Dear M4D Net members,

We hope this email finds you well.

It is our pleasure to announce that the Third Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development successfully took place on 29-30 September in the City of Quezon, Philippines and gathered 119 Mayors, City Representatives and members of International Organisations from 26 different countries who discussed topics on migration, development and human mobility.

The Mayoral Forum is an annual gathering of mayors and city leaders serving to promote globally relevant policy dialogue, foster the exchange of experiences in governing migration, and strategize on how to work collectively. It seeks to support new and innovative approaches to urban governance in contexts of greater diversity, and to showcase city leadership in the implementation of migration policies for inclusive growth.

It is a rotating city-led Forum that is supported by the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), UNITAR, IOM, KNOMAD of the World Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation. This year, it was hosted by Quezon City in Metropolis Manila, Philippines and also supported by the Asian Development Bank and the Philippine Commission for Filipinos Overseas (CFO). To learn more about the Mayoral Forum, you can watch this commentary by Ramon Palomino Garcia, Cabinet Director, Area of Equality Governance, Social Rights and Employment of the City Council of Madrid.
The Mayoral Forum

The two-day Mayoral Forum combined a range of relevant topics and featured input by representatives of governments, civil society organisations and academia. The Forum provided room to discuss how to reach the SDGs through Local Leadership and raised the issue of diaspora inclusion, outlining existing challenges and ways in which city administrations can overcome these. The Forum also looked at the question of how to ensure inclusion of the most vulnerable migrants and displaced persons and safeguard their human rights. In order to ensure the voice of civil society was heard and their expertise able to enrich the dialogue surrounding the forum, there was also a session led by civil society that aimed to improve and strengthen the dialogue between mayors and civil society. The Forum culminated in the signing of the official outcome document of the Forum – the Commitment to Action – by all mayors and local leaders present. The document contains commitments for local authorities on how to continue advancing the rights, protection, integration and empowerment of migrants through concrete actions and initiatives, and to ensure that migration is experienced as a positive development phenomenon for all affected. For more information, an official report is currently being elaborated by all partners involved and will be made available soon. In the meantime, you can read the overall coverage kindly provided by Open Democracy available on their website. The livestream of the event can furthermore be re-viewed here.

“Building walls is not a good response to the refugee issue. Cooperation with local authorities is a better option”

- Mr. Yasser Saad, UNHCR

Group picture with all participants of the Third Global Mayoral Forum
The contribution of the JMDI

Besides the overall technical assistance and guidance provided, the JMDI published a report titled ‘Global Civil Society Consultation on Migration and Local Development: A Synthesis Report in the Context of the 3rd Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development’, which formed the basis for the session on the dialogue between mayors and civil society representatives. The report was the result of three civil society consultation processes aimed at gathering and consolidating the long-standing experience, good practices, lessons learnt and expertise of 70 civil society organizations worldwide. These consultation processes were financed by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, UNITAR, and KNOFAD of the World Bank and supported technically by IOM, UNITAR, the JMDI and civil society organisations Global Coalition on Migration and Migrant Forum Asia.

Furthermore, the JMDI led a training session on migration and development that was attended by 45 participants of the Mayoral Forum prior to the start of the Forum. Based on previous consultation with registered participants, the training looked into some of the key areas of migration management at the local level including establishing partnerships, empowering diasporas and creating economic opportunities through migration. It was delivered based on the “My JMDI Toolbox” training materials. These materials offer a flexible and comprehensive tool for local stakeholders on how to mainstream migration into local development planning in order to be able to better harness the development potential of migration. You can find these materials online in English, French, Spanish and Arabic here.

Background

The Mayoral Forum first took place in Barcelona in 2014 and produced the Barcelona “Call to Action” (2014) as a final outcome document. The document emphasizes equality of rights, duties and opportunities as core bases for a cohesive society and acknowledges the centrality of local governments on the issues of mobility, migration and development. The “Call to Action” laid the foundations to develop the Quito Local Agenda on Migration and Development (2015), the outcome document of the Second Mayoral Forum that was held in Quito, Ecuador in 2015. The Agenda brought together the voices of the Forum participants and of relevant stakeholders across the globe to outline cities’ current and potential role in the implementation of the new Sustainable

“The future of refugee movements is urban”

- Mr. Mohammed Abdiker, IOM
Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to human mobility through 11 action points for local authorities, cities and other local actors to follow. The role of local and regional authorities in managing migration for development has also been fully recognized in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants which was endorsed in the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants that took place on September 19th, 2016. Furthermore, the draft of the New Urban Agenda to be adopted in the ongoing Habitat III summit in Quito in October 2016 has considered migration and displacement as key elements to be taken into account in the management of cities in order to ensure inclusive sustainable urban development. All of this is in line with the SDGs, which fully recognize migration and displacement as a core development consideration. They call for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. With these key documents, we therefore now have a solid roadmap to move forward on managing migration for development, particularly at the local level where cities are the first responders to this phenomenon and where both the positive and negative effects of this are most strongly felt.