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Project Details

Title: Reception, Development and Sustainable Strengthening for Social, Economic and Cultural Inclusion of Migrants

Countries: Ecuador

Donors: European Union (EU) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)

Implementer: UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) (Oversight)

Period: 2012-2017 (18 months within this period)

Key Words

Social inclusion; Health

In a global context of increasing urbanization, cities find themselves at the forefront of managing both the positive and negative impacts of migration. As such, urban planning should take human mobility into account, ensuring that all inhabitants have access to basic services such as health care.

Health is recognized as a human right and pre-requisite for a living dignified life. Beyond principals of universal access to health services, mental health considerations should be reflected in the types of coverage provided, especially for people that face higher levels of vulnerability.

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IOM UN MIGRATION

HOW WAS MIGRATION INTEGRATED?

Through this project supported by JMDI, the Provincial Government of Pichincha (GADPP) in Ecuador nurtured peer-to-peer dialogue and mutual learning on specific urban challenges such as social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, employment and provision of basic services for migrants, among others.

In doing so, the GADPP included mental health services into its migration management model by establishing complementary professional psychosocial support as part of the overall selection of services provided by the Human Mobility Unit (HMU). Some of the concrete measures taken to effectively integrate migration included :

- Providing a one-stop orientation and service provision centre for migrants and displaced persons;

- Raising the awareness of the general population on migrants and displaced persons' rights and how they contribute positively to local development in a bid to foster social cohesion and mitigate xenophobia;

- Promoting the integration of migration and displacement issues across all urban governance and development policies.

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WHAT WERE LESSONS LEARNED?

Institutional measures such as ordinances, laws or policies can strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of such units: In Pichincha, the Provincial Government approved the Equal Rights and Social Development Ordinance which pushed for equal rights among all inhabitants of Pichincha, regardless of migratory status. Ordinances such as this provide a legitimate and legal backbone for the units/entities to provide necessary service to migrants and strengthen social cohesion in urban communities.

Ensuring access to statistical data is crucial in order to better understand how migration can be integrated into urban planning: Cities should work to understand the local/regional features of migration and development across all sectors through careful monitoring and evaluation. To have a clearer understanding of migrants' access to services, connectivity, data was collected and disaggregated by age and sex. This information was then used to inform urban planning and provide services where gaps were identified.