



Peer-to-Peer Learning Workshop

10-12 November 2016, Sanliurfa, Turkey

“Strengthening Social Cohesion in Mediterranean Municipalities Hosting Refugees”

Framing note

Session I - Appropriate concepts and flexible strategies and tools to implement and measure social cohesion

Relevance

A cohesive society ensures the well-being of all its members, regardless of gender, ethnicity or social status and seeks to reduce disparities and marginalization. Cohesion entails three dimensions: social integration, social capital, and social mobility.

There are two levels of social cohesion: the socio-psychological level describes the degree to which individuals are integrated into society in an equal way, whether they are able to engage and participate as citizens and whether people of one group are able to improve their respective status and become part of other social strata. On the other hand, social cohesion is a systemic phenomenon: the individual level highly depends on the framework conditions including institutions, legal regulations and policies. A general assumption is that the more cohesive a society is, the better the prospects for economic growth and development (cf. OECD).

During the regional workshop in Amman in May 2016, 86% of municipalities who participated in the CMI survey “Challenges and achievements facing municipalities hosting refugees in the Middle East and Turkey” have reported an increase in social tensions as a result of the large refugee influx and expressed concern that social cohesion in their communities is at risk. They have developed a variety of approaches to mitigate these tensions and work towards an integrated society in the long-run. However, it is often difficult to truly assess the effectiveness of different interventions in times of social transformation. Whether society is cohesive or not is often determined rather emotionally, based on anecdotal evidence, (negative) perceptions and stereotypes. Few initiatives exist that systematically include social cohesion in the conceptualization and planning process to develop appropriate indicators and to reliably measure the outcomes of interventions related to social cohesion to build resilience and foster peaceful co-existence.

The first session of the workshop is therefore dedicated to developing comprehensive concepts and flexible strategies, including planning and designing methodologies to measure changes related to social cohesion. It is imperative to define measurable indicators and design appropriate tools to be able to analyze the dynamics of changes.

Objectives of the session:

- Reviewing and reflecting concepts of social cohesion and their applicability in contexts with large movements of refugees.
- Presenting experiences and practices on how to plan and implement measures to strengthen social cohesion in order to promote peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities at local level. Planning on how to provide evidence for the effectiveness of such programs.
- Identifying practical tools and solutions in order to enable municipalities to assess the level of social cohesion in their constituencies, plan for increasing it, and measure the results of their action.

The overarching questions to consider in this session are:

- Do existing concepts, planning documents and data on social cohesion provide a sufficient basis to develop strategic responses to the various challenges resulting from the large refugee influx of refugees? Are these reflected in the development plans?
- What are appropriate methodologies and tools to plan, implement and measure social cohesion initiatives at local level?
- How can host municipalities and communities develop and implement adequate monitoring systems? Do they include standard indicators? Which ones are most relevant?

10 November 2016

15:45 – 16:30 Session I in Plenary - Panel: Appropriate concepts, flexible strategies and tools to implement and measure social cohesion

A panel of experts will discuss different approaches in planning social cohesion interventions and common challenges resulting from difficulties in truly assessing the level of inclusion and the effectiveness of different interventions in times of social transformation. The session will provide insights into UNDP's framework to address social cohesion, supported by examples on direct interventions launched in Jordan. A concrete experience on monitoring tools for enhancing social cohesion in host communities will be provided by the municipality of Zaatari in Jordan. A representative from GIZ will shed light on the challenges of developing a monitoring system for a regional multi-stakeholder program. Experiences from the Social Cohesion Radar (Bertelsmann Foundation) will complement the session and raise questions about transferability of concepts and indicators across countries and contexts and lead into a discussion on practical experiences, challenges and appropriate tools.

Multi-Media Presentation: **Insights into UNDP's approach to plan, implement and monitor social cohesion interventions**

Ghimar Deeb, UNDP Jordan

Moderated Panel & Plenary discussion | Moderator: Atallah Kuttab

Speakers: Mandi Larsen, Jacobs University Bremen, Germany
 Shaker Bani Khaled, Zaatari Municipality, Jordan
 Marion Hoermann, GIZ QUDRA Regional Program

16:30 – 18:00 Parallel Working Groups Session I

Two parallel groups to be distributed in two rooms.

Guiding questions:

- What are the characteristics of social cohesion in a refugee situation?
- How can you assess the level of cohesion / social tensions and conflicts in your community? Do you have mechanisms in place to measure it?
- What are common difficulties / challenges when collecting data on cohesion?
- What concrete measures do you implement in your community regarding social cohesion and how do you measure the results?
- Which type of indicators do you use? Which tools of verification do you use?
- What best practices do you use to analyze and adjust your concepts of social cohesion?

Moderators: Lauranne Callet, Expertise France | Sara Boughedir, CMI

Rapporteurs: Gabriela Schanz, GIZ | Amrei Meier, SWP

11 November

09:00 – 09:45 Recap of Day 1 and Session I: Presentation of Working Group Results

Rapporteurs



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Session II - Social Cohesion as a cross-cutting topic (Housing, economic development, and service delivery)

Relevance

Gaps in social cohesion become most visible when different groups are excluded from accessing social services and economic opportunities. Competition over housing, (self-) employment and services can lead to social tensions and poses significant strains on the cohesion host communities. Exclusion of particular groups in relevant sectors must therefore be regarded as a cause and a consequence of low levels of social cohesion.

In context with large numbers of refugees, integrated and inclusive approaches to development have proven most successful. In line with the Do No Harm approach, measures to develop infrastructure or to promote economic development and (self-)employment need to consider how they can ensure that all vulnerable groups of society benefit equally from a given development intervention and that they do not unintentionally strengthen dividing factors in society. When providing assistance to refugees, it is therefore imperative to ensure participation by the host community. The needs and aspirations of the native population need to be balanced with the needs of the newcomers.

If refugees live within the host communities, the level of interaction is likely to be higher and therefore negative stereotypes can be reduced through positive experiences. Being able to contribute to the economic development enables refugees to take part in the social life of the host community and enables integration.

Interventions in the field of housing, economic development and service delivery have great potential to contribute to social cohesion by improving the living conditions of all members of society. Therefore, social cohesion needs to be considered as a cross-cutting issue in all sectors. This needs to be reflected in planning and implementation processes.

Session II therefore looks into the interdependences between social cohesion and selected sectors to foster resilience and peaceful co-existence. Ways of including social cohesion as a cross-cutting issue in developing selected sectors will be discussed and best practices identified.

Objectives of the session:

- Reflecting on the interrelation and interdependence of social cohesion and housing, economic development, and service delivery
- Exchanging experiences and innovative approaches on how to integrate social cohesion in different sectors
- Developing recommendations on how to integrate social cohesion components into projects in other sectors

The **overarching questions to consider** in this session are:

- How is social cohesion manifested in the following sectors: housing, economic development, service delivery?
- How do these sectors contribute to / impact on social cohesion?
- What are experiences at the municipal level? What are lessons learned?
- What do interventions in the different sectors need to consider in order to maximize positive effects on social cohesion? What are your recommendation?

11 November 2016

09:45 – 10:45 **Session II: Social cohesion as a cross-cutting topic** (Housing, economic development, and service delivery)

The session will start with a multimedia presentation that sheds light on the challenges and hurdles of integrating refugees with a specific focus on how perceptions are shaped and how they are shaping successful integration.

Multimedia presentation: **Opening Doors and Minds: Urban Migrant Inclusion in Policy and Practice**

Manjula Luthria, Worldbank

A panel of representatives of municipalities and one representative from Expertise France will present and discuss experiences in integrating social cohesion in development interventions in selected sectors (service delivery, economic development, and housing).

Moderated Panel & Plenary discussion | Moderator: Atallah Kuttab

Speakers: Önder Yalcin, Director, Municipality of Gaziantep, Turkey
 Nasri Osman, Head of Union of Baalbek, Lebanon
 Haneen Hassouneh, Sarhab Municipality, Jordan
 Lauranne Callet, Expertise France QUDRA Regional Program

10:45 – 12:30 Parallel Working Groups Session II

Participants will be divided into two groups to discuss challenges and opportunities in the three sectors and develop practical recommendations for development interventions.

Guiding Questions:

- Social cohesion and housing:

- How are housing and social cohesion related?
- How can social cohesion be strengthened in the housing sector for both refugees and host communities?
- What are experiences from your community?
- Social cohesion and economic development:
 - Why is social cohesion relevant for economic development in your municipality?
 - How does economic development contribute to social cohesion?
 - What are best practice examples (e.g. labor market opportunities, etc.)?
- Social cohesion and service delivery:
 - How does service delivery for both refugees and host communities influence social cohesion?
 - How can the host population's claims for better service delivery be balanced with service needs of the refugee population including access to resources?
- How can interventions in the three sectors maximize positive impacts on social cohesion as a cross-cutting issue? What are your recommendations?

13:30 – 14:00 **Session II: Presentation of Group Results**

Rapporteurs



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Framing note

Session III - Building inclusive communities for common welfare through networks

Relevance

Large scale and on-going and protracted displacement poses multiple challenges to local systems and local structures. Competition over already limited resources, strains on social service delivery and misconceptions between refugees and the local host population lead to societal tensions and jeopardize social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

To deal with these challenges, collective multi-faceted and multi-sectoral responses are needed. Even though many innovative approaches for strengthening social cohesion already exist at the community level, there is a lack of systematic sharing of these approaches, impeding access to practice-oriented solutions contributing to social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

Duplications and a lack of coordination between different actors often result in an inefficient use of resources. Opportunities to create synergies and complement each other are often missed. Sustainable networks and communities of practice could enable municipalities to pool capacities, interests and resources in order to strengthen collective approaches to inclusion and participation.

The third session of the workshop is therefore dedicated to identifying good practices and / or starting points to establish communities of practice, make use of existing networks and strengthen exchange and collaboration between different actors.

Objectives of the session:

- Reviewing and reflecting on formats and good practice examples of already existing networks and cooperation structures in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon
- Discussing common challenges and cross-country differences in building inclusive communities and networks
- Developing recommendations for the format and design of networks that allow for effective cooperation and knowledge sharing and transfer within and between municipalities and other relevant actors, especially the central government

The **overarching questions to consider** in this session are:

- What are good practice examples of already existing networks and cooperation, both within and between municipalities and other actors (central government, NGOs, IOs, private actors etc.)?
- How can municipalities be supported in building new networks as well as strengthening existing ones?
- Which other actors need to be considered in this endeavor and how can links to these actors be established?
- How can synergies be created?
- How can we tap into the potentials of (informally) existing communities and structures?

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14:00 – 15:00 **Session III: Building inclusive communities for common welfare through networks**

A panel of representatives of municipalities and civil society will present and discuss existing approaches to network and cooperation formats and good practice examples to strengthen social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities at municipal, national and regional level.

Moderated Panel & Plenary discussion | Moderator: Atallah Kuttab

Speakers: Ali Afan, Mayor of Sarhan Municipality, Jordan
Halil İbrahim Akinci, Sultanbeyli Municipality, Turkey
Municipality from Lebanon (tbc)
Ümit Algan, IMPR, Turkey
Yasmin Haloubi, Syrian Social Gathering, Turkey

15:00 – 16:00 **Parallel Working Groups Session III**

Guiding questions:

- What are examples of already existing networks and cooperation in your community, both within and between municipalities and other actors (central government, NGOs, IOs, private actors etc.)? What functions well and where do you see challenges?
- What are other actors that you consider important in building networks at the local, regional and national level? How can links to these actors be established?
- What would you need to build new networks and to strengthen existing ones? What are your recommendations?

Moderators: *Heidi Gutsche, GIZ | Sonja Meyer, GIZ*

16:30 – 17:00 **Session III: Presentation of Group Results**
Rapporteurs