CMI THEMATIC PARTICIPANTS’ SURVEY

on

Host local government’s views on local economic development for host communities and refugees

November 2018
SURVEY PRELIMINARY SUMMARY

1) LGs face important challenges in regard to their local economies and the impact of forced displacement is perceived as negative for a majority (63%), including with increasing unemployment, competition for livelihood and tensions on the housing market.

2) Participating LGs are already developing actions for LED: 86% of the participants are engaged in LED Strategies or planning; key actions include infrastructures work, vocational training, improving business regulations, specific sectors’ projects (tourism, environmental), partnerships with the private sector;

3) Specific Challenges and priorities:
   - Unemployment is a major concern for LGs, as 80% of them consider forced displacement had a negative impact on the matter. A majority of LGs are already involved or interested in providing worker skills development and training, including for refugees; support home-based businesses, improving data on existing skills and on job offers, providing public jobs, were also mentioned as solutions to improve job opportunities for refugees.
   - Infrastructure and municipal services maintenance, upgrading, and development to improve the enabling environment for businesses remains the main lever of action for LGs, and where they still see large areas for improvement;
   - Partnering with the private sector and attracting large investments appears as a challenge for a majority of respondents. Simplifying business regulations is one of the incentives LGs would envisage developing;
   - Financial and budget constraints, remains an important impediment for many LGs, together with issues of collaboration with central government and LED stakeholders (such as private sector key players).
SURVEY OBJECTIVES

- Understanding the challenges, accomplishments and priorities of host municipalities regarding local economic development in the context of the Syrian refugee crisis
- Capturing evolutions from previous surveys of Network members
- Identify priority themes of interest for host municipalities to continue peer-to-peer exchanges
SURVEY PARTICIPATION

- 57 Local governments - of 61 local governments represented at the workshop (93%)
- Iraq: 3; Jordan: 14; Lebanon: 17; Turkey: 12; Palestine: 11
- Participation of other countries (Afghanistan, Kenya, Uganda): 5
- High percentages of refugees / forcibly displaced (the majority declared more than 20%)

What is the estimated percentage of forcibly displaced / refugees related to the total amount of population living in your town/under your local authority?

- Less than 10%
- Between 11 and 20%
- Between 21 and 35%
- Between 36% and 50%
- Higher than 50%

How many inhabitants currently reside in your town / under your local authority?

- Over 1 million: 10
- Between 500,000 and 1 million: 1
- Between 300,000 and 500,000: 7
- Between 100,000 and 300,000: 16
- Between 50,000 and 100,000: 5
- Under 50,000: 18
LED CONTEXT – IMPACT OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND CHALLENGES

• A general perception of low economic performance....

Would you say that the economy of your town performs

- 3 Somewhat well: 31%
- 2 Somewhat poorly: 56%
- 1 Very poorly: 13%

• Main single LED Challenges mentioned

- Unemployment (youth), lack of job opportunities, no correspondence of skills to market’s demand
- Financial constraints (budget, access to finance)
- Difficulties to partner with the private sector
- Difficulties to attract large investments
- Regulations, and legal barriers
What effect overall do you think forced displacement had on the current economic performances in your town?

In what way did displaced population impact the local economic context in your town?

- Increased tension on the housing market: 54%
- Increased competition for livelihood: 67%
- Increased job opportunities for all: 5%
- New available skills on the labor market: 30%
- Revived economic sectors and/or increase of business creation: 23%
- Increased unemployment: 79%
- Displaced populations did not impact on the local economic...: 0%
LED CONTEXT – IMPACT OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND CHALLENGES

- Yet almost 80% agree that contribution could be made through new available skills on the labor market.

*In your views, in what way do you think that refugees / forcibly displaced could contribute the most to the local economy?*

- 5% Nothing
- 33% bring economic capital
- 32% bring new markets
- 40% increase of business creation
- 79% new available skills on the labor market
LED CONTEXT – IMPACT OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND CHALLENGES

To what extent do you believe that the presence of refugees causes social tensions in your town?

1. Not at all 2%  
2. Moderately 65%  
3. Quite a bit 23%  
4. Very much 10%

HLMN participants’ response on this question has changed in 2 years. % of participants rating from 3-4:
- In 2016: 59%
- In 2017: 42%
- This year: 33%
ACTIONS FOR LED
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS’ ACTIONS FOR LED

- Participating Local Governments are already developing many actions for LED, including through LED strategies/Planning (for 90%)

Did your authority develop city strategies and/or planning which include actions for LED and the welfare of locals and forcibly displaced/refugees in your town?

- Yes, we did 53%
- Yes, we are in process of developing such planning/strategic approach 37%
- No, but we would be interested to develop it 10%

Key LED actions developed

- Developing / Upgrading infrastructure
- LED strategic planning processes
- Improving business regulations
- Vocational trainings for young people and women
- Development of agro-industrial projects
- Partnerships with the private sector
- Specific sector’s projects: tourism, environmental
- Developing commercial facilities
- Small and medium loans policies
As a local authority, what main incentives for businesses/private investments would you like to develop, or continue developing more?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incentive</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve financial services</td>
<td>24.56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worker skills development and trainings</td>
<td>56.14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Establishing business incubators and business ‘hubs’ for small businesses</td>
<td>35.09%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrastructures and services (energy, transportation, housing, public services)</td>
<td>77.19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings assets (e.g. co-working or office spaces, etc.)</td>
<td>21.05%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unlocking land assets for businesses</td>
<td>8.77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower tax burdens</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simplified regulations to businesses</td>
<td>42.11%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Infrastructures and municipal services remain the main lever of action, but also worker skills development and trainings.
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS’ ACTIONS FOR LED

What do you think are the biggest area for improvement in your actions as a local authority?

Enterprise support and financial environment (credit institutions, startup ecosystem, microcredit, etc.)

Skills and innovation (e.g. education and training, patent support, data gathering for job matching, etc.)

Infrastructure and land (physical and business infrastructure, land management)

Women and youth employment (e.g. home-based businesses, trainings for youths, youth councils, etc.)

Institutions and regulation (bureaucracy, taxation for enterprises, municipal decision-making process, etc.)

1 sufficient efforts/satisfactory area
2 we could do a little more efforts in this area, but not a priority
3 we could do better
4 we could do much better
Job markets and opportunities
What could your authority do or what is it already doing to improve job opportunities for refugees?

- **Nothing**: 4%
- **Encourage home-based businesses**: 42%
- **Encourage refugees’ entrepreneurship**: 25%
- **Support refugees in obtaining work permit**: 28%
- **Propose public / municipal jobs to refugee in infrastructure development**: 35%
- **Propose public / municipal jobs to refugees in the public services sector**: 37%
- **Provide targeted training and education to refugees to match job offer**: 63%
- **Improve data on job offers**: 40%
- **Improve data on refugee skills and education**: 42%
Thank you!
شكراً!