

**UN/POP/MIG-1ES/2019/10**

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Within this framework, the following actions are being undertaken:

**I) *Improving public perceptions of migrants and fostering a culture of living together***

**a) *Promoting balanced media coverage of migration and reinforcing the safety of journalists***

Under the umbrella of SDG target 16.10, UNESCO promotes peaceful and inclusive societies by improving the quality of strengthening access to information on issues related to migration. UNESCO places emphasis on the need for useful and reliable information on the complexities of migration and for media coverage to be informed, verified and balanced. In 2016, UNESCO and the Tolerance Centre organized a conference on "Migration for Sustainable Development: Social Transformations, Media Narratives and Education" at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This conference identified key shortfalls in media coverage of migration, refugees and migrants and pointed to concrete actions. In 2018, UNESCO launched the publication *Changing the Narratives about Migration: media and social transformations*.<sup>6</sup> As a follow-

ethical journalism, media coverage of migration issues. This publication will be a practical manual for media professionals on how to cover migration, diffusing true representations of different migrant groups, while respecting divergent political or ideological viewpoints and paying attention to the social impact of their storytelling. The new

support of the Government of Italy, will develop the capacity of media in covering migration issues. Eight countries in West and Central Africa (Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal) will benefit from the project. In collaboration with key stakeholders in the region, UNESCO will help to empower youth and women to make informed choices regarding their future, build media capacities for media coverage of migration and reinforce the safety of journalists. Finally, it is worth mentioning a good practice emanating from the Intergovernmental Conference (10-11 December 2018) which adopted, in Marrakech, the Global Compact for Migration. In particular, UNESCO supported a temporary FM and online radio station (called Radio MIG). Managed as a community media, it involved over 20 young community journalists from the southern Mediterranean region and sub-Saharan Africa and strengthened their reporting skills on stories linked to migration, human rights, gender and hate speech. To promote best practices of professional reporting on such issues, the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), supported, at the end of 2017, an initiative to report on the situation in the Myanmar-Bangladesh border region.<sup>7</sup>

produced a series of reports, telling the stories of those worst-affected by the crisis, mainly women and children, and highlighting the communication needs of the displaced Rohingya population.<sup>8</sup> Building on this experience, IPDC developed media guidelines for journalists for future interaction with displaced communities and reporting on migratory crises. Furthermore, UNESCO participated in two major events by the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

**b) *Promoting global citizenship education (GCED)***

The development of skills for mutual understanding and the empowerment of individuals to address global challenges, such as migration, are central priorities of GCED. Under the umbrella of SDG target 4.7, UNESCO supports Member States in the development of appropriate education policies, contents, teaching practices and enabling learning environments.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, UNESCO leads global discussions through the organization, every two years, of the Global GCED Forum (most recent held in Ottawa, 2017). In 2018, UNESCO explored effective approaches to learning, and teaching respect for diversity. An integral part of these efforts is raising awareness through public campaigns. One such

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<sup>6</sup> The full text of the publication is available at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000264239>

<sup>7</sup> More information about this initiative is available at: <https://en.unesco.org/news/media-coverage-migrations-and-refugees-rohingya-crisis-0>

<sup>8</sup> An example of a report is available at: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/12/rohingya-refugees-face-fresh-ordeal-crowded-camps/>  
<https://en.unesco.org/gced>

action was the <sup>10</sup> in partnership with the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet). The awarded creations by children were captured in the publication *The Power of Solidarity*.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the 2017 Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize put the protection of migrants and refugees at its centre as it was awarded to Giuseppina Nicolini, former Mayor of Lampedusa (Italy) and to the non-governmental organization SOS Méditerranée (France).

*c) Promoting media and information literacy (MIL) for dialogue and inclusion*

Information that people consume from the media and online partially influences their understanding of migration, as well as how they view migrants. Under SDG 16 and 11, UNESCO strives to raise city-access to information; their own communications power in this regard, their fundamental freedoms, and critical engagement with information that makes cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. UNESCO supports Member States and local stakeholders by providing tools and helps them to develop MIL policies and strategies, curricula, and

<sup>12</sup>. In addition, UNESCO and its partners organize the International MIL and Intercultural Dialogue Conference (MILID Conference) annually during the Global MIL Week. In 2017, the theme was Media and Information Literacy in Critical Times: Re-imagining Ways of Learning and Information Environments dialogue and developm

considered creative and non-traditional ways of MIL learning in cities including cooperation with municipalities, as well as social inclusion of migrants. In connection with Global MIL Week 2018, UNESCO launched the first Global MIL Youth Hackathon in the framework of the Youth Space Initiative, encouraging youth to develop innovative ideas on how to use MIL to tackle challenges and opportunities, including media and migrants, disinformation and the SDGs.

## II)

### a) *Promoting an inclusive urban governance for migrants*

Local authorities and communities are increasingly recognized as the first responders to large-scale refugee movements and are well-placed actors to promote the inclusion of migrants. Their role and responsibilities in these respects were spelled out in the New Urban Agenda and also reaffirmed in the Global Compacts of December last. In particular, the Global Compact on Refugees calls for the international community and national authorities to strengthen local institutional capacities and infrastructure and invites city networks to share good practices on responses for refugees in urban settings. Fully aware of the potential of local authorities and drawing on the commitment of SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), UNESCO leverages its International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR to foster advocacy, awareness-raising and the sharing of experiences to address, *inter alia*, discrimination against migrants.<sup>16</sup> The potential benefits of the inclusion of migrants were highlighted in the Bologna Declaration, the outcome document of the first ICCAR Steering Committee (April 2016), along with the commitment of city members to a sustainable urban development free from all forms of discrimination.<sup>17</sup> In that spirit, UNESCO, the M. V. Vardinoyannis Foundation and the European Coalition of Cities against Racism

in 2016. A first output was the study

*Cities welcoming refugees and migrants*<sup>18</sup>. The next output will be an operational handbook for local authorities, city practitioners and concerned stakeholders to be released this year. This publication will provide practical guidance on how to address specific technical governance issues in different areas of city responsibilities in terms of welcoming and integrating refugees and migrants, incorporating such international commitments as laid down in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Global Compacts. It also highlights crosscutting considerations with emphasis on intersecting grounds of discrimination, such as gender, national or ethnic origin, and cultural identity. In relation to this initiative, a roundtable was organized at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (Baku, Azerbaijan, May 2017)<sup>19</sup> and a policy brief was presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development (Berlin, June 2017)<sup>20</sup> to raise awareness. In Latin America, UNESCO, the Latin American branch of ICCAR and the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights in Buenos Aires, Argentina, launched the guide *The SDGs and Cities. International Human Mobility* in 2018.<sup>21</sup> It provides an overview of the various strategies for the attention, reception and integration of migrants and refugees in the cities of Latin America and the Caribbean.



development of a comprehensive compendium of practical examples. In 2017, UNESCO actively contributed both at the global policy level and in the field, to the commemoration events of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which focused on women migrants and refugees. UNESCO operates to guarantee the right to education for all women and girls fleeing from conflict zones or natural disasters and works on deconstructing gender stereotypes that are at the heart of gender-based violence particularly present in cases of displacement. Main areas of UNESCO action are:

*a) Recognition of higher education qualifications*

With the underpinning principles of the right to education and inclusion, as well as the commitment to deliver on SDG4 and







of inclusive urban spaces. A World of Migrants<sup>42</sup> is a series of radio segments focusing on the contributions of migrants to cities in India. Future plans include further research and sharing of information on internal migration, collecting examples of good policy responses from cities in Asia and developing new policy responses to promote urban inclusion.

**c) *Environment and human migration: evidence of a critical nexus***

Failed adaptation to environmental stress is among the complex and variously interconnected causes of human migration. Evidence shows that growing climatic variability has multiple impacts on water availability and quality, which in turn jeopardizes agricultural livelihoods and economic opportunities particularly for the younger generations and vulnerable members of society, thereby reducing their self-sufficiency and capability to cope with risks. These factors, often associated with other aspects such as political stability, governance, economic strength and job opportunities, can force people, in particularly the young, to migrate in search of water security<sup>43</sup>

The 2016 edition of the UN W<sup>44</sup> produced and coordinated by the World Water Assessment Programme, revealed that more than 1.4 billion jobs labour force are directly water-dependent. Water security is hence crucial for job creation and youth employment. As a consequence of extended droughts, the drylands of Africa with 70% of the population mostly young and dependent on agriculture-based livelihoods are already experiencing high unemployment and underemployment, which drive migrations within and outside the region.

The UNESCO WWAP publication *Migration and its interdependencies with water scarcity, gender and youth employment*,<sup>45</sup> released in 2017, presents a review of the available information and evidence of the nexus between migration, climate-related water scarcity, gender and youth employment, and of its impacts on the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of women and men in the context of climate variability and change-induced migration. Migration, especially for youth, represents a way to adapt to climate-induced environmental stresses and to their social and economic impacts. Climatic threats to water availability and access impact women and men differently, as challenges and opportunities are very much dependent on gender roles and societal norms. Women and men are also affected

