
Session title: Service Delivery and Preparedness of Local Governments, including in collaboration with non-governmental actors

Session nr. and date: Working Group II.2: Innovative Collaborations between local governments, NGOs/CBOs and the private sector for services to citizens and refugees: leveraging the capabilities and resources of non-governmental actors

Speaker: Mustafa Majed Hijazi, Council Member, Municipality of Saida, Lebanon

Discussant: Andrija Rudic, Mayor, Municipality of Kutina, Croatia and Lauranne CalletRavat, Project Manager Turkey (Gaziantep), Expertise France

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Main topics covered:

Cooperation between local authorities and NGOs

Integration / cohabitation with Syrian refugees and local communities

Best practices:

- **Kituna** Municipality worked with local and national NGOs to change the way local community look at Syrian refugees through dialog and solidarity actions
- **Sultanbeyli** Municipality developed a coordination center to cooperate with NGOs and Central Government institutions
- **Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality** as well as **Mafraq Municipality** participated in a UCLG lead initiative to promote cooperation between NGOs, international organizations and municipalities. Results of this initiative were presented during the World Humanitarian Summit.
- **CIHAM** works in Syria only with local council’s administration. They consider it is the only way to do something useful for the communities. For example they have started the production of yogurt in cooperation with the municipality which provide machinery and women organizations.
Lessons learnt:

Since the beginning of the crisis, less than 1% of the funding raised by the international community has been allocated to projects that include local authorities. This put a threat on local governance and finally on stability of the region.

Municipalities are key to address need of refugees:

1. Information sharing: Municipalities are great to provide information about the field
2. Resources sharing: Municipalities have a lot of resources (example: buildings for education)
3. Managing the project: Municipalities are involved in the project management committee

Recommendations:

- Inclusive process should be adopted to have sustainable and efficient response plan
- Municipalities should strengthen their capacity concerning project management
- Transparency should be strengthened to allow better trust between all actors
- Information should be exchanged to share experiences in different countries / cities

Need for follow up:

- Commitments of International donors and development agencies in including local authorities in response plan.
- Commitments from NGOs to coordinate their efforts in working with local authorities