

Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

1st Workshop Session guide

Beirut, Lebanon, 17-19 August 2016

1st session: Introduction to the project and workshop

This session will provide a basic introduction to the project and its partners (UCLG-CSIPD and Cities Alliance). It also will explain the project's intended outcomes: (1) contributing to the current literature on the modalities and policies of addressing noncitizens (e.g., refugees and migrants) in R2C and related applications; and (2) highlight the timely experience of current refugees and municipalities of a major metropolitan area; and (3) give credit to Lebanese local governments for their service, while offering solutions to problems and obstacles faced.

2nd session: Understanding the Right to the City: context, meaning and development

In this session, HLRN will present the basic concepts that will be used in the workshop, so that all understand at a similar level. This session will introduce the main concepts of the right to the city as have developed and the variations of R2C, as expressed in the World Charter on the Right to the City (2005) and the Charter Agenda on Human Rights in the City (2011) and the Gwangju Principles for a Human Rights City (2014). The presentation will focus on the provisions related to migrants, refugees and other non-nationals.

3rd session: The role of local governments/authorities and host communities

This session will be dedicated to the refugee crisis and its impacts. The refugee crisis is a global responsibility but it is discharged locally. Local governments and local authorities bear the greatest and most-direct responsibilities as protectors and frontline service providers for refugees and migrants. This session articulates the concepts of the previous session and the applicable international law.

4th session: The Right to the City in practical application: Gwangju, Vienna, São Paulo

This session will focus on three diverse applications of human rights and right to the city practical approaches at local level, paying particular attention to the treatment of migrant and refugee population. The three cities selected for analysis are Gwangju, Vienna and São Paulo.

5th session: Discussion: Challenges and recommendations to improve livelihoods of displaced people in Beirut

For local authorities Workshop

Objective: Identify the challenges and obstacles faced by local authorities to implement the right to the city' related rights for refugee communities and propose solutions.

Working group 1 on challenges and recommendations concerning the economic and material development will explore refugee quality of livelihoods and the municipality experience in Beirut, including housing, provision of services and productive employment. The participants will answer three questions through a structured discussion guided by a moderator and followed-up by a rapporteur:

1. What are the strategies and operational principles guiding current policy and practices to protect and promote adequate livelihoods - housing, services, employment, health, education...- for refugees living in the city?
 - Strategies, principles, policies and practices that respect, protect and fulfill human rights, protect civilians, in general, and refugees, in particular, as well as apply treaty obligations within local government. Operational strategies and principles could include use of property/property values for social purposes, regulation of real estate market, work permits, bank accounts, legal personality, inclusion/recognition of informal market and economy, distribution of economic benefits, grant security of tenure, support for community housing, social security, equitable distribution of public goods and services, gender-equal laws/policies, information/data, public health and education, good governance, international cooperation mechanisms...
2. What are the major challenges and obstacles that local authorities face in protecting and ensuring adequate livelihoods for refugees living in the city?
 - Such challenges and obstacles may include a lack of financial or other resources, administrative capacity, information/data, legislation, natural resource limits, land management and development, housing and tenure regulations, economic or spatial exclusion, access to international cooperation and assistance...
3. What “right to the city” strategies/principles would you propose to solve/overcome these challenges and promote, protect and ensure adequate livelihoods for refugees living in the city?
 - R2C principles would include social function of property and land, social production of habitat and the city, democratic management of the city, just economy, spatial justice, healthy environment, sustainable and equitable development... Strategies and principles could include use of property/property values for social purposes, regulation of real estate market, work permits, bank accounts, legal personality, inclusion/recognition of informal market and economy, distribution of economic benefits, grant security of tenure, support for community housing, social security, equitable distribution of public goods and services, gender-equal laws/policies, information/data, public health and education, good governance, international cooperation mechanisms...

Working group 2 on challenges and recommendations for social cohesion will explore the municipality policies, practices and experience on social cohesion, spatial justice and participation of refugees. The participants will answer three questions through a structured discussion guided by a moderator and followed-up by a rapporteur:

1. What are the strategies and operational principles guiding current policy and practices to protect and promote social and spatial inclusion and participation of refugees living in the city?
 - Strategies, principles, policies and practices that respect, protect and fulfill human rights, protect civilians, in general, and refugees, in particular, as well as apply treaty obligations within local government. Some strategies and operational principles could include also non-discriminatory policies and practices, inclusive and meaningful

participation/decision-making mechanisms, promotion of healthy environment, mechanisms to protect and promote equitable management of commons/public space, equitable distribution of public goods and services, gender-equal laws/policies, adequate public transport, facilities for persons with special needs, safety and security, policies and practices to address socio-spatial segregation...

2. What are the major challenges and obstacles of local authorities in protecting and ensuring social inclusion, spatial justice and participation of refugees living in the city?

- Such challenges and obstacles may include a lack of financial or other resources, lack of political will and interest, lack of communication, xenophobia, self-isolation of the refugee community, economic, cultural and social stress and tension, extreme poverty of refugee communities, gender-based discrimination or violence, difficulty in managing high-risk areas, safety and security, unbalanced serviced land development and distribution of goods, physical isolation of refugee residences, lack of adequate public transport...

3. What “right to the city” principles and strategies would you propose to solve/overcome these challenges and promote, protect and ensure social inclusion, spatial justice and participation of refugees living the city?

- R2C principles would include social function of property and land, social production of habitat and the city, democratic management of the city, just economy, spatial justice, healthy environment, sustainable and equitable development... Some strategies and operational principles could include also non-discriminatory policies and practices, inclusive and meaningful participation/decision-making mechanisms, promotion of healthy environment, mechanisms to protect and promote equitable management of commons/public space, equitable distribution of public goods and services, gender-equal laws/policies, adequate public transport, facilities for persons with special needs, safety and security, policies and practices to address socio-spatial segregation...

For refugee community workshop

Objective: Identify the challenges and obstacles faced by refugee communities to exercise and enjoy the right to the city’ related rights and propose solutions.

Working group 1 on challenges and recommendations concerning the economic and material development will explore refugee quality of livelihoods and their experiences with local government of Beirut, concerning housing, provision of services and productive employment. The participants will answer three questions through a structured discussion guided by a moderator and followed-up by a rapporteur:

1. What are the main strategies and practices of refugee communities in Beirut (or other cities) to acquire adequate living standards (livelihoods) – housing, services, employment, health, education...- and what support has been received from local authorities?

- Strategies and practices may include techniques for seeking access to public service (health, education, basic utilities), local community assistance, developing and/or maintaining refugee networks/organizations, seeking formal/informal employment, gaining access to public information, mounting savings schemes, obtaining cash

assistance, squatting, sharing housing, finding/making temporary housing/shelter, obtaining building materials, finding facilities for persons with special needs...

2. What are the major challenges of refugee communities to acquire adequate living standards (livelihoods) – housing, services, employment, health, education...- in the city?
 - Such challenges may include a lack of access to public services (health, education, basic utilities), an unreceptive local community, a lack of refugee networks/organizations, legal or economic limits to economic/employment opportunities, a lack of access to public information, poverty, homelessness/inadequate housing, a lack of facilities for persons with special needs...
3. What “right to the city” principles or strategies would you propose to solve/overcome these challenges?

Working group 2 on challenges and recommendations concerning social development will explore the municipality policies, practices and experience on social cohesion, spatial justice and participation of refugees. The participants will answer three questions through a structured discussion guided by a moderator and followed-up by a rapporteur:

1. What are the practices, strategies and mechanisms to promote social cohesion, spatial justice and participation of refugee communities at local level in the city?
 - Such strategies include proposing changes to discriminatory policies and practices, seeking or forming more-inclusive and meaningful participation and decision-making mechanisms, promoting healthy environment, promoting or joining in mechanisms to protect and promote equitable management of commons/public space and goods, safety and security, promoting or joining in mechanisms to ensure more-equitable distribution of public goods and services, inclusive public transport, policies and practices to address socio-spatial segregation...
2. What are the major challenges and obstacles of refugee communities to acquire and enjoy social inclusion, spatial justice and decision making and civil participation in the city?
 - Such challenges may entail a lack of financial or other resources, a lack of political will and interest, xenophobia, self-isolation of refugee community, economic, cultural and social stress and tension, extreme poverty of refugee communities, safety and security, resistance/unreceptivity of the host community, difficulty in managing high risk areas, cultural differences/tension with host community, intra-community tensions, unserved land development, maldistribution of goods and services, physical isolation of refugee residences, lack of public transport...
3. What “right to the city” principles or strategies would you propose to solve/overcome the challenges and promote, protect and ensure social inclusion, spatial justice and participation of refugees?
 - R2C principles would include social function of property and land, social production of habitat and the city, democratic management of the city, just economy, spatial justice, healthy environment, sustainable and equitable development... Some strategies and operational principles could include also non-discriminatory policies and practices, inclusive and meaningful participation/decision-making mechanisms, promotion of healthy environment, mechanisms to protect and promote equitable management of

commons/public space, equitable distribution of public goods and services, gender-equal laws/policies, adequate public transport, facilities for persons with special needs, safety and security, policies and practices to address socio-spatial segregation...

5th session: Conclusions

HIC-HLRN will recapitulate the outcomes and explain how these will combine with the outcomes of subsequent workshops, accumulating to form a set of governance/local administration principles and policy recommendations that the project will report back and share with all participants and the public. This will culminate in a public event (panel discussion or interactive dialogue between the refugee and local authorities) that will be recorded in a draft "charter" for consideration as a shared human rights-grounded "charter" on sanctuary in the city - Beirut.