

WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN MIGRATION CONTEXTS



A Call For A Localised Urban Migration Agenda

INTRODUCTION

Local Governments In Migration Response

Migration management cannot happen without local governments (LGs), given their proximity to migrants and their mandate to provide service delivery and safe environments to their constituents. LGs understand local socio-spatial dynamics and are best placed to identify needs and solutions, implement policies and coordinate service delivery. Yet, they are not fully integrated into international organisations' development and migration responses. Although included in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)'s definition of local actors, localisation efforts rarely leverage LGs' specific value and often exclude them from migration governance. This paper (re)positions LGs as central partners in line with localisation efforts.

So what would it take to bring LGs to the centre of this agenda? This position paper is built on a research project that sheds light on the role of local governments in migration contexts, to inform local and international stakeholders of the migration, humanitarian and development sectors.

The research was conducted in **Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon** and **Uganda** as well as at global level. The research team reviewed 54 documents written by academics and practitioners, and collected primary data in the form of 35 key informant interviews (KIIs), one focus group discussion (FGD) gathering 15 participants, 4 country-level validation workshops with VNG International's teams, a stakeholder workshop gathering 17 participants from civil society, academia and the humanitarian sector, and an online survey with 25 responses, providing anecdotal evidence referenced in the research. **Together, these tools took stock of existing forms of engagement between LGs and other stakeholders to identify gaps and good practices.**

The research was mandated by VNG International, the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities, and conducted by Samuel Hall, a social enterprise that conducts research in migration contexts with research staff based in Kenya and Lebanon, between November 2024 and February 2025

Who Are The Local Governments, and Why Do They Matter?

LGs include entities like municipalities, counties, or districts, depending on the country's governance structure. They oversee service delivery, often beyond their mandate, especially when central governments fall short. However, migration management is often centralised due to national security concerns, leading to disconnects and informal service delivery at the local level.

Why do local governments matter?

- **Strengthen Proximity** to communities – trusted and informed
- **Implement policies** through practical, local solutions
- **Deliver essential services** and ensure coordination
- **Engage residents** and mobilise local leadership
- **Anchor inclusive development** strategies
- **Represent accountable institutions** of the state

Over the past years, which included major humanitarian crises, migration, displacement and multiple wars... The local government has formed emergency plans and accepted in its policies to show a great deal of space towards humanitarian and developmental work. However, the financial capabilities are still very modest compared to the magnitude of the growing challenges."

- Survey respondent, Lebanon, February 2025



Local government workshop in Iraq. Image courtesy: VNGi

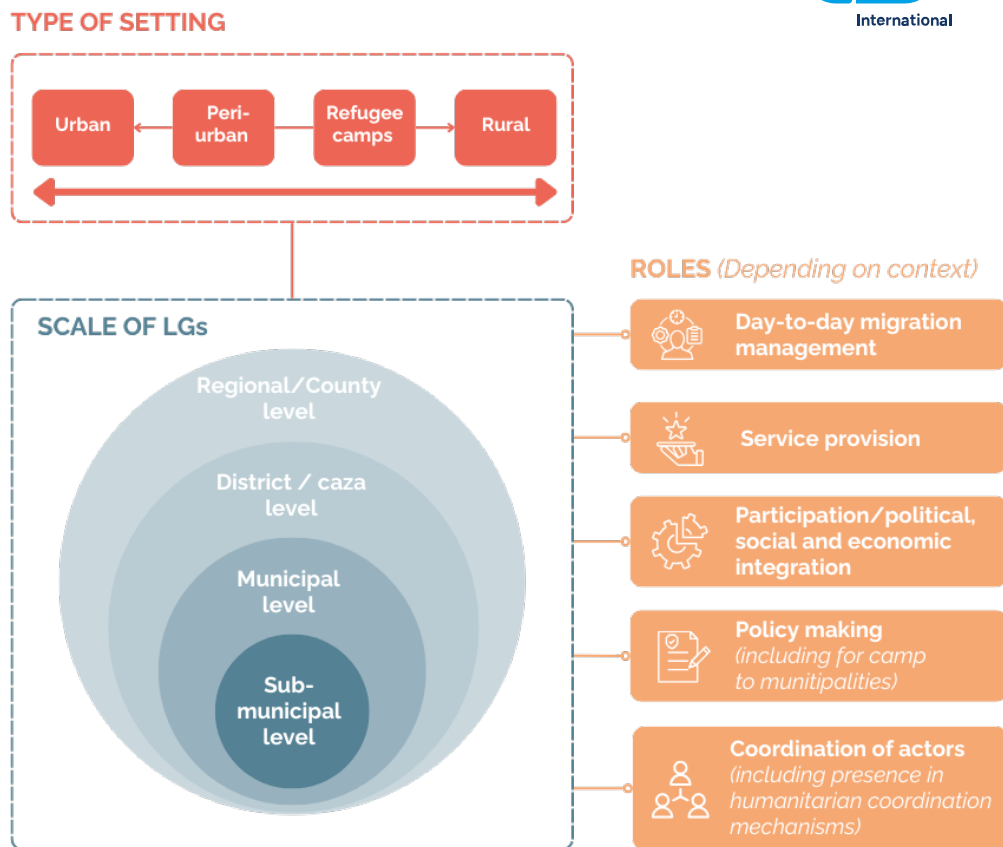


Figure 1: The roles, type of setting and scale of Local Governments

LOCALISATION AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Making Space For LGs

Local governments are already shaping the landscape of migration management, *often without recognition or adequate support*. The Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream points out that the localisation agenda can be understood either as a “complementarity between international and local action,” or “as a more transformative agenda where local actors will ultimately be leading the response.”¹ Yet, localisation often disproportionately focuses on civil society actors and national governments over LGs.²

How can we then better position LGs within their legitimate role?

Territorial development provides an entry point. It is a bottom-up, integrated process involving all stakeholders across sectors. It “leverages the contribution of actors operating at multiple scales”³ through an “integrated approach that emphasises cross-sectoral policy, multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance and promotes multi-territorial and community-led processes.”⁴ The territorial development approach:

Mobilises stakeholders at the horizontal and vertical levels (Figure 2).⁵

Clarifies the position of LGs as leaders due to their role in the service delivery to host and migrant communities

1 Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream, “Mission Report: Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream Demonstrator Country Field Mission to Iraq,” 2018.
2 UNDP and Initiative Consultants Ltd., “Local governments in Eastern Africa. An analytical Study of Decentralization, Financing, Service Delivery and Capacities,” 2012.
3 Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, Supporting Decentralisation, 2016.
4 Martina Pertoldi et al., eds., Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies (Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2022)
5 Anna Triandafyllidou, “Decentering the Study of Migration Governance: A Radical View,” Geopolitics 27, no. 3 (2022): 811–825,

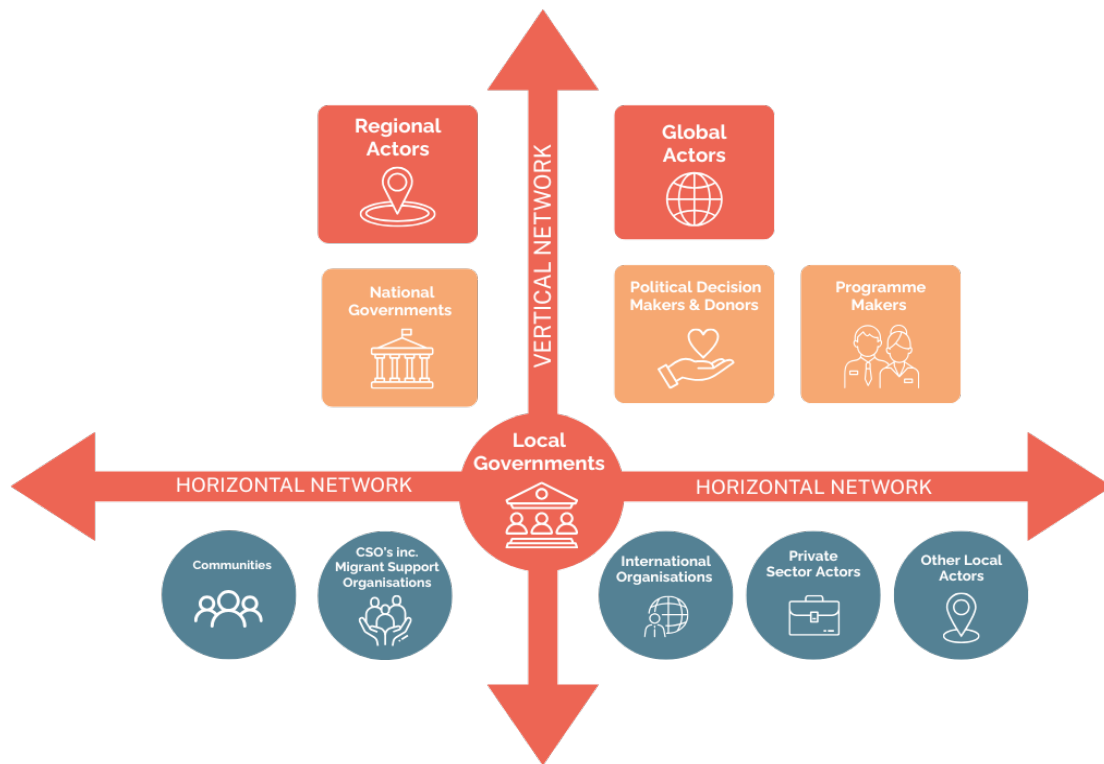


Figure 2: Horizontal and vertical levels of stakeholder mobilisation

THE CONTEXT

How Do Stakeholders Engage With LGs?

Types of Decentralisation and Implications for Localisation

Centralisation: National governments retain control over most decisions and resources. LGs may respond locally but lack formal mandates or autonomy, limiting their ability to engage meaningfully in localisation or migration management.

Partial or complex decentralisation: Powers are devolved inconsistently across sectors or regions. LGs may have responsibilities but without corresponding authority or resources. This creates fragmented governance and weakens their leadership capacity.

Full decentralisation / Devolution: Elected LGs have legal authority over specific functions and can raise or receive revenue. This model can empower LGs to lead localised responses—provided they are supported by adequate funding, capacity, and recognition by international and national partners.

Decentralisation in practice: country snapshots

Kenya: Since 2013, devolution has empowered counties to lead on service delivery and policy making. Counties now directly engage with stakeholders and develop local strategies.

Uganda: A national localisation framework exists, but implementation is uneven. Refugee support systems remain fragmented, often operating in silos.

Iraq: Following failed decentralisation reforms and the suspension of district councils in 2019, LGs lack financial autonomy. They rely heavily on donors and face governance constraints.

Lebanon: Municipalities provide critical services in areas like waste and electricity despite lacking mandates and funding. Their role remains informal and under-recognised.

Stakeholder engagement differs based on governance structures and levels of decentralisation.

- In more decentralised settings like Kenya and Uganda, LGs are formally mandated to play a role in migration governance. However, even in these contexts, meaningful engagement is not guaranteed. **Top-down approaches and fragmented coordination remain common.** For example, Kenya’s Garissa Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (GISED) and its equivalent in Kalobeyei, Turkana (KISED) are two multi-stakeholder refugee integration collaborations between UNHCR, private donors, the central government, and county governments that have been praised for prominently featuring LGs. The next step is for this approach to include key local institutions like the county assembly, refugee-led organisations, civil society organisations, and community-based organisations.
- Conversely, in centralised contexts such as Iraq and Lebanon, **LGs often step in out of necessity to fill service delivery gaps, despite lacking a formal role or dedicated funding in migration governance.** In Lebanon, municipalities have had to find informal and sometimes unsanctioned means to support both host and migrant communities, raising challenges related to legitimacy and recognition.

The territorial development approach, which encourages collaboration across levels of government and with civil society, **offers a structured way to recognise and reinforce LG leadership in migration response.** The uneven implementation of localisation can be understood as a spectrum as seen in Figure 3, from exclusion to inclusion, that is impacted by the process of centralisation, or decentralisation.

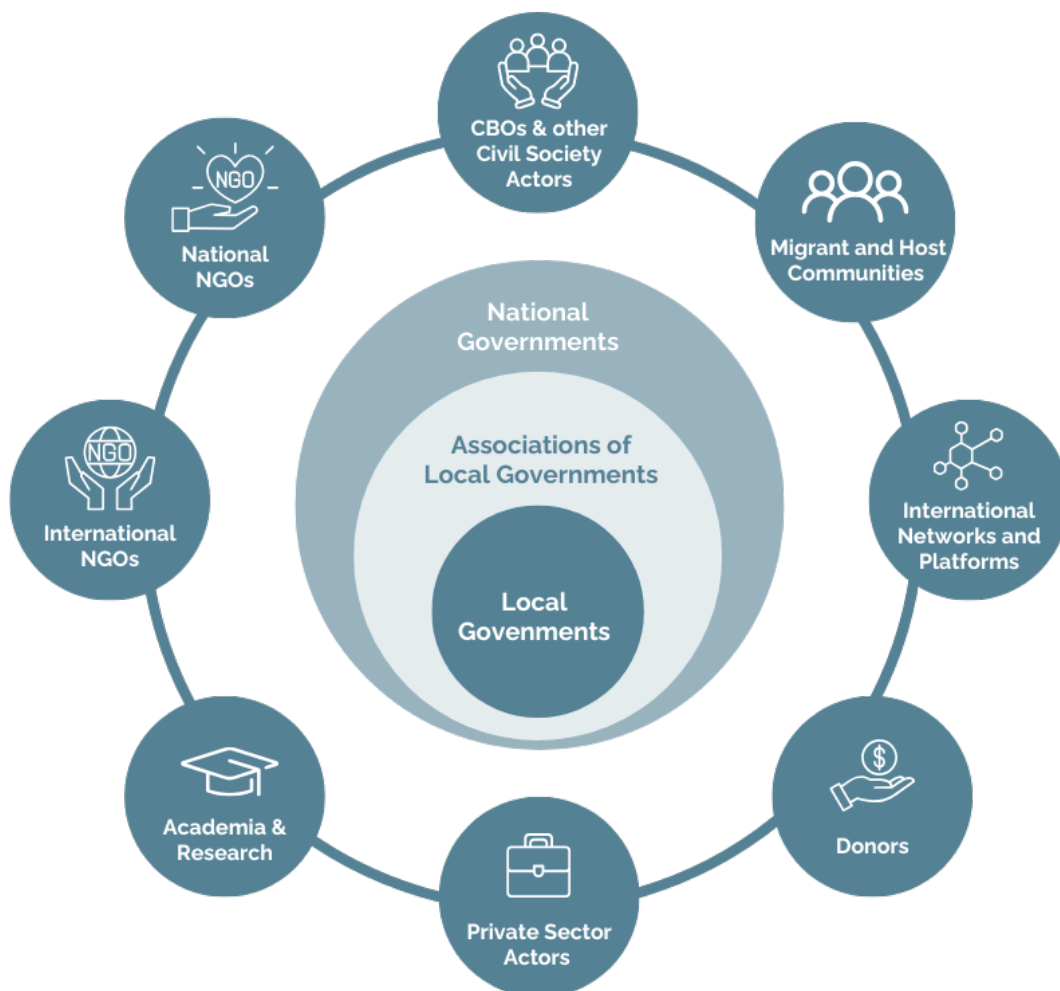


Figure 3: Implementation spectrum of localisation

ECOSYSTEM OF ACTORS

What Role For Each Stakeholder?

Territorial development relies on the alignment and coordination of multiple stakeholders. Each plays a specific role in shaping inclusive migration governance:

- **Local Governments (LGs):** Central actors with the mandate to lead service delivery, planning, and local development. Their proximity, institutional legitimacy, and engagement capacity make them critical in responding to migration needs sustainably.
- **National Governments:** Responsible for establishing enabling legal frameworks, devolving resources and competencies, and creating space for LG participation in national migration governance.
- **Donors and International Organisations:** Currently leading humanitarian, development and migration response, they should evolve towards a support role for local actors. Aligned with this, they must shift from project-based to long-term, flexible, and direct support for LGs. This includes funding, technical assistance, and enabling LGs to co-lead programme design and implementation.
- **Civil Society and Refugee-led Organisations:** Act as community mobilisers, holding institutions accountable and ensuring inclusive participation, especially of marginalised migrant groups.
- **Research Institutions:** Generate contextual evidence, support data-driven decision-making, and help build adaptive and informed policy environments.
- **Local Government Associations:** Serve as platforms for peer learning, policy advocacy, and visibility. They consolidate LG voices to influence national and global agendas.

Examples of LG-led Partnerships

Community-driven waste management (Lebanon): VNG International, municipalities, and residents co-designed recycling initiatives in Deir Al-Ahmar, reducing waste by 40%. (Solid Waste Management Programme)

Cross-border knowledge sharing (Uganda): Uganda's Koboko Municipality collaborated with Kenyan counties to adopt best practices in refugee governance. (Regional Engagement Forum)

Refugee-host economic integration (Kenya): Turkana County partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to launch the Biashara Huduma Centre, creating 500+ jobs for refugees and locals. (Kakuma Municipality)

Decentralised crisis management (Iraq): VNG International and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) established a crisis management commission in Duhok, integrating geographic information systems (GIS) for rapid disaster response and improved services. (MASAR Project)

Examples of research institutions supporting localisation

University of Duhok, Iraq has completed an assessment of geo-related objects and water leakages for water management directorates in Duhok Governorate

In Uganda, the Universities of Makerere and Muni have both contributed to successful activities as part of the SDLG programme, such as the development of a leadership institute to train officials in participatory governance (Muni University)

Samuel Hall has partnered with DRC and ReDSS in Kenya since 2014 on multiple localisation initiatives to promote durable solutions, including a 2015 study on devolution; a 2023 Global Refugee Forum progress report with ReDSS; and the present collaboration with VNG International to better position LGs' in the localisation debate.

LG Association-Led Initiative: Creating Benin's Land Management System

In Benin, a coalition of municipalities collaborated with VNG international to address a community-identified need to resolve land disputes. Together, they created a land management system, making sure to include women and other groups in vulnerable situations. The project was so successful that it was institutionalised at a national level to include all 71 municipalities.

Story of Change 1

Strength in Solidarity: How I Collaborated with VNG International and Local Governments to Build Lasting Change

By Batali Gabriel Modi, Coordinator, South Sudanese Refugees in Arua

Last year, the first-ever World Refugee Day celebration in Arua City was organised by [VNG International](#) with the local government in June 2024 as part of their [Sustainable Development Through Local Governance \(SDLG\) Programme](#). The event that brought together humanitarian and development partners and local government leaders, provided a valuable platform for nurturing stronger networks and expanding partnerships to support the urban refugees.

When I heard about the World Refugee Day (WRD) commemoration, I was overjoyed. I knew this event would not only raise awareness, but it would also bring recognition to the thousands of refugees in Arua City and also provide a much-needed platform for lobby and advocacy. At the time, many people were still sceptical about the presence of refugees in Arua City, and WRD was an opportunity to show the scale of our community and the challenges we face.

I thought this was a good step on their part as they recognised the importance of directly involving refugees in the planning and organisation of the event. This approach not only amplified the voices of the refugee community but also demonstrated the commitment of VNG International to ensure that the event was inclusive, impactful, and reflective of the real challenges and aspirations of refugees living in Arua City and other urban areas in West Nile.

I was actively involved in the radio talk shows, speaking to the refugee community about how we could peacefully coexist with the host population. During these discussions, I raised several key issues affecting our community, such as discrimination in school fees, price discrimination in the market (especially for those unfamiliar with the local language), and legal challenges.

I felt empowered as I was able to voice our community's concerns directly, amplifying the voices of refugees in a way that had rarely been done before. The impact was significant, with many refugees engaging in the dialogues organised in Arua City. They also turned out in large numbers for the celebrations.

As part of these celebrations, VNG International also undertook a tree-planting and environmental conservation campaign, demonstrating the shared commitment of refugees and migrants to partner with the host community in restoring and conserving the environment. This was followed by the "Keeping Arua City Clean" campaign, where both groups worked together to maintain a clean and habitable city. This activity contributed to address a common driver of frustration from the host community towards refugees due to a perceived negative impact of migrants on the environment. Read the full story [here](#).



Developing a migration management curriculum for administrative officers: a sustainable investment in capacity building

The Kenya School of Government hosted VNG International and The Hague Academy to develop a curriculum on migration management for administrative officers. This initiative addressed the unclear role of local governments in migration response at the county level and brought more clarity on mandates, technical possibilities and stakeholders.

"Failure to include local governments in this debate will be the beginning of its failure. This is because if we are talking about localisation... it's about local governments in essence."

- Key Informant Interview, Uganda, January 2025

Story of Change 2:

Bridging the Gap: How Arua City is Integrating Urban Refugees Amid Policy Gaps

By Odabo John, Senior IT Officer, Arua City Government

As a border city, Arua City, Uganda offers many opportunities for youth and refugees to engage in trade and commerce. VNG International and UNCDF's Localised Analysis reveals that many refugees are involved in small businesses. To support this, the city has set up markets where refugees can sell goods like fish and food, giving them decent spaces to do business. This approach not only supports refugees' livelihoods but also increases the city's revenue, as refugee vendors pay taxes like local residents.

The analysis also highlights that many refugees are of school-going age and attend the same schools as local children, encouraging shared community spaces and social cohesion. Additionally health facilities, and water points are shared with the refugee population. **Refugees are also given a voice in key management structures, including Parents Teachers Associations, School Management Committees, and Water User Committees, promoting inclusive community participation.**

With the data revealing a significant refugee population living in the city, it's crucial that their voices are heard and their needs addressed. **This is precisely what VNG International has been encouraging us local governments to do through the SDLG Programme.**

As a result, Arua City has established dedicated engagement platforms to ensure that refugee voices are included in city planning. Refugee associations, such as the South Sudanese Refugees Association (SSURA) and the Congolese Refugees Association (CORA), are invited to participate in budget conferences and other key planning discussions. **Additionally, the mayor and political leaders have set aside specific days to directly engage with refugees, addressing their concerns firsthand.** Refugee representation extends to the City Development Forum, a space for dialogue among all stakeholders, influencing policy and legal reforms for the city's sustainable development. These platforms have amplified the voices of refugees, ensuring their needs are heard, addressed, and incorporated into city planning, with city leadership providing regular feedback

Beyond data collection, VNG International's SDLG Programme has also **strengthened local governance by building the capacity of city structures and committees.** The induction of City and Division Councils has improved council discussions, while training for Heads of Departments, City Executives, and Committee Chairpersons has minimised role conflicts and encouraged teamwork among city leaders.

Additionally, orienting the City NGO Monitoring Committee **has enabled effective mapping and coordination of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), reducing duplication and enhancing collaboration.**



Despite these efforts, the city still faces challenges due to reduced funding from the central government, limiting its ability to provide fair access to services for all residents. Arua City is seeking support from VNG International and other partners to advocate for formal recognition of urban refugees in Arua and other cities beyond Kampala. This recognition would allow development partners to provide direct support and ensure refugee numbers are included in government resource planning. As a response, VNG International, in partnership with UNCDF and the Ministry of Local Government, is facilitating [consultations with LGs](#) to review the National Refugee Policy 2024. Read the full story [here](#).

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO LG ENGAGEMENT USING THE LOCALISATION CRITERIA¹

Funding

Donors and international organisations should develop direct and flexible funding mechanisms tailored to LGs' specific needs and mandates. This includes reducing bureaucratic hurdles, simplifying eligibility criteria, and allowing for multi-year funding tied to development planning cycles. Embedding financial support in long-term partnerships—not just short-term project grants—is critical to enabling LGs to lead and sustain migration responses.

"The financial resources must be laid at the table. If you are coming to help me, with how much, where is it going and in what form?"

- Key Informant Interview, Uganda, January 2025

Good practices to improve local governments' access to funding

- Targeted funding to local governments, not only central governments
- Sub-grants within the framework of partnerships or joint programming with international organisations
- Pool funding to multiple LGs facilitated by a mediator, with or without a territorial approach
- Direct funding to LGs associated with capacity-building on financial management

Participatory budgeting: Learning from Lebanon

Cases of participatory budgeting exist, *although they remain rare*. In Lebanon, VNG International and the municipality of Deir Al-Ahmar used community micro grants through a participatory budget initiative, as part of a waste management project. The project brought together community volunteers, the mayor of the municipality, the president of the union of municipalities, VNG International, and the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Lebanon. This three-year initiative is projected *to scale the services to reach the entire union of municipalities* while maintaining municipality ownership.²



Embassy of the Netherlands in Lebanon.

Capacity

Investment in capacity-building should go beyond training sessions to include strengthening institutional systems, staffing structures, data management, and planning tools. Peer-learning opportunities between LGs across regions and countries can build practical knowledge and leadership skills relevant to migration governance.

¹ This section is based on the NEAR Network's 6 localisation criteria: partnerships, funding, capacity, coordination and complementarity, policy, influence and visibility, and participation. 2019

² Embassy of the Netherlands in Lebanon, Ambassador Mollen and Embassy Team's Visit to Deir Al-Ahmar, Facebook, February 17, 2025, <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1165257148504168>.

Good practices to strengthen local governments' capacities

- Local trainers mobilised for context-appropriate training.
- Institutional capacity building, including financial system enhancement and alignment with donors requirements.
- Data and information management through data sharing and LGs system development.
- Leadership and localisation training for better coordination and meaningful engagement.
- Participatory planning and community engagement capacity building, including through “learning by practice.”
- Networks and peer-learning exchanges between LGs at local, national and global levels

Data Management in Iraq

Building LGs' information and data management systems contributes to better planning, decision making, and resource allocation. Beyond providing LGs with critical data and context analysis, **external stakeholders can help develop data collection and management systems at institutional level.** In Iraq, VNG International developed a geographical information system centre in Dohuk in partnership with the government. VNG International equipped the centre and provided training for its employees. The GIS centre, the first in KRI, contributes to disaster response, public services, urban planning and land disputes through real-time data sharing.

Equal partnerships

LGs must be treated as equal partners, not just implementing agencies. Programmes should be co-designed with LGs from inception, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. International actors should adapt to local planning and coordination cycles, ensuring LGs have decision-making power and visibility throughout the project lifecycle.

Good practices for meaningful partnerships

- Mobilisation of LG since the start of the project, including for co-design and budget
- Sustained presence for common identification of opportunities
- Engagement of both the political and executive arms of LGs, identifying focal points.
- Combination of short-term actions and long-term support, developing sustained relationships
- Expectation management

Three Levels of Partnership

Localisation requires partnerships that embed local governments in every stage of migration governance and development planning. These partnerships must be structured at three levels:

- **Project-Level Partnerships:** Time-bound and shared decision-making, with local governments taking part in co-designing, implementing, and monitoring initiatives.
- **Transformative Partnerships:** Long-term, equal partnerships where power is shifted, ensuring local governments are at the heart of decision-making and implementation.
- **Networks and Collective Partnerships:** Horizontal, multilateral partnerships that amplify the voices of local governments, facilitating peer exchange and influencing policy and funding agendas. These networks strengthen solidarity and long-term learning.

“Being at the heart of the population and beneficiaries on a day-to-day basis... This means working alongside the political authorities, perhaps through dialogue and formal or informal exchanges, alongside the local population, through field visits, and so on. You can be as disruptive as possible through contact with these players.”

- Key Informant Interview, global, January 2025

Coordination

Effective engagement of LGs requires functional coordination mechanisms that are inclusive and predictable. This involves defining coordination platforms where LGs can regularly interact with humanitarian, development, and national actors. Aligning external initiatives with LG-led development plans ensures coherence and avoids duplication.

Good practices for Coordination and Complementarity

- Multi-stakeholders coordination platforms at the local level to avoid duplication and align with needs
- Coordination of local and international stakeholders and development initiatives aligned with local government priorities
- Consortium approach with a clear governance framework, including through role-specific guidelines and policy formulation
- Advocacy to formalise LGs role in migration management through policy frameworks
- Stakeholder mapping

Challenging cooperation: examples from Iraq, Kenya and Lebanon

Many examples of programmes negatively impacted by cooperation challenges are available. In Kenya, for instance, Garissa County's Integrated Development Plan resulted in duplicated efforts for refugee services due to the absence of MoUs with NGOs. In Iraq, KRG's decentralisation initiative was hampered by budget disputes between the regional and the federal government: the development budget has not been provided since 2014, leading to inadequate resources and delayed municipal development plans. In Lebanon, refugees were given parallel health and education services due to NGOs operating in silos. To combat these, it is essential to create adapted coordination mechanisms to ensure coherent efforts at the local level.

"The cost of engagement affects meaningful engagement. Sometimes local governments tend to prioritize collaborations where the allowance is high. They come to engage because of what you are giving as an allowance. So in one way or another, that still affects the type of engagement that we have."

- Stakeholders workshop, participant from Kenya, February 2025

Visibility and policy influence

LGs need targeted support to amplify their voice and influence in national and international fora. This includes investing in strategic communication capacities, encouraging participation in networks and associations, and promoting stories of success that demonstrate the value of local leadership.

Good practices to increase LGs' visibility and policy influence

- Collective effort to valorise LGs' added value and achievements.
- Advocacy for LGs inclusion in decision making, funding, and policy dialogue.
- Political forums and platforms enabling LGs to present their achievement.
- Visibility and credibility of LG' partners as intermediaries to position LGs in localisation.



Stakeholder Engagement in Iraq. Image courtesy: VNGi

Developing the visibility of LGs' partners: VNG International's Impact Stories initiative



In 2024, VNG International commissioned Samuel Hall to collect stories of their work with LGs. These stories, and the visuals produced as a result, shed light on the collaboration between VNG International and LGs in Kenya, Uganda and Iraq. The stories promoted the critical role of LGs, while illustrating VNG International's efforts. Such visibility efforts deployed by LGs' partners are essential to unlock funding opportunities and multiply LGs influence. Some of these stories of change have been shared as part of the position paper.



Civic participation

LGs are uniquely placed to foster participatory governance that includes migrants and host communities. However, this requires building their capacity to facilitate inclusive processes, gather and act on community input, and institutionalise participation beyond ad hoc consultations. Strengthening civic engagement not only makes policy more responsive, but also reinforces the legitimacy and accountability of local governments. To amplify their voice and influence in national and international fora. This includes investing in strategic communication capacities, encouraging participation in networks and associations, and promoting stories of success that demonstrate the value of local leadership.

Good practices for community participation in local development

- LGs as intermediaries for community engagement and participation
- Training to LGs to mobilise specific participatory tools and approaches
- Community participation initiatives targeting marginalised groups such as youth, women and migrants, that influence local development plan



Civic Participation: Nahnoo, Lebanon

In Lebanon, the organisation Nahnoo works towards the creation of local community councils and the development of models for better planning and participatory financing, capitalising on resources available locally in a context of the financial crisis and limited resources of municipalities.



Local Government Engagement in Lebanon. Image courtesy: VNGi

Localisation: Power Transfer or Power Sharing?

Addressing Power Dynamics and Responsibilities

Localisation involves addressing the power imbalances between local governments (LGs) and international actors. Despite their formal authority, LGs often face sidelining due to funding flows that prioritise international partners. Genuine localisation shifts not only resources but also perception, recognising LGs as leaders rather than implementers.

Crises like COVID-19 have highlighted the leadership potential of LGs, providing a foundation for more equitable partnerships in migration governance. Localisation isn't about replacing international actors, but empowering LGs to lead while fostering mutual engagement. Partners should support LGs with technical expertise aligned to local agendas, ensuring inclusive planning that reflects diverse communities, including migrants and hosts.

True localisation requires a shift in funding and capacity-building, equipping LGs with the systems and resources to lead, not just participate in ongoing training. The aim is power-sharing that is strategic, time-bound, and responsive to local needs.

"A union of LGs has been trying to guide international actors about their needs, based on evidence-based learning prioritization community engagement. Yet we still face international organizations who are not flexible enough to implement the project even if it's within their priority. Each organisation is accountable to listen, to believe that local people will know the solution much better."

- Stakeholders workshop, participant from Lebanon, February 2025



Local Engagement. Image courtesy: VNGi

CONCLUSION

Positioning LGs in Migration Response Locally: Four Strategic Approaches

Localisation must go beyond rhetoric and embed LGs structurally into policy and programme design. This requires four interdependent strategies around::

- **Recognition:** Ensure LGs are not merely invited to consultations, but recognised as public authorities with legitimate mandates. This involves integrating them formally into national frameworks, development plans, and coordination mechanisms.
- **Resources:** Shift from fragmented, project-based funding to sustained investments that support LG systems and service delivery capacities. This includes adapting donor procedures to LG realities and enabling flexible use of funds within local planning cycles.
- **Responsibility:** Clarify and assign responsibilities within migration governance that reflect LGs' roles on the ground. Provide the authority and tools for them to lead planning, implement policies, and convene stakeholders effectively.
- **Representation:** Empower LGs to participate in national and global fora shaping migration and development agendas. Support networks, associations, and advocacy spaces that reflect the diversity of LG experiences—from rural municipalities to urban hubs.

MEAL: Making Localisation Work Through Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

- Integrate LGs into MEAL frameworks from the start, allowing them to co-define indicators based on local realities and priorities as well as clarified responsibilities.
- Ensure data collection systems capture LG contributions and community feedback—especially from migrants and host populations - by developing community-based monitoring frameworks.
- Use MEAL to track not just outputs but the extent to which LGs influence decision-making and lead implementation.
- Promote adaptive learning by supporting LGs to reflect on what works, share knowledge across contexts, and feed insights back into planning cycles.

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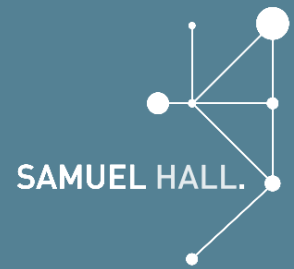
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About Us

Samuel Hall is a social enterprise specialising in research, program evaluation, and data analysis in migration and displacement contexts. Since 2010, we've focused on understanding the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. Our work across Africa, South, and Central Asia shows that real change often begins at the grassroots level, where local activists, migrants, and displaced people lead constructive dialogues and actions.

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