activities while their caregivers access support services.

**Children who come of age enroll in public and private schools,** ensuring educational continuity and healthy development.

Credit: City of Montevideo.





# Nairobi, Kenya

The City of Choice

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, public spaces, economic inclusion, social cohesion, waste management,

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** February 2023 — January 2024

**Implementing partner:** Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations

While an increasing number of Kenyans and refugees are migrating to Nairobi to escape the impacts of climate change, many find themselves facing renewed climate vulnerability in the city's informal settlements like Kibera — home to hundreds of thousands of marginalized residents.

**To both strengthen its green economy and provide economic opportunity for migrants and refugees in the city, the Nairobi City County Government is opening the first CHOICE Innovation Center, a one-stop shop for youth employment and entrepreneurship.** Located in Nairobi's Central Business District and supported by both international actors and refugee-led organizations, the CHOICE Innovation center is set to train over 100 youth on green job readiness and incubate ten green start-ups in its first few months. These businesses will clean the Nairobi River, introduce environmentally friendly manufacturing, and raise awareness around climate mitigative behavior through youth friendly platforms, such as social media, radio, and television.

To ensure Nairobi's efforts to support its refugee communities are sustained, the governor appointed the city's first ever Chief Officer for Social Services and Refugee Affairs. The Chief Officer is mandated to improve the county's socioeconomic programming for displaced communities and coordinate international and local humanitarian actors in support of city actions, including the CHOICE Innovation Center.

Nairobi's youth participate in river regeneration. Credit: Safer Nairobi Initiative.



“As one of the economic capitals of Africa, the climate crisis has brought new challenges to the residents of Nairobi, especially our most vulnerable residents, including migrant and displaced communities. But our government is stepping up, backed by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, to improve the livelihoods of our residents through inclusive access to business development and civic activism opportunities that will create green jobs, clean our waterways, and give all the opportunity to enjoy Nairobi's economic growth.”

Arthur Johnson Sakaja, Governor of Nairobi City County Government

## Expected Impact

**10 new green startups** incubated in the city's first CHOICE Innovation Center

**Over 100 young migrants, refugees, and IDPs** trained in green job readiness

**The Nairobi City County Government institutionalizes its support of urban refugees** through the appointment of the city's first ever Chief Officer for Social Services and Refugee Affairs and including refugees in city-wide policies.

A training on green entrepreneurship in Nairobi. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.





# Nyamagabe District, Rwanda

Building Communities' Resilience to Climate Variability

**Areas of intervention:** Climate migration, public spaces, economic inclusion, social cohesion, waste management, localizing knowledge

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** February 2023 — January 2024

**Implementing partner:** UNHCR Rwanda

The lives and livelihoods of people living in Nyamagabe and the nearby Kigeme refugee camp are severely impacted by floods, landslides, and droughts.

**With a view to building community resilience and adaptive capacity, Nyamagabe District, in collaboration with UNHCR Rwanda, is terracing hillsides prone to landslides into viable agricultural areas, converting waste from the district and the camp into renewable energy, and providing basic infrastructure and utilities for additional residential plots.**

The project has employed 480 people from both receiving and refugee communities in terracing and plot-servicing work, waste sorting, and briquette making. These green livelihood opportunities, combined with training on climate-smart agricultural practices, improve the living conditions of Nyamagabe's displaced and Rwandan residents alike. The project also strengthens food security, expands housing options, and reduces exposure to natural hazards.

To amplify impacts, Nyamagabe is conducting awareness campaigns on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, such as energy-saving and recycling, to support further long-term adaptation at the household level. The project also creates opportunities for positive interaction between refugees and receiving communities, increasing social cohesion overall. The project serves as a rare example of how camps and towns can support one another towards a green transition.

Refugees and receiving community members are employed to built terraces. Credit: Nyamagabe District.



“African cities may be disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis, but we’re also the ones showing the world how to develop innovative, inclusive solutions that make cities more sustainable — environmentally, economically, and socially. The helping hand of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will create jobs for our displaced neighbors, convert waste into greener energy sources, and build vital kinship between Nyamagabe’s refugee camp and its wider community.”

Hildebrand Niyomwungeri, Mayor of Nyamagabe District

## Expected Impact

**480 people employed in new green jobs**

**Over 100 acres of land protected** from soil erosion through hillside terracing

**Over 300 people trained** in climate adaptation and mitigation practices, including climate-smart agriculture

**250 people in refugee and receiving communities trained** in sorting biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste

**Refugees and receiving community members collaborate to build an inclusive, sustainable future**

Plot servicing work will provide more available housing for Nyamagabe District's refugees who choose to live outside of camps. Credit: Nyamagabe District.





# Ramallah, Palestine

## Durable Qaddura

**Areas of intervention:** Children and caregivers, early childhood development, climate migration, waste management, public spaces, economic inclusion, social cohesion

**Status:** Active grantee

**Timeframe:** October 2023 — September 2024

Qaddura Refugee Camp, woven into the fabric of Ramallah and managed independently by the city and the camp committee, is home to nearly 2,000 refugees. The camp lacks effective solid waste management, which poses environmental and public health risks, and has limited green and recreational spaces to support healthy play and development among children.

**Through Durable Qaddura, the Ramallah Municipality is rehabilitating Qaddura’s existing run-down park to promote healthy play and development for refugee children.**

Supported by Urban95, an initiative of the Bernard van Leer Foundation that helps cities design child- and caregiver-friendly built environments, the new park provides children the opportunity to practice and hone key skills — socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically. Despite its poor current conditions, the park receives over 1,000 visitors a day.

**Ramallah is also overhauling Qaddura Camp’s outdated and unreliable solid waste management system.** The municipality is replacing the camp’s waste collection vehicle and installing hundreds of new garbage and recycling bins. This overhaul includes an awareness campaign to teach children living in the camp about environmental stewardship and proper waste disposal.

Ramallah has involved camp residents at every stage of the project’s design and implementation process, ensuring community engagement with and stewardship of these public services.

The park in Ramallah's Qaddura refugee camp. Credit: Ramallah Municipality.



“Thanks to the support of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, the City of Ramallah will improve Qaddura Refugee Camp’s solid waste systems, rehabilitate the poorly developed recreational park, and promote awareness-building campaigns to develop the next generation of environmental stewards. This project will protect the public health of all living in the camp, especially our youngest new residents and future leaders: children.”

Issa Kassis, Mayor of Ramallah

## Expected Impact

**Thousands of refugee children and their caregivers have a safe and accessible space to grow, play, and interact.**

**Qaddura Refugee Camp residents have improved environmental health conditions** through improved solid waste practices.

**Ramallah Municipality improves its accountability to refugee children and caregivers.**

Waste management in Qaddura refugee camp. Credit: Ramallah Municipality.







## How to Get Involved

The ultimate vision for the GCF is to demonstrate that cities can — and should — have direct access to financial resources to meet the needs of their migrant and displaced communities.

To turn this vision into reality, the MMC is seeking like-minded partners interested in investing in and working with us to maximize the GCF's impact and extend its resources to as many cities and people as possible. To support the GCF or add your city's project to the pipeline, please contact [fund@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org](mailto:fund@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org).

To learn more about the MMC, sign up for our [newsletter](#).

**“To drive momentum and transformative change, we are now setting a vision for the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees to reach USD 50 million — starting with USD 25 million by 2025.”**

**Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director, Mayors Migration Council**

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“The Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees helps fill the unmet needs of migrants and displaced people and can help turn the Global Compact for Migration into reality. As the new Director General of IOM, I remain committed to continue strategic support to the Global Cities Fund.”

Amy Pope, Director General, IOM



Accra, Ghana. Credit: Samer Saliba for the MMC.

In partnership with:

