



Local  
Coalition  
for Migrants  
and Refugees



# Delivering Results: **Local and Regional Governments Advancing the UN Migration and Refugee Compacts**



The Coalition is co-steered by



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# Report at a glance

## Scale & Reach

- Between 2022 and 2023, 85 local governments and networks delivered over **120 pledges**, together representing **150+ million** residents.
- Most pledges serve **both migrants and refugees**, advancing the **GCM and GCR in complementarity**.
- Pledges collectively mobilized **over \$80 million** to localize the GCM and GCR.
- Pledges include the set-up of city-wide ecosystems and bring the UN **Whole-of-Government** and **Whole-of-Society** principles to life.
- **Most pledges serve both newcomers and long-time residents** and strengthen the overall sense of community.
- 22 pledges went through a '**pledge update process**', assessing results, impacts and lessons learned, forming the basis for this report.

## Impact Across Global Goals

Local governments deliver the GCM and GCR through eight connected priorities:



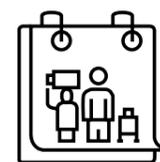
### 1 Governance & policy coherence:

LRGs formalize coordination bodies and strategies, making inclusion part of core city management (e.g., **Arua** integrates refugee priorities in their development planning).



### 2 Minimizing drivers:

LRGs work to prevent labour exploitation and include migrants and refugees in local climate adaptation efforts (e.g., **Amman** created a Children's Climate Academy and park co-designed with refugee and host communities).



### 3 Protecting those most vulnerable:

Targeted services save lives and reduce vulnerabilities (e.g., **Bogotá's** nutrition centre for migrant mothers and children achieved strong recovery outcomes).



### 4 Access to services regardless of status:

Administrative innovations unlock services (e.g., **Montréal's** policy issued 8,369 identity/residence attestations and funded projects reaching 3,200+ people with precarious status).



### 5 Socio-economic inclusion:

LRGs link access to jobs, childcare provision, and training (e.g., **Accra** organized informal waste workers into cooperatives, and **Dhankuta** improved returnee economic inclusion).



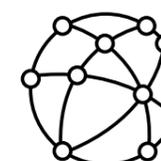
### 6 Inclusive public discourse:

Campaigns and advocacy shift narratives and practice (e.g., **Eurocities'** Integrating Cities Process builds capacity across dozens of European municipalities).



### 7 Reception & community sponsorship:

Local reception schemes provide temporary housing and information (e.g., **Medellín's** housing assistance programme supported 1,250 people, with over 75% securing permanent homes).



### 8 Regional & multilateral partnerships:

City networks and joint pledges scale local impact (e.g., **Welcoming America's** Welcoming Week, which expanded from 130 international events in 2023 to over 500 in 2025, mobilizing partners across Mexico, France, Canada, and Italy).

## Hurdles

Through their pledge update reports and interviews, LRGs mentioned four critical hurdles:

- 1 Shrinking operating space:** More restrictive national frameworks and polarized narratives limit local leadership and room to act.
- 2 Financing gaps:** Fragmented, short-term funding prevents scaling proven solutions.
- 3 National disinterest:** In some contexts, national governments are not actively reporting on their pledges, which LRGs perceive as part of a broader decline in investment in multilateral processes.
- 4 Coordination constraints:** Pledge updates show a slight increase of LRGs invited to national-level discussions, but engagement remains mostly ad-hoc rather than institutionalized.

## Recommendations

The following steps can unlock and amplify local leadership:

- 1 Systematically include LRGs in national policymaking** to benefit from local evidence and frontline experience.
- 2 Catalyze impact by investing directly in local solutions** through flexible funding mechanisms for LRGs, enabling them to sustain and scale what already works.
- 3 Strengthen the link between local action and global commitments** by integrating localized indicators and perspectives into national reporting and pledges to the IMRF and GRF.
- 4 Elevate local leadership in global forums** by including LRG leaders in national delegations to the 2026 IMRF and 2027 GRF.

# Introduction

In 2018, with the adoption of the [Marrakech Mayors Declaration](#), local and regional governments (LRGs) pledged to implement the UN's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in unison, as concrete pathways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To elevate this continued political commitment, the [Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees](#), co-steered by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), launched a [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) in 2022. Acknowledged by the UN Secretary-General, the Call to Local Action offers a **concrete avenue to localize the GCM and GCR and be recognized as leaders for meeting global goals**.

Since its launch, this effort has mobilized **124 pledges from over 80 LRGs and their networks**, each one making a tangible difference to the lives of migrants and refugees. Of these 124 pledges, over 100 were delivered to the Global Refugee Forum in 2023.

This report brings forward key results and impact stories from these pledges. It draws from desktop analysis and includes direct input and feedback from a pilot group of local and regional governments, gathered through in-depth interviews and responses to a [pledge update survey](#). To date, **22 pledges (18% of all pledges)** have joined this effort, with more coming in on a rolling basis.

## Since Launching in 2022, the Call to Local Action:

- Mobilized **124 local actions from 85 LRGs and their networks, across 40 countries**, that make a tangible difference in the lives of migrants and refugees, while keeping the world on track to meet commitments set out in the GCM and GCR.
- Enabled **3 national-local pledges**, showcasing concrete commitments and partnerships between Member States and local governments, in Switzerland, Germany and Brazil.
- Provided a **platform** for more than **50 LRG leaders** to raise their priorities at key **international discussions**, including the International Migration Review Forum in 2022, the Global Refugee Forum in 2023, and the GFMD Summit in 2024 to elevate the voice, expertise, and advocacy asks to national governments and UN agencies.
- Reached more than 345 LRGs across the globe through dedicated peer learning sessions on key migration and refugee issues.
- Developed a free **Massive Online Open Course: 'Localizing the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees - Territorial Action on Human Mobility'**, so far taken by over 250 people.
- **Generated knowledge** on city action in [Call to Local Action Reports](#).
- Earned recognition from the United Nations Secretary-General in his [2022 and 2024 GCM Biennial Report](#) and identified as a **'High Impact Coalition that Accelerates the SDGs'** at the UN SDG Summit in 2023.

# 02

## Measuring Impact towards the GCM and GCR

Before assessing how local pledges contribute to the implementation of GCM and GCR, this section looks at how the UN and its Member States track and measure progress across both frameworks.





Opening of GFMD local government networking session UCLG  
Copyright: UCLG



Visit UNHCR High Commissioner to the City of San Jose, USA.  
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## The GCM

- The GCM is reviewed every four years through the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) (2022, and next in 2026).
- Between forums, progress is tracked through Regional Reviews and the biennial reports of the UN Secretary-General.
- Reporting happens voluntarily and remains largely narrative and qualitative, focusing on pledges, policies, and good practices.
- Member States mostly report on objectives they find relevant and only rarely report on progress across all GCM objectives.
- In 2024, the UN Secretary-General proposed a [‘limited set of indicators’](#) to help track progress. It provides suggested indicators that countries can adapt nationally. It will form the basis for Voluntary GCM Reviews ahead of the 2026 IMRF.
- There is no single global dataset systematically tracking all GCM indicators; data is drawn from existing global sources.
- At regional and international reviews, Member States and stakeholders are invited to pledge ‘measurable commitments to advance the GCM’.
- A group of [GCM Champion Countries](#) promotes effective GCM implementation, follow-up and review.

### How About Monitoring GCM Progress at Local Level?

While most indicators have relevance at the national level, five specifically measure progress at the local level, drawing on existing systems such as the SDGs and the local Migration Governance Indicators (MGI)<sup>1</sup>.

#### For example:

*‘Whether or not the country involves and supports local authorities in the identification of needs and opportunities for international cooperation for the effective implementation of the Global Compact’* (Optional Indicator for GCM Objective 23).

<sup>1</sup> The [Migration Governance Indicators \(MGI\) programme](#) is IOM’s flagship initiative on migration governance. It helps governments at the national and local levels take stock of their migration policies, laws, and strategies by identifying good practices and areas with potential for further development. Thanks to its strong alignment with the GCM framework, objectives, and indicators, the MGI can also serve as a key tool to support national and local authorities in tracking progress on GCM implementation.

## The GCR

- The GCR is reviewed every four years through the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) (2019, 2023, and next in 2027).
- Member States and stakeholders make pledges and contributions of concrete and measurable actions which are tracked via UNHCR’s Pledges and Contributions Dashboard. At regular intervals, pledging entities are asked to update their pledge, providing information on impact and lessons learned.
- Pledging to the GCR enables states, local and regional governments, and other stakeholders to translate principles into concrete, measurable actions—advancing burden- and responsibility-sharing and marking tangible progress toward the GCR’s ambitious objectives for protection, inclusion, and durable solutions.
- UNHCR has a [GCR Indicator Framework](#) (2019), a structured set of 15 global indicators, and publishes an annual indicator report.

### How About Monitoring GCR Progress at Local Level?

While most indicators have relevance at the national level, several indicators directly depend on local policy and service delivery.

In addition, UNHCR is making significant efforts to advance GCR localization and issued [Guidelines](#) on Localization, providing a common framework and structured approach to work with local and national actors—including LRGs—to help implement its commitments, rooted in the principle of ‘as local as possible, as international as necessary.’

#### For example, UNHCR is working to:

- Elevate the role of LRGs local and regional governments in global, regional and national reporting and accountability mechanisms ensuring their contributions are visible and valued.
- Support municipalities and local actors with technical assistance, capacity-building, and access to funding, enabling them to implement inclusive policies.
- Promote refugee-led and community-based organizations as essential partners in planning and delivery, reinforcing the principle that responses should be closest to those affected.

# 03

## Local Governments Localizing Global Goals

The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees elevates local political leadership—positioning localization as a central driver of the GCM, GCR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It translates the political commitments of the Marrakech Mayors Declaration into concrete, implementable action at the local level.

The Call to Local Action is structured along 8 specific priority areas, each one connecting to the GCM’s objectives and guiding principles and the GCR’s objectives and focus areas. This figure illustrates these concrete connections.

### Explore Local Pledges Across Global Platforms

The full text of pledges submitted through the Call to Local Action, can be consulted:

- On the [Call to Local Action Online Action Repository](#).
- On the UN’s [GCM](#) and/or [GCR](#) Pledging Dashboards, pending on the pledge target group (migrants, refugees, IDPs).
- On the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) - [Platform for Partnerships](#).

	1 Improving migration governance and forced displacement protection	2 Minimizing drivers of forced displacement, including climate change	3 Protecting those most vulnerable	4 Providing access to infrastructure & services	5 Realizing socio-economic inclusion	6 Eliminating discrimination	7 Supporting reception & sponsorship	8 Engaging in partnerships
Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees Priorities								
GCM Objectives	Objective 23	Objective 2	Objective 7	Objective 15	Objective 16	Objective 17	Objective 7 & 15	Objective 23
GCR Focus Areas	Responsibility Sharing	Solutions	Protection Capacity	Education, Health Energy & Infrastructure	Solutions Jobs & livelihoods	Protection Capacity	Solutions	Responsibility Sharing
SDGs Commitments	● Goal 17	● Goal 1 ● Goal 2 ● Goal 3 ● Goal 13 ● Goal 16 ● Goal 17	● Goal 1 ● Goal 5 ● Goal 8 ● Goal 10 ● Goal 16 ● Goal 17	● Goal 1 ● Goal 3 ● Goal 4 ● Goal 6 ● Goal 7 ● Goal 11 ● Goal 16	● Goal 10 ● Goal 11 ● Goal 16 ● Goal 17	● Goal 8 ● Goal 10 ● Goal 16 ● Goal 17	● Goal 1 ● Goal 3 ● Goal 4 ● Goal 5 ● Goal 6 ● Goal 7 ● Goal 8 ● Goal 10 ● Goal 11 ● Goal 16 ● Goal 17	● Goal 17

# 04

## A Deep Dive into the 2022 and 2023 Pledges

Between 2022 and 2023, the Call to Local Action mobilized 124 pledges in total. Local governments accounted for the vast majority, with 105 pledges from 75 local governments, including 16 that submitted more than one commitment. A further 19 pledges came from 10 city networks and partner organizations working directly with municipalities.

Collaboration also featured prominently, with 4 pledges emerging from city-to-city partnerships (Zürich–Tyre and Kampala–Nairobi), and 3 pledges being submitted as joint commitments between local and national governments (Brazil, Germany, and Switzerland).

Together, these participating LRGs represent more than 150 million residents worldwide and have collectively mobilized USD 80 million to localize the GCM and GCR.

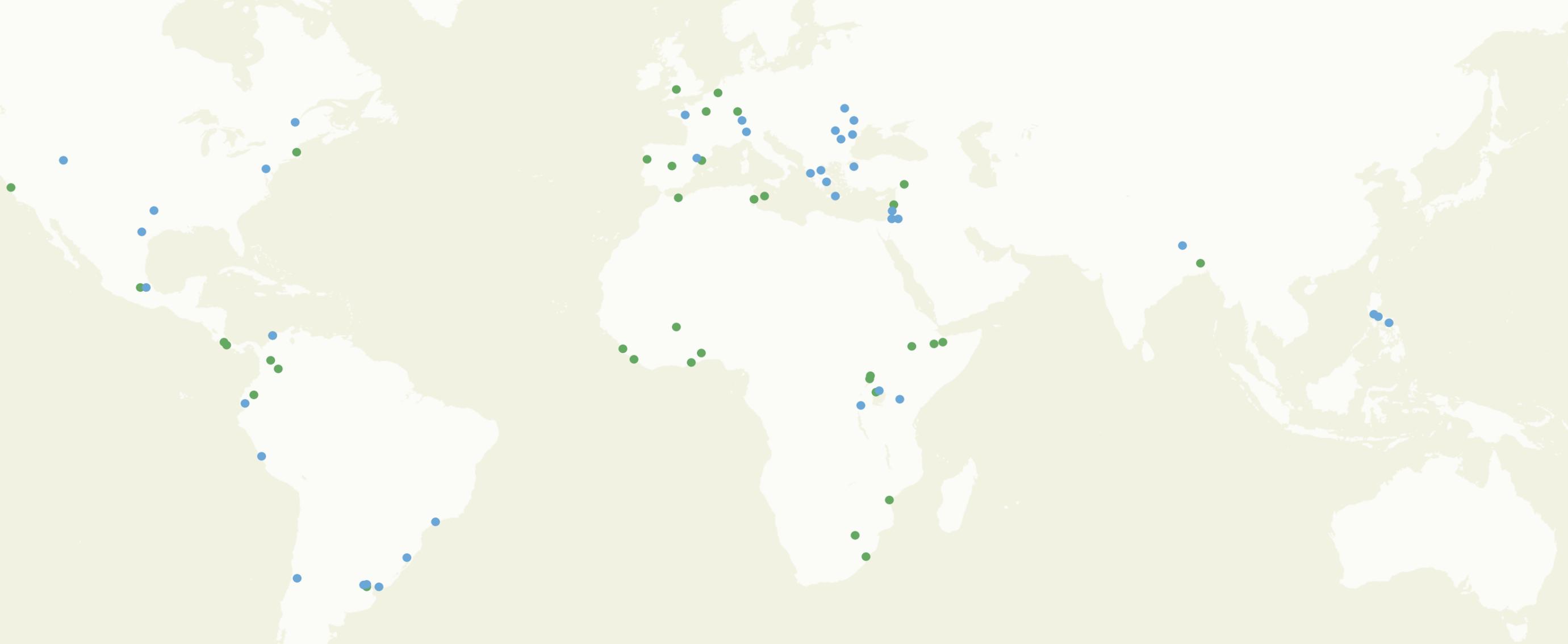
This section examines the pledges—and the local governments that submitted them—in greater detail, highlighting their size, geography, type of action and beneficiaries.



Parents and volunteers interacting at the childcare in Milan  
Credit: Samer Saliba

# Overview of LRGs that joined the Call to Local Action in 2022 and 2023 by country.

GCM Champion Countries are indicated with an\*



## 2022 Actions

### Local and regional governments:

- Accra, Ghana\*
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia\*
- Arua, Uganda (2)
- Barcelona, Spain
- Barranquilla, Colombia\* (2)
- Beira, Mozambique
- Beirut, Lebanon
- Bogotá, Colombia\* (2)
- Boston, USA (5)
- Braga, Portugal\*
- Bristol, UK

- Coto Brus, Costa Rica\*
- Dhaka North, Bangladesh\*
- Dédougou, Burkina Faso
- eThekweni (Durban), South Africa
- Entebbe, Uganda
- Esteban Echeverría, Argentina
- Freetown, Sierra Leone\*
- Fuenlabrada, Spain
- Gaziantep, Türkiye\*
- Hahoe, Togo
- Hargeisa, Somaliland
- Jigjiga, Ethiopia\*
- Johannesburg, South Africa

- Kampala, Uganda
- Koboko, Uganda
- Lampedusa, Italy (2)
- Medellín, Colombia\*
- Mechelen, Belgium
- Mexico City, Mexico\*
- Milan, Italy (3)
- Monrovia, Liberia
- Montevideo, Uruguay
- Montréal, Canada\* (3)
- Nador, Morocco\* (2)
- Nairobi, Kenya\*
- Paris, France
- Quito, Ecuador\*

- San José, California, US
- San José, Costa Rica\*
- São Paulo, Brazil\*
- Sfax, Tunisia
- Strasbourg, France
- Zürich, Switzerland (3)

### Organizations:

- ANVITA, France (5)
- C40–MMC, Global
- FAMSI, Spain (4)
- Mayors Mechanism - Germany

## 2023 Actions

### Local and regional governments:

- Amman, Jordan
- Athens, Greece
- Barranquilla, Colombia\*
- Brasov, Romania
- Bucharest, Romania
- Buenos Aires, Argentina (2)
- Carmen de la Legua, Peru\*
- Dallas, USA
- Dhankuta, Nepal\* (2)
- Dunavtsi, Ukraine
- Galați, Romania

- Guayaquil, Ecuador\*
- Heraklion, Greece
- Ioannina, Greece
- Kampala, Uganda
- Laguna Province, Philippines\*
- Lancaster, USA
- Larissa, Greece (2)
- Legazpi City, Philippines\*
- Maipú, Chile
- Milan, Italy
- Montevideo, Uruguay
- Montréal, Canada\*
- Nairobi, Kenya\* (2)
- Nilüfer, Türkiye\*

- Nyamagabe, Rwanda
- Quezon City, Philippines\*
- Quilmes, Argentina
- Ramallah, Palestine
- Rennes, France
- Salt Lake County, USA (2)
- San Antonio, USA
- São Leopoldo, Brazil\*
- São Paulo, Brazil\*
- Straseni, Moldova
- Terrassa, Spain
- Tlaxcala, Mexico\*
- Tyre, Lebanon
- Zürich, Switzerland (3)

### Organizations:

- ANVITA, France
- C40–MMC, Global
- Cities Alliance, Global
- Eurocities, Europe
- Government of Brazil and the National Network of Welcoming Cities, Brazil\*
- Mayors Migration Council, Global
- United Cities and Local Governments, Global
- Welcoming America, USA

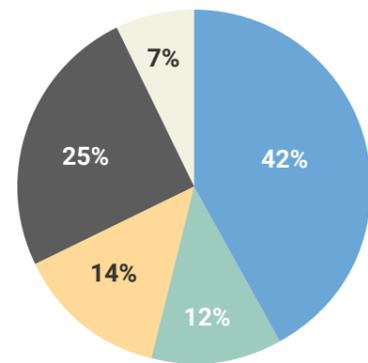
## 4.1

# Type of Local and Regional Governments

When examining administrative status—i.e., how the locality is defined within its national government system—most pledges were submitted by cities/municipalities (88%).

The LRGs that joined are diverse in size and include 31 cities with a population of 1.5 million or more, such as Amman (4 million), Nairobi (5 million), and São Paulo (11 million), but also 25 smaller localities with a population of a maximum of 200,000 and rural areas with a population of under 50,000<sup>2</sup>.

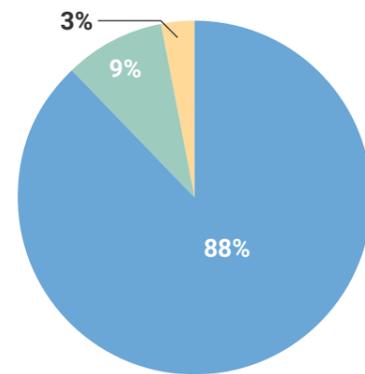
### Size of LRGs



- Large Metropolitan Areas
- Metropolitan Areas
- Medium Sized Urban Areas
- Small Urban Areas
- Below Urban Treshold

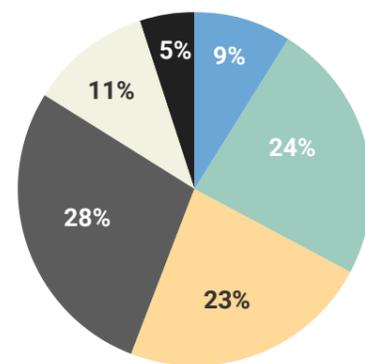
In terms of **regional coverage**, there is a relatively good spread between the different regions, yet with a significant under-representation of Asian and North American LRGs, with most pledges coming from LRGs in Europe (28%) and Latin America (24%).

### Administrative Classification of LRGs



- Cities / Municipalities
- Districts / Counties
- Provinces / States / Regions

### Regional Breakdown of LRGs



- North America (United States & Canada)
- Latin America
- Africa (Sub Saharan)
- Europe
- Middle East & North Africa (MENA)
- Asia (South + Southeast)

<sup>2</sup> This follows the [classification of 'city size'](#) proposed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Excluded from classification because they are not cities as per the OECD definition: Salt Lake County (county, contains multiple urban areas), Laguna Province (province, contains several separate cities), Tlaxcala (state) (state, contains multiple cities).

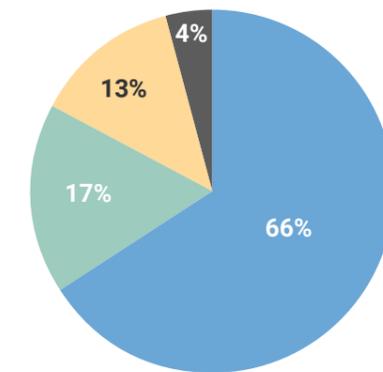
## 4.2

# Pledge Beneficiaries

The Call to Local Action is a powerful vehicle for complementary local action on both Compacts: the majority (66%) of local actions directly benefit both migrants and refugees, thereby reflecting local government commitments to implement both Compacts in unison.

Pledges have a community-wide impact. Most actions also indicate that programmes built for migrants and refugees will be accessible to all members of the local communities, a crucial element to avoid host communities feeling left behind, and critical to foster intercultural exchange and inclusion.

### Pledge Beneficiaries



- Mirror
- Only Refugees
- Only Migrants
- Only IDPS

### Internal Displacement Captured but Falls through the Cracks in Global Reporting Systems

Actions that focus on internal displaced populations (IDPs) only (Dunavitsi in 2023, and Addis Ababa, Beira, Dédougou and Dhaka North in 2022) are included in the Call to Local Action database but are not considered pledges for the GCM and GCR as they fall outside of the scope of these frameworks.

Yet for local administrations, the reality and response required to address the needs and vulnerabilities of those internally displaced is not always that different from migration or refugee response, except when it comes to access to documentation/regular status. For future pledge collections, it would be important to consider giving these pledges specific visibility and recognition.

## 4.3

# Partnerships Drive the Call to Local Action

City networks played a central role in the Call to Local Action: 16 pledges were submitted by five city networks, with critical leadership from UCLG and MMC as Local Coalition co-founders, as well as from city networks such as ANVITA, C40, FAMSİ, and EURO CITIES.

Also, organizations that partner with LRGs, such as Cities Alliance and Welcoming America, submitted pledges and actively mobilized their membership.

Lastly, two national governments proactively pledged to work more closely with local government organizations (Brazil and Germany).

These networks and partners were instrumental in mobilizing their members and remain essential partners in driving the localization agenda.

Localization itself relies on strong partnerships: all pledges were implemented collaboratively, most frequently with civil society, but also with UN agencies and private sector actors. City-to-city collaboration is also expanding, with 2023 seeing four joint pledges submitted through two direct municipal partnerships.

A whole-of-government approach is increasingly evident, with 10 pledges involving direct

collaboration with national governments and more than 30 requiring coordination across multiple municipal departments—for example, through one-stop service centres that bring city services together to better support migrants and refugees.

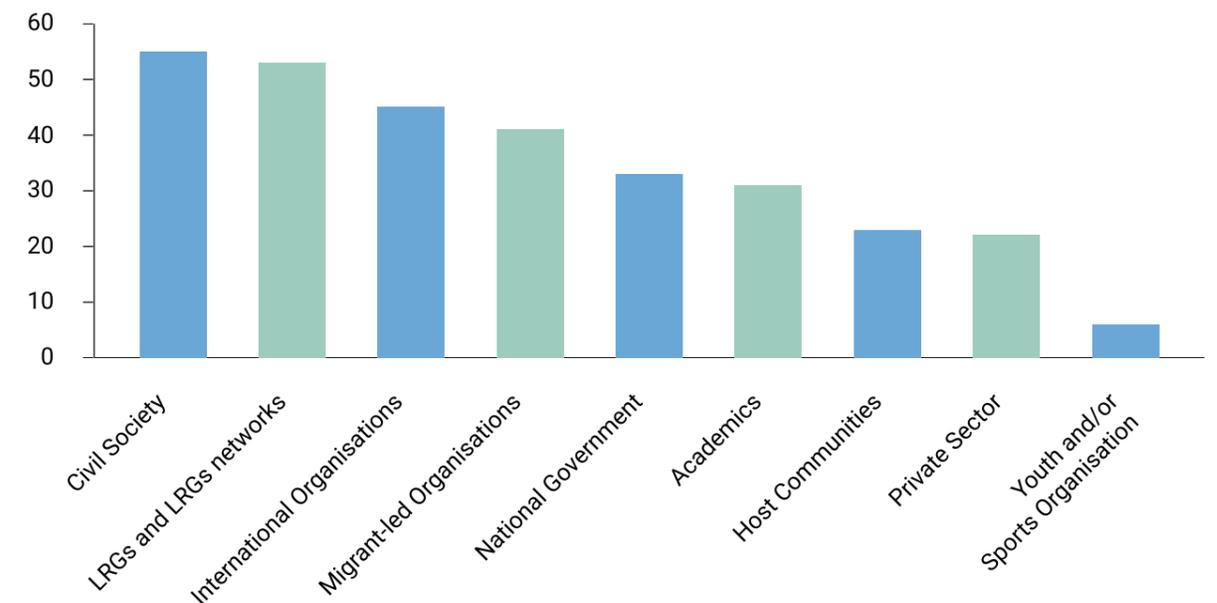
However, despite this progress, most LRGs still report not being invited into national GCM or GCR implementation or review processes.

### Local–National Partnerships in Switzerland, Brazil and Germany

Many local governments indicate partnering with their national government in the implementation of their action. Going even further, three pledges were submitted directly by or with national governments.

- The **Brazilian Government** pledged to support the National Network of Welcoming Cities (RNCA in Portuguese), a collaborative and voluntary space for Brazilian municipalities and the national government to debate and discuss proposals on decentralized, democratic and participatory governance that supports decision-making in the field of human mobility, including forced displacement and statelessness.
- Initiated by the **City of Zürich**, in collaboration with the Swiss Government, and supported by Swiss cities, the Swiss Association of Cities, the Swiss Association of Municipalities, and cantonal representations, this pledge commits to enhancing the cooperation of all state levels in Swiss refugee policy.
- The **Germany Government** committed to support the Local Coalition in rolling out the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees as a tool to accelerate the localization of the GCM and the GCR in unison.

Pledge Partners

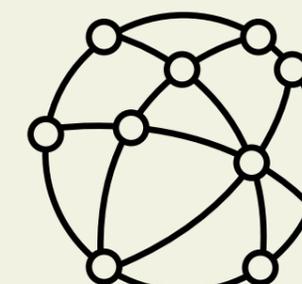
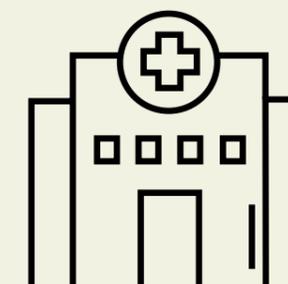
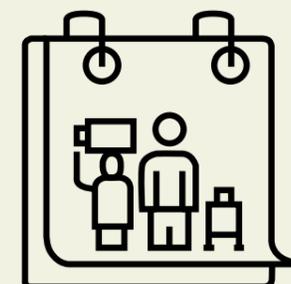


# 05

## Impact and Lessons Learned

As the Call to Local Action continues to demonstrate its value as a global platform showcasing how local governments advance the GCM and GCR, the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, developed a streamlined methodology for updating local pledges in line with UN Network on Migration and UNHCR requirements. The approach combines a simplified update form with targeted follow-up interviews and partner support to gather and validate information, ensuring each pledge is accurate, current, and reflective of local realities.

The methodology was first piloted with a small, diverse group of cities to test the form and refine outreach. Lessons from the pilot informed a broader rollout. Through this structured but flexible process—combining data collection, interviews, and partner-supported outreach—the Secretariat produced over 20 robust, updated pledges, with more coming in on a rolling basis. The section below provides a snapshot of these pledge updates. Comprehensive information on all pledges can be consulted in the [Online Pledge Repository](#).





# Priority 1 Improving Migration Governance and Policy Coherence

57 commitments

## Trends

Pledges under this priority encompass the strengthening of local institutional frameworks, enhancing policy coherence across government levels, and establishing formal coordination mechanisms for migration and displacement governance.

### Examples include:

- City-level strategies and integration offices (Barcelona, Bogotá, São Paulo, San Jose (US), Athens, Bucharest, Maipú, Quilmes).
- Dedicated municipal or regional units for migration governance (Gaziantep

Migration Directorate, Nairobi and Kampala’s institutionalization of refugee inclusion, Zürich’s multi-level policy coordination measures).

- Cross-sectoral taskforces and advisory bodies (Bristol, Bogotá).
- Mapping, data collection, and evidence generation to guide local policymaking (Accra, Arua, Kampala, Nairobi, Paris, Cities Alliance, Eurocities).

Importantly, these actions were not limited to local governments alone—some are local–national partnerships to align municipal efforts with broader policy environments (Brazil, Germany and Zürich).

## Impact and Lessons Learned

### Pledge

### Enhancing the Cooperation of All State Levels—Municipal, Cantonal, National—in National Refugee Policymaking to Strengthen the Tripartite Asylum System

**Local Government:** Zürich, Switzerland **Timeline:** 2023 – ongoing **GCM or GCR pledge:** GCR

In 2023, Zürich, in collaboration with the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, cantonal governments, and partners including the Swiss Association of Cities, Swiss Association of Municipalities, and the Global Cities Hub, pledged to institutionalize structured dialogue and joint policymaking across Switzerland’s three levels of government, recognizing cities’ essential role in refugee integration.

The pledge sought to improve coordination and policy coherence and explored a permanent mechanism for tripartite engagement. Progress

includes the establishment of a national “Asylum Committee” in 2024, a tripartite body co-led by the federal and cantonal levels to develop a new Swiss asylum strategy by 2025, marking a milestone in inclusive governance. The pledge helped create momentum and amplified the long-standing demand of Swiss cities for more effective involvement in policymaking. Challenges remain in sustaining political ownership and engagement across all partners, particularly following leadership changes at the federal level.

### Pledge

### Participation of Migrants and Refugees in Arua City’s Development Planning and Service Delivery

**Local Government:** Arua, Uganda **Timeline:** 2019 - 2021 **GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

Arua City pledged to strengthen inclusive urban governance by integrating migrants and refugees into city planning, service delivery, and local decision-making.

Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by Cities Alliance in partnership with SSURA (RLO) and Arua Municipality, the initiative formalized the representation of migrants and refugees in city forums, school management committees, and internship programmes, reaching nearly 5,000 beneficiaries.

Key achievements include the establishment of a market space, the Tondeka microfinance facility, representation into City Development Plans III and IV, and facilitating access to dignified livelihood opportunities for migrants, refugees and host communities.

Despite funding gaps and policy constraints limiting formal recognition of urban refugees beyond Kampala, Arua’s approach demonstrates how locally led planning and partnerships can advance self-reliance, social cohesion, and inclusive urban development.



© Students at Arua Public School Copyright: Cities Alliance

Pledge

## Second Phase of the Quilmes Municipal Migration Governance Plan

**Local Government:** Quilmes, Argentina **Timeline:** 2023 - 2027 **GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

With the second phase of the Municipal Migration Governance Plan (2023-2027), Quilmes maintains its commitment to inclusive and intercultural migration governance, based on the city's identity as Argentina's first 'plurinational and intercultural' municipality. Building on the first phase (2019-2022), the plan focuses on access to rights, social and labour inclusion, institutional strengthening, and celebration of interculturality. Under the leadership of Mayor Mendoza, the plan connects municipal departments, the United Nations, civil society, the private sector, and the local community.

Since 2019, more than 5,900 residents have received support from the Directorate for Migrants, and more than 2,000 migrants have obtained residency

and accessed essential services. In 2024, Quilmes expanded its efforts by organizing Comprehensive Consular Days for Bolivia and Paraguay and launching the 'Raíces' programme to promote the economic inclusion of migrant women. Since then, more than 40 women entrepreneurs have participated in local fairs and professional training.

This work takes place in a national context of regressive political reforms on migration that criminalize and seek to restrict migrants' access to healthcare, which has hampered the development of a series of actions linked to the plan, such as the 'regularization days' that were organized together with the National Directorate of Migration.

Pledge

## National Network of Welcoming Cities: An Institutional Space for Local-National Coordination and Collaboration in Brazil

**Local Government:** Government of Brazil and the National Network of Welcoming Cities **Timeline:** 2023 - ongoing **GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

Launched in 2023 by Brazil's Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the National Network of Welcoming Cities (RNCA) serves as a national coordination and dialogue platform between federal, state, and municipal governments to strengthen migration, refugee, and statelessness governance. The RNCA promotes institutional capacity-building, policy exchange, social participation, and multi-level cooperation, fostering more inclusive local responses to human mobility.

In 2025, RNCA launched eight capacity-building sessions for municipalities on topics such as child protection, the rights of international migrants

in Brazil, labour inclusion, and coordination with federal agencies. Implemented in partnership with International Organizations, other Ministries, and civil society networks, the initiative seeks to institutionalize local migration policies across Brazil.

Despite challenges related to limited funding, staffing, and coordination across levels of government, the Network represents a major milestone in Brazil's effort to operationalize its National Policy on Migration, Refuge, and Statelessness, advancing a model of participatory, decentralized migration governance.



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## Priority 2

# Minimizing Drivers of Forced Displacement, including Climate Change

23 commitments

### Trends

Pledges under this priority encompass actions that deliver inclusive climate action as well as tackle other systemic drivers of displacement, such as poverty, inequality, and conflict.

#### Examples include:

- Pledges that deliver inclusive climate action that is equitable and beneficial for all, including migrants and refugees, such as strengthening resilience, reducing climate vulnerability in high-risk settlements, and expanding green

or climate-adapted livelihoods (Addis Ababa, Freetown, Milan, Arua, Johannesburg, Jijiga, Nyamagabe, Ramallah).

- Direct responses to climate-related displacement (Beira and Hargeisa supported voluntary relocation and income generation for climate-affected migrants/IDPs).
- Actions that reduce unemployment and risks to labour exploitation strengthen ethical recruitment and the prevention (Dhankuta, Laguna Province, Legazpi City, Quezon City).

## Impact and Lessons Learned

### Pledge

### Amman Children’s Climate Academy and Park

Local Government: Amman, Jordan

Timeline: 2023 – ongoing

GCM or GCR pledge: GCR

The Amman Children’s Climate Academy and Park (2023–ongoing) is Greater Amman Municipality’s pledge to transform an underused space near Al-Hussein Refugee Camp into an inclusive public park and the city’s first Children’s Climate Academy, designed to strengthen social cohesion and promote climate education for refugee and Jordanian children.

Implemented with support from the Mayors Migration Council’s Global Cities Fund and developed through participatory workshops with refugee and host communities, the project integrates

climate-adaptive green infrastructure, child-friendly recreational areas, and hands-on environmental learning.

To date, Amman has mobilized nearly USD 600,000 in co-funding, advanced participatory design with youth and families, and embedded child-centred climate education into municipal programming. The main challenges—funding gaps and coordination needs—were addressed through resource mobilization, strengthened partnerships, and a commitment to institutionalizing the Academy for long-term sustainability.



© Amman, Jordan. Credit: Samer Saliba

Pledge

## Quezon City’s Migrants Resource Centre: Solidarity in Diversity

Local Government: Quezon City, Philippines | Timeline: 2022 – ongoing | GCM or GCR pledge: GCM

Through this pledge, Quezon City committed to advance inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive local migration governance by institutionalizing a one-stop Migrants Resource Centre (MRC) under its Public Employment Service Office. The MRC provides full-cycle support for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), returnees, refugees, and their families—from pre-migration orientation and skills development to repatriation, reintegration, and psychosocial services to returning migrants and their families.

Implemented in partnership with the National Department of Migrant Workers, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, UN Agencies and Civil Society Organizations, the MRC has reached over 2,500 individuals since 2023.

Key accomplishments of this pledge include the institutionalization of migrant support services throughout the city administration via the set-up of a Quezon City Migration and Development Council, guaranteeing holistic support that spans employment, livelihood, social protection, and mental health. The Centre also created the space for new ideas and partnerships to arise, responding to specific needs, such as the Smart Child e-Habilin Programme, providing specific support to 1200 children and family members in the Quezon City.

In terms of specific challenges, funding constraints, logistical capacities, digital access barriers of their target population, and coordination across departments remain.

Pledge

## Climate Migration in Urban Areas: Challenges, Perceptions, and Inclusion.

Local Government: Paris, France | Timeline: 2022 – ongoing | GCM or GCR pledge: Mirror

Through its “Prospective Study on Climate-Induced Migration”, the City of Paris pledged to understand and address the links between climate change, mobility, and urban inclusion. Implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Hugo Observatory (University of Liège), the pledge aimed to strengthen Paris’s knowledge base, integrate migration and climate resilience into municipal planning, and inform the city’s 2024–2030 Climate Plan and Resilience Strategy.

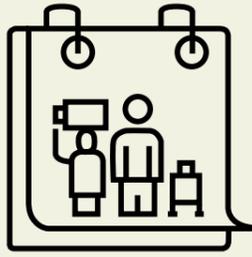
The research led to the creation of the Plan Grand Chaud, which provides heatwave refuges and multilingual risk-prevention materials for vulnerable

populations, including migrants, people experiencing homelessness, women, and the elderly. Building on these outcomes, the pledge now continues into a second phase (2024–2026), expanding on research, cultural awareness, and public education—highlighting the human dimension of climate mobility through art and storytelling.

Despite limited funding and sensitive political contexts surrounding migration in France, Paris continues to advance a vision of climate justice and inclusive adaptation, positioning itself as a leader among cities tackling the intersection of climate change and human mobility.



© Overseas Foreign Workers - Help Desk Quezon City. Copyright: Quezon City



## Priority 3

# Protecting Those Most Vulnerable

75 commitments

### Trends

Pledges under this priority demonstrated a strong emphasis on providing targeted protection services for groups facing heightened vulnerability, including women, children, people experiencing homelessness, survivors of violence, and migrants with irregular status.

#### Examples include:

- Child and family support systems (Braga, Milan, Montevideo, Barranquilla, Guayaquil, Nairobi).

- Women-focused protection and empowerment (Bogotá, Dhaka North, Buenos Aires, Athens, Heraklion, Quezon City).
- Emergency shelter and temporary housing (Medellín, Mexico City, Montevideo, Milan).
- Legal and humanitarian assistance for migrants with irregular status, including steps toward city-residency identification (Zürich, Montréal, Quito, Boston).

## Impact and Lessons Learned

### Pledge

### Nutrition Reception Centre for Migrant and Refugee Children and Mothers

**Local Government:** Bogotá, Colombia

**Timeline:** 2022 - 2023

**GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

The City of Bogotá pledged to improve the health and nutrition of migrant and refugee children and mothers by establishing its first-ever Nutrition Reception Centre. Supported by the Mayors Migration Council's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees and implemented in collaboration with CAFAM and multiple municipal departments, the centre provided nutritional care and maternal health services to 541 beneficiaries, including 132 women and 408 children.

Over 40% of malnourished beneficiaries fully recovered, and the centre saved the lives of more than 20 children suffering from severe malnutrition. Bogotá also conducted 99 home visits, distributed monthly food vouchers to 250 families, and referred 400 beneficiaries to healthcare and social services, improving long-term inclusion. Despite challenges in ensuring consistent attendance and access to health insurance, the initiative strengthened inter-agency coordination and set a precedent for city-led migrant health inclusion.

### Pledge

### Inclusive Nairobi: Institutionalizing Refugee Inclusion in Nairobi City County

**Local Government:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Timeline:** 2023 - ongoing

**GCM or GCR pledge:** GCR

When Nairobi City County pledged in 2023 to institutionalize refugee inclusion within local governance, it set in motion a process that led to the adoption of the Nairobi County Refugee Integration and Community Building Strategy (NCRIS) in 2025—making Nairobi the first county in Kenya to formalize this commitment.

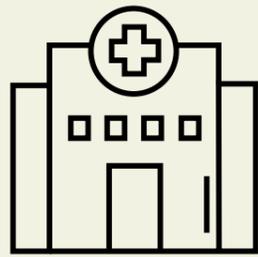
Through cross-departmental coordination, participatory forums, and reforms such as enabling refugees to obtain business permits and access digital skills training, the County has advanced

inclusive urban governance. With over 1,400 officers trained in refugee law and an estimated 100,000 refugees expected to benefit, Nairobi demonstrates how devolution can drive sustainable urban solutions when inclusion is embedded in city management.

Despite ongoing funding and coordination challenges, the County's experience highlights the potential of locally led governance to deliver lasting inclusion.



© Dreadlock Salon Nairobi, Kenya. Credit: International Rescue Committee



## Priority 4

# Access to Services, Urban Infrastructure, and Education Regardless of Status

90 commitments

### Trends

Pledges under this priority showcased a strong commitment to guarantee migrants' and refugees' non-discriminatory access to services regardless of migratory status:

#### Examples include:

- The set-up of one-stop shop models that consolidate municipal services for migrants and refugees, regardless of legal status (Barcelona,

Bogotá, Barranquilla, Montevideo, Brasov, Guayaquil, Ioannina, Larissa, Legazpi City, Maipú, San Antonio, Quezon City).

- Investing in culturally and linguistically adapted service delivery (São Paulo, Montréal, Dallas) and the facilitation of legal identity and administrative documentation, including structural reforms that enable access to rights (Tlaxcala's dual nationality reform).



Beneficiary of the 'Apostille Programme'. Copyright: Tlaxcala Province

## Impact and Lessons Learned

### Pledge

### Facilitating Dual Nationality and Preventing Statelessness

Local Government: Tlaxcala, Mexico

Timeline: 2023 - ongoing

GCM or GCR pledge: GCM

Tlaxcala's pledge, "Facilitating Dual Nationality, Preventing Statelessness, and Promoting Inclusion for Foreign-Born Children and their Families" (2023–ongoing), is a state policy eliminating the requirement for an apostilled foreign birth certificate so that children born abroad to Mexican parents can access Mexican nationality and identity documents.

Implemented by the State Civil Registry in partnership with the Centro de Atención a la Familia Migrante Indígena (CAFAMI), the action benefits migrant and returning/deported families, ensuring children can exercise their rights to education,

health, work, and full civic inclusion.

Key results include monthly information and documentation clinics, inter-agency coordination between the Civil Registry and the Education Secretariat, and early evidence of children and youth successfully obtaining nationality documents and advancing their integration. The main challenges include low awareness of the programme among returning families and limited institutional familiarity with the new legal procedures, requiring expanded outreach and ongoing training for frontline authorities.

### Pledge

### Fearless Access to Services for Migrants with Precarious Immigration Status

Local Government: Montréal, Canada

Timeline: 2019 - ongoing

GCM or GCR pledge: Mirror

Through this pledge, the City of Montréal demonstrated its desire to guarantee equitable access to its services and programs for all migrants, regardless of their immigration status. It has done so through two key levers:

1. A Policy on Access to Municipal Services Without Fear, adopted in 2019 and implemented in collaboration with a broad ecosystem of partners. Based on the principles of responsibility, respect, openness, and equity, this policy is a key instrument for promoting access to municipal services and programs as a collective project. Between 2022 and 2025, the City issued 8,369 identity and residence

certificates and deployed 23 mobile clinics for migrants.

2. The establishment of a financial program called Montréal for All, Regardless of Status (2024–2026). With a budget of CAD 1.9 million, the program will support a total of nine projects reaching more than 3,200 migrants with precarious status until 2026. The city has adopted a collaborative and local approach aimed at making access to municipal services and programs regardless of immigration status a guiding principle of its actions and consolidating an inclusive organizational culture based on trust, dignity, and participation for all.



## Priority 5 Realizing Socio-Economic Inclusion and Participation

85 commitments

### Trends

Pledges under this priority promoted economic empowerment, access to decent work, and participation in civic and cultural life.

#### Examples include:

- Job counselling, vocational and language training, and private-sector partnerships (Barranquilla, Bogotá, Milan, Montréal, Montevideo, São Leopoldo).
- Support for migrant and refugee entrepreneurship (Hargeisa, Jijiga, Athens, Nairobi, Tyre).
- Local civic participation and leadership pathways (Koboko, São Paulo, Quito, Athens, Bucharest, Kampala, Nairobi).
- Reintegration support for returning migrants (Dhankuta, Guayaquil, Laguna, Legazpi City, Quezon City).
- Green employment programs, supporting climate action

## Impact and Lessons Learned

### Pledge

### Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development & Mobility

Local Government: Koboko, Uganda

Timeline: 2021 - 2023

GCM or GCR pledge: Mirror

Koboko Municipality pledged to strengthen inclusive urban planning and service delivery to enhance the participation and well-being of refugees and host communities, under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

Funded by the EUTF for Africa and implemented with partners including Koboko MC, ACAV and Cities Alliance, the initiative has achieved significant results since 2021, reaching over 41,000 beneficiaries, increasing perceptions of inclusive

access to municipal services from 44% to 94% and fostering refugee participation in local governance structures.

Despite persistent funding, coordination, and policy challenges—particularly the lack of legal recognition for urban refugees outside Kampala—the action demonstrated that locally led planning and partnerships can drive social cohesion and equitable urban development.

### Pledge

### First Steps in Milan: Ensuring Access to Educational and Childcare Services for Newly Arrived Migrant and Refugee Families

Local Government: Milan, Italy

Timeline: 2023 - ongoing

GCM or GCR pledge: Mirror

The City of Milan pledged to enhance early childhood inclusion for newly arrived migrant and refugee families through First Steps in Milan, a two-generational programme providing early education, childcare, and caregiver support. With backing from the Mayors Migration Council's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, and in partnership with 13 civil society organizations, the initiative offered tailored preschool and daycare to 320 migrant and refugee children and provided 250 caregivers with language training, psychosocial support, and job readiness courses.

The project strengthened cross-sector collaboration and influenced city-wide approaches to inclusion. Milan also secured USD 400,000 in national funding to sustain and expand the programme into 2025. Despite challenges such as coordination adjustments and the need for project extensions to align with school years, First Steps in Milan stands as a model for inclusive, family-centred education and integration.



© New health facilities for refugees and host communities in Koboko Municipality. Copyright: Cities Alliance



© Children and volunteers interacting in child care  
Credit: Samer Saliba

Pledge

## Reducing Climate Vulnerabilities of Migrants in Accra

**Local Government:** Accra, Ghana

**Timeline:** 2022 - 2023

**GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

Through the Reducing Climate Vulnerabilities of Migrants project, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) aimed to strengthen the resilience of migrant and displaced waste workers by improving livelihoods, access to basic services, and climate adaptation.

Supported by the Mayors Migration Council's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, and implemented with People's Dialogue and C40 Cities, the initiative engaged 972 informal waste workers—including migrants, refugees, and IDPs—registering

over 400 into formal cooperatives, enrolling them in the national health insurance scheme, and increasing job security by 15%.

The city also established a daycare center serving over 20 children of waste workers, promoting women's economic participation and safer childcare. Despite administrative disruptions and challenges in registering undocumented migrants, the project fostered trust between city authorities and migrant communities and positioned Accra as a leader in inclusive, climate-resilient urban governance.



© GCF site visit to Accra, Ghana. Copyright: MMC



## Priority 6 Eliminating Discrimination and Promoting Inclusive Public Discourse

42 commitments

### Trends

Pledges under this priority actively promoted a balanced migration narrative and attempted to eliminate discrimination against migrants and refugees. This priority connects closely to access to services (Priority 4) and inclusion measures (Priority 5).

- Education and anti-racism curricula in schools and with the media (Nador, Lampedusa, Terrassa).
- Media and cultural institution partnerships to support positive narratives on migration.

### Examples include:

- Public awareness and welcoming campaigns (Montréal, São Paulo, Straseni, Welcoming America).



© 2022 Annual Peace March in Lampedusa  
Copyright: UCLG Human Mobility Team

## Impact and Lessons Learned

### Pledge

### Montréal Inclusive at Work Initiative

**Local Government:** Montréal, Canada

**Timeline:** 2022 - 2024

**GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

Led by the City of Montréal and implemented in partnership with the Quebec government, the business community, and academia, the Montréal Inclusive at Work initiative aimed to make the city more attractive and inclusive in terms of the professional integration of immigrants, thereby contributing to the promotion of immigrant expertise and talent and to its economic growth.

The initiative was rolled out using three approaches: raising awareness of the added value of professional integration for immigrants; contributing to the creation of coordinated approaches; and transforming hiring, integration, and retention practices.

The initiative has led to a series of innovative projects and community-building events, including the Pact for the Integration of Immigrants into the Workplace, the EDI community of practice, the Biais d'entrée podcast, the dissemination of data, and activities to mobilize the metropolitan business community. By positioning labour market integration of immigrants, employers, staff, and citizens of Montréal have been sensitized to see this as a shared responsibility. In addition, new inclusion practices and action plans have been developed by companies in various sectors.

Today, Montréal is continuing the process begun with this initiative through its partners and continues to assert its leadership in employment inclusion and diversity.

### Pledge

### Annual October 3<sup>rd</sup> Peace Walk

**Local Government:** Lampedusa, Italy

**Timeline:** 2021 - ongoing

**GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

Lampedusa's Annual October 3<sup>rd</sup> Peace Walk honours the 368 migrants who lost their lives in the 2013 shipwreck and seeks to promote a rights-based, community-centred approach to human mobility.

Implemented with local governments, European schools, civil society organisations, and partners such as the Border Towns and Islands Network, the action engages around 1,000 students each year in activities fostering empathy, awareness of

safe mobility, and direct exchanges with survivors. Beneficiaries include migrants, refugees, young people, and broader host communities.

Key achievements include strengthening public understanding of human rights and reaffirming the protection of life and dignity as shared societal priorities. The main challenges relate to coordination among multiple actors and sustained political commitment, addressed through advocacy and strengthened collaboration with partners.



© Hakatere Noodle Festival, Ashburton, New Zealand  
Credit: Mercedes Walkham

Pledge

## Expanding Welcoming Week Across the Globe to Foster Belonging for All People— No Matter Where We Come From

**Local Government:** Welcoming America, United States **Timeline:** 2020 - ongoing **GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

Welcoming America pledged to deliver and scale the annual Welcoming Week campaign by equipping partners with toolkits, technical assistance, peer learning, and campaign assets, aiming to increase social cohesion, celebrate inclusion efforts, and shift public narratives. Implemented with a

broad coalition—including national governments (e.g., Canada, New Zealand), local and regional governments, migrant-and refugee-led organizations, civil society, the private sector, and city networks—its beneficiaries span migrants, refugees, IDPs, stateless persons, and host communities.

Key results include rapid international growth in Welcoming Week events held outside the United States (from 130 in 2023 to 280 in 2024 and 506 in 2025), expansion of Welcoming Week national partners in Mexico (from one to four), and new implementing partners in Mexico, France, Canada, and Italy.

The principal challenge is funding constraints, with some activities affected by recent donor cutbacks, underscoring the need for sustained financing to maintain momentum. Welcoming Week event hosts have engaged in creative fundraising, including corporate and individual giving, to identify new funding streams.



## Priority 7 Reception and Community Sponsorship

29 commitments

### Trends

Actions that provide local solutions to migrant and refugee arrivals such as strengthening reception infrastructure; offering specific and dedicated services to those migrants and refugees that are particularly at risk, such as children; coordinating local volunteers; and ensuring access to shelter for newly arriving migrants and refugees.

#### Examples include:

- Pledges that specifically respond to the sudden increase of arrivals of migrants, refugees, or IDPs (Boston, Barcelona, Beira, Braga, Dunaivtsi, Fuenlabrada, Milan, Zürich, FAMSI) and support reception in several ways, such as providing multi-lingual information, setting up volunteer support services, and engaging city-to-city peer learning to improve capacities.

## Impact and Lessons Learned

### Pledge

### Housing Assistance for Migrant and Displaced Families

**Local Government:** Medellín, Colombia

**Timeline:** 2021 - ongoing

**GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

The City of Medellín pledged to reduce homelessness among migrants, refugees, and displaced families through an expanded Housing Assistance Programme providing three months of temporary accommodation and access to social, legal, health, and employment services. Supported by the Mayors Migration Council's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees and implemented with partners including Comfama, Comfenalco, and FAMICOVE, the initiative offered transitional housing to 310 families (1,250 people), of whom over

75% secured permanent homes. The project also provided psychosocial support, family planning, and access to education, helping families regain stability and autonomy. Building on this success, Medellín unlocked USD 1 million in new donor funding and USD 500,000 from its municipal budget to scale the programme. Despite challenges such as high rental costs and barriers to formal employment, the initiative positioned Medellín as a national leader in inclusive, rights-based urban housing solutions.



© Venezuelan migrant celebrates receiving housing in Medellín, Colombia, with support from the MMC Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees. Credits: Samer Saliba



## Priority 8

# Regional & Multilateral Partnerships and City-to-City Cooperation

51 commitments

### Trends

Under this priority, pledges foster collaboration amongst LRGs, build bridges between local and national governments, and implement city-to-city programmes with the objective of sharing knowledge, best practices, and pursuing urban diplomacy and joint advocacy.

#### Examples include:

- City networks supporting their members with resources, capacity building and advocacy support (MMC's Global Cities Fund, UCLG, FAMSU, ANVITA, C40-MMC).

- City partners expanding concrete partnerships directly with LRGs (Cities Alliance, Welcoming America).
- Cities partnering with their peers (Kampala-Nairobi Joint Pledge and Zürich-Tyre Joint Pledge).

## Impact and Lessons Learned

### Pledge

# UCLG Brings the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees at the Core of the 2030 Agenda and the UN Pact for the Future

**Local Government:** United Cities and Local Governments, Global

**Timeline:** 2023 - ongoing **GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

United Cities and Local Governments pledged to elevate the protection and inclusion of migrants, refugees, and displaced persons across global development agendas by positioning the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees as a key component of SDG localization. Under UCLG's leadership, the Call to Local Action was recognized by the United Nations within one of the 12 High-Impact Initiatives supporting the rescue of the SDGs and was highlighted in the Cities Countdown to 2030, at the 2024 Summit of the Future and other UN intergovernmental processes. UCLG also advanced

migration and displacement priorities within the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments, the Urban 20 process, and in the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on IDPs.

The main achievement has been ensuring that local action and human mobility are embedded in global policy debates, while the challenges primarily relate to limited funding and coordination constraints. Despite these, UCLG continues its advocacy towards a renewed, inclusive multilateral system.



© Third meeting of the UN Secretary-General Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments, co-facilitated by the GTF and UCLG, at the United Nations Headquarters, September 2024. Credit: Joel Sheakoski

Pledge

## Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees

**Local Government:** Mayors Migration Council, Global  
**Timeline:** 2021 - ongoing **GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) has exceeded its pledge to grow the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees (GCF) to USD 50 million—beginning with USD 25 million by 2025.

The GCF channels financial and technical resources directly to city governments—actors too often overlooked by traditional donors—so mayors can address urgent needs while making the case for sustained investment and lasting change. With IOM and UNHCR as strategic partners, the GCF aligns every project with the Global Compacts and elevates each city initiative as an individual UN pledge demonstrating political commitment to migrants and refugees.

Since its launch in 2021, the GCF has:

- Mobilized more than USD 30 million for city-led projects supporting migrants and refugees.
- Supported 34 city projects with funding and technical assistance.
- Improved the lives of 140,000 migrants, refugees, and community members.
- Unlocked over USD 50 million in direct and follow-on donor investments.
- Seen 90% of grantees secure additional resources to sustain and scale impact.

Building on this momentum, the MMC is working with partners to scale the GCF to USD 50 million directly channeled to cities, ensuring more city leaders have the resources to deliver solutions now—and pushing the global community to reimagine humanitarian and development aid for the future.



© Women and Men at Market in Jigjiga  
 Copyright: Cities Alliance



© GCF site visit to Accra, Ghana. Copyright: MMC

Pledge

## Cities Alliance Global Programme on Cities and Migration: Supporting Secondary Cities in Latin America, Africa and Asia

**Local Government:** Cities Alliance, Global **Timeline:** 2022 - 2026 **GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

Through its Global Programme on Cities and Migration (2022–2026), Cities Alliance, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), pledged to strengthen the capacity of secondary cities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to plan for urban growth, improve service delivery, and advance socio-economic inclusion of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons.

Implemented with partners such as the World Bank, national and city governments, civil society, and refugee-led organizations, the programme has engaged over 500,000 people across more than 30

secondary cities, mobilizing over USD 50 million in co-financing.

Key results include improved local planning and service access, formal inclusion of refugees in national statistics, and local innovations such as the issuance of ID cards for migrants in Phnom Penh. Despite progress, the initiative continues to face funding and coordination challenges amid shifting donor priorities, underscoring the need for sustained investment in locally led, inclusive urban governance.



© Integrating Cities 11th Conference  
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Pledge

## Eurocities' Integrating Cities Process: A Framework for Building Capacity on Migration and Integration

**Local Government:** Eurocities, Belgium / Europe **Timeline:** 2019 - ongoing **GCM or GCR pledge:** Mirror

Eurocities' pledge, the Integrating Cities Process, commits to strengthening local governments' capacity to integrate migrants and refugees through the Integrating Cities Charter, signed by 52 cities and supported by more than 200 Eurocities members. The action promotes equal opportunities in cities' roles as policymakers, service providers, employers, and buyers of goods and services, benefiting migrants, refugees, and diverse local communities.

Recent achievements include a mutual learning exchange in Milan (2025) on future funding for integration and a high-level meeting with EU Commissioner Magnus Brunner (2025) to elevate cities' roles in EU migration governance. The main challenge remains insufficient funding to sustain and expand assessments and produce future Integrating Cities reports.

Pledge

## Nairobi and Kampala Joint City Pledge to Institutionalize Refugee Inclusion

**Local Government:** Nairobi–Kampala Joint Pledge  
**Timeline:** 2023 - 2027 **GCM or GCR pledge:** GCR

Nairobi City County and Kampala Capital City Authority jointly committed to Institutionalize Refugee Inclusion (2024–2027), an initiative to embed refugee inclusion into city governance, services, and planning. Implemented with the International Rescue Committee's Re:BUiLD programme, the Mayors Migration Council, and civil society partners, the pledge supports refugees and host communities by expanding access to services, livelihoods, and participation in urban life. Through this action, the cities have established refugee

focal points, rolled out the Nairobi County Refugee Integration Strategy, trained over 1,500 officials, created inclusive market systems, and delivered climate-smart and digital livelihood programmes reaching more than 600 people. The collaboration has strengthened city-level coordination and advanced refugee engagement in planning structures. Key challenges—such as limited funding, coordination gaps, and policy constraints—were addressed through expanded partnerships, improved inter-agency platforms, and stronger political buy-in.



© Hajjara Nampaji 34, transformed from a nurse to a mechanic through Re:BUiLD's apprenticeship program. Copyright: Nathan Ijjo Tibaku/The IRC

# Conclusion

This report shows that inclusive migration governance and refugee protection are both achievable and effective when locally led, participatory, and embedded in municipal systems. The drivers and pull factors that shape human mobility—conflict, climate, labour market pressures, and inequality—remain deeply interconnected and come together at the local level.

This report shows that LRGs are up for the challenge and continue to play a critical, proactive, and innovative role to address these realities.

LRGs have expanded access to services, housing, employment, and documentation, and have created a sense of cultural belonging for migrants, refugees, and their communities. In doing so, they have experimented with cross-government collaboration and the set-up of innovative partnerships with, amongst others, community organizations, employers, and international actors. They have also co-designed solutions with migrants and refugees, and institutionalized migrant and refugee voices in shaping their local policies.

Even though evidence from this report demonstrates that LRGs continue to play a proactive role in meeting global goals, several challenges surface:

- LRGs now operate within an **increasingly restrictive national context**, influenced by both heightened polarization and anti-immigrant narratives and a general narrowing of operating space for decentralized governments. Many LRGs expressed concern that this context is increasingly constraining their capacity to sustain or expand their efforts compared to previous years.
- **Barriers to funding and finance** prevent LRGs from sustaining or expanding their locally tested solutions. This strikes with the numbers: in 2022, only 1.2% of humanitarian aid reached local actors, less than 10% of climate finance is urban, and only a small fraction of official development assistance is directed to cities<sup>3</sup>, a situation currently exacerbated by the global funding cuts in development aid<sup>4</sup>.
- **LRGs also referenced coordination constraints:** Pledge updates show a slight increase of national-level inclusion of LRGs in comparison to 2023 - an encouraging shift. However, so far this engagement appears mostly episodic and process-bound, rather than institutionalized.
- Some LRGs also observed a **growing national disinterest** in advancing the GCM, the GCR, and related multilateral commitments. In several contexts, national governments are not actively reporting on their pledges. According to some, this disengagement may reflect a broader trend of reduced investment in multilateral processes and declining political will to champion migration and refugee issues at the international level.

<sup>3</sup> Development Initiatives (2023), [Global Humanitarian Assistance Report](#)

<sup>4</sup> OECD (2025), [OECD projections for 2025 and the near term](#)

## What's Next:

The Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees will continue to capture and elevate local political leadership and practical experience through the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, which will collect new pledges ahead of the 2026 IMRF and 2027 GRF.

As the international community prepares for these milestones, the Coalition highlights the following opportunities to unlock and amplify local leadership:

- 1 **Systematically include LRGs in national policy making**  
→ By formally involving LRGs in the design, implementation, and review of national policies, Member States can benefit from local innovation, evidence, and frontline expertise.
- 2 **Strengthen the link between local action and global commitments**  
→ By integrating localized indicators into voluntary reporting to the IMRF and GRF, and embedding local perspectives in national pledges, national commitments can lean on the local solutions LRGs are already putting into practice.

### 3 Elevate local leadership in global governance spaces

→ By including LRG leaders in national delegations to the 2026 IMRF and 2027 GRF, Member States can bring practical perspectives into global negotiations and strengthen multilevel cooperation.

### 4 Catalyze impact by investing directly in local solutions

→ By creating flexible mechanisms for direct funding to LRGs, donors, financing institutions, and UN Agencies<sup>5</sup> can unlock their transformative potential.

Together, these steps can fully leverage the leadership and innovation of LRGs, ensuring that global commitments translate into meaningful, inclusive outcomes for local communities.

Even within a context of financial restraint and geopolitical turmoil, working directly with LRGs adds additional capacity, sustainability, and institutionalization.

<sup>5</sup> For example, UNHCR's new publication [Enhancing municipalities' access to funding for refugee inclusion & integration](#) provides an in-depth analysis of the funding challenges faced by municipalities in refugee inclusion, offering evidence-based recommendations, innovative practices from across Europe, and a comprehensive guide to key funding sources.

## About

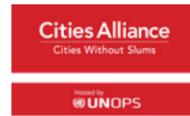
The Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees is co-steered by city networks ([United Cities and Local Governments](#) and the [Mayors Migration Council](#)) in coordination with UN Agencies ([the International Organization for Migration](#) and the [UN Refugee Agency](#)). Together, they elevate cities' voices in migration governance and forced displacement protection.

It is at the local level where we see pragmatic, principled, and people-centred approaches that meet

or exceed global goals, such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

To raise this political leadership, the Coalition established a [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) as the official pathway for cities to pledge action and to be recognized for localizing these goals.

The Call to Local Action is supported by additional affiliated partners and city networks



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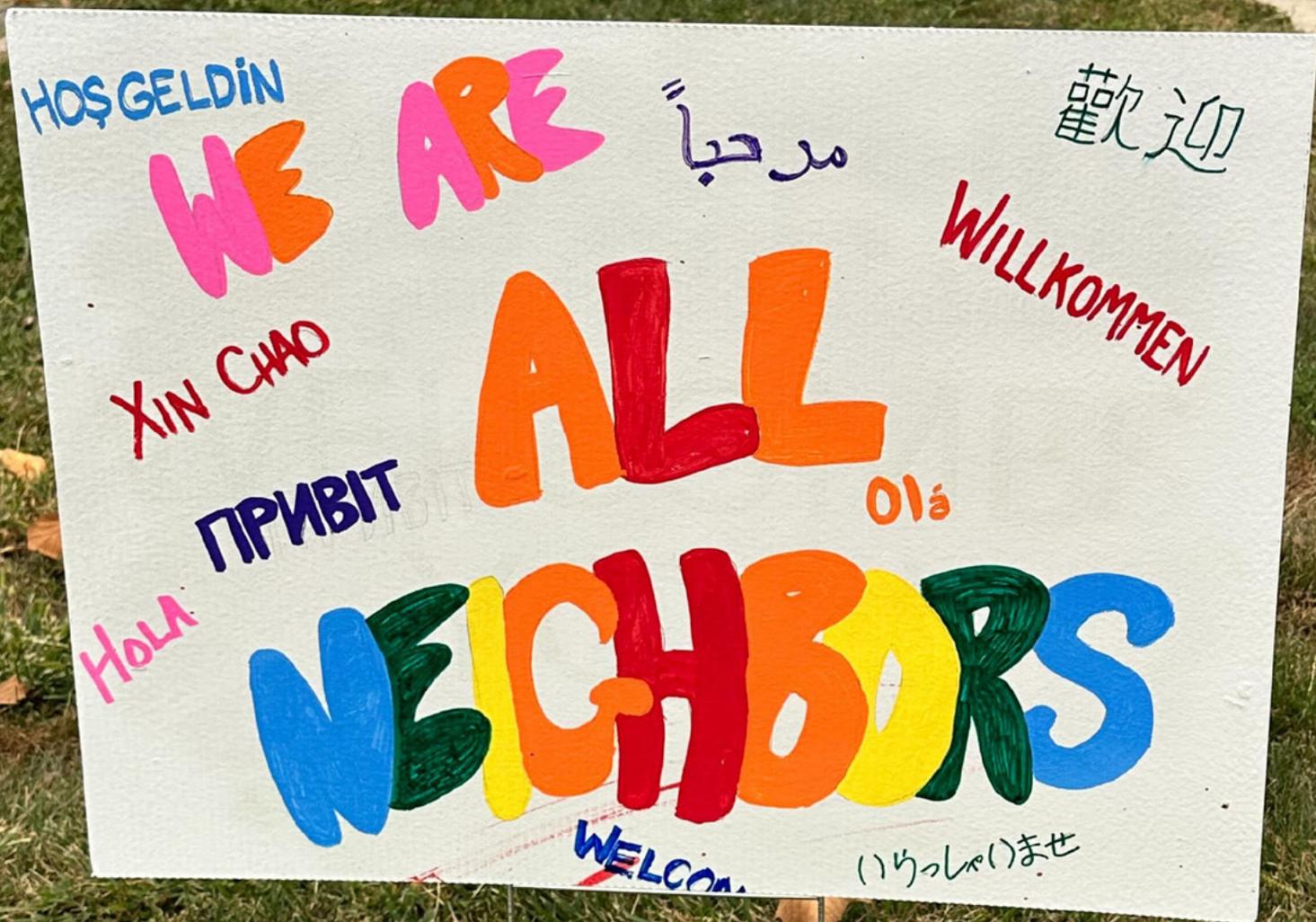
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## Credits

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Delivering Results:  
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