Addressing Rural Youth Distress Migration

Migration is part of the development process and an opportunity for rural poverty reduction.

We talk about distress migration when migrating is perceived as the only viable option for moving out of poverty.

Root causes of rural youth distress migration

- Food insecurity
- Limited income opportunities
- Rural poverty
- Inequality
- Environmental degradation

Impacts of migration on rural areas of origin

- The negative impacts
  - Loss of workforce
  - Remittance dependency
  - Income inequality at community level due to remittances
  - Brain drain
  - Increased work burden for those left behind
  - Adoption of unsustainable consumption patterns

- The positive impacts
  - Less pressure on local labour market
  - Income stability and increased consumption
  - Support to the poorest households
  - Know-how transfer and investment inflow
  - Better access to social services thanks to remittances
  - Reduced person-land ratio and less pressure on natural resources

Migration facts

- One third of all international migrants are youth in the 15-34 age group.
- Remittances sent to rural areas

FAO’s role

- Address the root causes of distress migration
- Enhance the positive impact of migration

Better understand rural youth migration
- By generating data and evidence

Better integrate migration into rural development policies
- Through capacity development and technical support

Support migrants’ investments in sustainable agriculture
- By promoting financial literacy and reintegration of returnees

Promote informed, legal migration
- Through seasonal labour schemes

Create employment in the rural areas of origin
- Through trainings, partnerships and financial products for youth

Migration facts

244 MILLION international migrants
740 MILLION internal migrants

Migration facts

2000 2015
International migrants

+41%

One third of all international migrants are youth in the 15-34 age group.

- Remittances sent to rural areas

Facts

Women migrants

Remittances

Income stability

Increased consumption

Remittance dependency

Income inequality

Support to the poorest households

Brain drain

Increased work burden for those left behind

Adoption of unsustainable consumption patterns

Productivity

Household resilience

Inequality

Community development

Social protection

Environment

Food insecurity

Limited income opportunities

Rural poverty

Inequality

Environmental degradation

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