

2025 IMPACT REPORT



CreActivas

Casa de LA MUJER

MMC
Mayors Migration Council

MANTA

Misiones del CACOBIO



Report available at: <https://mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/news/impact-report-2025>

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“Mayors around the world are proving that practical, values-driven city leadership can turn migration into shared opportunity.”

Mike Johnston, Mayor of Denver, US
MMC Leadership Board Member

 **Mike Johnston,**
Mayor of Denver, US
Credit: Erin Powell/City of Denver

FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

Migration is the defining force of our time. And in a year when walls went up, budgets tightened, and rhetoric turned toxic, mayors didn't retreat—they stepped forward. They built bridges. They delivered results. They reminded the world that migration isn't a threat but a driver of progress and shared prosperity.

At the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), our mission is to ensure mayors have the resources, access, and influence they need to lead, especially when national governments and global systems step back. In 2025, that mission mattered more than ever.

We expanded our global reach to nearly 290 cities across over 85 countries. Mayor Mike Johnston of Denver joined our Leadership Board, strengthening a coalition of mayors willing to lead at a time when political courage is in short supply. Together, they advanced pragmatic solutions on the most urgent policy frontiers of our time, from climate migration and labor pathways to economic inclusion and regional cooperation.

Mayors didn't just show up, they shaped outcomes. Through our Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration we released groundbreaking research on green workforce shortages and labor mobility and helped place

climate migration on the official agenda of COP30, where mayors engaged the Brazilian government to advocate for direct city access to climate finance.

In the Western Hemisphere, our Mayors of the Americas Task Force on Migration delivered a joint declaration on regular migration pathways to inform UN General Assembly debates, while securing new philanthropic and multilateral funding for local implementation. And as US cities faced mounting federal pressure for their inclusive local policies, the MMC delivered rapid-response analysis, coordination, and global solidarity to ensure mayors never stood alone.

Even as multilateralism weakens, cities remained visible, vocal, and influential. We launched the Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees with UN partners and leading city networks to formalize city and multilateral collaboration. Together, we secured city access to the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, where city leaders, including some who are refugees themselves, stood alongside national governments to showcase progress on more than 100 city pledges toward the Global Compact on Refugees.

At the same time, we delivered results where they matter most: locally. Through the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees and our donor advisory services, we unlocked more than \$14 million in new funding for city-led initiatives, from women-led cooperatives and green jobs programs to business accelerators and labor mobility pilots.

Since launch, our fund has mobilized over \$32 million, surpassing its original \$25 million target, and supported 34 city initiatives improving the lives of more than 140,000 migrants, refugees, and local residents. Over 90 percent of grantees leveraged their initial support to unlock additional investment, proving that targeted city funding drives lasting systems change.

Behind the scenes, we laid the foundation for what's next. We exceeded our revenue targets, completed our transition to a representative Governing Board, and sustained a lean, high-performing team of 15 staff across regions. We also commissioned our first independent evaluation, confirming that the MMC exceeded its founding goals and filled a critical gap in the global migration ecosystem. And with a new 2025—2030 Business Plan in place, we're ready to scale what works.

None of this came easy. Political winds shifted. Philanthropic support narrowed. Hostility toward mayors and the communities they serve grew louder. But so did our resolve. We doubled down on what makes us effective: trust, agility, and the conviction that the future is local. Because policy succeeds, or fails, in cities. And because mayors remain among the most trusted and effective leaders we have.

The road ahead won't be easy. The coming year will demand clarity, courage, and collaboration. Let our impact in 2025 and this report stand as a testament to what cities can achieve when they lead, and a call to action for those who believe in practical solutions over political paralysis.

I'm deeply grateful to our mayors for their leadership, to our partners for their trust, and to the MMC team for their relentless commitment and creativity. Together, we're not just responding to a changing world, we're helping shape it.

Here's to another year of impact, and to the cities leading the way.

Vittoria Zanuso
Executive Director, Mayors Migration Council



ABOUT

Quezon City, Philippines
MMC Action City
Credit: Unsplash/Rey Melvin Caraan



“Whether the origin, transit point, or destination of migration, cities are often at the forefront of inclusive responses, but we need greater support from our national and international counterparts to deliver at the scale needed.”

Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone
MMC Leadership Board Member

 **Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr**
Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone
Credit: Samer Saliba



WHO WE ARE

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 leadership, city diplomacy, city practice, and narrative change to create a world where urban migrants, displaced people, and receiving communities can thrive.

Created by mayors for mayors, we are a nimble team of political advisors and urban practitioners led by a Leadership Board of global mayors. Our work is made possible by philanthropic and government funders. We are managed as a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

WHAT WE DO

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 financial, knowledge, and technical resources they need to accelerate and scale local solutions.

OUR COALITION

Our coalition includes mayors of all city sizes, geographic locations, and migration contexts. Our core city partners are organized in 3 tiers of engagement:

- **Leadership Cities:** Cities with mayors serving on the MMC Leadership Board, acting as our primary ambassadors and guiding our programmatic strategy.
- **Action Cities:** Cities that actively participate in MMC core programs, such as Mayoral Task Forces or the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.
- **Coalition Cities:** Cities that engage in MMC activities, such as diplomatic events, advocacy campaigns, technical sessions, or research initiatives.

The MMC is not a fee-based membership network to ensure that all cities, regardless of size or resources, can engage. Any city across the world can join our growing coalition by actively participating in MMC programs and demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting migrants and displaced people.

Amman, Jordan
MMC Leadership City
Credit: Samer Saliba



THEORY OF CHANGE

Our Strategic Pillars

If mayors are supported with:

- **City Leadership:** Coalition-building and partnership support
- **City Diplomacy:** Policy and advocacy support
- **City Practice:** Financial, technical, and sustainability support
- **Narrative Change:** Knowledge and strategic communications support

Our Outcomes

Then they can:

- Build and sustain a global mayoral **movement** that leads and inspires
- Influence national and international migration and displacement **policies**
- Unlock technical and financial **resources** to deliver impactful and sustainable local **solutions**
- Promote favorable **narratives** on migration and city leadership

Our Impact

So that urban migrants, refugees, and local communities can **thrive and drive shared prosperity** in the cities they call home.

Our Model



□ Freetown, Sierra Leone
MMC Leadership City
Credit: Samer Saliba



IMPACT



***“We are building cities
where inclusion is not just
a principle, but a practice.”***

Carlos Galán, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia
MMC Leadership Board Member



 **Carlos Galán,**
Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia
Credit: MMC

2025 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

60+

Cities engaged in MMC activities worldwide

35+

Global dialogues and technical sessions

\$14M

Unlocked for city-led initiatives

15+

Mayors assumed leadership roles

5

Global policy positions influenced

40K+

Migrants and refugees reached

100+

Media headlines featuring MMC mayors and their impact

8

New cities supported by the Global Cities Fund



CITY LEADERSHIP

Our City Leadership programs provide coalition-building and partnership support to catalyze a global movement of mayors to lead and inspire. We provide tailored support to our Leadership Board of mayors while nurturing a broader coalition of mayors to ensure our network is representative and responsive to diverse local contexts and political challenges. Around the world, our coalition of mayors, city leaders, and partners are taking ambitious action to address the needs of migrant, displaced, and marginalized people.

In 2025, we engaged mayors from 63 cities worldwide, expanding our reach to nearly 290 cities to date across all regions, income levels, and sizes. This year, **more than 92 percent of cities in the MMC coalition reported satisfaction** with the MMC and results. We also entered **11 strategic partnerships or alliances** with major city networks, UN agencies, and other organizations.



Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago of Kampala and Mayor Corine Mauch of Zürich
Credit: Andrey ART PHOTOS

2025 COALITION BY THE NUMBERS

60+

Cities engaged in MMC activities worldwide

18

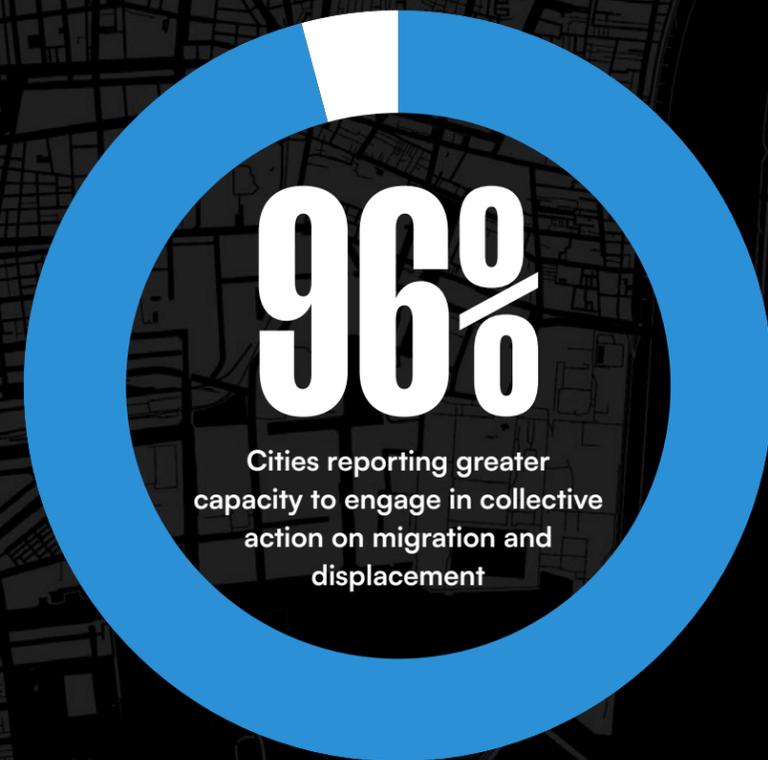
Mayors assumed leadership roles

4

Deep Dive site visits to MMC Leadership cities

11

Strategic partnerships or alliances entered



Deepening Engagement and Tailored Support for Leadership Board Mayors

The MMC formally appointed [Mayor Mike Johnston of Denver](#), US to our Leadership Board, reinforcing political relevance in a critical region. We also activated the engagement of recently appointed mayors—Carlos Galán of Bogotá, Colombia and Maimunah Mohd Sharif of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia—bringing renewed leadership from Latin America and Southeast Asia to the forefront of the MMC’s global agenda.

Amid mounting global instability, the Leadership Board convened in April 2025 to reaffirm the role of mayors as pragmatic problem-solvers. The meeting culminated in a powerful [joint statement](#) supporting US mayors facing threats—an act of solidarity that

underscored the MMC’s rapid-response capacity and rising influence of city diplomacy.

To translate global leadership into local action, the MMC piloted a new “Deep Dive” model of mayoral engagement, with strategic site visits to Amman, Jordan; Bogotá, Colombia; Freetown, Sierra Leone; and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. These deep dives spotlighted bold, local solutions—from Amman’s climate academy for refugee youth to Freetown’s inclusive green jobs initiative—while enabling tailored technical support. In Bogotá, the MMC facilitated peer learning on municipal IDs and labor mobility, and, in Kuala Lumpur, we supported the city’s stakeholder coordination and regional positioning.



“Building partnerships at all levels—local, national, and international—is essential to provide the necessary support for managing migration and refugee conditions.”

Yousef Al Shawarbeh, Mayor of Amman, Jordan
MMC Leadership Board Member



Amman, Jordan
Credit: Samer Saliba



Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, and Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council, signing a new Memorandum of Understanding in Geneva, Switzerland

Activating the Broader Coalition of Cities and Partners for Global Influence

To extend the MMC’s global reach and amplify city leadership, we activated our broader coalition of mayors and partners through high-impact convenings and strategic alliances. During the 2025 UN High-level Week, the MMC convened immigrant affairs leaders from New York City, Boston, and Chicago with donors and global partners to spotlight the escalating pressures facing US cities and catalyze international support. MMC leaders also took the stage at major forums, from the Clinton Global Initiative to the Climate Mobility Summit, advancing a migration agenda grounded in local reality and global urgency.

At the multilateral level, the MMC deepened its partnership with UNHCR through a renewed [strategic partnership](#) that positions cities as central actors in global displacement response and reinforces the MMC’s role as a key implementer of the localization agenda. In partnership with refugee-led platform R-SEAT, the MMC helped secure city representation in the first-ever UNHCR High Commissioner candidate dialogue—featuring Mayor Anne Hidalgo of Paris, France—ensuring local priorities remain central during UNHCR’s leadership transition.



“Mayors around the world—whether on climate resilience, child protection, or housing—are what bring the spirit of the Global Compact to life. Together with the MMC, we aim to unlock more tools, more space, and more support for the cities that are delivering.”

Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR

2025 CITIES



2025 Cities

● Leadership Cities

Amman, Jordan
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Denver, United States
 Freetown, Sierra Leone
 Kampala, Uganda
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Milan, Italy
 Montréal, Canada
 Zürich, Switzerland

● Action Cities

Amman, Jordan
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Boston, United States
 Cali, Colombia
 Ciudad Juárez, México
 Denver, United States
 Freetown, Sierra Leone
 Guadalajara, México
 Kanifing, The Gambia

Karachi, Pakistan
 Koboko, Uganda
 London, United Kingdom
 Manta, Ecuador
 México City, México
 Milan, Italy
 Quezon City, Philippines
 Quito, Ecuador
 Santiago de Chile, Chile

São Paulo, Brazil
 Turin, Italy
 Washington DC,
 United States

● Coalition Cities

Accra, Ghana
 Barranquilla, Colombia
 Cape Town, South Africa
 Curitiba, Brazil
 Dubai,
 United Arab Emirates
 Ekurhuleni, South Africa
 El Paso, United States
 eThekweni, South Africa

Fortaleza, Brazil
 Johannesburg,
 South Africa
 Madison, United States
 Maicao, Colombia
 Medellín, Colombia
 Nairobi, Kenya
 Nogales, México
 Paris, France

Phoenix, United States
 Portland, United States
 Ramallah, Palestine
 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 Riohacha, Colombia
 Robregordo, Spain
 Rome, Italy
 Salvador, Brazil
 San Antonio, United States

Seattle, United States
 Tanay, Philippines
 Tlaxcala, México

● MMC Alumni Cities

Strategic Partners



Strategic Alliances



CITY DIPLOMACY

Our City Diplomacy programs support mayors to influence policy decisions at the national and international level to ensure they reflect and address the realities in cities, where most migrants live. We elevate mayors and their local actions to global stages, deliver joint city advocacy campaigns, and create bridges for cities to influence national and global changemakers.

In 2025, we mobilized **45 city leaders across diplomatic engagements**, including mayoral meetings of our Americas Task Force and Climate Migration Task Force; facilitated more than **15 global dialogues** to connect cities to policymakers; and coordinated nearly **30**

city policy contributions, including mayoral joint statements and political agendas, to influence national and international migration policy. As a result, mayors elevated migration at **5 multilateral processes**, from COP30 to the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, and influenced **5 global policy positions**, including commitments to respect the rights of migrants regardless of status in the G20 Leaders' Declaration and unprecedented acknowledgements on the climate impacts on migrants in key UN Climate Change frameworks. This year, **80 percent of our city partners reported increased access** to policy dialogues on migration and displacement.



□ Jamal Haddad, Councillor of Ramallah, Palestine
MMC Coalition City
Credit: UCLG

CITY DIPLOMACY BY THE NUMBERS

45

City leaders mobilized across diplomatic engagements

15+

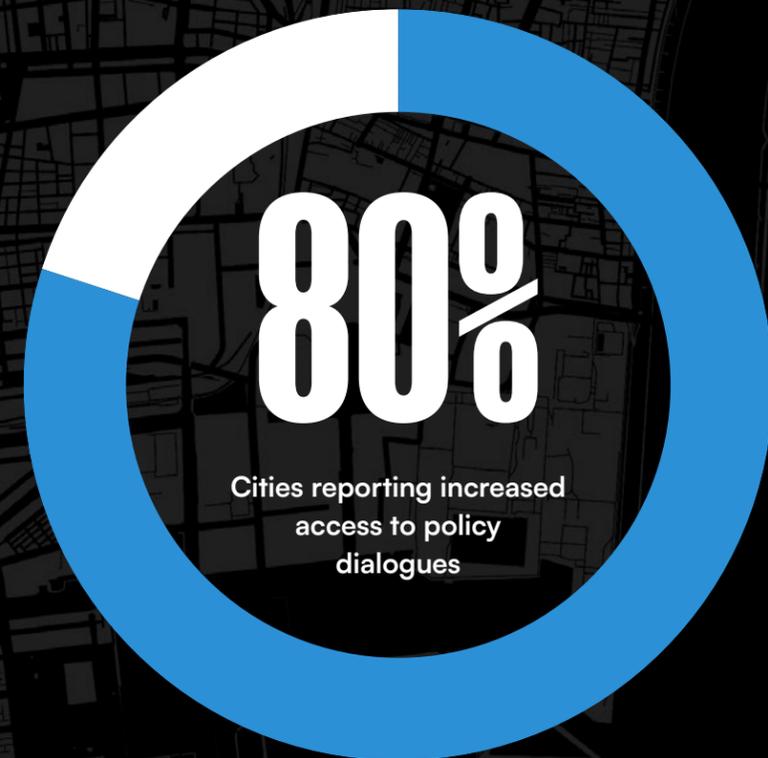
Global dialogues to connect cities to policymakers

5

Multilateral processes mainstreaming cities

5

Global policy positions influenced





Mayors of the Americas Task Force on Migration Convening in Bogotá
Credit: MMC

Accelerating City Leadership on Migration in the Americas

The MMC advanced mayoral advocacy in key national and regional contexts facing mounting political pressures. In the US, the MMC provided real-time analysis and messaging to mayors Michelle Wu of Boston, Mike Johnston of Denver, and Brandon Johnson of Chicago in advance of national hearings—backed by a broader, bipartisan coalition of 300+ local officials calling to restart refugee admissions.

Regionally, we activated the Mayors of the Americas Task Force on Migration to scale cross-border collaboration on migrant inclusion. The Task Force expanded to include Governor Claudio Orrego of Santiago and Mayor Marciana Valdivieso of

Manta and convened high-impact events to drive shared advocacy and local action. This included a 2-day [convening](#) in Bogotá in June co-hosted with Leadership Board Mayor Carlos Galán and a mayoral convening in September with Cali, Ciudad Juárez, Denver, México City, and Quito. This momentum culminated in a [joint declaration](#) to expand regular migration pathways, presented during UN High-level Week. As a result, in December, the Task Force [unlocked more than \\$5 million](#) for 5 member cities—Bogotá, Cali, Manta, México City, and Quito—to implement city-led solutions that drive economic inclusion across Latin America. These initiatives expand access to dignified work, pioneer digital ID systems, and unlock regular status for migrants.



“We reaffirm our commitment to the dignity, protection, and inclusion of people on the move who arrive in Mexico City. We want them to be able to fully exercise their rights, participate in the community, contribute to our society, and develop a sense of belonging.”

Clara Brugada, Head of Government of México City, México

Driving Policy Change and Investment in Inclusive Climate Action

The MMC advanced mayoral leadership on climate migration through targeted diplomacy and high-level convenings. At London Climate Action Week, Leadership Board mayors Giuseppe Sala of Milan and Valérie Plante of Montréal spotlighted inclusive climate action as a pathway to a just transition. Alongside C40 and the Climate Migration Council, the MMC co-hosted a roundtable on green jobs and labor mobility, informing the city advocacy agenda ahead of the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (COP30).

These efforts resulted in climate migration’s formal inclusion on the COP30 Local Leaders Forum agenda. The MMC and C40 Cities [mobilized the Global](#)

[Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration](#)

—including the mayors of Amman, Freetown, Milan, and Paris, and new members from Guadalajara and Karachi—to engage the Brazilian government and advocate for greater city access to climate finance, including the UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund.

This global campaign was reinforced by individual mayoral action, from Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers of Freetown convening West African mayors for Africa’s first Urban Heat Summit to Mayor Maimunah Mohd Sharif of Kuala Lumpur underscoring the role of local governments in climate migration solutions at the 12th Global Baku Forum.



“It is crucial to understand that climate migration is not a future threat, but a current reality today. Cities and mayors are a critical partner in delivering inclusive responses to these challenges, and I welcome the opportunity to have met with the C40-MMC Task Force mayors to discuss our shared priorities.”

Alice Vogas, COP30 Presidency Programme Director, Government of Brazil



Mayor Yousef Al Shawarbeh (Amman), Mayor Anne Hidalgo (Paris), Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers (Freetown), former Mayor Marvin Rees (Bristol) and Mayor Keith Wilson (Portland) at COP30: Global Leaders Forum
Credit: Samer Saliba

Sustaining City Engagement in Core Multilateral Forums on Migration Governance

To protect and expand the space for city leadership in global migration governance, the MMC—together with UCLG—launched the [Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees](#), in cooperation with UN Agencies. The coalition institutionalizes city-UN collaboration on migration and supports city pledges towards global migration and displacement goals.

Despite shrinking political space, the MMC ensured cities remained influential across key global fora through this coalition. We secured city access to the Global Forum on Migration and Displacement chaired by Colombia to elevate city priorities on migration. On displacement, we mobilized city leaders for UNHCR Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, where national governments, refugee leaders, and local officials assessed progress on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Leaders from Koboko, Milan, México City, Nairobi, and Ramallah delivered a pledge update

report on the progress made by cities toward the GCR. Our delegation included 2 refugee leaders—the Mayor of Koboko and Councilor of Ramallah—who announced new investments in city-led refugee inclusion, setting the stage for continued partnership with UNHCR in 2026 and beyond.

The MMC also elevated migration in major geopolitical arenas, such as the G20. MMC mayors secured strong migration language in the [U20 Communiqué](#)—signed by 36 of the world’s leading mayors—urging the G20 Presidency to advance migrant and refugee inclusion, partner with cities on regular migration pathways, recognize migrant contributions to economic growth and the green transition, and resource city-led solutions. This advocacy translated directly into the G20 Leaders’ Declaration, which recognizes migrants’ rights regardless of status and calls for sustained G20 coordination on migration and forced displacement.



“It is about national ownership of strategies to respond and international support to those strategies. This is not just at the national level. That is why it is so important to hear from mayors because a lot of this action has been done at the local level.”

Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Wilson Sanya, Mayor of Koboko, Uganda
Credit: UCLG

2025 MAYORAL TASK FORCES



- Mayors of the Americas Task Force on Migration
- Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration

CITY PRACTICE

Our City Practice programs support mayors in implementing local actions that address the needs of migrants and displaced people living in their cities. We generate practical research, provide technical assistance, and drive financial resources to city governments to create a marketplace of city-led solutions that advance global goals.

In 2025, we issued **5 reports** with practical insights on urban migration and displacement; delivered nearly **20 technical sessions** to provide cities with direct assistance and connect them to international service providers and resources; and elevated city-led solutions to nearly **15 donors and funding mechanisms**. As a result, we influenced **10 practitioner research products and unlocked over \$14 million in direct and follow-on funding** for city governments through the **Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees (GCF)**, the MMC's flagship program for channeling financial and technical support directly to cities. This year, the GCF supported **8 city grantees**, providing

direct support to nearly **40,000 migrants and displaced and marginalized people, with countless more benefiting indirectly**. Since its launch, the fund has mobilized over **\$32 million**—exceeding our target to reach \$25 million by 2025—and has helped **33 cities** improve the lives of more than **140,000 people**. In response to this momentum, the MMC raised its goal to mobilize \$50 million by 2030 to expand the fund's reach and global influence. Notably, more than **90 percent of city grantees** have leveraged this initial funding to secure more resources and continue, expand, or replicate their projects, tripling the MMC's initial investment and expanding critical programs. This year, **80 percent of our city partners reported increased capacity** to design, deliver, and sustain local actions. We also facilitated city-to-city connections, with nearly **90 percent of cities reporting improved connections to peer cities** through sharing policy innovations, best practices, resources, and coordination agendas.



Amman, Jordan
MMC Leadership Board City
Credit: Samer Saliba

CITY PRACTICE BY THE NUMBERS

19

Technical sessions delivered to cities and practitioners

40K+

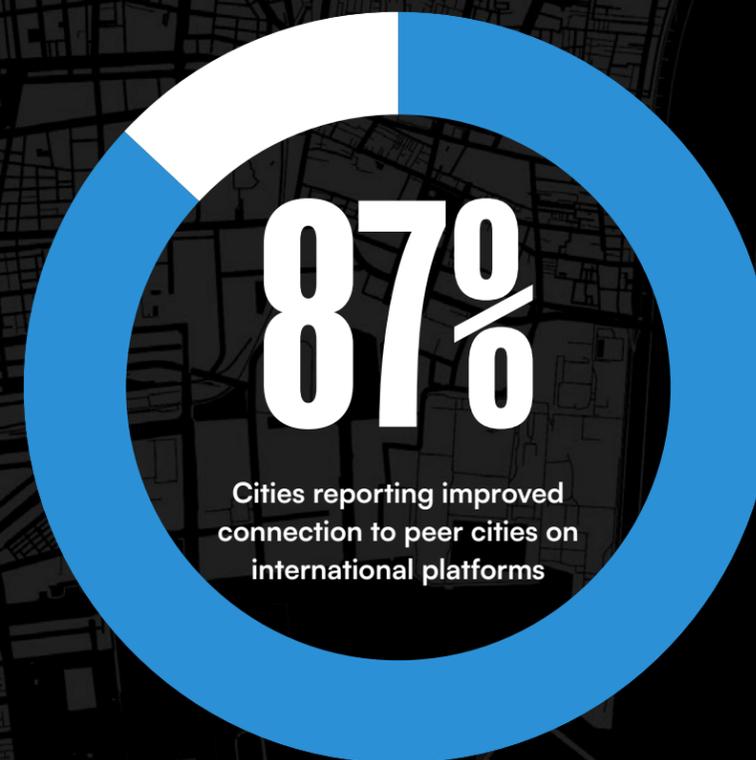
Migrants and displaced people directly supported

\$14M

Unlocked for city-level solutions

8

Cities funded to implement the Global Compacts



Expanding Direct Financial Support to Cities to Drive Local Action and Systems Change

The MMC launched the next phase of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees (GCF) with a \$3 million investment promoting economic inclusion. Through a revitalized partner network and a new Steering Committee—including experts with lived experience—6 inaugural grantees were announced at the 2025 Clinton Global Initiative Meeting: [Boston](#), [Kanifing](#), [Koboko](#), [Manta](#), [Quezon City](#), and [Turin](#). Each city received catalytic financial and technical support to implement inclusive, locally led solutions—from women-led cooperatives and green jobs programs to labor mobility pathways and migrant business accelerators.

The MMC also piloted a new “special track” of the fund to support high-impact, MMC-led pilots in priority cities—starting with a green jobs initiative for migrant women in [Freetown](#) and a first-of-its kind digital employment system in [Cali](#).

Since its inception, the Global Cities Fund has mobilized over \$32 million, surpassing its original \$25 million target by 2025 and raising its goal to \$50 million by 2030 to expand the fund’s reach. Making progress towards this target, the MMC secured new partnerships with the Olympic Refugee Foundation and ClimateWorks Foundation to launch future GCF windows focused on sports-based inclusion and climate migration.



“With the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, we are investing in the talent of our young people to transform migration into a choice, not a necessity.”

Talib Bensouda, Mayor of Kanifing, The Gambia



Freetown, Sierra Leone
Credit: Samer Saliba



Migrant Shelter in Ciudad Juárez, México
Credit: Samer Saliba

Deepening Technical Assistance to Accelerate City Solutions

To complement direct funding, the MMC strengthened technical assistance for city partners through tailored capacity strengthening and advisory support. GCF applicants, grantees, and graduates benefited from targeted learning modules on project design and sustainability, paired with 1:1 support. This included technical guidance to align city-led projects with advocacy initiatives, such as Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees.

The MMC also developed practical implementation tools. In partnership with the International Rescue Committee, the MMC co-authored [Connecting US: A Roadmap for City-to-City Resettlement](#)—a first-of-its-kind roadmap to help US cities build city-to-city

immigrant resettlement networks, providing concrete steps to improve coordination as cities receive, support, and integrate newcomers.

To foster cross-border learning, the MMC convened technical workshops between border cities El Paso and Ciudad Juárez on managing real-time migration flows and peer exchanges among Bogotá and other Mayors of the Americas Task Force members focused on labor mobility. To scale its reach, the MMC embedded its technical expertise into external city networks, through advisory roles in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge and Ideas Exchange programs, as well as UN technical guidance documents on urban migration.



“Border cities have a voice in regional conversations and can step in when national governments struggle to cooperate. Together, we’ll work on practical solutions that benefit both migrants and our communities—by strengthening reception capacity, improving city-to-city coordination, and advocating for expanded migration pathways.”

Cruz Pérez Cuéllar, Mayor of Ciudad Juárez, México

Improving Municipal Access to Finance for Migration and Displacement

The MMC helped cities unlock new resources by facilitating donor matchmaking, offering targeted advisory support, and elevating municipal finance on global agendas, from the GFMD to COP30.

These efforts helped GCF grantees and graduates secure over \$1.2 million in follow-on funding, with Amman, Montevideo, and Milan securing \$600,000, \$200,000, and \$416,000 respectively, to scale their early-childhood initiatives.

At the same time, the MMC advised philanthropic and multilateral funders on how to better direct investments to cities. It helped shape ClimateWorks

Foundation's new \$50 million Adaptation and Resilience Fund to prioritize city governments managing climate migration. It also advised philanthropies and regional development banks on city investments in Latin America, resulting in a \$5 million commitment to support 5 cities in the region.

To build on this progress, the MMC began the development of its long-term municipal finance strategy, launching in 2026. The goal: make it business as usual for cities to access direct, flexible, and sustained finance to lead on migration and displacement solutions.



“We know the value of investing in subnational leaders. We urge our partners and financial institutions to invest directly in city-driven solutions, maximizing their resources to unlock the full potential of migration for both newcomers and local economies alike.”

Sergio Díaz-Granados, Executive President of CAF-Development Bank of Latin America



Amman Children's Climate Academy in a refugee area, co-funded by the MMC and city of Amman
Credit: City of Amman

GLOBAL CITIES FUND BY THE NUMBERS

34

City projects funded

24

Countries represented

140K+

Migrants and displaced
people reached

\$5M+

Unlocked in direct and follow-on
investments for GCF cities in 2025

\$32M+

Unlocked for city-led
action to date



CITY PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Advancing Economic Inclusion through the Global Cities Fund

In 2025, the MMC announced 8 new city grantees of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees (GCF) and invested \$3 million in bold, city-led projects focused on the economic inclusion of migrants and refugees.

Over 80 percent of the global GDP is generated by cities. With most refugees, migrants, and internally

displaced people worldwide living in cities, mayors understand that harnessing the skills and expertise of newcomers not only drives economic productivity but also accelerates sustainable, inclusive growth. With support from the GCF, these 2025 city grantees are showing that migration is not a drain on resources but an opportunity to jumpstart their economies.



“The City of Boston is thrilled to launch our new Cooperating Care initiative with support from the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees. I’m grateful to the Mayors Migration Council for their leadership and look forward to this project bolstering our work to make Boston a home for everyone.”

Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston, US

- **Cooperating Care: Boston, United States** is launching the city’s first immigrant-led homecare cooperative to serve Boston’s aging population, creating dignified jobs and business ownership pathways for immigrant workers.
- **Digital ID and Job Matching for Migrants: Cali, Colombia** is building a digital employment system for migrants, refugees, returnees, and host communities that verifies credentials and skills and directly matches newcomers to employers and jobs.

- **Climate Resilient Market Hub: Freetown, Sierra Leone** is establishing the Climate Resilient Market Hub, an initiative to transform the city’s markets into climate-smart, inclusive, and economically vibrant spaces for the migrant women entrepreneurs powering Freetown’s economy.
- **Migrant Resilience Hub: Kanifing, The Gambia** is inaugurating a business incubator for migrant entrepreneurs—primarily women and youth—in high-growth sectors by offering training, startup capital, and wraparound services, including early education for their young children, to support economic participation.



Launch of CreActivas with Mayor Marciana Valdivieso of Manta
Credit: Municipality of Manta

- **From Waste to Wealth: Koboko, Uganda** is creating green jobs for displaced youth to produce and sell alternative energy and recycled products through briquette-making, composting, and clean energy kiosks, powering a circular economy and sustainable livelihoods.
- **CreActivas: Manta, Ecuador** is organizing migrant and displaced women active in the food and textile sectors into business associations by providing business training, startup capital, and access to local and digital markets.
- **QC Cares: Quezon City, Philippines** is establishing the city’s first member-owned, city-supported cooperative for local and returnee domestic workers, providing them with savings and credit schemes, job-matching services, and social protections trainings.
- **From Kampala to Turin: Turin, Italy** is developing a formal labor pathway to connect and relocate refugees in Uganda with critical job openings in Italy’s private sector, providing new hires with training, language classes, and pre- and post-departure connections to social services.

GLOBAL CITIES FUND GRANTEES

● Current GCF Cities

Boston, United States
Cali, Colombia
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Kanifing, The Gambia
Koboko, Uganda
Manta, Ecuador
Quezon City, Philippines
Turin, Italy

● Graduate GCF Cities

Accra, Ghana
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Amman, Jordan
Arua, Uganda
Barranquilla, Colombia
Beira, Mozambique
Beirut, Lebanon
Bogotá, Colombia
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Dunaivtsi, Ukraine
eThekweni, South Africa
Guayaquil, Ecuador
Hargeisa, Somaliland
Johannesburg, South Africa
Kampala, Uganda
Lima, Peru
Medellín, Colombia
México City, México
Milan, Italy
Monrovia, Liberia
Montevideo, Uruguay
Nairobi, Kenya
Nyamagabe District, Rwanda
Quito, Ecuador
Ramallah, Palestine

NARRATIVE CHANGE

Our Narrative Change activities reinforce our core programs by raising awareness of city leadership and increasing understanding of urban migration and displacement among global audiences. We support mayors with advocacy campaigns, promotional events, and media engagements, as well as knowledge products and research partnerships.

In 2025, we organized or attended **6 global summits and events** to promote MMC mayors

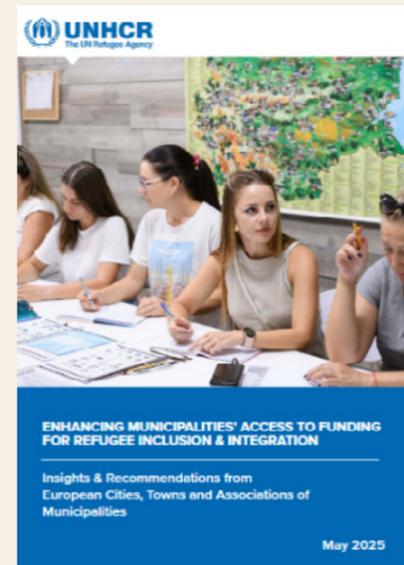
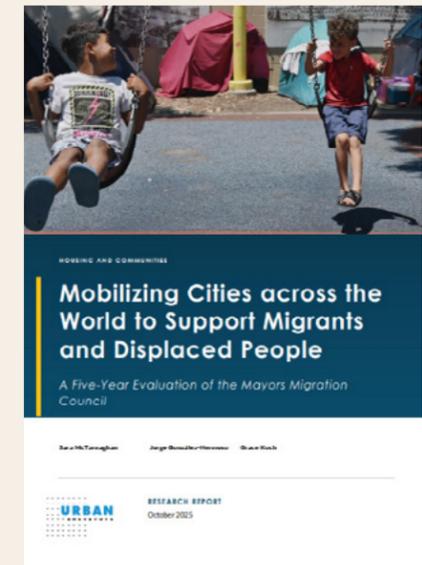
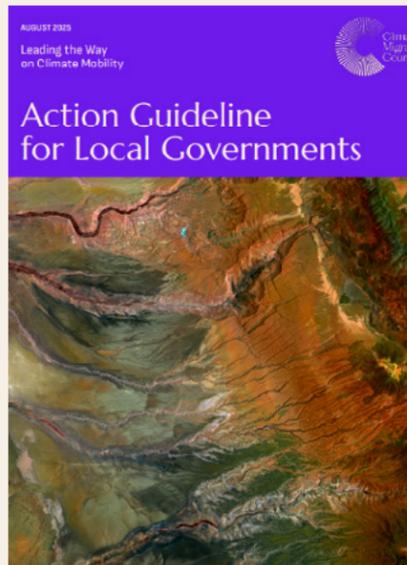
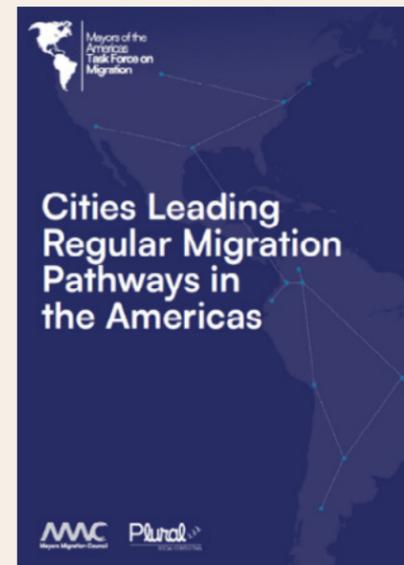
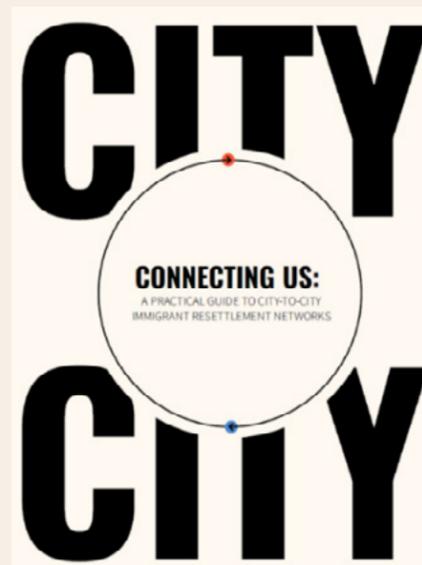
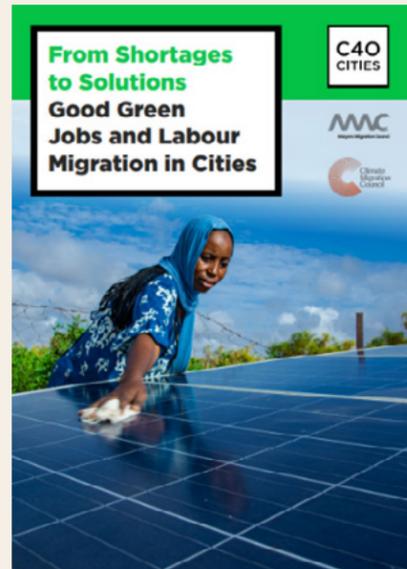
and city leadership; delivered **4 campaigns** to elevate key messages to global audiences; developed **40 media products**, including press releases, blogs, readouts, case studies, and other promotional materials; and issued **5 knowledge products**, such as reports, papers, and briefs. As a result, the MMC's work and impact was featured in more than **100 earned media placements** and **10 external research pieces**. Over **80 percent of our city partners reported improved visibility** as key actors on global migration and displacement issues.



 Nairobi, Kenya
MMC Action City
Credit: Safer Nairobi Initiative

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Publications



Featured

B

The Guardian

THE CHRONICLE OF
PHILANTHROPY

POLITICO

EL PAÍS

The Economist

NARRATIVE CHANGE BY THE NUMBERS

40

Press releases, blogs, and other
media products developed

100+

Earned media hits recognizing
the MMC's work and impact

5

Reports and other knowledge
products issued

10

External research products
featuring the MMC





Asylum seekers in Brooklyn, NY
Credit: Samer Saliba

Generating and Disseminating Practical Research and Impact Stories to Elevate City Leadership

The MMC produced new research to fill critical knowledge gaps and elevate the role of cities in shaping migration and displacement solutions. In partnership with C40 Cities, the MMC released [From Shortages to Solutions: Good Green Jobs and Labour Migration in Cities](#), the first report of its kind to analyze green workforce shortages across 25 cities in Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Kenya, México, South Africa, and the US. Available on a [custom microsite](#), findings show that addressing shortages in construction, transportation, and waste sectors could generate up to \$280 billion by 2040 if paired with inclusive immigration and workforce development policies.

The MMC also published new research on migration pathways. This included [Brokering Solutions: How Local and Regional Governments Shape Regular Migration Pathways](#), a white paper to provide a global framework for how cities contribute to migration pathways; [Cities Leading Regular Migration Pathways in the Americas](#), which explores how cities can expand economic inclusion and pilot city-to-city migration

models; and [Connecting US: A Roadmap for City-to-City Resettlement](#), a practical guide developed with the International Rescue Committee for US cities coordinating the reception and integration of newcomers moving across jurisdictions.

To deepen the evidence base on what works, the MMC launched a multi-year initiative on economic inclusion and engaged over 35 cities to inform a forthcoming State of the Field report, to be published in 2026 with the Migration Policy Institute. This analysis will offer the first global scoping of how cities foster migrants' economic self-reliance—mapping barriers, identifying opportunities, and spotlighting high-impact sectors like the green economy.

These knowledge products and related storytelling efforts contributed to over 100 media mentions in top-tier outlets such as *Bloomberg*, *The Guardian*, *Politico*, and *El País* raising global visibility for mayors as champions of inclusion and innovation.



“When we talk about migrants and refugees, the key to inclusion lies in quality pathways that respect cultural differences and origins.”

Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan, Italy

Measuring Impact to Drive Learning and Accountability

To assess its first 5 years, the MMC commissioned an independent organizational evaluation by the Urban Institute, [Mobilizing Cities across the World to Support Migrants and Displaced People](#), covering 2020—2024. The report confirmed that the MMC exceeded its founding goals, reaching over 275 cities, mobilizing over \$40 million for city-led action, and positioning mayors as key actors in global migration governance. The evaluation affirmed MMC's unique contribution to the international migration ecosystem and marked a clear transition from startup to institutional growth.

In parallel, the MMC supported 2 donor-led impact evaluations to deepen program-level learning. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) completed an evaluation of the MMC's diplomatic activities, while the IKEA Foundation commissioned a 3-year review of the Global Cities Fund to assess its impact on city capacity, migrant and refugee inclusion, and follow-on funding, concluding in 2027.



“Cities provide an opportunity to change the narrative on migration, but they need to be included in a systemic, sustainable manner.”

Erias Lukwago, Lord Mayor of Kampala, Uganda



A renovated park in Qaddura Refugee Camp, funded by the MMC, in Ramallah, Palestine
Credit: Municipality of Ramallah

GOVERNANCE



☐ Zürich, Switzerland
MMC Leadership Board City



“It has been an honor to serve alongside mayors and colleagues dedicated to advancing the global agenda for safe, inclusive, and sustainable cities.”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
MMC Leadership Board Member

LEADERSHIP BOARD

Our Leadership Board represents mayors from different geographies and migration contexts and guides the MMC's strategic direction and programs to ensure that our mission is driven

by and responsive to the needs of cities. It is composed of up to 10 mayors serving 3-year terms, which can be renewed provided that the mayor remains in office.

Leadership Board members as of December 2025



Yousef Al Shawarbeh
Mayor of Amman,
Jordan



Carlos Galán
Mayor of Bogotá,
Colombia



Mike Johnston
Mayor of Denver,
United States



Yvonne Aki-Sawyer
Mayor of Freetown,
Sierra Leone



Erias Lukwago
Lord Mayor of Kampala,
Uganda



Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Mayor of Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia



Giuseppe Sala
Mayor of Milan,
Italy



Valérie Plante
Mayor of Montréal,
Canada



Corine Mauch
Mayor of Zürich,
Switzerland

 Bogotá, Colombia
MMC Leadership Board City
Credit: Samer Saliba



GOVERNING BOARD

In 2025, the MMC launched its inaugural Governing Board, a pivotal milestone in its evolution from a startup initiative to a global leader in migration policy and practice. This shift from a donor-led governance structure to a diverse, representative body of leaders and experts equips the MMC and its mayors

with the strategic and operational excellence needed to address the pressing migration challenges and opportunities of our time.

The MMC welcomed Governing Board members in February and remains a Sponsored Project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

Inaugural Governing Board Members



Marvin Rees
Chair for Engagement and Public Affairs



Cecilia Vaca Jones
Chair for Strategy and Business Development



Ingrid Rasmussen
Chair for Governance and Operations

The MMC operates as a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA), a 501(c)(3) public charity. Fiduciary, legal, and governance responsibilities rest with RPA's Board of Directors. The MMC Leadership Board and the Governing Board serve in an advisory capacity only, advising the MMC's strategy and operations without assuming fiduciary authority.

TEAM

Our team of committed and passionate experts implements the MMC's day-to-day programmatic, operational, and strategic priorities under the guidance of the Leadership Board and Management Committee and

the legal oversight of RPA. The team is headquartered in New York City, has staff in the United States, France, and United Kingdom, and works with partners and consultants all over the world.

Our Team Members



Vittoria Zanuso
Executive Director



Maggie Powers
Director of Policy and Advocacy



Samer Saliba
Director of City Practice



Tony Chen
Finance Lead



Quinn Formel
Operations Lead



Sharmeen Hossain
City Finance Lead



Caroline Twigg
City and Partner Lead



Helen Yu
City Practice Lead



Daniella Burgi-Palomino
Policy Expert



Cynthia Nahhas
Communications Manager



Estefania Ramirez
City Diplomacy Manager



Savarni Sanka
City Practice Manager



Erin Worden
Knowledge and Impact Manager



Asha Richards
Administrative Associate

FUNDERS & PARTNERS

We are grateful to our funders and partners for their continued support and strategic insights to help advance our mission.

Funders



Strategic Partners



Strategic Alliances



Fiscal Sponsor

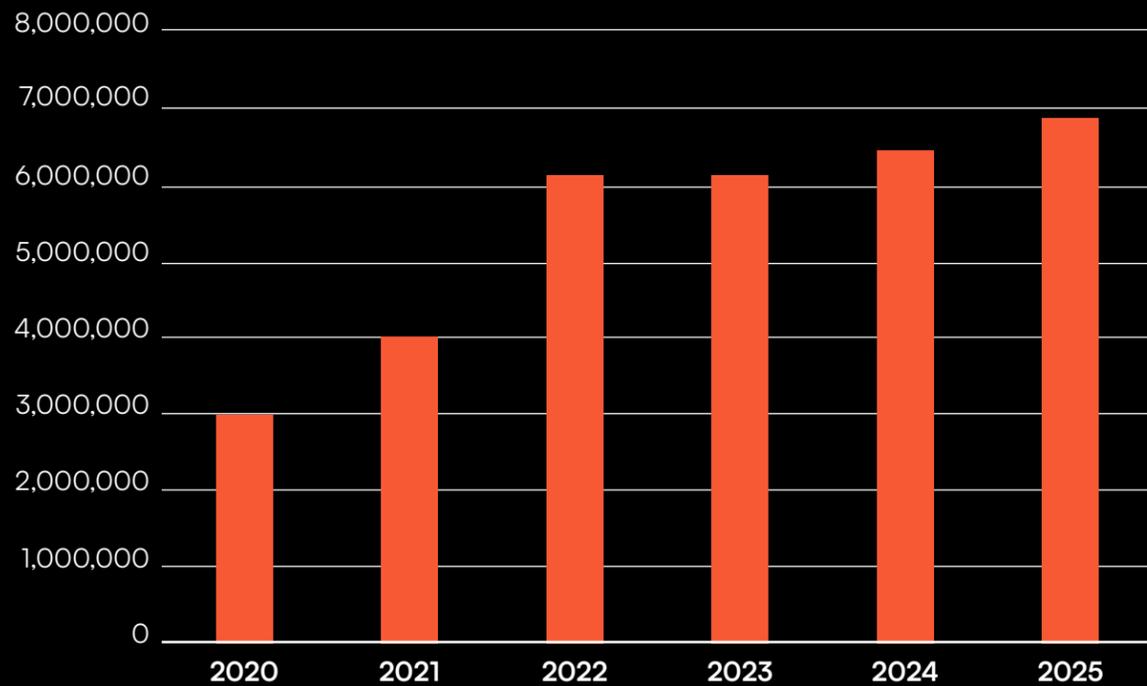


Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) accelerates philanthropy in pursuit of a just world. Continuing the Rockefeller family's legacy of thoughtful, effective philanthropy, RPA is a global nonprofit that remains at the forefront of philanthropic growth and innovation, with a diverse team of experienced grantmakers with significant depth of knowledge across the spectrum of issue areas. Founded in 2002, RPA has grown into one of the world's largest philanthropic service organizations and has facilitated more than \$4 billion in grantmaking to more than 70 countries.

FINANCIALS

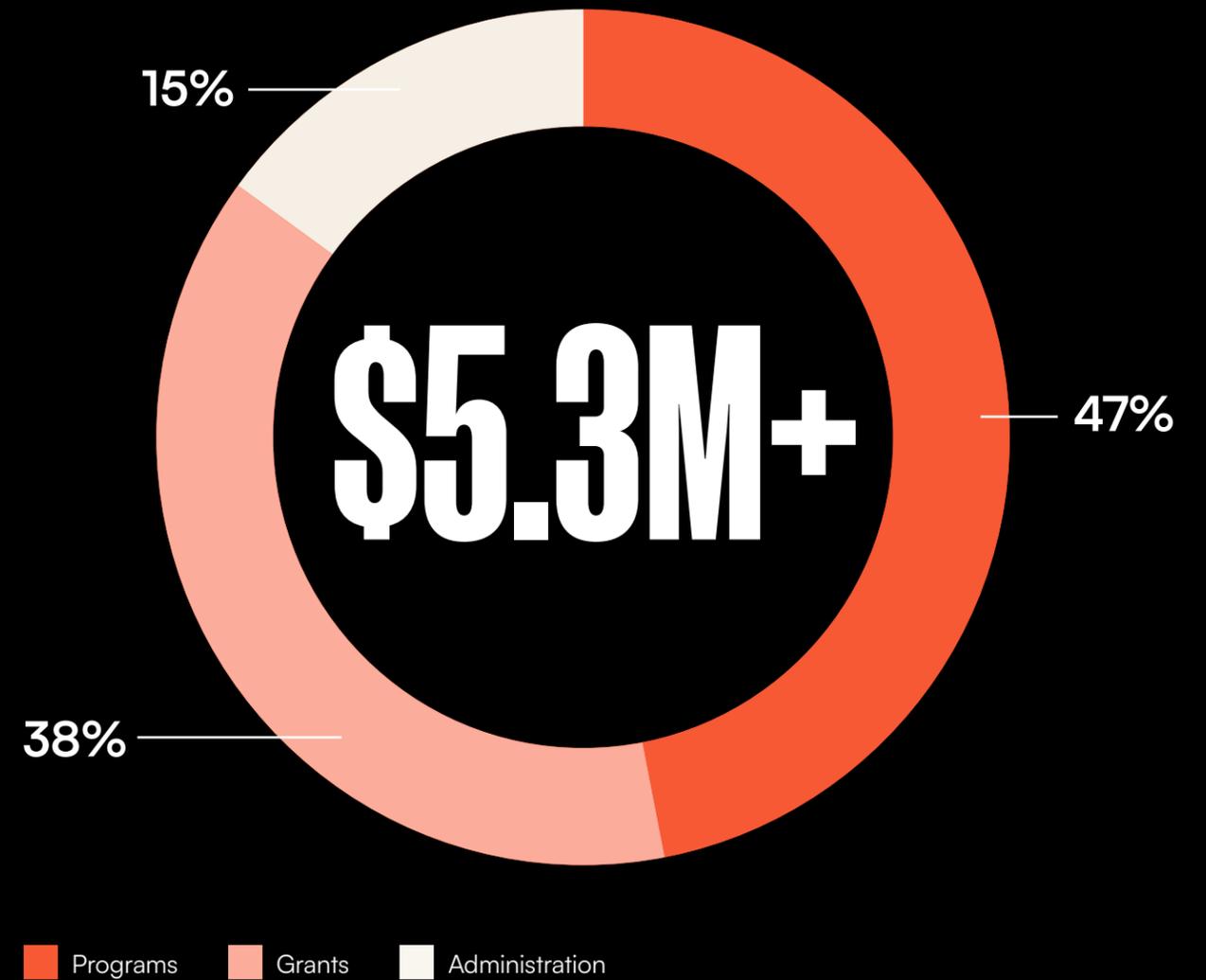
In 2025, the MMC secured more than **\$6.9 million** in new funding commitments, bringing revenue secured to date to nearly **\$35 million**.

2020 - 2025 Revenues*



* Revenues recognized in the year include multi-year funds committed from donors in advance, for programming activity in 2025 and beyond.

2025 Expenses



*“Mayors are doers. We find solutions,
and ultimately, we get the job done.”*

Valerie Plante, Mayor of Montréal, Canada



Get involved

As a Mayor

Join our coalition by adding your pledge to the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees at localcoalition.org and learn more about the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees at mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf.

As a Partner

Express interest in becoming an institutional donor or strategic partner by emailing us at fund@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org.

Stay in Touch

Visit our website:
mayorsmigrationcouncil.org

Email us:
contact@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org

Subscribe to our newsletter:
mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/news/newsletter

Follow us on social media:

 [@MayorsMigration](https://twitter.com/MayorsMigration)

 [@MayorsMigration](https://facebook.com/MayorsMigration)

 [Mayors Migration Council](https://linkedin.com/company/MayorsMigrationCouncil)

“Mayors know what works. They lead with compassion and facts, not fear. Migrants are part of our communities, and when our communities are in need, we respond with leadership.”

Mayors of the Mayors Migration Council Leadership Board

