Context
Since 2016, the Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN) provides a platform for peer-to-peer learning and collaboration for local governments hosting refugees in the Middle East and Turkey facilitated by the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). The HMLN contributes to improving members’ capacities for ensuring the common welfare of host communities and refugees through regular face-to-face workshops, online discussions, and periodic collection of experiences implemented in local communities hosting refugees. As most forcibly displaced in the Eastern Mediterranean Region are hosted in cities or rural communities rather than in camp settings, an approach focused on Local Economic Development (LED) helps strengthening local economic growth for the benefit of refugees and local communities. The topic of LED and job opportunities for host and refugee populations emerged as a key topic for HMLN members and is the focus of activities in the years 2017-2018.

Event format & Objectives
The third annual event of the HMLN is organized by the CMI, in partnership with the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality and the World Bank Group, with the support of the World Bank’s South South Facility, the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), CIHEAM Bari, and the International Labor Organization (ILO). It brings together more than 90 representatives of municipalities, central government focal points, non-governmental and civil society stakeholders, as well as development and humanitarian institutions from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey. In addition, a delegation from Afghanistan and another one from Eastern Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya & Uganda) takes part in the exchanges between countries from the south on similar local economic development and forced displacement related issues.

The event offers a stocktaking of the Network’s work in terms of learning on LED through network building and collaborations. The event also allows participants to strengthen partnerships, deepen their knowledge on applied practical solutions and increase networking around LED in forced displacement contexts. It specifically aims at:

i) Demonstrating achievement and progress of regional network development and initiated inter-municipal twinning on LED in order to scale up peer-to-peer learning;

ii) Deepening participants’ knowledge of LED in a forced displacement context, through showcasing of successful experiences, case-studies, and actionable solutions;

iii) Increasing national and cross-country collaborations among HMLN members for sharing solutions in the Eastern Mediterranean region; and extend South-South learning to other countries facing similar issues;

iv) Stimulating exchanges between host local governments and development partners and experts.

Workshop sessions
One of the events’ highlights will be the launch of a Compendium of experiences hosting refugees with a focus on local economic development and host communities, based on the experiences of Network members. In addition, a full day will be dedicated for deeper engagement and collaboration between local / central governments development organizations and donors’ representatives, so as to foster exchange for the mutual benefit of both refugees and host communities. These four-days exchanges will be further nurtured by interactive technical working groups, and a half-day field visit to a “Women Only Center” and to Gaziantep industrial zone and Syrian-owned factories.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the workshop for English, Arabic and Turkish only.
Background Note

HMLN members have been exchanging knowledge and increasing their capacities on LED in 2016-2018 with the help of CMI, its partners, and experts, through the following activities and products:

- 2 Thematic learning events centered on LED (the 2nd Annual workshop in Beirut, Lebanon, May 2017, and the capacity building workshop on “Strategic Planning for Local Economic Development”, in Amman, Jordan, March 2018);
- 3 Webinars on: Private Sector Mobilization (October 2017); Strategies for LED in forced displacement contexts (February 2018), and Stakeholder mobilization for successful LED Planning (April 2018);
- 2 surveys providing a snapshot of the challenges, opportunities and achievements of local governments in LED in the forced displacement context;
- A compendium featuring successful experiences in LED developed by host local governments in the Mediterranean.

In March 2018, HMLN members participating to the last technical workshop formed multiple cross-country twinning groups between Iraqi, Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Turkish cities. Rather than the establishment of a formal “twinning” between cities, the twinning groups have the objective to work in pair to collaborate and exchange knowledge and experience on topics of their choice related to LED. The twinning groups met virtually on July 11, 2018 to discuss further development of their working agenda.

HMLN members came up with some recommendations for LED and private sector-led growth in host communities:
- Municipal leadership is essential to generate an enabling environment for LED, including in using levers to attract private investors.
- Coordination with national, regional and sub-local level is needed for more effective LED interventions
- LED strategic planning should be informed with comprehensive data analysis and situation assessment
- The involvement of different stakeholders (local community including refugees, youth and women, private and public sector) in LED planning is a key ingredient of success
- Forcibly displaced can bring economic opportunities to towns, through capital, markets and value chains, capacities and skills, and need to be supported
- Social cohesion in local communities and socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced people are intertwined: providing jobs and economic opportunities equitably to host and refugee populations is key.

The Network has also been recognized through a development grant dedicated to South-South learning which is being used to expand the knowledge beyond the Eastern Mediterranean region.
DAY 1 – Monday, November 19th
Welcome session and dinner

17.30
Plenary Room
Registration of Participants and distribution of Workshop package

18.00 – 19.15
Plenary Room
Official Opening and Welcome remarks

Osman Toprak, Vice-Mayor, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality
Ximena del Carpio, Program Leader, World Bank
Katerina Kratzmann, Manager, Forced Displacement, Migration, Return, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Janette Uhlmann, Senior Operations Officer, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)

19.15 – 20.15
Plenary Room
Moderated panel discussion
Summary of the country contexts for host governments

This panel aims to provide an updated overview on host countries and their economic and social country contexts affected by forced displacements. Moreover, it seeks to give insights in dialogue and collaboration between central and local governments in their efforts to address pressing local economic challenges in link with forced displacement.

Moderator: Varalakshimi Vemuru, Lead Social Development Specialist, World Bank

Abdullah Aksoy, vice Secretary General, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality
Darah Hasan Rasheed, Deputy Minister of Construction & Housing, Republic of Iraq
Feda Gharaibeh, Director of Humanitarian Relief Coordination Unit, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Safwan Mostafa, Legal Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of State for Displaced Affairs, Republic of Lebanon
Tawfiq Budeiri, Director General, Municipal Development Lending Fund, Ministry of Local Government, West Bank and Gaza
Abdul Baqi Popal, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipalities, Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Republic of Afghanistan

Q&A

20.15 – 21.30
Plenary Room
Dinner Reception

DAY 2 – Tuesday, November 20th
EXPERTISES & PEER TO PEER LEARNING COLLABORATIONS FOR LED

8.30 – 9.00
Registrations (for late arrivals)

9.00 – 9.15
*Introduction by the Moderator of the 2.5 days agenda and logistics*
Nicolas Meyer, CMI

9.15 – 10.30
*Year in Review of the Host Municipalities Learning Network*
Challenges, innovations and collaborations for LED in host communities in the Mashreq, Turkey and Beyond

This session will take stock of the progresses of the Host Municipalities Learning Network, and will present the new Compendium on Local Economic Development in forced displacement contexts

The year in review
Janette Uhlmann, CMI

Short story pitches from the Compendium
❖ Rushkati Project: formalizing Syrian-owned businesses
Rami Sharrack, Syrian Economic Forum

❖ Municipal Partnership with the Private Sector
Khalaf Alassem, Mayor, Sarhan Municipality, Jordan

❖ Your Job from Home Project
Mohammad Zawahreh, Director of Local Development Unit, Zarqa Municipality, Jordan

❖ The Insular Lab of Solidarity and Sustainability TILOSS
Georgia Papathanasiou, Solidarity Now, Greece

10.30– 11.00
Coffee break

11.00 – 11.30
*Toward Competitive Cities in Forced Displacement Contexts: global insights*

This technical presentation will provide insight on key LED issues and solutions that are being developed in forced displacement contexts globally, based on specific examples.

Ashutosh Raina, Social Development Specialist, World Bank
Önder Yalçın, Head of Migration Office, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality

Q&A and Open Discussion
The HMLN Twinning Groups
Cross-country collaborations on LED

The new twinning approach of the HMLN will be presented, and some cross-country twinning arrangements showcased.

Presentation of Twinning Approach
Janette Uhlmann & Nicolas Meyer, CMI

Pitches from Twinning groups:
❖ Strategic Planning for LED in forced displacement contexts (Amman / Bethlehem)
Kawkab Albadawi, Director of Planning and Development Unit, Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan
Raida Hanania, SDIP Coordinator, Director of Quality Management Unit and General Secretary of the LED Council, Bethlehem Municipality, Palestine

❖ Renewable Energies for Local Development (Qaraoun / Sahab)
Haneen Hassouneh, Director of Local Development Unit, Sahab Municipality, Jordan
Ahmad Omais, Vice Mayor, Qaraoun Municipality, Lebanon

❖ Sustainable tourism for enhanced LED (Madaba / Ramallah)
Mohammad Abu Gaoud, Director of Local Development Unit, Greater Madaba Municipality, Jordan
Hamza Dalía, Head of Cities and International Organizations Division, Ramallah Municipality, Palestine

Q&A and Open Discussion

12.45 – 13.00 Introduction to Working Groups session:
Technical Inputs on Enterprise Support, Skill and innovation, and LED Planning
Presentation of working groups themes
❖ Isabelle Kronisch, Technical Officer, International Labour Organization
❖ Ximena del Carpio, Program Leader, World Bank
❖ Ashutosh Raina, Social Development Specialist, World Bank

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch
Working Groups session: Collective Problem Solving for Improved LED

Working groups will invite participants to brainstorm on a perceived bottleneck and to come up with innovative solutions.

WG A - Enterprise support & Financial Environment

This working group will deep dive into ways to support startup ecosystem, including with credit institutions also for refugees, and other favorable environment for business creation.

**Presenter:** Saleh Abu Mansour, Jabal El Sheikh Union of Municipalities, Lebanon

**Technical input:** Isabelle Kronisch, Technical Officer, International Labour Organization

**Moderator:** Nicolas Meyer, CMI

WG B - Skills and innovation

This working group will discuss means to support and develop refugees’ and hosts’ skills and how to quantify labor market absorption at local level.

**Presenter:** Yunus Kul, Sancaktepe Municipality, Turkey

**Technical input:** Ximena del Carpio, World Bank

**Moderator:** Janette Uhlmann, CMI

WG C - LED Planning & Private Sector Mobilization

This working group will explore challenges encountered by municipalities while designing and implementing LED plans and strategies.

**Presenter:** Iyad Hammad, Yatta Municipality, Palestine

**Technical input:** Ashutosh Raina, Social Development Specialist, World Bank

**Moderator:** Ruth Halle, GIZ

15.45 – 16.15

Coffee break

16.15 – 16.45

Working group reports

16.45 – 17.45

Technical Session - Building a favorable enabling environment: financial and regulatory incentives for private investments

*This session will bring together central, local government representative, private sector stakeholders in a dialogue on the incentives for increased private investments, including refugee-owned businesses.*

❖ John Speakman, World Bank *(video conference intervention)*

❖ Jimmy Graham, Research Assistant, Center for Global Development

❖ Rami Sharrack, Syrian Economic Forum

❖ Nasser Youssef, Syrian International Business Association (SIBA)

Q&A and Open Discussion

17.45 – 18.15

Wrap up and closure of Day 2

19:30

Twinning Dinner

Restaurant:

Mutfak sanatları Merkezi

Gazi Mahallesi Zübeyde Hanım Bulvari No. 39, Gaziantep 27060

With the support of
DAY 3 – Wednesday, November 21st
DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES & LOCAL/CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS GET TOGETHER:
UNLOCKING COLLABORATIONS ON LED

8.30 – 8.45
Introduction by the moderator

8.45 – 9.15
Movie Presentation
The Ideal Way: new life in Turkey
Yasmine Haloubi, Syrian Social Gathering

9.15 – 10.30
Success stories and current priorities: how to engage for better LED in hosting contexts
Successful Local Initiatives for LED: What areas for Support?

This session will showcase examples of collaboration between central and local governments, donor agencies, and development organizations and highlight current strengths and areas of support for LED in forced displacement contexts.

Supporting the local economy in Gaziantep
❖ Gabriele Muehlig, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
❖ Yusuf Izzettin Iymen, Deputy Secretary General, Gaziantep Chamber of Industry
❖ Ziad Al Chami, CIHEAM-Bari Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari
❖ Ximena del Carpio, Program Leader, World Bank (video intervention)

Q&A and Open Discussion

10.30 – 11.00
Coffee break

11.00 – 12.15
Success stories and current priorities: how to engage for better LED in hosting contexts
Successful Local Initiatives for LED: What areas for Support? [continuation]

❖ Bilge Coban, Field Coordination Officer, International Labour Organization (ILO)
❖ Jamil Ahmed Awan, Program Officer Livelihood, UN Migration Agency (IOM)
❖ Varalakshimi Vemuru, Lead Social Development Specialist, World Bank
❖ Ashutosh Raina, Social Development Specialist, World Bank
Q&A and Open Discussion

12.15 – 13.00
Lunch

13.00 – 17.00
Technical and Cultural Field Visit (See separate agenda in Annex 1)
Speed dating for Development Partners and Local Governments

*Optional networking session*

This optional session will allow local and central government representatives to exchange ideas, information, and contacts with development agencies and donors in 15-minutes sessions. Participants will be able to book their session during the course of the event.

**Participating partners:** Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies – Mediterranean Agroeconomic Institute (CIHEAM Bari), International Labour Organization (ILO), Syrian International Business Association (SIBA), United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA)

Country Dialogue Dinner

Preparation of country priorities

**DAY 4 – Thursday, November 22nd**

**THE WAY AHEAD: HMLN ACTION PLAN FOR 2019**

8.30 – 8.45

*Plenary room*

Introduction of Day 4 by the moderator

08.45 – 09.30

*Break-out rooms*

Preparation of take-aways from the event & priorities

Country working groups will be clustered by priorities identified during the event

09.30 – 10.45

*Plenary room*

Presentation of take-aways & country priorities

After their exchanges during the Country Dialogue Dinner and Working Groups, country delegations will present their lessons learnt from the workshop and will derive priorities and recommendations for the year 2019. For the first time, the new countries joining the HMLN (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda) will also share their priorities and needs.

10.45 – 11.15

*Plenary room*

11.15 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30

*Plenary room*

The Network’s action plan for 2019:
- Learning objectives
- Collaboration objectives
- From knowledge to action: plan for applying solutions and lessons learnt

12.30 – 13.00

Closing remarks

Janette Uhlmann, CMI

13.00– 14.00

Farewell lunch
Participants will be divided in 2 groups (Group 1 and Group 2) during lunch break – according to their main languages, in order to insure good interpretation services (from Turkish to English and to Arabic). Please note that at the end of the field visit, the bus will drive participants back to the Hotel, in order for them to participate to the “Speed Dating” session starting at 18.00. According to the group, the agenda of their visit will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>GROUP 1</th>
<th>GROUP 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>13.15 - 13.30</td>
<td>Departure from Divan Hotel</td>
<td>Sada Women Only Center and Gaziantep Arts and Cultural Center</td>
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<td>Cultural visit in Gaziantep old town</td>
<td>Presentation of the center and its activities, with testimonies and Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>with testimonies and Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>15.30 – 16.15</td>
<td>Travel by bus to industrial zone</td>
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<td>16.15 – 17.15</td>
<td>Gaziantep industrial zone and Syrian-owned</td>
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<td>factories</td>
<td>With Syrian testimonies and Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.15 – 17.45</td>
<td>Return to Divan Hotel</td>
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