

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 25-26 February 2016

**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

¹The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

QUESTION 1.

Please describe briefly the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken in 2015, or is planning to undertake in 2016, to monitor and implement migration-related commitments related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4).

FAO is committed to collaborate and support Member States as the global community moves towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, assisting countries in the implementation, monitoring, follow up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. It can do so especially in areas where FAO has unique expertise and abundant experience as the UN specialized agency on food and agriculture, including: ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; sustainably managing, conserving and using natural resources; and promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development.

FAO generates knowledge about the root causes of migration and advises countries on how to better manage rural labour mobility, to deal in a coherent way with the issue of migration, mobility and youth employment. With its partners, FAO works to enhance the benefits from migration, while addressing the root causes of distress migration and large movements of refugees from rural areas.

Creating decent farm and non-farm jobs in rural areas is at the core of FAO's approach to address the root causes of distress migration. Through decent rural employment, rural workers and their families can lead productive, healthy and dignified lives. Promoting viable and attractive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture and rural areas, particularly for youth, can make a significant contribution to easing migratory pressures and reduce distress out-migration.

FAO is also increasingly interested in the link and impacts of migration and climate change on agriculture and rural development. This involves formulating a set of practical recommendations for policy makers, with a specific focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, given the high vulnerability of its agro-ecological systems to the effects of climate change.

Moreover, given FAO's expertise in both developmental and humanitarian settings, FAO is in a privileged position to support to refugees and migrants in fragile contexts and protracted crises by supporting sustainable agricultural and rural development, strengthening food security and building resilience, including through social protection systems.

In 2015, FAO started the implementation of the project "Youth migration, food security and rural poverty reduction: Fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility" (RYM Project) funded by the Italian Development Cooperation. This two-year project is of high strategic relevance, as it is the first to implement FAO's integrated approach to rural youth migration. The project is structured in global and country level components (Tunisia and Ethiopia). The aim is to address the root causes of migration in countries of origin and promote innovative mechanisms to youth employment in rural areas, thereby reducing distress rural out-migration of young people. The global component of the project will generate evidence and strong diagnostics on the propensity of young people to migrate from rural areas, as well as disseminate good practices and lessons learned in global policy fora and discussions. At country level, FAO will implement capacity development activities for focal points in key ministries in order to enhance their awareness and expertise to account for migration and labour mobility in agriculture and rural development planning. The project will also promote pilot mechanisms to generate opportunities for rural youth both in terms of self-employment (entrepreneurship) as well as seasonal wage employment.

Through the Global Migration Group (GMG), FAO has also participated in all the most relevant international discussions in preparation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, advocating for a stronger focus on migration (including also internal and seasonal migration) into the development agenda. In particular, FAO has actively contributed to the definition of the inputs that GMG has submitted to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDG), in terms of possible indicators and metadata to monitor the implementation of migration related goals and targets, as well as practical suggestions for the disaggregation of all relevant targets and indicators by migratory status.

Over the biennium 2016-17, FAO will expand its work to monitor and implement migration-related commitments related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. FAO's focus will include:

- Enhancing evidence about the determinants of distress rural migration and its impacts on food security and rural livelihoods. Specific sub-themes to be further investigated have already been identified in: climate change and migration; seasonal work in agriculture; links between migration, resilience and social protection;
- Providing technical support and capacity development to governments to enhance policy coherence and better incorporate migration into agriculture, food security and rural development policies, strategies and programmes;
- Strengthening policy dialogue and policy coordination across key sectors and stakeholders (government, civil society and private sector, including producers' organizations and migrant networks), with particular attention to policy options to address the root causes of migration;

- Facilitating pilot mechanisms for youth employment in rural areas, building on FAO's expertise and ongoing work, including the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools and the RYM Project and scaling-up innovative solutions across countries, also involving public-private partnerships.
- Contributing more systematically to existing global cooperation mechanisms and engaging with key partners from the UN System, other inter-governmental bodies, and non-state actors.

QUESTION 2.

Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your organization's contribution to the follow-up and review of the migration-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

FAO strongly advocates for the importance of closely following migration-related targets with a gender and age-differentiated perspective. In particular, FAO's efforts to monitor and implement the migration-related target included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes:

- Target 8.8 (Rights of migrant workers): FAO welcomes that the target on protection of labour rights and the promotion of safe and secure working conditions explicitly mentions migrant workers. FAO advocates that migrant workers in precarious or informal jobs are also covered by the target, in particular migrants working in the agriculture sector, including temporary and seasonal migrants. FAO works to extend these rights to rural migrant workers and their families. It works towards preventing forms of exploitation and discrimination; promoting safe and fair working conditions; improving the portability of rights and benefits, including to social protection, and the recognition of skills and qualifications.
 - Target 10.c (Reducing remittance transfer costs): FAO supports the inclusion of explicit reference to reducing the transaction costs of remittances among the proposed targets and hopes that increasing attention would be given to facilitating productive investments of remittances in rural areas. FAO also underlines the importance of reducing the costs of labour migration, including in agriculture.
 - Target 10.7 (Safe, legal and orderly migration): FAO advocates for increasing the attention as well to internal and seasonal migration in order to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people and reduce distress rural out migration. This should include for instance the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, including seasonal migration schemes.
- Moreover, there are also relevant synergies with the implementation of other SDGs that FAO follows closely, such as SDG1, SDG2 as well as SDG 14 and 15.

QUESTION 3.

Where relevant, please indicate any activities and initiatives your organization is planning to undertake in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, scheduled on 19 September 2016.

FAO is increasingly engaged in enhancing policy coherence and promoting the incorporation of migration into agriculture, food security and rural development policies, strategies and programmes. In its revised Strategic Framework, FAO has renewed its commitment to address migration issues, and migration and remittances are explicitly reflected in FAO's strategic programme for rural poverty reduction.

Through this work programme, FAO supports member states in addressing the root causes of distress migration - such as food insecurity and rural poverty - and strengthening their capacity to define and implement a coherent approach to rural poverty reduction, within broader strategy for sustainable rural development, with a focus on migration and youth employment. There are also strong linkages to the Organization's work in helping eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, improving natural resource management in a context of climate change, as well as increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, including protracted crises.

In this effort, FAO works with other UN agencies and key partners, through information exchange and engagement collaborations at global, regional and country level, and has actively contributed to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDG). FAO is increasingly active in global cooperation mechanisms, such as the Global Migration Group (GMG), Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), as well as the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), and the Global Remittances Working Group (GRWG).

FAO's participation in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants builds on these efforts. In this regard, FAO is supporting the preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly through the GMG and other channels, with the ultimate goal of addressing the root causes of distress migration - such as food insecurity and rural poverty - and enhancing country capacity and policy coherence to reduce distress migration and promoting migration patterns that contribute to improve food security and poverty reduction.

Given the importance of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly and the increasing relevance of addressing large movements of refugees and migrants to FAO's program of work and to efforts to promote food security and nutrition and promote sustainable agricultural and rural development, FAO will attend the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants and envisages the participation of its Director-General.