

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (Argentina) |
PROFILE 2022

MIGRATION

GOVERNANCE

INDICATORS

LOCAL



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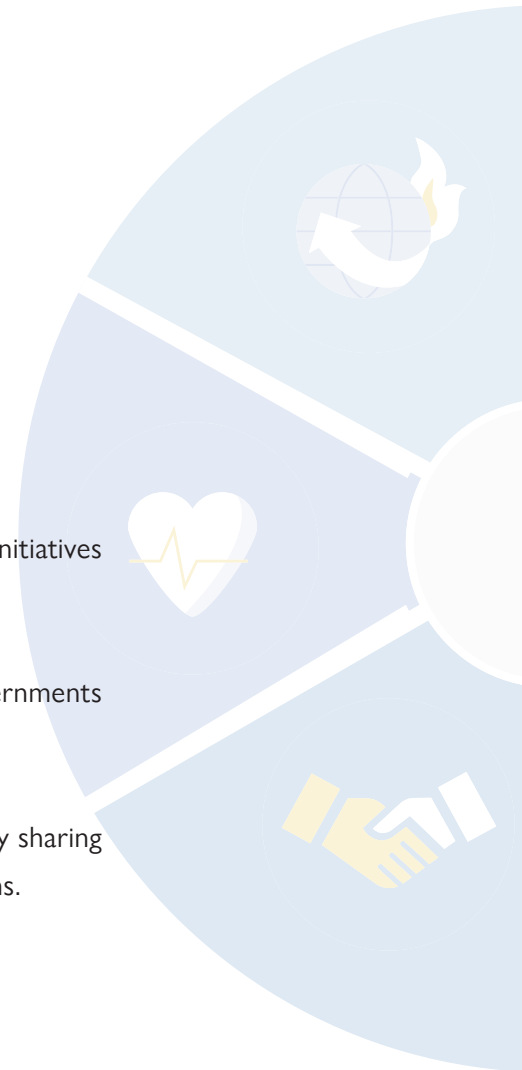
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OBJECTIVES

- 1 Help local authorities take stock of the migration initiatives they have in place.
- 2 Foster dialogue on migration between national governments and local authorities.
- 3 Enable local authorities to learn from one another by sharing common challenges and identifying potential solutions.



“Rapid urbanization continues to transform the demographic landscape of many countries around the world. Cities are already home to the majority of international migrants, driven by opportunity as well as necessity, and local authorities are becoming leaders in finding creative solutions for rapid social change, supporting communities through innovation.”¹

¹ António Vitorino, IOM Director General, [Report to the 109th Session of the IOM Council](#) (November 2018).

INTRODUCTION

The Migration Governance Indicators²

The need to maximize the opportunities and face the challenges that mobility brings has been recognized with the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.³ The incorporation of target 10.7 into the 2030 Agenda created the need to define “planned and well-managed migration policies”. This is why, in 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). This Framework offers a concise view of an ideal approach that allows a State to determine what it might need to govern migration well and in a way that suits its circumstances. That same year, IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact developed the Migration Governance Indicators (MGIs), a set of almost 100 indicators that help States assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures.

The indicators constitute a starting point to engage governments in a consultative process that allows them to identify areas that are well-developed and others that would benefit from further development, and most importantly, priorities that are in line with the specific challenges and opportunities that a given country is facing.

The MGIs are characterized by three main fundamental attributes:

1. The MGI process is a **voluntary** exercise: The MGIs are conducted in countries that have requested to be part of the process.
2. The MGIs are **sensitive to national specificities**: The MGIs recognize the different challenges and opportunities of each context, and therefore, do not propose a one-size-fits-all solution, but rather aim to spark a discussion on what well-governed migration can mean.
3. The MGIs constitute a **process**: The MGI process is not a static tool to collect data on countries' migration frameworks. It is rather the first step of a dynamic exercise that can enable governments to identify areas of their migration policy in need of further development, or that could benefit from capacity-building.

Migration Governance Indicators: From national to local

The role of cities and municipalities in migration governance⁴ has grown significantly in recent decades, given the rapid pace of urbanization and the importance of cities as destinations for all forms of migration and displacement. Researchers, policymakers and international development agencies have all highlighted the crucial role of cities and municipalities in both accommodating migrants and formulating sustainable responses to migration-related matters.

The role of local governments, not only in the management of migration at the local level, but also in realizing the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, has been recognized in the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference in Quito (Ecuador), the Global Compact for Migration, and the Call to Local Action, to mention a few.

² All terms used in the report are defined in the IOM *Glossary on Migration* (2019).

³ “The *Global Compact* is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It is a non-binding document that respects States' sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in their territory and demonstrates commitment to international cooperation on migration. It presents a significant opportunity to improve the governance of migration, to address the challenges associated with today's migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.”

⁴ “Migration governance” refers to the system of institutions, legal frameworks, mechanisms and practices aimed at regulating migration and protecting migrants. It is used almost synonymously with the term “migration management”, although the latter is also sometimes used to refer to the narrow act of regulating cross-border movement at the State level.

To support the discussion between levels of governments on migration governance, IOM has adapted the MGIs⁵ to the local level. The local MGIs seek to offer a more comprehensive picture of a country's migration governance landscape by juxtaposing a local dimension to MGI national assessments. The [local MGIs](#) are based on a set of about 80 indicators helping local authorities take stock of local migration strategies or initiatives in place and identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development. The aim of the exercise is to foster dialogue on migration between national governments and local authorities and enable local authorities to learn from one another by discussing common challenges and identifying potential solutions.

While the local MGIs retain the attributes of the national MGIs, they are also anchored in the notion that cities and local authorities have different capacities, competencies and added value when it comes to governing migration. Therefore, the methodology has been adapted to reflect the fact that the degree of fiscal and political autonomy of participating cities influences the kind of migration governance they can practically and legally engage in. Furthermore, new indicators of the level of autonomy and capacities have been added to give some context to the results of the assessment.

Given the differences outlined between the MGIs at the national and local levels, the purpose of the local MGIs is to be a tool for government authorities to use in taking an introspective look at the measures they have in place to manage migration, as well as to share their experiences. Furthermore, the local MGIs recognize that good practices can take different forms depending on the division of competencies between local and national authorities. Therefore, the local MGI analysis should not be interpreted as an invitation to change the division of competencies, but rather be understood as a catalyst to open dialogues on what cities can do with regard to migration within the scope of their mandate. A comprehensive picture of migration governance can be captured only by looking at the different levels of government.

Between 2021 and 2022, two local MGI assessments were conducted simultaneously in Argentina, for the autonomous city of Buenos Aires and the municipality of Quilmes⁶ in Buenos Aires Province. This report is the result of the local MGI assessment conducted in the autonomous city of Buenos Aires. It summarizes key examples of well-developed areas and areas with potential for further development of local migration governance.

⁵ The [Migration Governance Indicators](#) were developed in 2015 by IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact.

⁶ The 2022 Migration Governance Indicators Local Profile for the municipality of Quilmes is available [here](#).



CONTEXT

Migration trends

According to data from the Migration Data Portal, the total number of international migrants nationwide in 2020 was 2,300,000, representing 5 per cent of the national population. Women made up 53.4 per cent of the international immigrants, and migrants under 19 years of age are at 17.4 per cent. By mid-2020, the total number of emigrants was 1,100,000, and the total number of refugees was 4,000.⁷ According to the South American Migration Observatory (2020), Argentina's immigration rate in 2019 was 5.1 per cent, while its emigration rate was 2.3 per cent, making the country a net receiver of migrants.

According to data from the 2010 National Population, Households and Dwellings Census of the Argentine Republic (INDEC, 2010a), 4.5 per cent of the country's residents were foreign nationals. Of this total, 81.5 per cent came from the Americas, 16.6 per cent from Europe, 1.7 per cent from Asia, 0.1 per cent from Africa and 0.1 per cent from Oceania. Of the 1,471,399 immigrants from the Americas, 37.4 per cent (550,713) came from Paraguay, 23.5 per cent (345,272) from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 13 per cent (191,147) from Chile, 10.7 per cent (157,514) from Peru, 7.9 per cent (116,592) from Uruguay and 2.8 per cent (41,330) from Brazil.⁸ In addition, the migrants were relatively young, as the bulk of them were between 15 and 64 years of age (71.4%) (INDEC, 2010b).

Between 2018 and 2021, the National Migration Directorate (Dirección Nacional de Migraciones, DNM) granted 670,556 residency permits, of which 93.6 per cent went to MERCOSUR⁹ nationals, for the most part Venezuelans (40.6%), Paraguayans (18.1%) and Bolivians (15.1%).¹⁰

According to demographic projections by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, INDEC), in 2020 the population of the city of Buenos Aires was 3,075,646, making it Argentina's most populous city. Of this total, 53 per cent were women, and 47 per cent were men.¹¹ Data from the 2010 Census show that the foreign-born population living in the city of Buenos Aires in that year represented 13.2 per cent of the total population (56% women and 44% men) (INDEC, 2010c). The majority of the foreign-born population came from neighbouring countries, representing 54.6 per cent of the total number of migrants in the city. More specifically, 21.1 per cent came from Paraguay, 20.1 per cent from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 8.1 per cent from Uruguay, 2.7 per cent from Brazil and 2.6 per cent from Chile. Among non-neighbouring countries in the Americas, most came from Peru (15.8%) and the rest from other countries in the Americas (7.6%). For their part, European migrants in the city made up 17.3 per cent of the total number of migrants, with the main countries of origin being Spain and Italy (6.9% and 5.8%, respectively) (ibid.).

⁷ Visit the [Migration Data Portal](#) for more information.

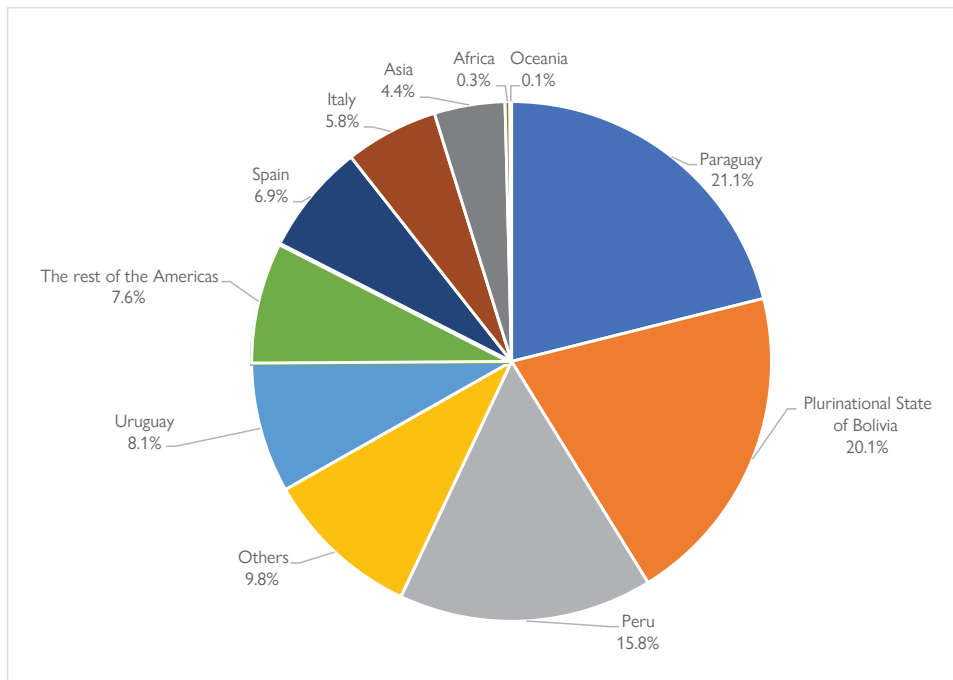
⁸ No information is given for the other countries in the Americas, which together make up 4.7 per cent.

⁹ This stands for Mercado Común del Sur (Southern Common Market).

¹⁰ For more information, see the [Migration Data Portal in Argentina – Radicciones otorgadas entre 2018 y 2022](#).

¹¹ For more information, visit the website of the National Institute of Statistics and Census, where you can find the [projections by province for 2010–2040](#), including data for the autonomous city of Buenos Aires.

Figure 1. Origins of migrant residents in the city of Buenos Aires (2010)



Note: Other countries are not specified.

Source: INDEC, 2010 Census: Total foreign-born population by place of birth, sex and age group (2010).

Competencies of the autonomous city of Buenos Aires

Level of decentralization of local authorities

Article 1 of the Constitution of the Argentine Nation (1994) states, “The Argentine Nation adopts for its government the federal republican representative form.” As Argentina is a republic, the Constitution establishes a division of powers between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. As a form of State, the country establishes federalism, in which the national Government, the provincial governments and the autonomous city of Buenos Aires (ciudad autónoma de Buenos Aires, CABA) coexist.

The country is made up of 23 provinces and a federal district: CABA. The internal territorial and administrative division of each Argentine province is based on the figure of the municipality. The constitutional reform of 1994 contributed to the process of administrative decentralization, given that it incorporates, among other issues, the principle of municipal autonomy, according to Article 123 of the Constitution of the Argentine Nation, which mentions, “Each province dictates its own constitution, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5, ensuring municipal autonomy and regulating its scope and content in the institutional, political, administrative, economic and financial order.”

The competencies of municipal authorities in relation to migration

With the aforementioned constitutional reform, the city of Buenos Aires became autonomous, invested with its own powers of legislation and jurisdiction (Article 129). This meant electing authorities by vote. The city had hitherto been politically dependent on the Argentine national Government: its highest authority was the President of the Republic, who appointed a Governor (*Intendente*) (who then became the Head of Government), while the local legislative body was the Deliberative Council (Concejo Deliberante) (later the legislature), composed of 60 legislators. Upon gaining its autonomy, the city of Buenos Aires was able to determine the form of political and administrative organization that would be adopted, among other things. Against this backdrop, the first election of a Head and Deputy Head of the CABA government took place in 1996. These elections determined the membership of the Constituent Assembly (Convención Estatuante), which was then tasked with implementing the provisions of Article 129 of the national Constitution. The Constituent Assembly was also known as the Assembly of Representatives of the Electorate of the city of Buenos Aires. Once the constitution of the city of Buenos Aires was drawn up, the representatives became legislators for the 1996–2000 period.¹²

Under the Law on Migration (Law No. 25871) (2004), regulated by Decree No. 616 (2010), DNM will collaborate with other branches of the national, provincial, municipal and CABA governments in activities or programmes designed to facilitate the integration of migrants into the host society and ensure that they are able to access social services, public goods, health, education, justice, work, employment and social security on the same footing as nationals.

Locally, the General Directorate of Communities (a division of the Undersecretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism (Subsecretaría de Derechos Humanos y Pluralismo Cultural)¹³) is responsible for formulating and managing strategies to foster the inclusion of migrants and refugees in the city's social, cultural, economic and political life; encouraging the recognition and appreciation of cultural diversity; and helping to preserve the historical, social and cultural heritage of communities.¹⁴ The General Directorate of Communities mounts and promotes social and cultural projects, and designs and implements migration policies. Since 2018, it has been pursuing these policies through the *BA Migrante programme*,¹⁵ but it does not manage migration. This falls within the remit of DNM, as stipulated by Article 107 of the Law on Migration, which states that this institution “shall be the enforcer of this law, empowered to handle admissions, and the granting and extension of residency, in the National Territory and abroad, and to that end, may establish new delegations to grant entry permits, extensions of stays, and change the classification of aliens. Likewise, it shall control the entry and departure of persons to and from the country and shall maintain control over stays and immigration police powers throughout the Territory of the Republic.”

¹² See also: Judicial Branch of the City of Buenos Aires, 2016.

¹³ The Secretariat for Citizen Development operates within the Office of the Deputy Chief of the Cabinet of the Buenos Aires City government and houses the Undersecretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism.

¹⁴ More information on the [General Directorate of Communities](#) is available on the website of the Buenos Aires City government.

¹⁵ Among other things, the programme aims to inform and advise migrants and refugees about their rights in Argentina.

<p>Local financing mechanisms and the restrictions on their use</p>	<p>The city of Buenos Aires has four sources of public revenues: its own tax revenues, tax revenue sharing, non-tax revenues and capital resources. The first source comprises taxes relating to economic activity and consumption, property taxes, and others.¹⁶</p> <p>For 2022, tax revenues are at ARS 843,796 million, including an estimated ARS 737,658 million from the city's own tax revenues (87.4% of the total), while resources from federal tax revenue sharing are estimated at ARS 106,138 million (the remaining 12.6%).¹⁷ As regards expenditure by purpose and function, social services make up the biggest share of investment for 2022, at 51.9 per cent of total spending. A share of 19.5 per cent goes to education, 16.4 per cent to health, and 10.6 per cent to promotion and social action. The remaining 5.4 per cent is to be distributed among housing (2.1%), culture (1.8%), labour (0.9%), and drinking water and sewerage (0.7%) (Buenos Aires City Government, 2021a).</p>
<p>Local participation in the formulation of migration policy</p>	<p>Local authorities of the General Directorate of Communities or other CABA government agencies play no part in formulating national migration policy. DNM is the body that regulates entries and departures, as well as residence and settlement procedures, pursuant to the Law on Migration. There is no dialogue or coordination between CABA and DNM in this regard.</p> <p>In 2021, Buenos Aires joined the Inter-agency Round Table against Trafficking. This initiative is coordinated by the Executive Committee against the Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims.</p>

¹⁶ Visit the [budget information](#) page on the website of the Buenos Aires City government to know more.

¹⁷ The exchange rate on 21 April 2022 is ARS 1 = USD 0.0088 (or 1 USD = ARS 113.60).



KEY FINDINGS

The local MGIs are composed of approximately 80 indicators grouped under the six different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:¹⁸



MIGRANTS' RIGHTS
PAGE 17

Indicators in this category look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. They also examine measures to ensure integration and access to work.



WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT
APPROACH
PAGE 20

Indicators in this category assess the institutional frameworks of cities, municipalities or states for migration. This area also examines the existence of migration strategies consistent with development objectives, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in migration management.



PARTNERSHIPS
PAGE 22

Indicators in this category focus on cities', municipalities' or states' efforts to cooperate on migration issues with the national government as well as other cities and relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.



WELL-BEING
OF MIGRANTS
PAGE 24

Indicators in this category assess cities', municipalities' or states' initiatives in terms of international student mobility, access to the labour market and decent working conditions for migrant workers. Aspects related to diaspora engagement and migrant remittances are also included in this domain.



MOBILITY DIMENSION
OF CRISES
PAGE 26

Indicators in this category examine the type and level of readiness of cities, municipalities or states to deal with aspects of mobility crises. The questions focus on the processes in place for citizens and non-citizens in relation to disasters and climate change, especially whether humanitarian assistance is available for migrants and citizens.



SAFE, ORDERLY AND
REGULAR MIGRATION
PAGE 28

Indicators in this category look at the cities', municipalities' or states' approaches to migrant safety as well as return and reintegration policies and the fight against trafficking in persons.

¹⁸ IOM Council, Migration Governance Framework, 106th Session, C/106/40 (4 November 2015).



ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFIL MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

In the autonomous city of Buenos Aires (CABA), all migrants enjoy access to public health services, irrespective of their migration status. The CABA Ministry of Health coordinates efforts to buttress a public health network that is based on primary health care. To access the public health system, it suffices to show an identity document (identity card from the country of origin, passport, Certificate of Provisional Residence¹⁹ or the Argentine National Identity Card (*Documento Nacional de Identidad*, DNI)). The local government provides training in migration issues for the staff in charge of health inspections. Since 2010, for example, the Health and Migration Group of the General Directorate of Teaching, Research and Professional Development of the CABA Government (*Grupo de Salud y Migraciones de la Dirección General de Docencia, Investigación y Desarrollo Profesional del Gobierno de la CABA*) has been running the course on migration, health and interculturality every year for health professionals in Buenos Aires.

All migrants in CABA can access public education (kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary), regardless of their migration status, as contemplated in the Law on Municipal Education (Law No. 203) (1999), which prescribes that children under 18 years of age may be enrolled in educational establishments, even if they possess only foreign documentation. The Buenos Aires General Directorate of Educational Planning (*Dirección General de Planeamiento Educativo de Buenos Aires*) is responsible for designing educational policies for improved learning in the city's schools. Among the measures to facilitate access for foreign nationals to educational services is the programme Spanish as a Second Language for Inclusion (*Español como Segunda Lengua para la Inclusión*), run by the Directorate through the division for the Operational Management of Languages in Education (*Gerencia Operativa de Lenguas en la Educación*). This programme has produced videos providing information on the education system in Argentina and CABA, the school enrolment process, and the channels of communication between families and schools. These videos are available on the CABA government website in several languages, including Chinese, Korean, French, English, Portuguese, Guarani and Russian.²⁰

CABA has dedicated mechanisms for providing legal services and legal advice to foreign nationals. The Orientation and Complaints Unit (*Unidad de Orientación y Denuncia*) of the Buenos Aires Office of the Public Prosecutor receives complaints and provides information regarding rights and how to assert them, the use of alternative means of conflict resolution, and the procedural steps to be followed in the administration of justice. Furthermore, the Community Legal Services of the Office of the Attorney General of Buenos Aires (*Servicios Jurídicos a la Comunidad de la Procuración General de la Ciudad*) provide free advice and legal aid to low-income persons in matters of civil law and family law. These services are open to migrants. The city of Buenos Aires has 17 Centres for Access to Justice (*Centros de Acceso a la Justicia*), which are offices attached to the national Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and they provide free primary legal services, including for migrants and refugees.

There are specific mechanisms to facilitate access for non-nationals to municipal services, regardless of their migration status. The *BA Migrante* programme run by the General Directorate of Communities was set up in 2018 and formalized in 2021 by Resolution No. 103 (2021), and one of its principal aims is to inform and advise migrants and refugees about their rights in Argentina and on how to claim them in Buenos Aires. Among other things, the Directorate operates the Migrant Station (*Estación Migrante*), a mobile unit that provides migrants with information and advice. It also organizes the Information Days for Migrants

¹⁹ The [Certificate of Provisional Residence](#) is issued by the Argentine State and allows holders to reside temporarily in the country. Its holders may live, study and work legally until they obtain permanent residency status.

²⁰ For more information, visit the [Spanish as a Second Language for Inclusion \(ELSI\)](#) page on the website of the Buenos Aires City government.

(*Jornadas BA Migrante*), which are information sessions for the benefit of migrants and refugees.²¹ They cover topics like the regularization of migration status and accessing rights such as health, education and work. Furthermore, in 2020, the General Directorate of Communities managed to include the Certificate of Provisional Residence as a valid document for logging into miBA, a mobile application through which to complete formalities and access services in the city of Buenos Aires.²² Acceptance of an asylum application was also made valid for accessing the Social Ticket (*Ticket Social*) programme, designed to facilitate access to essentials (food, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products) for families residing in the city in situations of food insecurity and social vulnerability.²³

There are local programmes to guide and welcome newly arrived migrants. In January 2020, the General Directorate of Communities published a guide for migrants entitled *¡Hola, soy migrante!* (Hello, I am a migrant!), providing information on access to health, work, education and housing for migrants in CABA. In addition, the Secretariat for International Relations implements the Study BA programme for the benefit of young migrants arriving in Buenos Aires to pursue university studies. The programme provides a welcome kit for students who sign up for it, which they can do free of charge.²⁴

Buenos Aires has measures in place to combat discriminatory practices towards migrants in the provision of social services. Decree No. 463 (2019) designates the Undersecretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism as the body tasked with “formulating and managing strategies to promote inclusion for migrants and refugees in the social, cultural, economic and political life of the city”. Buenos Aires also has a General Directorate of Harmonious Relations in Diversity (*Dirección General de Convivencia en la Diversidad*), and it implements the Comprehensive Plan for Access to Work for Transgender People (*Plan Integral de Acceso al Trabajo para Personas Trans*), which is open to transgender migrants. The Law against Discrimination (Law No. 5261) (2015) guarantees the principle of equality and aims to deploy inclusive public policies to prevent discrimination, including discrimination on the grounds of nationality and/or ethnic background.

1.2. Areas with potential for further development

Foreign nationals may access social housing depending on their migration status. Established in 2004 by Law No. 1251 (2004), the Buenos Aires Housing Institute offers the following credit plans for access to housing: *Créditos Primera Casa BA*, *Primera Casa Mujer*, *Procrear BA* and *Procrear Ahorro Joven*.²⁵ Prominent among the requirements is that beneficiaries must be nationals, or non-nationals in possession of a DNI and with permanent residency status. Programmes such as *Alquilar Se Puede*,²⁶ a joint programme of the Buenos Aires Housing Institute and Banco Ciudad, require a DNI or a minimum of two years’ residence in the city. Likewise, to access the housing subsidy provided by the Buenos Aires Ministry of Human Development and Habitat, a minimum of two years’ uninterrupted residence in the city is required.

Buenos Aires has no formal measures to assist persons wishing to emigrate. Some ad hoc measures are taken nonetheless. In 2021, for example, the CABA government partnered with the Embassy of Japan in Buenos Aires to organize a virtual talk to provide information on scholarships to study in Japan. Since 2020, the Study BA programme run by the Buenos Aires Secretariat for International Relations has been awarding scholarships called Internationalize Your Future (*Internacionaliza Tu Futuro*), which enable high school students to take a virtual course at California State University, Stanislaus.

²¹ The most recent editions of the *Jornadas BA Migrante* were held in 2020.

²² More information on the miBA app is available on the website of the Buenos Aires City government.

²³ More information on the Social Ticket programme is available on the website of the Buenos Aires City government.

²⁴ The kit includes the following: a card for use on public transport, a telephone SIM card, and discounts in hotels and Spanish courses.

²⁵ *Créditos Primera Casa BA* grants mortgage loans at the lowest rate on the market so as to enable beneficiaries to acquire their own home; *Primera Casa Mujer* are mortgage loans for single mothers; *Procrear BA* is for families; and *Procrear Ahorro Joven* is the mortgage loan programme for young people between the ages of 18 and 35.

²⁶ The programme grants a home rental guarantee issued by Banco Ciudad.

Local authorities do not provide cultural mediation services to help settle disputes either within the migrant community or between local people and migrants. The Buenos Aires government nonetheless provides community mediation services, which are open to migrants. The mediation service is voluntary and available to anyone who is involved in a conflict stemming from life together in a neighbourhood and who is domiciled in the city of Buenos Aires, or if the impact of the conflict is felt within that jurisdiction.²⁷ Similarly, the General Directorate of Communities maintains institutional links with the Buenos Aires Ministry of Education, both for settling cases in which migrants face obstacles in accessing the right to education, and for the planning of joint actions of a more general nature.

Local authorities have no policy or strategy for combating hate crimes, violence, xenophobia or discrimination against migrants. Information and awareness-raising activities have nonetheless been undertaken to counter xenophobia and exclusion, and encourage the acceptance of migrants. In 2021, for example, the General Directorate of Communities, supported by the European Union, IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, published the awareness-raising brochure titled *Migraciones, derechos humanos y comunicación intercultural en los ambientes de trabajo* (Migration, Human Rights and Intercultural Communication in the Workplace), in order to bolster the private sector by providing information on migration processes and current regulatory frameworks, raise awareness regarding human rights, and strengthen intercultural communication skills. In addition, since 2009, the local government has been organizing Buenos Aires Celebrates (*Buenos Aires Celebra*), cultural festivals staged in public spaces and intended to showcase cultural diversity, highlighting the history and culture of different communities, and putting gastronomic and craft products on sale. Similarly, the *Buenos Aires Convive*²⁸ programme, having been run since 2016, comprises a series of training exercises meant for the general public, with a view to encouraging harmonious community relations and building a plural and inclusive city.

The local government has no specific procedures or measures in place to ensure the protection of migrant children and adolescents, unaccompanied minors, and children left behind. Law No. 114 of the city of Buenos Aires (1998), which aims to provide comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents, makes no mention either of migrant or unaccompanied children. This notwithstanding, the General Directorate of Communities often attends to cases of migrant minors in need of assistance, and who are looked after in collaboration with different institutional players and civil society organizations. The local government has set up the Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (Consejo de los Derechos de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes), a specialized body charged with guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents. The Council runs the Foster Family programme (*programa de Acogimiento Familiar*), the purpose of which is to ensure the supervision and personalized care of children and adolescents who are subject to special protection measures and cannot remain in their own family environment.

²⁷ More information on [community mediation](#) is available on the website of the Buenos Aires City government.

²⁸ The topics addressed include human rights, discrimination, migrants and refugees, among others.



2

FORMULATE POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The General Directorate of Communities is responsible locally for elaborating migration policies through the *BA Migrante* programme (Resolution No. 103 of 2021). The programme is meant to promote inclusion for migrants and refugees in the social, cultural, economic and political life of the autonomous city of Buenos Aires (CABA) through strategies designed to inform and advise this cohort about fully accessing their rights, raise awareness and sensitize the local society on the issue, and create spaces for participation. The Directorate's mission is that of fostering integration and respect for the value of the cultural diversity that migrants and communities contribute to the identity of the city of Buenos Aires. At the regulatory level, Decree No. 463 of 2019, establishing the organization chart of the CABA government, places the Directorate within the Undersecretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism.

The staff of local public bodies receive training in the realm of migration and interculturality. The General Directorate of Communities organizes workshops for strategic areas, such as that of public-facing staff. The workshops encompass issues such as migrants' rights, integration, anti-discrimination and interculturality.²⁹ Training courses are also given on human mobility for various government bodies, including for officers of different ranks. Two workshops on migration, human rights and intercultural communication were held in 2021, for example, for staff of the Undersecretariat for Inclusive Development, and altogether 60 people were trained.

Local authorities furnish clear and transparent information on the rights and duties of migrants and access to municipal public services by means of the aforementioned guide titled *¡Hola, soy migrante!*, which is available online (Buenos Aires City Government, 2020a), and also via the Migrant Station and the *Jornadas BA Migrante*.³⁰ Moreover, in 2022, the General Directorate of Political and Electoral Reform of the Buenos Aires government launched *Guía Electoral Migrante* (Migrant Electoral Guide), which is available in virtual format and provides information as to how migrants can vote in the city.

Local authorities regularly compile and publish migration-related data disaggregated by sex, using two tools, namely, the Demographic Retrospective Survey (*Encuesta Demográfica Retrospectiva*) and the Annual Household Survey (*Encuesta Anual de Hogares*). The Demographic Retrospective Survey gathers information on the interrelationships between different demographic phenomena in the life trajectories of individuals. The findings of the first survey conducted in 2019 were published in 2021 and are available online.³¹ The Annual Household Survey, for its part, has been conducted once a year since 2002 by the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses, a subdivision of the Ministry of Treasury and Finance of the autonomous city of Buenos Aires.

2.2. Areas with potential for further development

Locally, there is no formal coordination mechanism in matters of migration. Different institutions do meet, however, on an ad hoc basis, usually organized by the General Directorate of Communities. The Directorate organizes ad hoc working groups on migration issues. During the COVID-19 emergency, for example, it worked with the Housing Institute and the Directorate of Political and Electoral Reform to carry out a

²⁹ In May 2022, work was in progress to convert these training exercises into a virtual module.

³⁰ Both are part of the *BA Migrante* programme.

³¹ More information on the *Demographic Retrospective Survey* is available on the website of the Buenos Aires City government.

range of activities. In addition, Buenos Aires has formal coordination mechanisms such as the Interministerial Dialogue Round Tables (Mesas de Diálogo Interministeriales),³² the Intercommunal Coordination Council (Consejo de Coordinación Intercomunal)³³ and the Strategic Planning Council (Consejo de Planeamiento Estratégico),³⁴ though there is no evidence that migration issues are addressed. Lastly, the Law on Forums for the Integration of Migrants (Law No. 3574) (2010) designates the Undersecretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism as the body in charge of establishing and convening forums in order to formulate proposals and recommendations that favour the full integration of migrants.

CABA lacks a single-window service for the optimal guidance of migrants. However, the *BA Migrante* programme's Migrant Station operates as a mobile office at some mass events and in neighbourhoods with significant numbers of migrants. The Station serves to inform migrants about their rights and migration formalities, as well as to raise awareness among the general public regarding migrants in the city.

Local authorities take some ad hoc measures to enhance the vertical coherence of migration-related policies. The General Directorate of Communities participates in working groups and forums with the central Government depending on the issues that arise. When there are migrants and/or refugees whose problems surpass the remit of the General Directorate of Communities, it coordinates with various agencies (such as the Buenos Aires Undersecretariat for Employment and the General Directorate of Entrepreneurship, to provide information on access to employment and tools for improving employability). For example, there is coordination with the National Refugee Commission in cases where refugees may require support in accessing social assistance from the Buenos Aires government, and with the National Migration Directorate when migrants encounter problems with their immigration procedures. In addition, the Interinstitutional Round Table against Trafficking in CABA (Mesa Interinstitucional contra la Trata en CABA) (established in 2021) comprises personnel from the General Directorate of Women's Affairs (Dirección General de la Mujer), the Undersecretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism, and the Executive Secretariat of the Federal Council against Trafficking (Secretaría Ejecutiva del Consejo Federal de Trata), among other bodies.

³² These round tables tackle a specific problem through meetings between different ministries and agencies of the CABA government.

³³ The Intercommunal Coordination Council is a body for discussion and policy consensus between the communes and the executive branch, as prescribed by the Organic Law on Communes (*Ley Orgánica de Comunas*) (2005).

³⁴ This unit brings forward agreed-upon strategic plans for the formulation of State policies in the city. Under its remit, it holds meetings with social institutions and organizations to deal with matters that have been assigned priority at the start of each year.

3

ENGAGE WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Local authorities collaborate formally with the private sector in implementing migration-related policies and programmes. Since 2019, the General Directorate of Communities of the city of Buenos Aires has had the support of IOM in running the workshop titled Migration, Human Rights and Intercultural Communication (*Migraciones, derechos humanos y comunicación intercultural*), a training programme for the private sector on migration and interculturality, intended to raise awareness among companies and inform them about the conditions under which migrants may or may not be hired.³⁵ Moreover, since 2021, the Undersecretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism has been implementing the Companies Committed to Human Rights (*Empresas Comprometidas con los Derechos Humanos*) programme, which is designed to support companies and employer organizations based in the city of Buenos Aires with training and the adoption of human rights best practices.

The autonomous city of Buenos Aires (CABA) is part of international networks for the sharing of knowledge and best practices relating to migration. Since 1995, it has been a member of the Mercocities Network (Red Mercociudades), the leading network of local governments in South America, whose purpose is to strengthen regional integration and cooperation among cities. The Network has a Thematic Unit on Human Rights and Migration (*Unidad Temática de Derechos Humanos y Migraciones*) in which Buenos Aires is an active participant and which tackles migration issues and identifies joint solutions.³⁶ Since 2006, Buenos Aires has formed part of the Cities of Solidarity Network (Red de Ciudades Solidarias) (or the Cities of Solidarity Programme for self-sufficiency and the local integration of refugees), a network of local governments comprising 14 municipalities and provinces in Argentina, with which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cooperates in conducting initiatives that target refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons.

Local authorities cooperate actively on migration issues with IOM and other United Nations agencies. For example, the guide titled *¡Hola, soy migrante!* was prepared with the support of IOM and UNHCR, while *Guía Electoral Migrante (2022)* was drawn up with the support of IOM and the United Nations Development Programme. Since 2020, the General Directorate of Communities, supported by IOM, has been running annual training courses on interculturality (migration, intercultural communication and human rights) for the private sector. In 2021, the General Directorate of Communities partnered with the International Labour Organization to organize virtual financial education courses for Senegalese and Haitian migrants.

3.2. Areas with potential for further development

Local authorities collaborate as needed with civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to implement migration-related programmes. The General Directorate of Communities provides support in promoting the activities of CSOs and NGOs and in making representations to government agencies. Financial support is also provided in the form of subsidies to some associations. In 2018, the Network of Women from Communities (Red de Mujeres de Colectividades),³⁷ which reports to the General Directorate of Communities, organized five meetings that laid out steps for implementing projects to strengthen the integration and rights of women. Similarly, the Network of Young People from

³⁵ It has been taking place virtually since 2021 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁶ The Network encompasses 364 cities in 10 countries on the continent: Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

³⁷ The Women's Network brings together women leaders from the main communities living in the city of Buenos Aires.

Communities (Red de Jóvenes de Colectividades) programme brings together young people aged 18 to 35 to acquire and improve new tools for daily use by the associations. At the same time, the Ministry of Human Development and Habitat, whose task is to respond to social emergencies, promote social inclusion and ensure equal opportunities, is engaged in formal coordination programmes with CSOs, albeit with no specific focus on migration issues.

There is as yet no formal cooperation between local authorities and members of the diaspora in agenda-setting and implementing local policies and programmes. At the national level, the National Migration Directorate (DNM) has a Department for Argentines Abroad, which is under the Directorate of International Affairs, and assists people wishing to emigrate. DNM created the website *Argentines around the World (Argentinos en el Mundo)* to provide relevant information for nationals abroad regarding formalities, consulates and embassies.³⁸

One area with potential for development is formal collaboration between local authorities and academia in order to inform migration policy. Hence, there are ad hoc initiatives such as the agreement between the CABA Ombudsman's Office and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research, signed in 2021, to generate applied research and concrete products that help improve and ensure access to rights for foreigners living in Buenos Aires.³⁹

³⁸ For more information, visit the [Argentinos en el Mundo](#) web page.

³⁹ More information on the agreement is available in this [article](#) on the website of the CABA Ombudsman's Office.



4

ADVANCE THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The autonomous city of Buenos Aires (CABA) has measures in place to ease the integration of foreign nationals into the workforce. In 2021, the General Directorate of Communities joined efforts with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to launch two training programmes – *Nosotras Conectadas* and *Mujeres Activas*⁴⁰ – aimed specifically at women asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons and migrants in situations of forced displacement. Moreover, since 2003, the General Directorate of Women’s Affairs has been operating the programme All Migrant Women (*Todas Mujeres Migrantes*), for the purpose of raising the profile of migrant women and promoting their integration and non-discrimination against them in different spheres of citizen involvement. Under this programme, the General Directorate of Women’s Affairs worked with IOM to produce the document titled *Las mujeres migrantes y la violencia de género* (Migrant women and gender-based violence) in 2014, and to publish the new edition of the document *Herramientas para mujeres migrantes en situación de violencia por motivos de género en la ciudad autónoma de Buenos Aires* (Tools for migrant women in situations of gender-based violence in the autonomous city of Buenos Aires) in 2022. The last section – “Economic autonomy for a life free of violence” – sets out different job market integration programmes being run by the Buenos Aires government, such as the services of the Women’s Labour Advice Office (Oficina de Asesoramiento Laboral para la Mujer),⁴¹ a subdivision of the Undersecretariat of Labour, Industry and Commerce. Migrants are also able to access the Labour Integration Centres (Centros de Integración Laboral) and to register in the BA Labour Employment Portal (*Portal de Empleo de Trabajo BA*), where they can complete formalities such as applying for training and employment insurance (*seguro de capacitación y empleo*).

The General Directorate of Communities and the General Directorate of Entrepreneurship have jointly created training opportunities for migrant entrepreneurs, who receive professional assistance and specific tools. In 2021, for example, and in the *Experiencia Activa* framework, the General Directorate of Entrepreneurship coordinated efforts with the BA Entrepreneurship Academy (Academia BA Emprende) to offer virtual courses that encourage business ventures by women. Moreover, the General Directorate of Communities organizes activities such as Buenos Aires Celebrates, which promotes migrant-run business ventures by setting up stalls to sell food and typical products made by migrants. For its part, Banco Ciudad⁴² collaborates with IOM to operate the *Punta a Punta* programme, which trains migrant entrepreneurs. Its first edition in 2021 organized six sessions for migrant entrepreneurs, with a focus on gastronomy.

Migrants and refugees may access public and private financial services, though most institutions require an Argentine National Identity Card. It is possible to open an account with Banco Ciudad by producing a passport or a Certificate of Provisional Residence. In 2020, it signed an agreement with UNHCR to foster inclusion in the banking and financial sector for migrants and refugees; this was done through financial and non-financial education programmes (e-commerce, marketing and brand identity), operations to provide access to banking services (*operativos de bancarización*), financing channels for business start-ups, and the opening of inclusive branches.⁴³ In 2021, the CABA Economic and Social Council, in turn, released the document titled *Hacia una estrategia de inclusión financiera de mujeres* (Towards a strategy for the financial

⁴⁰ *Nosotras Conectadas* includes free digital marketing and programming courses; while *Mujeres Activas* provides training in soft skills such as preparing a curriculum vitae, job interviews, labour market information and job search networks.

⁴¹ There is mention of education and training workshops to enhance employability, legal advice to defend labour rights in the event of dismissal, leave for pregnancy, and in other situations, support and assistance to victims of workplace violence.

⁴² This is a municipal financial and commercial entity of CABA, which is founded in 1878 and publicly owned.

⁴³ More information on the agreement is available in this [article](#) on the website of UNHCR.

inclusion of women), which sets out strategy lines⁴⁴ and mentions migrant women as one of the vulnerable groups to be considered.

4.2. Areas with potential for further development

Local authorities have not yet introduced specific formal measures to promote the ethical recruitment of migrant workers. Often in collaboration with the Buenos Aires Undersecretariat of Labour, Industry and Commerce, the General Directorate of Communities works on an ad hoc basis with business-sector players to raise awareness regarding migration regulations, clarify doubts and prejudices surrounding the recruitment of migrants, and ensure the dissemination of information on conditions for their employment. Similarly, the awareness-raising brochure titled *Migraciones, derechos humanos y comunicación intercultural en los ambientes de trabajo* (Migrations, human rights and intercultural communication in the workplace) (2020) provides information on migration processes and current regulatory frameworks, and raises awareness regarding human rights and the boosting of intercultural communication skills.

Local authorities have no specific programmes in place to help foreign residents find work in the private sector, but they are free to access programmes meant for the public at large. The Neighbourhood Employment Expo (*Expo Empleo Barrial*) programme, which is within the remit of the Undersecretariat of Labour, Industry and Commerce, aims to promote job creation and facilitate job placement. The city of Buenos Aires organizes job fairs at clubs in different municipalities to facilitate coordination between companies and jobseekers, including migrants. The Migrant Station has been present at these fairs on several occasions to provide information on migrants' right to work. Furthermore, since 2012, the Buenos Aires Ministry of Economic Development and Production has been running the Youth Employment Expo (*Expo Empleo Joven*) programme,⁴⁵ which is open to young migrants.

⁴⁴ The measures considered include promoting financial education programmes targeting the general public and women in particular, supporting the creation of women's business associations and networks, favourable lending for businesses run by women, training in gender analysis for people in banking institutions, and the hiring of women loan officers, among other things.

⁴⁵ The participants in the programme include companies, civil society organizations, universities and government departments.



5

EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The principal function of the Undersecretariat for Emergencies, a subdivision of the Ministry of Justice and Security of the city of Buenos Aires, is to formulate and implement policies, plans, procedures, and methodologies for the monitoring and oversight of emergencies and to communicate them to the public. It is also responsible for setting up systems to assist the community in emergency situations and for ongoing coordination with national and provincial bodies, civil society organizations and public utilities, in order to lay down joint procedures for dealing with emergencies.

The Emergency Master Plan (Decree No. 695) (2009) refers to population displacement and designates the General Directorate of Civil Defence as the body tasked with providing assistance during evacuations and displacements. The Buenos Aires Ministry of Justice and Security manages the Plan through the Undersecretariat for Emergencies. The Resilient Buenos Aires (*Buenos Aires Resiliente*) strategy was launched by the city's Secretariat for International Relations in 2018 and promotes policies for tackling urbanization, globalization and climate change. It contains a chapter dedicated to diversity, which mentions migrant residents in the city as a group for priority consideration in all actions. Furthermore, Objective 5.1 establishes the goal of “striving for a citizenry that is informed, prepared and aware of the challenges it faces” and advocates for the mapping of particularly vulnerable residents, including people in mobility situations.

There are local communications systems in place to receive information on the evolving nature of crises and ways of accessing assistance services. Citizens can call 103 to report emergencies and get help, or they can inform themselves about potential crises through the city's Emergencies web page.⁴⁶ The Law on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (Law No. 3871) (2011) entrusts the enforcement authority (the Secretariat of Environment of the city government) with promoting the public participation of stakeholders in a quest for the best adaptation and mitigation options, and it also provides for the creation of an External Advisory Council (Consejo Asesor Externo) and the convening of a Climate Change Cabinet (Gabinete de Cambio Climático). Lastly, the General Directorate of Press Coordination (Dirección General de Coordinación de Prensa) is responsible for elaborating a systematic plan for tracking opinion, which allows for the monitoring of government performance, knowing what the public wants and becoming involved in assistance as regards its relations with the media.

The General Directorate of Children and Adolescents implements national and local guidelines for safeguarding and restoring the rights of children and adolescents, including the international Convention on the Rights of the Child, the national Law on the Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (Law No. 26061) (2005) and the local Law on the Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents of the city of Buenos Aires (Law No. 23592) (1998). However, these make no reference to migrant children or to specific actions in times of crisis.

5.2. Areas with potential for further development

Locally, there are still no coordination agreements, partnerships or referral systems in place with key players (such as consulates) for assisting non-nationals in Buenos Aires in the event of emergencies.

⁴⁶ The Emergencies page can be found on the website of the Buenos Aires City government.

During the pandemic, the General Directorate of Communities worked on an ad hoc basis with certain consulates on the transportation of migrants for family reunification purposes or of persons wishing to return to their countries.

One area with potential for development is the elaboration of a local disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions for anticipating and tackling the impacts of displacement, as the city's Risk Management System makes no reference to migrants.⁴⁷ Although the city of Buenos Aires has the Resilient Buenos Aires strategy, the latter cannot be considered an emergency response instrument, as it fails to specify the type of activities that should be deployed in respect of migrants. In 2021, the Ombudsman's Office of the city of Buenos Aires tabled a draft law on the establishment of a comprehensive disaster risk management system in the autonomous city of Buenos Aires. However, the draft contains no reference to migrants or displacement.

⁴⁷ The Risk Control System (*Sistema de Control de Riesgos*, SICOR) falls under the Buenos Aires Audit Office (Sindicatura General de la Ciudad), and its foremost goal is that of securing useful and qualitative information for the purposes of decision-making with regard to the risks that may affect the attainment of the main aims of different parts of the Buenos Aires City government.



6

ENSURE THAT MIGRATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MANNER

6.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The government of the autonomous city of Buenos Aires (CABA) has specific mechanisms for ensuring that migrants are able to access justice. Migrants may file a complaint with the Orientation and Complaints Unit, which is attached to the Buenos Aires Office of the Public Prosecutor, and with the Community Legal Services, which is part of the Office of the Attorney General of Buenos Aires. Likewise, the CABA Ombudsman's Office, which is an autonomous and independent body responsible for defending, safeguarding, and promoting the rights, guarantees, and interests of the city's residents, has a unit that deals with migrants.⁴⁸

Every year, the local police receive specific and regular training in issues relating to migrants, including migrants' rights, migration regulations and interculturality. In 2017, for example, as part of measures to prevent and combat human trafficking, the General Directorate of Victim Care and Assistance provided training for Buenos Aires police inspectors in the approach to take when intervening in cases of sexual and labour exploitation.

CABA has an agency and a strategy for combating human trafficking. Set up in 2010, the Committee against Human Trafficking⁴⁹ meets quarterly, its main aim being to apply the Law on Comprehensive Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking (Law No. 2781) (2008), which underpins local anti-trafficking strategies. Similarly, in 2009, local Law No. 3369 created the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the aim of which is to prevent trafficking and assist victims of trafficking. Its activities include training and education programmes for public officers, community agents, and State and private educational institutions. It also offers comprehensive support to survivors of this crime. In April 2022, the city of Buenos Aires unveiled the *Plan Local Bidual para la Lucha contra la Trata y Explotación de Personas y para la Protección y Asistencia a las Víctimas 2022–2023* (Biannual Local Plan to Combat Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims), which lays out measures to be taken in different parts of the city government for prevention, assistance, prosecution, as well as institutional strengthening and coordination in regard to people trafficking.

Local authorities have measures in place to combat the labour exploitation of all persons, including migrants. In January 2020, the Trafficking Crimes Division of the Buenos Aires Police was created under the Superintendence of Investigations,⁵⁰ for the principal purpose of preventing, prosecuting and punishing the crime of trafficking. In parallel, the Labour Inspectorate of the Administrative Labour Authority conducts periodic preventive and educational inspections so as to ensure compliance with labour regulations. Acting through its agents (inspectors), the Buenos Aires General Labour Protection Directorate oversees and controls compliance with labour regulations. In the course of their work, labour inspectors may recognize labour exploitation and come into contact with potential victims of trafficking, forced labour and labour exploitation.

⁴⁸ Complaints or reports can be made online via the website of the CABA Ombudsman's Office.

⁴⁹ This Committee is chaired by the Undersecretary for Human Rights.

⁵⁰ This is under the Directorate of Anti-crime Operations, Department of Crimes against Persons.

6.2. Areas with potential for further development

There is no local programme to facilitate the reintegration of returned migrants. At the national level, however, there is the RAICES National Programme,⁵¹ sponsored by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, which undertakes the repatriation of Argentine researchers who wish to return to the country. The RAICES Programme was set up in 2003 under the then Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and recognized as State policy by the Congress of the Argentine Nation through the Law on the RAICES Programme (Law No. 26421) in 2008.

Local authorities do not publish regular information about their anti-trafficking activities. The website of the local Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons offers no evidence in this regard. In 2020, the CABA Ombudsman's Office nevertheless created the statistical register on the crime of human trafficking and assistance to its victims in the city. The most recent publication dates from December 2019 and contains 2018 data.⁵² The Committee against Human Trafficking gathers information on labour exploitation, though without focusing specifically on migrants. At the national level, the Executive Committee against the Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims publishes annual statistics on its anti-trafficking interventions; the latest statistics found are for 2019.⁵³

⁵¹ RAICES stands for Red de Argentinos/as Investigadores/as y Científicos/as en el Exterior.

⁵² See: Ombudsman's Office of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, 2019.

⁵³ See: Committee against the Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons, 2019.



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOLS ON THE RISKS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

This annex summarizes key local COVID-19 policy responses in the autonomous city of Buenos Aires from a migration governance perspective. It is based on 11 questions that were added to the standard [Migration Governance Indicators \(MGIs\)](#) assessment in the city in order to effectively assess local migration governance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Migrants enjoy access to testing and emergency treatment, on the same basis as Argentines, should they contract COVID-19. From the onset of the pandemic in 2020, the General Directorate of Communities circulated information via social media networks to reinforce the message that migrants enjoy equal entitlement to health care.¹ The Buenos Aires City government followed national guidelines and strategies for bringing in measures to combat COVID-19 (prevention, awareness-raising, testing and vaccination).²

Migrants may access the COVID-19 vaccine on the same basis as nationals.³ A National Identity Card is not required either to register for the vaccination process or receive the vaccine. The city of Buenos Aires was one of the first municipalities in the country to allow registration with any identity document. IOM assisted the local government in publicizing the fact that the COVID-19 vaccine was available to migrants and in translating audiovisual information on the proper procedure, to be included in vaccination campaigns.



Local authorities have taken account of migrants' specific needs in the key measures and policies adopted in response to COVID-19. The General Directorate of Communities held several coordination meetings with different branches of the local government – for example, with the health sector, to ensure that the migrant perspective was included in COVID-19 response policies.

From the start of strict lockdown measures in March 2020, the General Directorate of Communities, IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees jointly set up a door-to-door food aid and care programme, which continued until restrictions began to be relaxed in October 2020. The programme entailed providing information and delivering food and health-care kits for vulnerable migrants and refugees.

¹ For an example, see this [tweet](#) from IOM Argentina.

² Buenos Aires City Government, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) (accessed September 2022).

³ Ibid.



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOLS ON THE RISKS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Local authorities share information relating to COVID-19 in several languages. Under the auspices of the General Directorate of Communities, information on steps to be taken in relation to COVID-19 has been translated into English and French.⁴ Furthermore, the website of the autonomous city of Buenos Aires contains information in Spanish on current measures in place in the city, and on how to request for vaccination and testing.⁵



Migration status is not recorded as a separate variable in the collection and dissemination of COVID-19 health statistics. The information is compiled by the Buenos Aires Ministry of Health and sent to the national Ministry of Health. The information is disaggregated by sex, age and province of residence. Information submitted includes reported cases (active and recovered), deaths, testing, admissions to intensive care units, bed occupancy rates and vaccines administered.⁶

⁴ Buenos Aires City Government, *Coronavirus: preventive measures* (2020).

⁵ Buenos Aires City Government, *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*.

⁶ Ibid.





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** All hyperlinks were working at the time of writing this report.*

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- 2015 [Plan de Acción frente al Cambio Climático 2020.](#)
- 2018a [Buenos Aires Resiliente.](#)
- 2018b [Plan Estratégico Participativo Buenos Aires 2035 \(PEP BA 2035\).](#)
- 2020a [¡Hola, soy migrante! Undersecretariat of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism.](#)
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- 2022b [Todas mujeres migrantes: herramientas para mujeres migrantes en situación de violencia por motivos de género en la ciudad autónoma de Buenos Aires. General Directorate of Women.](#)

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- 2019 [Estadísticas de víctimas rescatadas y/o asistidas.](#)

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- 2005 [Ley de Protección Integral de los Derechos de las Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes \(Ley 26061\) \(Law on the Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents\).](#)
- 2006a [Ley de Educación Nacional \(Ley 26206\).](#)
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- 2008 [Ley de Programa Red de Argentinos Investigadores y Científicos en el Exterior \(RAÍCES\) \(Ley 26421\).](#)
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- 2012 [Ley de Lucha contra la Trata de Personas \(Ley 26842\).](#)
- 2013 [Ley de Régimen Especial de Contrato de Trabajo para el Personal de Casas Particulares \(Ley 26844\).](#)
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- 2021 [Hacia una estrategia de inclusión financiera de mujeres.](#)

General Directorate of Political and Electoral Reform (Dirección General Reforma Política y Electoral)

- 2022 [Guía Electoral Migrante: conocé todo el proceso electoral para los extranjeros y extranjeras que viven en la Ciudad de Buenos Aires \(Migrant Electoral Guide\).](#)

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Judicial Branch of the City of Buenos Aires

2016 *Convención constituyente de la ciudad de Buenos Aires.*

Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires

1988 *Ley de Medidas contra Actos Discriminatorios (Ley 23592).*

1996 *Constitución de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.*

1998a *Ley de Protección Integral de los Derechos de las Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes (Ley 114) (Law on the Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents).*

1998b *Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública (Ley 104).*

1999a *Ley Básica de Salud (Ley 153).*

1999b *Ley Municipal de Educación (Ley 203) (Law on Municipal Education). Not available online.*

2000 *Ley de Instrumentación de Políticas de Acceso a Vivienda para Uso Exclusivo y Permanente de Hogares de Escasos Recursos en Situación Crítica Habitacional (Ley Ciudad 341).*

2003 *Transfórmase la Comisión Municipal de la Vivienda en “Instituto de Vivienda de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires” (Ley 1251).*

2005 *Ley Orgánica de Comunas (Ley 1777) (Organic Law on Communes).*

2008 *Ley de Asistencia Integral a las Víctimas de Trata de Personas (Ley 2781) (Law on Comprehensive Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking).*

2009 *Ley de Creación de la Oficina contra la Trata de Personas (Ley 3369) (Law on the Creation of the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons).*

2010 *Ley de Instituyen los Foros para la Integración Plena de los Migrantes (Ley 3574).*

2011 *Ley de Adaptación y Mitigación al Cambio Climático (Ley 3871) (Law on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation).*

2015 *Ley contra la Discriminación (Ley 5261) (Law against Discrimination).*

2018a *Ley Local de Adhesión al Sistema Nacional para la Gestión Integral del Riesgo y la Protección Civil (Ley 6082).*

2018b *Normativa Electoral.*

2019 *Decreto 463.*

2021 *Resolución de Creación del Programa “BA Migrante” (Resolución No. 103) (Resolution on the Creation of the BA Migrante Programme).*

Ministry of the Economy

2020 *Estrategia Nacional de Inclusión Financiera 2020–2023.*

Ministry of the Interior

2010 *Manual Básico de Planeamiento para Emergencias y Desastres.*

National Institute of Statistics and Census (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, INDEC)

2010a *National Population, Households and Dwellings Census 2010.*

2010b *Total for the country. Total foreign-born population by place of birth, sex and age groups.*

2010c *Autonomous city of Buenos Aires. Total population by country of birth, according to sex and age group.*

2010d *National Population, Households and Dwellings Census 2010: Quilmes.*

Ombudsman’s Office of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (Defensoría del Pueblo de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires)

2019 *Registro estadístico sobre el delito de trata de personas y sobre la asistencia a las víctimas en la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (Statistical register on the crime of human trafficking and assistance to its victims in CABA).*

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

2006 *Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño. Madrid.*



ANNEXES

MiGOF: Migration Governance Framework⁵⁴

In an attempt to define the concept of “well-managed migration policies”, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) devised a Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which was welcomed by the IOM Council in November 2015. For the purposes of the Migration Governance Framework, IOM defines governance as “the traditions and institutions by which authority on migration, mobility and nationality in a country is exercised, including the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies in these areas”.

The Framework sets out the essential elements of “good migration governance” – three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, safe and orderly, and that it provides benefits for migrants and societies.⁵⁵ IOM’s view is that a migration system promotes migration and human mobility that is humane and orderly and benefits migrants and society:

When it:

- (i) Adheres to international standards and fulfils migrants’ rights;
- (ii) Formulates policy using evidence and a whole-of-government approach;
- (iii) Engages with partners to address migration and related issues;

As it seeks to:

- (i) Advance the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society;
- (ii) Effectively address the mobility dimensions of crises;
- (iii) Ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

The MiGOF does NOT create new standards or norms. In drafting the Framework, IOM relied on its expertise and analytical work, as well as on existing commitments, non-binding declarations and statements. It does NOT address global migration governance that is the international architecture for dealing with issues related to migration and human mobility. Instead, the focus is on the governance and management of migration from the point of view of the State as the primary actor. It does NOT propose one model for all States. The Framework presents a “high road” or ideal version of migration governance, to which States can aspire.

The MiGOF is based on the understanding that, as the primary actor in migration, mobility and nationality affairs, a State retains the sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in its territory and under what conditions, within the framework of international law. Other actors – citizens, migrants, international organizations, the private sector, unions, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, religious organizations and academia – contribute to migration governance through their interaction with States and each other.

⁵⁴ IOM Council, *Migration Governance Framework*, 106th Session, C/106/40 (4 November 2015).

⁵⁵ *Migration Governance Framework infosheet*, 2016.

The MGI process



1 **Launch of the local MGI process**

The first step of the process is to explain to key national and local government officials what the local MGIs entail, in order to ensure full understanding of the project and complete buy-in at both levels.



2 **Data collection**

The second step of the process is to start the collection and analysis of data based on adapted indicators from the MGIs. A draft local migration governance profile based on analysis of the findings is then shared with the government counterparts.



3 **Multi-stakeholder discussions on the results of the MGIs**

The third step of the process is to convene a consultation where local and national government officials and other stakeholders discuss the good practices and main gaps identified in the draft local migration governance profile. It is also an opportunity for them to comment on and provide suggestions to the draft profile.



4 **Final report**

The last step is to finalize the local migration governance profile, obtain final validation from the local authorities, and publish a printed version of the report as well as an online version on the [Migration Data Portal](#) and upload it on the [IOM Publications Platform](#).



www.migrationdataportal.org/mgi

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