



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# MIGRATION AND PROTRACTED CRISES

Addressing the root causes  
and building resilient  
agricultural livelihoods

# CONTENTS

**PAGES 4-6**

## INTRODUCTION

**PAGE 7**

## THE ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN PROTRACTED CRISES

**PAGE 8**

## IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**PAGES 9-15**

## HOW FAO IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL CALL FOR ACTION ON MIGRATION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

Cover photo:  
Kenya – Maasai pastoralists, who participate in the Farmer Field School, taking their cattle to a local livestock market.  
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**SOUTH SUDAN**

Seeds Distribution.  
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# KEY MESSAGES

## THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

- In situations of protracted crises, **migration is rarely an informed choice but is a necessity** to escape conflict or extreme poverty and livelihood deterioration.
- Migration or displacement in protracted crises is caused by three key factors: (i) **conflict**; (ii) **poor governance**; (iii) **environmental factors** and **natural resource constraints**.
- Protracted crises cause vulnerable people to **lose access** to the range of resources necessary for food and agriculture production, which forces people to relocate.
- Implementation of appropriate responses in protracted crises is particularly complex, as they need to address **both immediate needs and provide durable solutions** under a particularly challenging environment.
- Displaced people and migrants can contribute to the **development of host communities**, if managed effectively, helping to fill labour shortages and promoting the diffusion of knowledge.

## THE ROLE OF RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

- Investing in sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods can help people to stay on their land, despite conflicts, when it is safe to do so, and **foster a more equitable territorial development**, thus reducing resource depletion and tension.
- Resilient agricultural livelihoods can **create jobs and provide a sustainable income** for both host communities and displaced people. They can also support the rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees, migrants and displaced people.
- FAO works with relevant stakeholders to strengthen their capacities to provide **viable livelihood opportunities in agriculture and rural areas** in countries in protracted crises. It also protects the right to food of all people on the move, while fostering their integration and strengthening the social and economic resilience of host communities.
- Working with its partners and using resilient agricultural livelihoods as a key instrument, FAO plays an important role in: i) **addressing the factors that compel people to move**, especially those linked to natural disasters, conflicts over natural resources and environmental and livelihood deterioration in rural areas; ii) **strengthening resilience** of both displaced people and host communities and iii) **harnessing the positive contribution of migrants** and displaced people and fostering their integration.



# INTRODUCTION



## THE CONTEXT

The increase in the number of conflicts, their complexity, their protracted nature, the accelerated environmental degradation and increasing impacts of climate change worldwide results in a growing number of people forcibly displaced or migrating under distress than ever before.

**Protracted crises are one of the most challenging contexts in which to address migration.**

They are driven by a combination of recurring causes, such as human-induced factors and natural hazards, lengthy food crises, breakdown of livelihoods and food systems and insufficient governance and institutional capacity to deal with the resulting serious disruptions or threats to people's livelihoods.

It is estimated that **almost half a billion people live in over 20 countries affected by protracted crises**, mostly in Africa. Hunger rates in protracted crisis situations are almost three times higher than in other developing context.

It is important to differentiate between migration, that is the result of a choice for better economic conditions, from that

caused by conflict, distress, or forced migration and displacement. For those facing violence, severe human rights abuses, or other conflict related risks, the decision to leave their home is not an 'option', but rather a last resort in order to survive.

## THE ROLE OF RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

In most protracted crisis situations, the majority of the population still lives in rural areas and makes their living from activities related to agriculture, livestock, fisheries and other renewable natural resources, including casual wage labor and petty trade of food products.

Rural families are those most affected by conflict and disasters. For people who have been food insecure for years and whose lives are under permanent threats, agriculture-based livelihoods are often the only means of survival. People with resilient livelihoods are better able to prevent, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of conflict, crises and natural disasters on their lives, as well as to participate in markets, invest,

innovate, create jobs, etc., even in highly challenging environments. **Saving, promoting and diversifying vibrant agricultural livelihoods** is therefore essential to enable people to rapidly strengthen self-reliance and productivity with dignity.

In addition to livelihoods-enhancing interventions, ensuring effective coverage of social protection



## PAKISTAN

People fleeing floods.  
©FAO/Pakistan

systems, addressing issues of land tenure and access to natural resources, and fostering employment opportunities can help people stay on their land when they feel safe to do so, and contribute to conflict prevention, peace and stability. It therefore prevents migration and forced displacement and creates conducive conditions for the return of refugees, migrants and displaced people.

## THE NEED FOR LONGER-TERM SOLUTIONS

Migration and displacement in protracted crises requires comprehensive longer-term solutions, through the coordination of humanitarian and development actions and actors. There is the need to address **the multiple and overlapping causes of**

**protracted crises and mitigate their consequences on migration and displacement.** Promoting sustained investment and policy solutions towards **strengthening the resilience of both displaced persons and host communities**, so that they have greater capacity to absorb, prepare for, adapt to and mitigate the impacts of crises, is also necessary to reduce the negative impacts of migration and promote peaceful and durable solutions.

# INTRODUCTION

**Forced displacement** refers to all situations where a person has been forced to move from their home or country, often due to armed conflicts or natural disasters.

Recent crises have destabilized entire regions and exponentially increased the number of those forcibly displaced. Mixed migration flows are the norm, including individuals with different motivations and needs

**REFUGEES:** persons who have fled their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinions (UN Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol).

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS):** persons who have been forced to leave their homes, due to armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border.

and falling under various legal and protection regimes.

Over **65 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced** from their homes by conflict, violence and persecution in 2015. Among them were 40.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), and 21.3 million refugees.

Developing regions host 86 percent of the world's refugees. The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 25 percent of them. Turkey is the largest refugee-hosting country (1.59 million refugees), followed by Pakistan (1.51 million), Lebanon (1.15 million), the Islamic Republic of Iran (982 000), Ethiopia (659 500) and Jordan (654 100).

Between 2008 and 2014, a total of 184 million people worldwide were displaced by natural disasters, an average of 26.4 million each year.

In conflict situations, an average of 87 percent of those affected do not flee their countries, and most suffer from severe food insecurity. Internal displacement is often the first stage of 'migration' and provides an indication of

potential increases in forthcoming cross-border migrant flows.

With the increasingly protracted nature of many conflicts and crises, repatriation and reintegration of displaced people and migrants in their areas of origin has been declining. In 2015, only 126 000 refugees – or 11 percent of the total in 2005, and the lowest on record in over 30 years – were able to repatriate.

## PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT: FACTS AND FIGURES

- The average length of crises-induced displacement is 17 years.
- By the end of 2015, some 56 million (85 percent of total displaced people globally) will be in protracted displacement.
- Less than one in 40 refugee crises are resolved within three years and more than 80 percent of refugee crises last for ten years or more.

# THE ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN PROTRACTED CRISES

There are three main – often interrelated – factors which contribute to migration and displacement in protracted crises:

- 1. Conflicts**, particularly civil conflicts, have increased markedly since 2008, after declining in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Over one-third of countries classified in 2015 as fragile, according to the Fund for Peace Fragile States index, had experienced recent conflicts, reflecting dynamic interrelationships among poverty (including hunger), governance and conflict. All 22 countries classified by FAO as being in protracted crises situations in 2010 have suffered some kind of human-induced emergency, a conflict or political crisis of some kind.
- 2. Poor governance or political instability**, which often underlies or leads to the outbreak of conflict and violence and adds pressure on people to migrate in order to protect their livelihoods and limit their exposure to growing risks.

- 3. Environmental and natural resource factors** including drought, water scarcity, and climate change exacerbate conflict risks such as poverty and economic shocks, and associated pressures to move. Between 2008 and 2014, a total of 184 million people worldwide were displaced by natural disasters alone.

These three factors can lead to distress migration directly, or indirectly through extreme livelihood deterioration over a prolonged period of time. In particular, protracted crises reduce household livelihood security, by: (i) restricting access to economic opportunities, land and natural resources, either temporarily or permanently; (ii) reducing investment choices; and (iii) depleting household assets. As the crisis becomes protracted, the economy shrinks and ways of earning a living continue to dwindle. Migration becomes a necessary means for survival, as traditional livelihoods and safety nets are disrupted.

## YOUTH, UNEMPLOYMENT AND RADICALIZATION

Young people are most vulnerable to radicalization. When hope and opportunity are eclipsed, extremism often feeds off the resulting despair. Poverty, illiteracy, and weak family structures play a part. In some cases, average salaries given to youth by terrorist groups are 3 or 4 times higher than local average ones.

In Nigeria for example, youth unemployment levels are higher in the north/north-east States where Boko Haram is strongly present. Unless the growing radicalization of youth across the country is addressed, with a specific focus on the north and north/east, many poor and marginalized northern Nigerian youth will continue to gravitate towards radicalized groups.

# IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## IMPACTS

Protracted crises have frequently induced **accelerated processes of rural-urban migration** and

### THE SYRIAN CRISIS AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The Syrian crisis has highly regressive spillovers on neighboring countries, affecting the socio-economic fabric, access and quality of basic infrastructure and services in communities which often are already among the poorest and most deprived prior to the crisis (e.g. northern governorates in Jordan or peripheral areas in Lebanon). Vulnerable refugees compete with equally vulnerable local populations for already scarce or strained resources, infrastructures, social services, food, jobs, affordable housing and livelihood opportunities. This heightens social tension and goes beyond the management capacities of local governments. Similar problems are also faced by communities located near “refugee camps”, which suffer from economic, security and violence spillovers of crises.

**increasing competition over resources** among different livelihood groups. This can in turn induce more people to adopt high-risk livelihood strategies, further fueling tensions.

The majority of refugees and IDPs live in host communities, not in refugee camps. Large-scale influxes of migrants, refugees and IDPs can constitute challenges for local authorities to provide quality public services for the entire population, and can negatively impact on natural resources and labour markets. Increased competition can result in reduced wage rate, less decent working conditions and higher unemployment – all fueling livelihood deterioration and risk of conflict.

Protracted displacement can also lead to **loss of crops and assets**, while disrupting **all dimensions of food and nutrition security**.

#### HOST COMMUNITY:

community of asylum and/or the local, regional and national governmental, social and economic structures where refugees, IDPs, and persons forcibly displaced or migrating under distress live as a result of migration or displacement.

## THE SOMALI DIASPORA

Remittances from Somali diaspora account for about 80% of investment in Somalia and 50% of the country's gross national income. It is estimated that over 3.4 million people (or 43% of the population) rely on remittances to meet their basic needs.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Diaspora can contribute to build the economy in countries of origin after a conflict or a crisis, through: remittances, skill transfer, diaspora connected FDI, direct investments such as diaspora entrepreneurship, heritage tourism and nostalgia trade, philanthropy, volunteerism and advocacy.

Displaced people and migrants can also contribute to the development of host communities, helping to fill labour shortages and promoting the diffusion of knowledge. The expected arrival of three million refugee by the end of 2016 is expected to cause an increase in annual GDP ranging from 0.2 to 0.5 percent in EU recipient countries (2015 Autumn Economic forecasts from the European Commission).



# HOW FAO IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL CALL FOR ACTION ON MIGRATION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

## THE GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

There is growing recognition of the need to shift the approach from a unilateral humanitarian approach to protracted crises and migration to one that combines a focus on addressing the immediate life-saving needs and more durable solutions that address root causes, change people's lives and move from delivering aid to ending need. This has been reinforced by recent global agreements such as:

- March 2015: the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)
- September 2015: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- October 2015: the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises
- December 2015: Resolution S/RES/2250 on Youth, Peace and Security adopted by the UNSC
- December 2015: Resolution 70/165 adopted by the General Assembly
- May 2016: the World Humanitarian Summit

## THE ROLE OF FAO

FAO's work on migration in protracted crises is context-specific, anchored in local livelihoods systems. It taps into its wide range of technical expertise on agricultural subsectors and rich experience in governing and monitoring risks and crises, reducing community vulnerability to crises and disaster risk, and preparing for and responding to crises and disasters.

FAO's work can be categorized in three key areas:

- **Addressing** protracted crises and the root causes of migration and displacement;
- **Strengthening the resilience** of those affected or at risk of being affected by protracted crises, including migrants, displaced persons, and host communities alike and providing them with durable solutions which promote long-term reconstruction of agricultural livelihoods and local economies; and
- **Harnessing the positive contribution** of migrants and displaced people and fostering their sustainable and peaceful integration and reintegration.

## FAO, MIGRATION AND PROTRACTED CRISES

FAO has a unique role in addressing protracted crises and related root causes of migration and displacement, in view of its expertise in: (i) protecting, saving and restoring livelihoods; (ii) reducing food insecurity; and (iii) improving the resilience of livelihoods, agricultural systems and rural areas.

In particular, FAO has developed specific tools in monitoring and analysis of food and agriculture dynamics of migration and protracted crises, which allows it to continue operations even in politically tense environments, "leaving no one behind".

# HOW FAO IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL CALL FOR ACTION ON MIGRATION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COORDINATION ON FOOD SECURITY AND EARLY WARNING

FAO has considerable expertise in supporting the development of information systems on a wide range of key drivers of migration and protracted crises and in facilitating coordination and information exchange. This falls across the range of FAO's technical expertise including, inter alia, seed security assessments, pastoralist early warning systems, market monitoring, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis Model (RIMA), and analysis of the impacts of conflict on the agriculture sector. FAO's considerable experience in fostering coordination, such as through the co-leadership of the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) is also vital to provide vulnerable populations with the best possible response through joint programming and prevention of duplication.

## ADDRESSING PROTRACTED CRISES AND RELATED ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

- **Generate evidence** on the main drivers of migration and displacement in protracted crises, by adopting existing vulnerability/resilience/livelihood analysis methods, possibly with long-term scenario development.
- **Provide direct livelihood support**, such as through cash transfers, technical assistance, provision of gender-sensitive agricultural and livestock inputs and services, including through vouchers, and facilitation of gender-, youth- and nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- **Facilitate non-discriminatory access to aid, food and water**, through small essential infrastructure rehabilitation, including through cash-for-work programmes.
- **Provide technical support** and, whenever possible, strengthen national capacities to provide social services and address the social and economic

exclusion of youth, thus preventing their radicalization.

- **Reduce tension and conflicts over natural resources**, by mitigating and preventing pastoralist conflict (e.g. through pastoralist field schools) and promoting sustainable land conflict resolution (e.g. participatory negotiated territorial development), while enhancing their management capacities by supporting the development and diversification of environmentally sustainable livelihood strategies (e.g. Safe Access to Fuel and Energy).
- **Develop tools and guidance** to assist stakeholders in addressing the root causes of conflict and conflict drivers linked to food insecurity, poverty, inequality and gender imbalances and providing technical insights into conflict dynamics in order to identify possible entry points to support agriculture and food security across the conflict cycle.
- **Facilitate multistakeholder dialogue and provide policy guidance** to support and rebuild sustainable and resilient livelihoods and meet immediate needs of both displaced persons and their host.



## NIGERIA

Beneficiaries from the  
Kukareta IDP camp.  
©FAO/Nguyen

### PREVENTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS – THE NIGER

Supported by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), FAO is working in the Niger in close collaboration with UN peace-building actors and other agencies in seven towns to prevent the outbreak of conflicts related to natural resources. Through a conflict-sensitive management approach, the project aims at building local actors' capacities to manage limited water resources in an inclusive and transparent manner, in order to contribute to peaceful cohabitation between population groups (i.e. farmers, herders, refugees, migrants and locals).

### SAVING LIVES, PREVENTING ONWARD MIGRATION – SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

FAO is working with its partners to strengthen the food security and resilience of households, communities and institutions in the Syrian Arab Republic. Support to small-scale household-level production is increasingly important in the country, following the fragmentation of the agriculture sector. In addition to saving livelihoods, agricultural interventions increase local food availability, access and variety. Helping farmers to stay on their land and produce food, when it is safe to do so, is also critical in preventing further migration.

# HOW FAO IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL CALL FOR ACTION ON MIGRATION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

## EMERGENCY LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO IDPS – YEMEN

By supporting productive agricultural activities, FAO is working to increase access and availability of food and resources for IDPs and vulnerable host communities' living in conflict affected areas. FAO is working with local women's groups to support backyard farming through the distribution of seeds, tools and poultry that improve family nutrition and create extra income at market. FAO also provides vulnerable farmers with solar-powered irrigation pumps with the help of water-user associations. This allows farmers to continue production regardless of fuel shortages that have made operating diesel-powered pumps impossible for many. FAO is also helping farmers apply climate-smart agricultural practices to improve productivity and water management.

## STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF MIGRANTS, DISPLACED PERSONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

- **Adopt inclusive early warning systems and community-based risk assessments** that engage migrants and displaced people in identifying existing vulnerabilities and capacity to face further shocks.
- **Provide technical support and, whenever possible, strengthen national capacities** to:
  - ▶ support the design and/or promotion of inclusive shock responsive social protection systems that extend to rural areas and cover agricultural migrant workers, displaced persons and unemployed/ underemployed rural youth and women;
  - ▶ address obstacles to the exercise of land and property rights, and to access to credit and markets (e.g., by making use of the framework on Durable solutions for IDPs of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee);
  - ▶ design and implement specific interventions to support

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH THROUGH JFFLS

To date, the Junior Farmer Field and Life School (JFFLS) methodology has been used in 20 countries, benefiting over 35 000 young women and men, including IDPs, refugees, young demobilized soldiers and other vulnerable groups. In JFFLS, young people are encouraged to develop as positive adults and to develop "portable" skills, which youth IDPs or refugees can bring back when they decide to return to their communities. Assessments taken after the implementation of JFFLS in Palestine have shown that most of the young beneficiaries perform better than other peers in education. In the Sudan, JFFLS have built the capacities of disadvantaged and vulnerable youth among conflict and post-conflict situation, particularly for demobilized young soldiers and juvenile offenders.



## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

A woman checks her wheat crop as part of an FAO project.  
©FAO/Khalouf

rehabilitation and long-term recovery of agriculture and promote viable economic opportunities and increased agriculture-based livelihood opportunities, especially for youth.

- **Build local capacities and facilitate policy dialogue** to integrate migration concerns into adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, in order to address potential migratory consequences of environmental change.

## HARNESSING THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PERSONS

- **Generate evidence** of the benefits of migrants and refugees for their host communities and countries of origin, especially by analysing remittances flows and use in rural areas of origin and destinations.
- **Assess, analyse and understand** the short-, medium- and longer-term socio-economic impact of return following protracted crises in neighbouring countries, at national, local and household levels.
- **Promote social cohesion and strengthen rural institutions**, to help rebuild trust between members of rural communities, as well as their dialogue with migrant networks and returnees.

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# HOW FAO IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL CALL FOR ACTION ON MIGRATION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

## AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES – THE SUDAN

In Darfur, FAO has provided 9 000 IDP, returnee and vulnerable resident households with direct agricultural support and has reactivated 64 Village Agricultural Committees. The project contributed to greater self-sufficiency in food production and provided the beneficiaries with the skills and knowledge to maximize the potential of their resources and explore alternative income-generating opportunities.

## DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION, AND REINTEGRATION – THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

FAO collaborated with partners on an emergency Disarmament, Demobilization and

Reintegration (DDR) Programme and on a Multicountry Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (MDRP) to coordinate and contribute to regional peace, and to encourage former combatants to return to civilian livelihoods and reintegrate into society. Surveys indicate that over two-thirds of ex-combatants are engaged in productive economic activities, including agriculture, fisheries, and livestock sectors. In complement to the DDR support, FAO has provided assistance to strengthen people's ability to produce food and earn a living by improving access to resources and training programmes, as well as capacities to produce and diversify food. These activities illustrate FAO's engagement in strategic partnerships to reduce violence, and prevent reescalation of violence through livelihood support, but also the work focused on reintegration

of displaced people and combatants alike into productive sectors, creating a safer and more secure environment overall.

## ASSESS THE NEEDS OF RETURNEES – PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, FAO has collaborated with the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in order to implement the FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy, which aims to ensure safe and dignified return of Temporarily Displaced Persons (TDPs) and provide adequate services and facilities to the returnees. Due to prolonged conflict, no credible baseline exists with regard to agricultural needs of returnees. To this end, FAO has is conducting an agriculture-based livelihood assessment to establish a credible baseline which will enable government as well as international agencies to design better interventions for the returnee population.



**WEST BANK  
AND GAZA STRIP**

A farmer tending the garden in the backyard of her home.  
©FAO/Longari

*continued from page 13*

- **Promote decent rural employment opportunities and decent work conditions** for both displaced people and host communities along the main displacement routes; and building on knowledge and skills of affected populations, especially by providing them with “portable skills” which can become more “visible, readable and verifiable”, in order to access job opportunities everywhere.
- **Provide technical assistance** to scale up cash transfers and shock-responsive social protection systems to
  - ▶ protect household’s assets, income and nutrition and guarantee the portability of benefits (such as cash) for all migrants.
- **Advise and support capacity development at country and regional levels** to:
  - ▶ adopt specific measures to support the reintegration of migrant returnees to rural areas of origin (income and employment reintegration support), the transfer of their newly acquired skills and knowledge to their communities;
  - ▶ control for impact of social protection and agricultural market interventions on migrant receiving areas, in terms of labour dynamics and market prices.
- **Create partnerships and advocate** for improving financial inclusion and literacy of displaced people originating from rural areas as well as diaspora communities, so that they can send remittances back home, as well as communities of origin to productively use the remittances they receive for agriculture and rural development. ■

# MIGRATION AND PROTRACTED CRISIS

Addressing the root causes  
and building resilient  
agricultural livelihoods



The present document aims at improving understanding of migration in situations of protracted crisis by explaining the context and providing examples of the work that FAO, together with its partners, has been doing across various countries to strengthen the resilience of communities and “leave no one behind” before, during and after protracted crises.

The document is directed towards governments, the UN system, and all other stakeholders. It sheds light on the role that resilient agricultural livelihoods can play in addressing some of the root causes of migration in protracted crises and in assisting displaced populations and host communities to cope with protracted displacement.