URBAN AGENDA FOR THE INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

THE CITY OF ATHENS EXPERIENCE

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1. THE EXPERIENCE FROM ACCOMMODATION & SERVICES SCHEME FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS
1.1 PROJECT SCOPE

Project scope: to offer a comprehensive response plan for providing dignified living conditions to the refugees, while developing an ample personalized monitoring and support mechanism of each beneficiary (or family) throughout the whole duration of his/her stay in Athens.

- Accommodation in apartments – rentals and utility bills
- CBI – Cash Based Intervention
- Psycho-social support
- Medical care
- Integration initiatives
1.2 PROJECT DATA - COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

**February 2017**

Country of Origin

- Afghanistan: 83%
- Iraq: 7%
- Syrian Arab Republic: 2%
- Other (Pak, Pal, Som, Mya, Lib, Sud, Dr Congo, Cam, Erit): 8%

**Today**

Country of Origin

- Afghanistan: 19%
- Iraq: 19%
- Syrian Arab Republic: 15%
- Other (Al, Ang, Bgl, Bur, Cam, CAR, Com, Cdl, DRC, Er, El, Gb, Gui, Ir, Ku, Leb, Mor, Nig, Pak, Pal, SL, Som, Sud, Tog, Tur, Ug): 47%
1.3 PROJECT DATA - ASYLUM STATUS

- Asylum Seeker: 64%
- Refugee: 33%
- Refugee/Subsidiary Protection: 3%
1.4 PROJECT DATA - EDUCATIONAL PROFILE (OCTOBER 2018)

- Elementary: 37%
- High School: 28%
- N/A: 22%
- Preparatory: 1%
- Private College: 0%
- Technical School: 2%
- University: 9%
- Kindergarten: 0%
- No: 1%
1.5 PROJECT DATA - Specific needs

- Child at risk: 2%
- LGBTI: 1%
- Person with disability: 7%
- Serious medical condition: 34%
- Single parent or caregiver with minor children: 12%
- Survivor or persons at risk of SGBV: 5%
- Unaccompanied or separated child: 4%
- Victim of Torture: 10%
- Woman at risk, including woman in pregnancy or having recently given birth: 18%
- Victim of trafficking in human beings: 4%
2. OUR INTEGRATION APPROACH
2.1 Our Integration approach - EMPLOYMENT

facilitate asylum seekers/refugees’ access to employment, further supporting the beneficiaries’ psychosocial empowerment.

- issuance of social security number (AMKA), tax registration number (AFM), yearly tax declaration and other relevant to employment papers/procedures.
- Compiling of a database with a significant number of CVs (more than 220).
- Designing and implementing activities for a more accurate profiling of the beneficiaries’ skills, experience and future expectations (e.g. focus groups).
- referring to services and NGOs for developing skills and gain access to the local labor market.
2.2 GOOD PRACTICES

- Direct access to funds through UNHCR
- Certain flexibility in adapting structure and offered services as the needs were emerging
- Accommodation in apartments and not collective buildings or camps promotes desegregation and autonomy
- Cash assistance & cash contribution
2.3 INTEGRATION CHALLENGES

- Manage deceptive expectations build by the smuggling network
- **No horizon** - Lack of integration programs or plan – civil societies try to fill the gap with ad hoc initiatives
- Language barrier
- Limited access to public services
- High unemployment rate in the country
2.3 INTEGRATION CHALLENGES (CONT.)

- Vulnerabilities
- Lack of central administration’s resources: Education, Health, Labour
- Prejudices
- Skills’ deficit
- Uncertainty → distress → demotivation
- Segregation: spatial and social
3. THE FUTURE - WALK THE PATH OF INCLUSION

- Integrate accommodation, skill’s development and employment into one program
- Subsidise/incentivise the private sector to employ/train migrants and refugees
- Microfinance – encourage entrepreneurship – social enterprises
- Focus on facilitating access to programs and funds
- Cities on coordination, implementation role – build on existing capacity
4. FACTS & FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Addressing migrants and refugees with a unified plan
- Synergies from bringing together 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} generation migrants and current refugees
- Qualifications recognition
- Citizenship/ residence permission
- Access facilitation - dedicated units within the municipal structure
4. FACTS & FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Discriminatory behaviour and prejudices at the public servants’ corps
- Housing
- Skills development-vocational training
- Cities and/or implementation bodies get direct access to funds
- Agree on realistic and attainable KPIs; monitor and control progress
- Sustainability as prime objective
5. SOME TRAITS OF A BLENDING FACILITY

- Easily accessed
- Cohesive & comprehensive
- Pragmatic
- Sustainable
- Rewarding
- Transparent
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION