PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES SURVEY
Host local government’s views on local economic development and job opportunities for host communities and refugees

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SURVEY OBJECTIVES

• Setting the basis for the workshop by identifying the key challenges and solutions experienced by the local governments participating to the workshop, and in particular:

  ➢ Understanding the challenges and accomplishments of the participating host municipalities regarding local economic development and job opportunities in the context of the Syrian refugee crisis

  ➢ Identifying the needs and additional topics of interested for host municipalities to exchange on moving forward
SURVEY PARTICIPATION

• 19 municipalities or union of municipalities out of 32 participating to the workshop: municipalities (about 59% response rate)

• Jordan: 9; Lebanon: 7; Turkey: 2

• High percentage of refugees (11% to more than 50%)

• Small rural town to metropolis; dominant activities: Agriculture, low technology manufacturing, trade.

Which are the main economic activities based in your town?

- Agriculture and/or fishing
- Raw materials extraction
- Low-technology manufacturing
- High-technology manufacturing
- Banking, Insurance...
- Trade (national and international)
- IT services
- Intellectual activities
- Other if you responded

Number of Inhabitants
Local Economic Context, Challenges and Actions

- Local Economic Development and Labor Market Policies is relevant to local authorities.

The majority have traditional attributions:
- Sanitary inspections
- Delivery of building permit for enterprises
- Delivery of licenses for enterprises
- Municipal infrastructures and services.

But some have developed other services in the refugee crisis context:
- Professional/vocational training
- Delivery of benefits

To what extent your authority is involved in economic affairs and labor market integration (on a scale of 1 to 4)?

- 1 Not at all involved
- 2 Not much involved
- 3 Involved
- 4 Very much involved
Local Economic Context, Challenges and Actions

- Perception of relatively well performing economy

How would you say that the economy of your town performs (on a scale of 1 to 4)?

The majority estimates that the refugee crisis had an important impact on the economy

What effect overall do you think the refugee crisis had on the current economic performances in your town?

The main challenges mentioned:
1) Lack of Financial resources and capital (5)
2) High Unemployment (5)
3) Lack of good infrastructures (3)
Local Economic Context, Challenges and Actions

- Key needs to improve local economic development

  - Vocational/Professional Training
  - Support to Women employment
  - Job services
  - Encourage home-based businesses
  - Infrastructure investments
  - Support to small and young businesses
  - Agriculture investments

Municipalities are taking key actions....

- What do you think is most needed in your town to improve Local economic development?

  - Encouraged entrepreneur
  - International financial
  - Improved access to...
  - Nothing
  - Other (please specify)
Job opportunities for host communities and refugees

- High unemployment rates
- Proportion of refugee working highly variable from one place to another
- Mixed views regarding inclusion of refugees in the workforce

- Main problems faced by refugees in accessing job opportunities:
  - Lack of job offers on the formal market and overall
  - Difficulties to obtain work permit
  - Insufficient or inadequate skills of refugees
  - Lack of information

- Proposed solutions

  - Improve data on refugee...
  - Improve data on job offers
  - Provide training and...
  - Propose public / municipal...
  - Support refugees in...
  - Encourage entrepreneur...
  - Encourage home-based...
  - Nothing
  - Other (please specify)
Social Cohesion

• The perception of social cohesion has improved among the network

To what extent do you believe that the presence of refugees has increased social tensions in your town? (on a scale of 1 to 4)

- 1 Not at all
- 2 Not much additional social tension
- 3 Yes, significant additional social tensions
- 4 Very much

90% declared having led measures to work on social cohesion among refugee and host populations
Additional support for host communities: Capacity building and Knowledge Sharing

• What question on the topic of hosting refugees would you be most interested to learn about through knowledge/peer-to-peer exchange?

All Participants confirmed their need for additional technical support, training or capacity building.