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CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRATION:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN URBAN DESTINATIONS

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD

Climate-related migration is increasing the scale and, in some cases, changing the patterns of migration. In addition to the need for supporting adaptation in sending communities, there is an imperative to better prepare for and support migrants in urban destinations. This paper provides analysis and evidence of climate-related migration in developing countries, with a focus on supporting migrants and receiving communities in urban destinations through policy and programming. It complements related USAID and U.S. Government policies, strategies, and analyses, including the:

- USAID Climate Strategy (2022-2030),
- White House Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration,
- USAID Migration as a Climate Adaptation Strategy report,
- USAID People on the Move report, and
- President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE).

There are important reasons for USAID to place greater focus on climate-related migration to urban areas. The world is witnessing the highest levels of migration on record and climate change impacts are projected to increasingly drive migration. A lack of preparation for the growth in migration to increasingly crowded cities will exacerbate current social, economic, and environmental stresses (C40 et al., 2022). Additionally, migrants are often overlooked in discussions about urbanization and urban governance, or viewed as a problem rather than a potential asset (Tacoli et al., 2015). A common perception is that urban migration contributes to shortages in housing, jobs, education and other social services. This can result in tensions with receiving communities and missed opportunities for realizing the benefits of migration. Finally, urban areas will be disproportionately affected as they experience substantial migration from rural areas that are adversely affected by climate change. Preparing for these increased movements now will help cities thrive in the years ahead (Ratha et al., 2022).

Evidence points to a range of potential benefits of migration for migrants, as well as sending and receiving communities.[1] It suggests that internal migration in lower and middle-income countries is often beneficial for development and can offer solutions to some of the economic and demographic challenges facing USAID partner countries. How migration influences development, however, can be complex. For example, rural to urban migration patterns have been associated with higher education and income, but decreased security and air quality (Lagakos, 2020).

A coordinated response to climate-related migration is a critical part of USAID's commitment to climate action. The USAID Climate Strategy (2022-2030), for example, notes that the Agency is "increasing its focus on climate-related migration through research and analytics, program responses, and attention to migration affected populations including sending communities, receiving communities and potentially trapped populations unable to move in the face of climate impacts."

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[1] The development benefits of migration have been articulated in international frameworks such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). See also: McInerney et al. (2022); Blake et al. (2021), and Clemens (2020).

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF REPORT

This report focuses on challenges and opportunities for USAID to address migration, increasingly driven by climate impacts, in urban destinations. USAID can support partner countries and cities to address the needs of migrants and other residents, and prepare for future migration. This paper is intended to serve as a discussion piece and not as technical guidance.

The migration journey has multiple stages including: (1) pre-journey preparation, (2) the journey, (3) reception and integration into the receiving community, and (4) potential return to the sending community. This report focuses on stage 3, the reception and integration into receiving communities, though understanding the full journey remains important to providing support to migrants during this phase. USAID's Migration as a Climate Adaptation Strategy report provides more details about each phase. Climate-related displacement is another critical issue, however, this report focuses on the realm of migration and cases where people move before it is the option of last resort.

This paper is a start to delineating opportunities for USAID to support local governments to address the imperative to prepare for and support migrants in urban destinations. There are major needs and opportunities that merit further, dedicated discussion and are only touched on here. For example, available, affordable, and safe housing is at the heart of supporting migrants. Furthermore, specific populations, such as persons with disabilities, are confronted with disproportionate effects of the climate crisis and face specific challenges around climate-related migration--both in being able to relocate at all, and in accessing essential services in migration destinations.

I. UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRATION

This report uses the term "climate-related migration" to refer to people who migrate at least partly due to the impacts of climate change.[2] The aim of using "climate-related migration" is to acknowledge that mobility is almost always multi-causal and climate shocks and stresses exert additional stress on people already facing pressures like limited economic opportunities, social or political marginalization, poor governance, and degraded natural resources. The exact links between climate change impacts and migration, including the motivations and processes, are highly complex, depending on context-specific situations that may include a range of climate and non-climate related shocks and stresses (Rosengärtner et al., 2022).

It is increasingly evident that climate change is contributing to migration.[3] Climate change impacts can undermine food, water, and economic security, particularly when combined with physical, social, political, economic, and/or environmental vulnerabilities (White House, 2021). Major causes of climate-related migration are climate shocks and stresses including rising temperatures, drought, flood, and storms, and the associated damage to livelihoods and critical infrastructure (IPCC, 2022). Climate-related migration to urban areas, however, is very similar to urban migration due to other push and pull factors and climate-related migrants are often responding to multiple drivers of migration.

Climate-related migration is expected to be primarily internal with individuals moving within their home country (Clement et al., 2021). Consistent with general migration trends, people who migrate due to climate-related factors, particularly slow-onset events, tend to move from rural to urban areas and follow existing migration pathways developed from cultural linkages, historical ties, and migrant networks. In some cases, climate-related migration may lead to new migration patterns away from areas of higher climate impact, for example, areas inundated by sea level rise or with significant drying (Clement et al., 2021).

Estimating and predicting the number of climate-related migrants is difficult given the limited data available for internal migration and that migrants often do not identify climate shocks or stresses as the primary driver of movement. Climate impacts are heavily mediated by non-climate-related factors such as political, economic, social, technological, and cultural considerations (Schewel et al., 2022). However, it is clear that climate-related migration is significant. By 2050 over 216 million people could move within their countries for climate-related reasons across six regions: Sub-Saharan Africa could see as many as 86 million internal climate migrants; East Asia and the Pacific, 49 million; South Asia, 40 million; North Africa, 19 million; Latin America, 17 million; and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 5 million (Clement et al., 2021). Today, an estimated one percent of the world is a barely livable hot zone; by 2070, that portion could rise to 19 percent (Lustgarten, 2020).

Globally, climate-related migration is not a single phenomenon, rather it is complex, multicausal, and contextual (Clement et al., 2021). It varies considerably by location and circumstance, and can range, for example, from forced displacement in the face of life-threatening risks to a proactive adaptation strategy (White House, 2021). In some cases, migration prompted by climate impacts is temporary or seasonal, while in other situations it is permanent (McInerney et al., 2022). Although it is clear climate change is

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[2] The USAID Climate Strategy (2022-2030) defines climate migration as the "movement of people predominantly for reasons of sudden or slow-onset/progressive changes in the environment related to climate change impacts (e.g., shifts in water availability, crop productivity, employment, or livability). This includes people who are obliged to leave their habitual place of residence, choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, within a State or across an international border."

[3] In some situations, climate change and variability are suppressing human movement. See Clement et al. (2021).

increasingly a driver of migration, no internationally agreed legal definition exists for those displaced or who voluntarily move due to climate change.

MIGRATION AS A CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

The phrase "proactive migration" refers to migration that involves a decision to migrate before it is an option of last resort. In the context of slow-onset climate processes, climate change impacts on people's lives are often gradual – another poor harvest, a rising tide, or another season of unbearable heat, which becomes the catalyst that pushes people to seek better locations (Ionesco, 2019; Vince, 2022). By contrast, displacement, or forced migration, often occurs after sudden-onset climate-related events that severely damage homes and infrastructure and push individuals to immediately seek refuge elsewhere. This movement is often temporary and across short distances. (McInerney et al., 2022).

When proactive migration in response to climate impacts provides positive outcomes and improves migrants' resilience, it is considered adaptation (Vinke et al., 2020).[4] As climate impacts evolve, migration may be a critical form of adaptation (McInerney et al., 2022).

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[4] Vinke et al. (2020) note, however, that "migration does not necessarily lead to increased adaptive capacities for households in all contexts but can also have detrimental consequences, leading to increased impoverishment and deepened vulnerabilities."

II. CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRATION IN URBAN DESTINATIONS

CURRENT STATUS

MOST CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRATION IS TO CITIES

Research indicates that most climate-related migrants stay within national borders, with approximately **70 percent settling in cities** (Roderick et al., 2021). Urban areas typically offer, or are perceived to offer, more diverse income opportunities and better access to services, such as education and healthcare. In addition to migration to large megacities like Dhaka, Bangladesh and Lagos, Nigeria, small and medium-sized cities are also key receiving areas (Roderick et al., 2021). Many migrants find shelter in informal settlements and/or in urban areas that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts, for example in densely populated coastal areas threatened by sea level rise. This may lead migrants to migrate yet again. As climate impacts worsen, climate-related migration out of coastal cities to inland cities may increase (UN University, 2015).

POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE MIGRATION OUTCOMES?

Unmanaged urbanization can lead to a strain on urban services such as housing, jobs, and education, especially in cities that already struggle to provide these services to existing residents. For migrants, difficulty or inability to access shelter and basic services can diminish health, educational and social outcomes (Brown, 2008), and increase their protection needs (Mosca, 2022). Further, rapid urbanization can increase cities' susceptibility to climate shocks and stresses (Roderick et al., 2021). Increased urban demand for water linked to migration, for example, can increase urban water scarcity (IPCC, 2022).

> Climate mitigation and adaptation actions can advance the inclusion of migrants in cities or further entrench their marginalization and exposure to inequality and risk. By delivering inclusive climate action that accounts for migrant and refugee populations, and by prioritizing investments in areas that are home to particularly vulnerable populations, cities can promote greater social cohesion and economic opportunities. (Roderick et al., 2021)

Experience with migration across the world, however, suggests that if planned for and managed well, there are benefits for migrants and receiving communities in urban destinations. Migrants can access increased income and skills and find greater access services such as health and education. Cities that provide opportunities to migrants stand to benefit from the flow of money, knowledge, and ideas between destination and origin locations, which can catalyze innovation and development.[5] Receiving cities can also benefit from an increased labor pool and an influx of migrant spending and support services (Gemenne and Blocher, 2017). While migration has numerous potential benefits, rapid influxes and/or large-scale migration can overwhelm systems in destinations leading to a range of challenges.

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[5] Evidence shows that in certain cases, migration helps to fill labor shortages, and can improve the efficiency of labor use (Reudenbach, 2015; Roderick et al., 2021).

KEY CHALLENGES

Urban communities are impacted in multiple ways by migration and often struggle to address the rapidly expanding scale of local needs (C40 et al., 2022). Some cities see thousands of new migrants every day, often adding to existing challenges that may include overcrowding, lack of resources and public services, and poor infrastructure that is vulnerable to disaster and climate risks.

New migrants also face many challenges. In the context of the migrant journey, the needs of climate-related migrants at reception and integration are linked (McInerney et al., 2022). During the reception phase, needs center around **access to shelter and basic services.** During the integration phase in urban areas, needs relate more to the **systems, services, and community integration** that will sustain meeting migrants' needs over time.

Cities must provide a range of vital services and support for migrants and receiving communities that are often expensive and challenging to plan and deliver. These include access to affordable, accessible, and safe housing, education services, health services, basic utilities like water, sanitation, waste collection, power, and transportation infrastructure and services. City leaders also need to enable equitable access to employment opportunities, and facilitate integration and social cohesion (Charles and Guna, 2017).

> As migration to cities around the world accelerates, the outcomes for migrants and their host communities and countries may be positive or negative. Government policies and municipal actions related to housing, jobs, health care, and other challenges will play a large role in determining these outcomes.
> (Blake et al., 2021)

For example, access to housing plays a major role in the process of integration as the location, accessibility, affordability and quality of housing impact the health and safety of migrants, as well as their ability to seek employment and access education and healthcare (UNECE, 2021). In many countries, a significant portion of migrants move to housing in unplanned, informal settlements, and many of these are in locations where the likelihood of floods and other climate impacts is high (Blaine et al., 2022). Further, these areas often lack connectivity to public services and have degraded infrastructure (McInerney et al., 2022).

In addition, to ensure safety and social integration, cities need to take into consideration gender equity, Indigenous rights, and protection for populations in vulnerable situations, as well as challenges like accessibility, child protection, and disability rights (White House, 2021).

> ### Dhaka, Bangladesh
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> Hundreds of thousands of migrants move to Dhaka, Bangladesh every year, often linked to climate impacts. Many migrants settle in densely populated informal settlements on the urban periphery, where access to services like clean water is low, pollution levels are high, and violence is prevalent. In addition, these areas tend to be particularly vulnerable to climate impacts such as floods and extreme heat. City officials struggle to address the rapidly expanding scale of local needs.
> (Blaine et al., 2022)

RESPONSE EXAMPLES: LOCAL AND GLOBAL

Although guidance on climate-related migration is limited (Blaine et al., 2022), some cities are taking action to prepare for this future.[6]

In Bangladesh, the industrial port city of **Mongla** has developed a plan to make it an attractive destination for Bangladesh's climate-related migrants (Bryce, 2020). With support from the International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), the plan is part of a broader scheme aimed at alleviating pressure on Dhaka by redirecting migrants toward smaller towns and cities that can absorb new migrants.[7] The hope is to boost the economy and transform Mongla into a thriving industrial hub. The plan builds upon an existing employment anchor and includes new educational facilities, housing, jobs, and resilient green infrastructure. New arrivals can find employment at the city's export processing zone (Alam, 2022). From 2011 to 2021, Mongla's mayor initiated investments in a variety of resilience measures, including two flood-control gates, an improved drainage system, two reservoirs, and a fresh water treatment plant that has increased the proportion of houses with running water from a third to a half (Ahmed and Choat, 2022). Mongla's approach aims to create more favorable conditions for migrants by improving infrastructure and harnessing their skills and labor for the "greening" of the urban economy (Rosengärtner et al., 2022).

In **Freetown,** Sierra Leone, the population has more than doubled over a twenty-year period, due in part to conflict and climate change (C40 and MMC, 2021). Many of the young people living in Freetown's informal settlements have migrated from rural areas. In response, in 2018 the city launched [Transform Freetown](), a three-year vision for "Resilience, Human Development, A Healthy City, and Urban Mobility," through a process that included a needs assessment with more than 300 community meetings involving over 15,000 residents. The city has adopted the majority of the 49 proposed initiatives, including the Waste Management Micro-Enterprise Program that promotes improved economic livelihoods, sanitation, and environmental resilience by working with migrant youth, to strengthen and improve waste collection services in informal settlements. Since its launch, the city has extended its waste collection service from 8,000 households to 30,000 households. Additional Transform Freetown initiatives focus on land-use planning and enforcement of building codes to prevent new construction in hazard-prone areas, and creating green and good-quality jobs for disadvantaged youth as a part of its Community Tree Growing and Environmental Stewardship program (Roderick et al., 2021).

> Cities of all sizes are responding proactively to increased pressures on infrastructure and services, leveraging migration as a resource for community revitalisation and growth, and ensuring that local policy frameworks – including those that govern climate action – create a welcoming, accessible and equitable environment for all. (Roderick et al., 2021)

Nairobi, Kenya, has decades of experience with conflict and drought- induced migration and displacement. With one of the worst droughts on record lasting from 2020 to 2023 adding to migration, there is increasing attention on approaches for integration of migrants. The IIED "Protracted Displacement in an Urban World" project[8] provides a model for participatory forums to address integration. Hosted by the Kenyan affiliate of Slum Dwellers International, the forums brought together urban actors and refugee protection specialists, which informed the County Integrated Development

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[6] Additional examples can be found in Charles and Guna (2017).

[7] ICCCAD is helping these new "migrant-friendly" cities to build capacity so that they can collectively absorb around 10 million migrants over the coming years (Davison, 2022).

[8] For more information on this project, see https://www.protracteddisplacement.org/

Plan 2023–2027, the local government's first plan to include policies related to refugee wellbeing (Saliba et al., 2022).

At the global level, networks and projects are supporting cities to share experiences and good practices, collaborate, and scale innovations. The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) is a coalition of mayors concerned with addressing the needs of migrant, displaced, and marginalized people.[9] The MMC's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees: Inclusive Climate Action provides grants to African city governments to implement projects focused on urban resilience, inclusion, and transformation, and to share learning. Also, almost 100 municipalities have joined the C40 Cities initiative, which helps cities improve urban planning and innovation, share data, and secure public, private, and blended finance from global and domestic sources (including city budgets) to support climate adaptation measures, and share data.

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[9] For a complete list of MMC member cities, see https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/our-cities

III. SUPPORTING CLIMATE MIGRANTS IN URBAN DESTINATIONS

Achieving positive outcomes and avoiding negative ones from increasing climate-related migration will depend on how effectively institutions, policies, and programs in receiving urban areas are able to support migrants and communities and leverage the benefits of mobility. Much of the literature on how receiving municipalities can plan and manage climate-related migration emphasizes resilient urban planning, inclusive approaches, and access to shelter and basic services (Roderick et al., 2021; Clement et al., 2021). These approaches are reflective of broader best practices for urban resilience and thus are relevant beyond the topic of climate-related migration. These include:

- **Accommodate future population growth with resilient urban planning**. As urban areas expand, integrating climate risk assessment and adaptation into urban planning and land management can help them to plan for present and future climate hazards.[10] The resilient infrastructure investments made by Mongla are a good example of this approach. Planning for growth relies on accurate data on urban migration, including populations in informal settlements. It also requires accurate data on land available for settlement, including infill to build in vacant plots, adaptive reuse of existing developments, and greenfield projects. Promising approaches are being used by the Mixed Migration Center, whose data collection system, 4Mi, features field enumerators situated along frequently used mixed migration routes and in major migratory hubs. The Center, in partnership with the Mayors Migration Council, created the 4Mi Cities project, which designed and implemented a pilot data collection project to better survey refugees' and migrants' urban experience to improve policy and service provision at the city government level in six cities, with much of the data gathered from respondents in informal settlements (Saliba and Forin, 2022). In many cities, planning processes may not be adequately linked to capital investment and city budgeting processes. The utility of the data collected--which is still essential--will depend on the good governance of the municipality, including sound public financial management, public consultation and transparency, and regular capital investment planning.

- **Ensure that those who move into cities are welcomed, and that they have inclusive and equitable access to services and economic opportunity,** regardless of their legal status. Successful integration depends to at least some degree on the willingness of receiving communities to absorb migrants (Bergmann, 2016). Inclusive policies for migrants can include the right to work, freedom of movement, and access to shelter and services. Good practice is to coordinate with civil society to facilitate the delivery of essential services including accessible health, education, and housing. This may include designated points of contact for newcomers arriving in the city, such as Lima's Municipal Office of Service to Migrant Neighbors.

- **Invest in adaptation measures to protect the communities most exposed to risk**. Cities can develop inclusive adaptation solutions for rising temperatures, flood and storm risk, and water availability. This includes many in situ adaptation measures, such as climate resilient housing and addressing flood risk in informal settlements where many urban migrants live. Urban adaptation may also include dignified and voluntary movement away from hazard-prone areas.

- **Focus on opportunities for economic inclusion through broad-based economic growth.** For example, cities may consider growing existing or developing new industries or

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[10] The World Bank recommends that stakeholders "embed internal climate migration in far-sighted green, resilient, and inclusive development planning." (Clement et al., 2021).

pursuing export processing zones, as the city of Mongla did, to expand economic opportunity both for existing and future urban residents.

- **Support laws, policies, or migration/displacement management practices that provide protection and inclusion of migrants.** It is critical to strengthen urban governance and climate-related migrants' participation in plan-making, programs, and local political processes to ensure migrants have a voice and are recognized in the governance processes that affect them. Governance approaches can also strengthen the capacity of cities to improve land use policies, regulations, and strategies that guide urban growth in ways that reduce vulnerabilities and promote inclusion. In practice this could mean supporting cities to use geospatial data to assess and prioritize new investments in the built environment, or promoting policies that encourage adaptation (e.g., requiring developers to manage stormwater) and discourage risky investments (e.g., building in flood prone areas). Evidence-based policy advice can also guide climate-resilient service provision for migrants.

While challenging, in the context of growing migration to urban areas, cities will need to extend their scope of services to better integrate migrants. Supporting access to urban services and economic opportunity for migrants should be part of a broader urban planning and governance efforts. This requires **participatory planning processes** and **stronger dialogue, coordination, and cooperation** between institutions and actors in receiving urban areas, including municipal leaders, community groups, private sector representatives, development partners, and others.

A SYSTEMS APPROACH

Given the existing urban development challenges in many developing cities, in addition to interventions directed at supporting migrants, a systems approach is also needed that both responds to the needs of migrants and also strengthens the provision of goods and services for receiving communities overall. Urban systems that enable all residents, including migrants, to be resilient will need to be:

- **flexible and adaptable** to respond to changing population size and demands;

- **tailored** to the unique needs of migrant populations; and

- **sustainably financed** to provide high-quality services (Chandra et al., 2022).

The influx of urban migrants is an additional challenge for cities that already struggle to provide services and opportunities to their vulnerable communities. These cities, under-resourced, unevenly governed, and with inequitable access to critical services and resources, require support and assistance in meeting the needs of their existing and growing populations. For example, accommodating population growth with resilient urban planning, as described above, can be put into place for cities likely to draw migrants (i.e., proximity to regions of high climate vulnerability) (Chandra et al., 2022).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR USAID ENGAGEMENT

The literature on climate-related migration, and experiences and examples from cities around the world, point to opportunities to enable positive outcomes for migrants and receiving urban communities.[11] USAID is uniquely positioned to ensure safer and more productive migration with dignity given the

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[11] For opportunities for USAID programming across the migration journey see "Migration as a Climate Adaptation Strategy: Challenges and Opportunities for USAID Programming" McInerney et al., 2022.

Agency's focus on equity and inclusion, locally led development, and the specific strengthening of the agency and capacity of individuals, households, and communities to make their own adaptation decisions.

While preparing for a future of increased climate-related migration presents challenges, examples demonstrate that social and economic inclusion is not only possible, but that it can contribute to the diversity and vitality of the entire city.

1. INVEST IN PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT GROWING URBAN AREAS WITH RESILIENT PLANNING BASED ON BEST AVAILABLE DATA.

In USAID's partner countries, receiving local governments often already struggle to provide basic services to vulnerable populations. Municipal governments are often under-resourced and lack the financial, political, and administrative authority to adequately plan for urban growth. In this context, **accurate and inclusive data** that reflects the needs of the most vulnerable, including urban migrants and those living in informal settlements, is critical for planning with scarce resources. USAID assistance may entail data collection support, such as assistance with gathering data through census and/or household surveys. USAID can also assist in the use of that data to inform policy decisions, for example through the extension of services into growing areas.

It is increasingly recognized that in informal settlements, **land regularization and in situ upgrading** are preferable to relocation or eviction, which is disruptive to economic and social networks. USAID can assist municipalities in **planning for urban expansion by providing technical assistance and support for inclusive land use planning, participatory mapping approaches to certify and formalize property claims, and public investment in trunk infrastructure,** such as road construction and piped water connections, and credit for shelter upgrading to guide development.

Climate data is also key to identify areas at risk of climate impacts. Climate data can support municipalities in **urban adaptation measures to protect the communities most exposed to risk**. USAID can support local governments through data-informed climate-resilient urban planning to better plan, budget, and access the capital required to accommodate migrants in cities, such as for housing and infrastructure.

2. ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO MOVE INTO CITIES ARE WELCOMED AND INCLUDED THROUGH SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION.

Social cohesion is critical not only for migrants, but also for receiving communities, so all can flourish. Greater recognition of the positive aspects of migration can be beneficial, and initiatives can support dispelling stereotypes about migrants and migration, and facilitate greater acceptance of migrants in receiving cities. Mutual respect for ethnic and cultural diversity is a cornerstone of a social cohesion that works for the benefit of all. **USAID can assist receiving communities in integrating migrants into the social fabric of the city.**

For example, the United Nations' Joint Migration and Development Initiative (UN JMDI), which provided guidance on integrating migration into local policy planning, supported the Province of Pichincha, Ecuador, to combat xenophobia and discrimination of migrants through several publicity campaigns, including a book and radio broadcasts that communicated the lived realities and experiences of migrants and displaced persons (UN JMDI, 2017). In São Paulo, the city government launched an awareness campaign called "There is a place for everyone in São Paulo. Except for intolerance." The slogan was printed on folders and banners at bus and subway stations, and published in social media (Charles and Guna, 2017).

A focus on social inclusion and safety for women and vulnerable groups is key to address disparities in security and access to opportunities. Assistance for safer, more informed, and more economically beneficial migration for women requires addressing gender disparities and, in some cases, shifts in social norms. A recent study by IIED comparing displaced populations in camps and cities found that, as expected, migrants fared better in cities, largely because migrants in cities are more likely to have the assets they need to work or run a business. (Measured assets included prior skills, financial, physical, social assets, and legal rights to work.) However, the study also found that men are far more likely to hold these assets than women (Earle, 2022). Migration can also lead to shifts in traditional gender roles and, in some contexts, to more empowerment and opportunities for women in their communities and households (Rigaud et al., 2018).

3. ENSURE THAT NEWCOMERS HAVE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLIMATE RESILIENT AND LOW-CARBON URBAN SERVICES.

USAID can support stakeholders to establish holistic and easily accessible service points in receiving communities. These should be migrant-inclusive, offer relevant information on basic services in a gender- and disability-responsive manner, and facilitate safe and effective access. For example, the city of Makassar, Indonesia, is a rapidly growing urban area with new residents moving in from rural areas throughout Indonesia. It also hosts refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom are supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and depend on services provided by the municipality ("IOM, JSI Partner," 2018). Through USAID's cross-sectoral Building Healthy Cities program, IOM coordinated with the city government to use data to equitably improve access to urban health services for vulnerable populations, including migrants. To support access, these service points may need to expand staffing and resources when climate-related migration rates are high, for example during the lean season or during times of above normal climate stress.

USAID can support the **training of social service providers** to serve the unique needs of migrants and create **appropriately tailored communication processes and materials** to reach migrants about available services and providers. These approaches can all increase demand for services, especially if the services are co-located. For example, with funding received from the MMC Global Cities Fund for Inclusive Pandemic Response, Lima, Peru, created a new *Municipal Office of Service to Migrant Neighbors* offering a suite of services related to employability, health, and case management while also connecting migrants to existing social service centers in other areas of the city (Hill and Saliba, 2021).

4. INVEST IN SECONDARY CITIES' INCLUSIVE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT ECONOMIC GROWTH TO BETTER ATTRACT AND ABSORB CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRANTS.

In some cases, secondary cities may be better positioned than primary cities to absorb additional urban migrants. For example, the investments made in Mongla, Bangladesh, have enabled the city to absorb new migrants, thereby relieving pressure on Dhaka. In addition to adapting urban infrastructure to make it resilient to climate change, the city of Mongla has also capitalized on its export processing zone as a way to provide economic opportunity for existing and future urban residents. **Supporting formalization of the informal economy through economic inclusion** enables more people to access finance, link to value chains, and access government relief measures in times of crisis.

IV.   CONCLUSION

It is evident that climate-related migration is exacerbating pressure on cities around the world, especially cities in the developing world that already face challenges in supplying shelter and basic services. Climate-related migration touches upon nearly every facet of urban life. As migrants integrate into urban areas, their needs correspond to urban systems, services, and community absorption. These include accessible housing, employment, education, health, utilities, transportation, and social cohesion.

Given the multi-faceted impacts of climate-related migration, a systems approach is needed that both responds to the needs of migrants and also strengthens the provision of goods and services for receiving cities. Responding to this challenge requires inclusive and equitable solutions that account for future growth through flexibility and adaptability.

Cities such as Mongla, São Paulo, Freetown, Nairobi, and Makassar provide promising examples of cities embracing climate-related migration. These cities have welcomed migrants into their urban fabric, providing services such as emergency housing, public health, water/sanitation, and workforce development. They have also promoted the social integration of migrants through programs and public messaging. Cities that are open to embracing climate-related migrants can obtain funding and support to capitalize on the opportunity and potential these migrants offer.

USAID has already assisted cities to embrace and manage the influx of climate-related migrants. Programs such as Building Healthy Cities in Makassar, Indonesia have shown that USAID is well-positioned to support cities in providing needed urban services. There is certainly opportunity to expand in this area, especially to help city governments plan for increased migration and build urban resilience for migrants and receiving communities. For example, USAID can support climate-resilient urban planning, migrant-inclusive and easily accessible service points, and partner with the private sector and other stakeholders to provide tailored information available services. All of these approaches can increase demand for services and support the integration of migrants into their receiving communities.

Ultimately, USAID's strengths position the Agency to support cities willing to embrace climate-related urban migration. USAID's sectoral technical expertise, and experience in creating impactful partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, provide an important opportunity to address this challenge.

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ANNEX 1: SELECTED RESOURCES

Mayors Migration Council (MMC), a mayor-led advisory and advocacy organization that helps cities shape national and international policy on migration and displacement: https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/climate

- C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration *(launched June 2021):* https://www.c40.org/what-we-do/raising-climate-ambition/inclusive-thriving-cities/c40-mmc-partnership-on-cities-climate-migration/

  Launched in June 2021, and guided by the mayors of Barcelona, Bristol, Dakar, Dhaka North, Freetown, Houston, Los Angeles, Lima, and Milan, the Task Force is a mayor-led initiative to accelerate local, national, regional, and global responded to the climate crisis and human mobility in cities.

- Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees for Inclusive Climate Action: https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf-ica

  Announced in partnership and with the support of the Robert Bosch Stiftung (RBSG) and C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40 Cities) on the sidelines of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), the MMC's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees: Inclusive Climate Action unlocks direct technical and financial resources to cities addressing the needs of migrant and displaced communities affected by the climate crisis.

Cities Alliance

- Cities and Migration Program

  https://www.citiesalliance.org/how-we-work/global-programmes/cities-and-migration/focus-and-partners

Migration4Development, IOM's global hub migration & sustainable development,, bringing together practitioners & policymakers from around the world.

- United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) Toolbox on Migration and Local Development

- Success Stories

Changing Climate, Changing Migration Podcast Series; Migration Policy Institute. https://www.migrationpolicy.org/about/changing-climate-changing-migration