



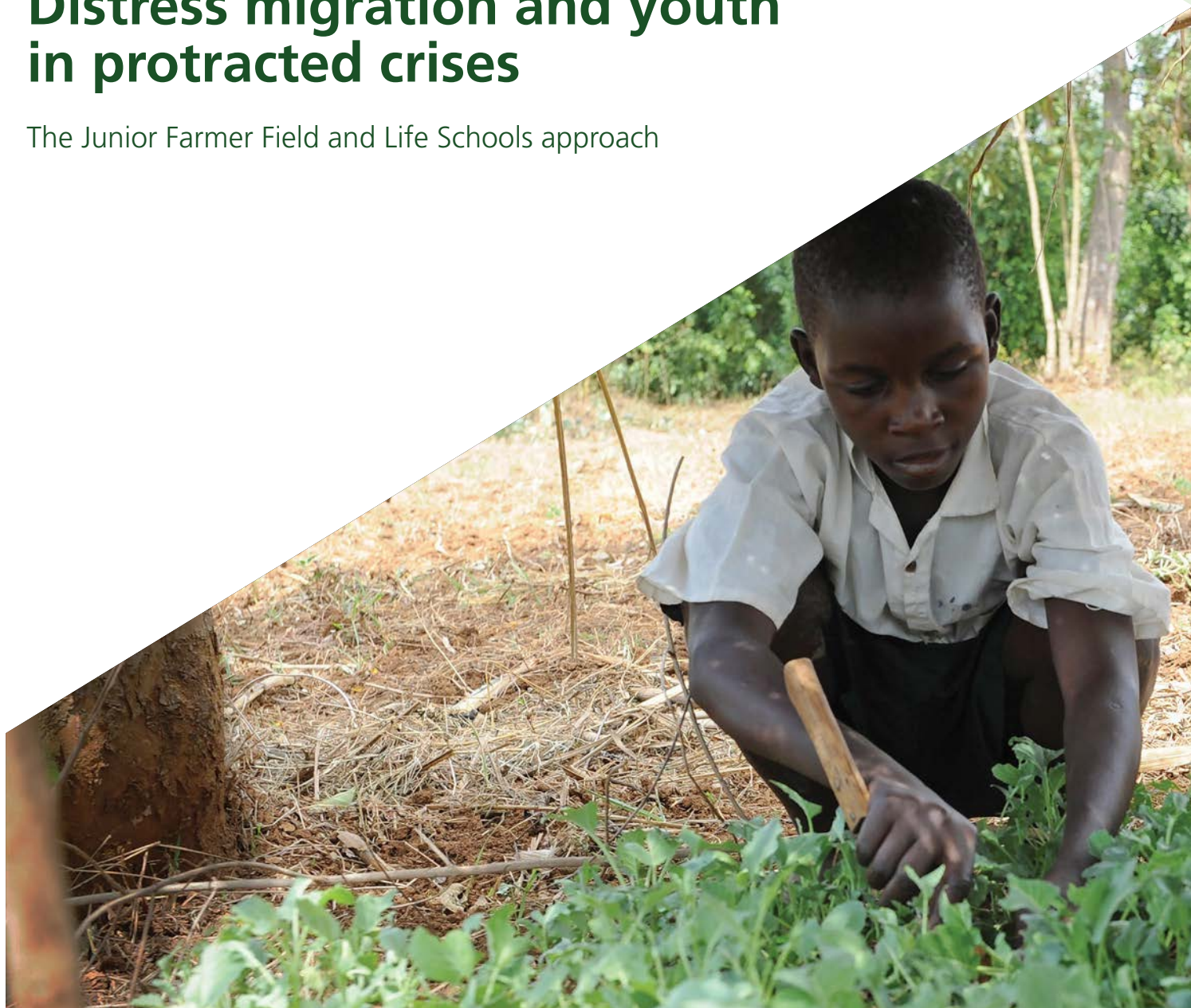
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



GUIDANCE NOTE

Distress migration and youth in protracted crises

The Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools approach



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KEY MESSAGES



- ▶ **Migration is a common phenomenon in protracted crises**, mainly resulting from displacement due to conflict, natural disasters and/or the deterioration of livelihoods.
- ▶ The challenges posed by migration are many: **disruption of food and nutrition security, increasing competition among livelihood groups, ever greater numbers of displaced young people exposed to the threat of both violence and radicalization**, plus a harmful impact on **livelihoods** in the countries of origin.
- ▶ However, migration also presents opportunities, including **powerful drivers for sustainable post-conflict recovery, both for host communities and for young people seen as a dynamic force** for rebuilding communities and peace.
- ▶ While addressing migration and the deterioration of livelihoods in protracted crises, policies and programmes should include specific interventions to **promote viable employment and increased livelihood opportunities for youth**.
- ▶ **Rural development and food security are central** to the global response to the migrant and refugee crisis. **A multi-dimensional approach is crucial**, addressing both the challenges and the root causes. FAO has adopted such an approach to resilience building.
- ▶ **FAO Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) methodology** in various countries with protracted crises has proven effective in **increasing the agricultural, business and life skills of young refugees, child soldiers and other vulnerable groups in protracted crises**, thus helping them to become more **resilient, productive and active members of their communities**. The methodology has also been used for peacebuilding and in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes.
- ▶ A number of future measures must be adopted in **programming, stabilization and early recovery efforts** if the **needs, rights and potential of the youth cohort** are to be fully acknowledged and exploited.





Distress migration and displacement of youth: key considerations

Migration is increasing and is a common trend in crisis situations

Migration, both international and internal, has increased steadily over the years, becoming an established feature of the global social and economic landscape for many young people. Every year, millions are forced to flee from war, poverty and other hardships – a tragic reminder of the urgent need for peaceful solutions based on social justice and improved economic opportunities for all. In 2015, there were 244 million international migrants, with an increase of 41 percent compared to 2 000 (United Nations, 2015).

The international community is also facing a challenging situation with a range of complex population displacement contexts. These include acute and protracted crises and the ongoing impacts of major humanitarian emergencies. By the end of 2016 some 56 million people will be trapped in a state of 'protracted displacement' at significant risk of violence and exploitation, typically unable to work or access basic social services (IOM, 2016).

What do we mean by 'youth'?

The FAO acknowledges the UN definition and generally follows the general youth age frame of 15-24. It contributes to international analysis of that group, particularly in rural contexts. For activities at regional or national level, where youth may be understood in a more flexible manner, the FAO adopts the definition of youth as used by a particular Member State while also recognizing that within the various definitions different approaches should be adopted. This is particularly true in specific protracted and post-conflict contexts where the years of "childhood" and "youth" may frequently be lost.

There is a deliberate overlap in the definitions of 'child' (under 18) and 'youth' (15 to 17). As per the *Geneva Convention on the Rights of the Child*, any individual below the age of 18 has legal framework protection in the terms described by the convention itself in the signatory countries.

About a third of the migrant flow from developing countries is aged between 12 and 24, and half from the 12 to 29 bracket. Young women account for approximately half of youth migrant population (World Bank, 2006). Fifty percent of the 1.4 billion people living in countries impacted by crises and fragility are under the age of 20 (United Nations, 2016).

Young migrants constitute a diverse group. Their social, economic and educational backgrounds, the means/forms of migration, and their motivation for leaving all influence the scope, scale and type of migration.

Typologies of migration and migrants

The term 'migrant' is defined by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as 'any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is'. Migration is therefore the movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a state. This may encompass any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes, including the migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, and family reunification (IOM, 2011). However, there is no universal categorization of migrants, as each country has its own policies, legislation and statistics regarding migration.

Nevertheless, this concept can be further categorized as follows:

Distress migration: Movements from the usual place of residence, undertaken when the individual and/or the family perceive that there are no options open to them to survive with dignity, except to migrate. 'Distress' migration is motivated by extreme economic deprivation, natural and environmental disasters, or forms of gender and social oppression perceived to be intolerable (Mander and Sahgal, 2012).

Internal migration: Movement of people from one area of a country to another area of the same country including: (i) rural to urban migration; (ii) rural to rural migration (e.g. seasonal migration linked to agricultural calendars); (iii) urban to rural migration; and, (iv) urban to urban migration (IOM, 2011).

International migration: Movement of persons who leave their country of origin, or country of habitual residence, to establish themselves either permanently or temporarily in another country. An international frontier is therefore crossed (IOM, 2011).

Circular migration: Fluid movement of people between different areas, including temporary or long-term movement, which may be beneficial to all involved, if occurring voluntarily and linked to the labour needs of areas of origin and destination (adapted from www.iom.int).

Displacement: forced movement of persons from their home, often due to armed conflict or natural disasters.

Internally displaced person (IDP): someone who is forced to flee their home, but who remains within their country's borders. Unlike refugees or international migrants, IDP remain inside their home country, therefore legally under the protection of their own government, even though that government may be the cause of their flight.

Refugee: According to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, refugees are 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. Regional refugee conventions, namely the 1969 Organisation of the African Unity Convention and the

1984 Cartagena Declaration, also regard groups of people as refugees who flee because of external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order.

Asylum seeker: A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds (IOM, 2011).

Migration in the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)

This guidance note outlines how increasing livelihood support and employment opportunities for youth can:

1. reduce distress migration, addressing it at its root causes in countries of origin, and help to address causes of instability or conflict;
2. meet the immediate livelihood needs of young IDPs and refugees and give them 'portable' skills that can be replicated back in their countries of origin; and
3. prevent the early stages of youth radicalization.

This note contributes to the implementation of the CFS-FFA, in particular the principles below.

Youth' distress migration and displacement in the CFS-FFA	
Is a core objective of CFS-FFA principles	Principle 1: Meet immediate humanitarian needs and build resilient livelihoods Principle 4: Protect those affected by or at risk from protracted crises
Also contributes to CFS-FFA principles	Principle 2: Focus on nutritional needs Principle 5: Empower women and girls, promote gender equality and encourage gender sensitivity Principle 9: Contribute to peacebuilding through food security and nutrition Principle 10: Manage natural resources sustainably and reduce disaster risk

Challenges posed by migration

The global rise in migration has led to a number of specific challenges:

- Being migrants or displaced involves not just a change of physical location but a disruption of many aspects of normal life, and young people may be particularly susceptible to being physically and socially 'displaced' during this period of their lives.
- Protracted displacement leads to loss of crops and assets and disrupts all dimensions of food and nutrition security.
- Rural-urban migration accelerates in the context of many protracted crises, especially those linked to conflicts and post-conflict dynamics. It is estimated that the urban population has grown by a factor of eight in Luanda (Angola), five in Kabul (Afghanistan) and seven in Juba (South Sudan) (SOFI 2010).
- Protracted crises usually lead to increasing competition among different livelihood groups, due to reduced freedom of local movement at a very local scale caused by insecurity and limited economic and employment opportunities. In Darfur, competition over natural resources has increased the internal migration of both pastoralists and farmers, further fuelling tensions and environmental degradation. This induces more people to adopt high-risk livelihood strategies (e.g. collection of firewood from insecure areas).
- Nearly 90 percent of the world's youth live in the least developed countries. Poverty is among the root causes of distress migration and certainly a contributing factor to the organization of collective violence when other conditions are in place. As a result, youth often constitute the majority of both displaced and host populations.
- In contexts of violent conflict, it is mostly young women and men who are conscripted into armed groups or targeted for sexual violence, who are denied the guidance of adults and clear social boundaries during their formative years, and who are left to fend for themselves.
- Distress migration of rural youth can affect rural livelihoods in the areas of origin. If not adequately managed, migration can result in the loss of the most vital and potentially dynamic share of the workforce, affecting crop production and food availability.
- Migration can cause the ageing and feminization of rural populations, with the risk of increased work burdens for adult and older women and children, given that migrants are often forced to leave their family members behind owing either to restrictive policies in the country of destination, or because their job makes it impossible for them to take their family with them, or because of the uncertainties en route or on arrival.
- Migration can also increase inequality between recipients and non-recipients of remittances and trigger changes in land use and titling.
- During protracted crises, there is also a discernible impact on the labour markets in both the countries where the crises started and bordering states. Youth unemployment rates in most countries usually being double those of adult rates, the vulnerability of young women and men becomes even more evident.

In addition to these challenges, young people are also 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, particularly with young men. In some cases, average salaries given to youth by terrorists' groups were 3 to 4 times higher than local average wages. In certain extreme situations the only opportunities available are those offered by armed groups.



Niger - Dogondoutchi. A woman carrying pails of water from a well to water her crops. ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano.

Opportunities presented by migration

However, migration is an integral part of development processes and can also present a number of opportunities:

- Migration can further break down traditional roles and barriers and may create opportunities for women and youth in terms of livelihoods, economic roles and community leadership. Provided they are identified and well-managed, such economic, institutional and social changes can become powerful drivers for sustainable post-conflict recovery.
- The significance of remittances for populations who suffer in situations of protracted crisis is often underestimated. Efforts to facilitate remittance flows could make a major difference to people's livelihoods in crisis-affected areas. Remittances can reduce liquidity constraints, provide insurance in case of crisis and shocks, or be invested in productive activities, including agriculture.
- Migrants and displaced people can also increase local human capital, through skills and technology transfers, know-how and social networks.
- Diaspora groups can help through capital investments and assistance in areas of origin.
- Migration can create new opportunities for host communities. In countries in which the characteristics of the immigrant workforce differ substantially from those of the native labour force in terms of education or work experience, migration becomes a net benefit to the economy (UN World Youth Report 2013).
- Young people are also energetic and dynamic: a force for rebuilding their communities and for peace. During protracted crises, young refugees and IDPs take on adult responsibilities: they raise their younger siblings, form youth groups and organizations, put food on the table for their families, conduct peer education activities, contribute to peace movements and galvanize their communities.



Burundi. Refugees fleeing civil conflict carrying as many household belongings and tools as they can. ©FAO/M. Linton.

KEY FACTS

Forty percent of international remittances are sent to rural areas, reflecting the rural origins of a large share of migrants. International remittances are estimated at three times the size of official development assistance. For example, in 2015 it was estimated that remittances from Somali diaspora account annually for about 80 percent of investment in Somalia and 50 percent of the country's GNI. According to the World Bank, 40 percent of Somalis (or 3.4 million people) relied on remittances to meet their basic needs in 2006.



FAO multi-dimensional approach to migration

Rural development and food security are central to FAO response to the migrants and refugee crisis

The drivers of migration are many and interrelated at various levels. Although conflicts, natural and man-made disasters are certainly among the root causes of migration, evidence suggests that in many cases migrants decide to leave their community because of several other factors, such as high rates of unemployment and underemployment, rural poverty, lack of social protection, food insecurity, inequality, increased competition over natural resources and environmental degradation.

Moreover, protracted crisis settings usually contain visible and invisible risks for youth. Experiencing extreme and adverse stress can have a significant impact on youth transitions into adulthood, both by delaying and accelerating them and hampering their contribution to their countries' social and economic development. Delayed transitions to adulthood can both cause and result from conflict, fragility, and violence and lost years of schooling and poor quality education in conflict-affected areas impede young people's chances of achieving economic independence, as proven in particular by the DFID study *Youth transitions into adulthood in protracted crises*.

However, although accelerated transitions into adulthood can be a feature of protracted crises, they are not necessarily permanent. Many children and youth who assume adult roles may later find themselves in 'waithood'. An example is that of child soldiers in the aftermath of conflict, whose transition to adulthood may be delayed because they have not met the milestones required (e.g. economic independence and family formation), despite having played an adult role during times of conflict.

Addressing migration at its root causes entails a multi-dimensional approach that both meets immediate needs and promotes sustainable medium- and long-term development. In particular, strengthening resilience is vital to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with its promise to 'leave no-one behind'. The Agenda includes also specific targets on migration and displacement, therefore anchoring migration-related issues firmly in development strategies.



FAO has a key role to play on migration issues, given its:

- extensive experience in: (i) exploring the links between migration, food security, agricultural and rural transformation; (ii) enhancing the capacities and policy coherence of countries in specific areas (e.g. ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; promoting rural employment opportunities for youth; improving management of natural resources; increasing access to inclusive social protection); (iii) contributing to building community resilience (e.g. through livelihood promotion, access to services and social protection) in natural hazard, disaster-prone contexts;
- broad country-level presence enabling it to test different mechanisms and to scale-up or replicate successful ones across different contexts; and
- experience both in developmental and humanitarian settings, putting the Organization in a privileged position to support both refugees and migrants, including those in protracted crisis situations and fragile contexts.

Besides supporting specific activities to increase the livelihoods and employment of displaced youth, FAO makes a strategic contribution to addressing the root causes of distress migration, in order to promote long-term reconstruction of communities, reduce tension and conflict over natural resources, and improve resilience.

In particular, FAO promotes decent rural employment opportunities, especially for youth, promoting private sector engagement and creating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in commercial small-scale agriculture, agri-business development and the rural non-farm economy, while harnessing the potential for 'green' job creation through sustainable farming practices. Such responses are coordinated with efforts to expand social protection coverage to rural areas, while accounting for relevant gender differences, and promoting climate change adaptation. FAO also has a key role to play in harnessing the potential of migrants, IDPs and refugees for poverty reduction and local agricultural and rural development, for both areas of origin and host communities.

Youth, radicalization and affiliation with insurgency groups in Northern Nigeria

The violent activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria, which draws the vast majority of its members from the youth population, have underpinned growing concern over youth radicalization in Northern Nigeria. Despite the fact that the Nigerian economy is growing, the proportion of Nigerians living in poverty is increasing every year. The increasing inequalities in terms of wealth and poverty in Nigeria are also accompanied by increasing youth unemployment levels and, further, youth unemployment levels are higher in the north/north east States where Boko Haram is strongly present.

Insurgency in those states is a major security concern not just for Nigeria but for the broader sub-Saharan region and the international community. Nigeria's strategic importance to the global jihadist movement should not be underestimated given its overall population size and unless the growing radicalization of youth across the country is addressed, many poor and marginalized northern youth Nigerians will continue to gravitate toward radicalized groups, turning the north into a hub of insecurity with security and economic implications for the broader region and international partners.

The Organization's interventions explicitly aim to support young populations in refugee and IDP camps and to increase their involvement in the agricultural sector, addressing age-specific constraints, such as access to land, financial services, rural institutions and markets.

In the FAO approach, pure agricultural notions are matched with life and entrepreneurial skills. For displaced persons, the focus is on building 'portable' skills, which are 'visible, readable and verifiable', regardless of how they have been learnt (formal, non-formal, informal), in order to access job opportunities anywhere.

Surveys, interviews, and focus groups conducted in countries in conflict or with ongoing insurgencies suggest that poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and weak family structures strongly contribute to making youth, in particular young men, extremely vulnerable to radicalization. Providing economic opportunities to youth during protracted crises can therefore be one way of preventing radicalization. On the other hand, failure to do so may contribute to turning regions into hubs of insecurity and this will have in turn, security and economic implications for broader regions.



Partnerships on youth employment and migration

FAO is a major contributor to the global agenda in terms of youth employment and youth migration issues within different global networks. Specifically, FAO is a member of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) (http://unyouthswap.org/inter_agency_network_on_youth_development) and a contributor within the youth employment and entrepreneurship working group and the peacebuilding one. FAO has also joined the Global Migration Group (GMG) (www.fao.org/rural-employment/background/partnerships/global-migration-group) to contribute, with a strong focus on youth populations, to promoting the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encouraging the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international and internal migration.



Mozambique - Sussudenga. Teacher with JFFLS students. ©FAO/Filipe Branquinho.

KEY FACTS

In 2016 the UNHCR and the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) conducted the Global Refugee Youth Consultations in 22 countries to identify the main challenges affecting refugee youth. Few youth employment and livelihood opportunities, as well as the difficulty in accessing quality learning, formal education and skills-building opportunities were among the 10 most serious challenges identified by the 1 267 young people participating.



Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS)

A proven approach in crisis and protracted crisis contexts

The first Junior Farmer Field and Life School (JFFLS) was piloted in Mozambique in 2003-2004 and the scheme has since been used in over 20 countries, many of which are crisis and protracted crisis contexts, benefiting over 35 000 young women and men, including IDPs, refugees, young returnees, young demobilized soldiers and other vulnerable groups.

This approach has a unique learning methodology and curriculum. The JFFLS approach is an adaptation of successful practices for developing knowledge and life skills among farmers in difficult circumstances such as Farmer Field School and Farmer Life School participants, combined with creative and expressive activities rooted in local culture.

JFFLS milestones	
2003	Developed and first introduced in Mozambique to address the large number of orphans and vulnerable children caused by the war and HIV and AIDS in food insecure areas
2006	Adapted for young refugees and IDPs in Kenya (Kakuma and Dadaab) and Uganda
2006–2007	Adapted in Sudan for the reintegration of child soldiers, demobilized young combatants and juvenile offenders
2008	Adapted to address conflict and protracted crisis settings for the West Bank and Gaza
2009 to present	Adapted to address youth unemployment

In protracted crisis settings beneficiaries of the JFFLS range from children from the ages of 12 to 24 and above. Most of them are orphans, victims or witnesses of violence or former-child soldiers and/or young demobilized combatants. Even if they still have family ties, their families are mostly landless, IDPs or refugees and cannot provide them with the agricultural knowledge that would contribute to improving their long-term livelihoods, resilience and employment prospects.



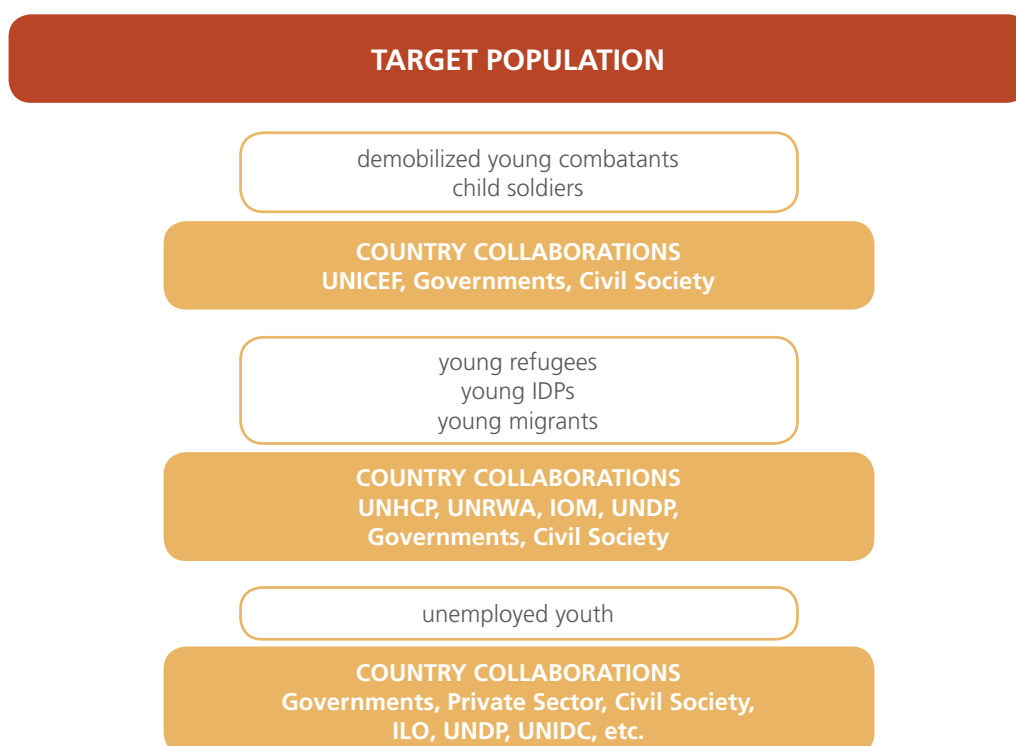
Jobs for Peace in insurgency-affected districts of Nepal

In the Parsa and Rautahat districts of Nepal affected by insurgencies and violence, FAO collaborated with ILO in 2011 within the UN Peace Building Fund in the Jobs for Peace project to create 12 500 jobs for youth through an integrated approach.

Through youth employment and empowerment using the JFFLS methodology, the joint programme enhanced conflict-affected young people's access to resources and skills that were critical for their livelihoods, and created opportunities for productive and decent employment in affected communities, including through post-conflict rehabilitation. It promoted the peaceful gathering of young people and communities through business development and social development activities, facilitating communication and interchange and strengthening the peace building process.

The JFFLS field activities include crop selection and cultivation, land preparation, pest management, cultivation of medicinal plants and various income generation activities. Children below the working age are then often supported through formal education to complete their studies while youth of legal working age are helped to find employment opportunities in the sector. The choice of agriculture-related activities therefore varies as it depends on the location of the school, typology of beneficiaries, settings etc.

JFFLS students are also taught self-expression and confidence-building through theatre, art, dance and music classes to help them regain their self-esteem, with a key focus on gender equality, sexual health, nutrition education, good hygiene and prevention of human, crop and livestock diseases and their treatment. The JFFLS usually organise two to three sessions per week in the field and in class, after regular school hours when/if schools are open or in IDP or refugee camps. Classes are organised throughout the year to teach and follow the crop cycle. Over the years, the JFFLS methodology has also expanded to address major youth employment challenges beyond protracted crisis settings.



FAO JFFLS methodology (www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0379e/i0379e00.htm) supports vocational training, based on a combination of topics specifically tailored to youth and to agriculture and rural settings. The methodology has also been applied in contexts where land is unavailable such as IDP and refugee camps. The adaptability of the learning approach to local needs enables the training to address various different socio-economic contexts (conflict, post-conflict, in transition, high incidence of unemployment, food insecurity and malnutrition and poverty). The inputs are chosen from a variety of modules, in collaboration with youth and partners so that the training responds to actual needs.

In the JFFLS, young people are encouraged to develop as positive adults and to keep local cultural traditions alive, even though there are also short-term adapted courses highlighting specifically tailored 'portable' skills. The 'portability' of skills is an important factor when youth in IDP or refugee camps decide to return to their communities with their newly acquired knowledge. The methodology enhances youth skills not only in agriculture (different value chains) but also in 'sustainable socio-economic entrepreneurship'. At each JFFLS site, specifically trained extension workers, teachers and social facilitators use this participatory methodology to conduct a learning programme which follows the crop cycle.

SKILLS INCLUDED IN TRAININGS

following the agro cycle

(example of) AGRICULTURAL SKILLS

- Planning in agriculture
-
- Water management
-
- Characteristics of soil condition
-
- How to protect your crops
-
- When and what to do with harvest
-
- Environmental awareness

(example of) LIFE – BUSINESS SKILLS

- Planning in life
-
- Water in life, hygiene, health
-
- Personal characteristics, how to protect yourself
-
- Agriculture as a business
-
- Maintenance in the public and private property
-
- Civic values
-
- Peacebuilding

The issues addressed range from protection to psychosocial support, agriculture as a business, civic values and peacebuilding. The methodology has also been developed in a gender-sensitive way in order to provide equal opportunities for young women and men to participate in and gain access to the agro sector.

Various assessments undertaken in different countries where the JFFLS have been implemented have highlighted that youth, empowered with technical and life skills and encouraged to work together, can become a productive asset to rebuilding communities in times of crisis.

Furthermore, they do so not only in their local areas of origin but also in the host countries. Various youth refugees who took part in the JFFLS in host countries went on to become JFFLS facilitators when repatriated in their country of origin.

The following section explores concrete case studies of this multi-dimensional approach in action.

FAO partners on JFFLS

Partnerships are firmly embedded in FAO way of doing business at global, regional, and country levels. At country level, FAO activities around youth and the implementation of the JFFLS in protracted crises have been strongly supported by various partners, including ministries of agriculture, labour, youth and others, as well as UN organizations such as ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNIDO, WFP etc., in addition to the private sector and civil society, including women's, youth' and diaspora groups.

JFFLS case studies

1. Applying development approach in protracted displacement and insecure contexts: West Bank and Gaza Strip



JFFLS Gaza Strip. Livestock lesson during study tour (2013). ©FAO Gaza/Dalla Valle

Palestinian refugees represent the oldest unresolved and protracted crisis in the world. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGS) youth face enormous challenges related to occupation, conflict, deep rural poverty, food insecurity and the lack of extracurricular activities. In an uncertain environment characterized by high unemployment and poverty rates, and severe constraints in movement and access due to closures, a large number of young Palestinians in particular consider migrating abroad or between the two territories.

The various constraints in WBGS have led to a number of key problems that affect youth well-being including: (i) lack of rural employment opportunities; (ii) extreme vulnerability for young people facing increased frequency and intensity of the crises in the region; and (iii) a lack of appropriate agricultural training facilities. Investing in Palestinian youth in order to facilitate the evolution of a Palestinian state is essential. Moreover, the fostering of a Palestinian youth workforce is one of the most important priorities and challenges in driving national development, creating a more peaceful Palestinian society, and striving for of a two-state solution. JFFLS in Palestine have been implemented both in and out of schools and assessments undertaken after the implementation of the activities have demonstrated that most of the young beneficiaries are keen to progress further in education and study agriculture. Further, as reported by the schools' headmasters and teachers, the youth taking part in the JFFLS in schools performed better academically than their peers and passed exams with better results than those who were not enrolledⁱ.

2. Contributing to the peace-building process: Sudan



Sudan - Otash. Female inhabitants of the Otash Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Nyala attending a women's literacy class. ©FAO/Jose Cendon

Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed in 2005, provided an enabling environment for the return of more than four million displaced people. However, poverty and unemployment remain high. The demobilization and reintegration of former young combatants are major challenges for countries emerging from conflicts. Although young combatants make up a relatively small share of the total population, unemployment and idleness, particularly of young men, are stress factors that can strain and potentially undermine fragile post-conflict environments. Jobs can compensate for the loss of identity and status associated with the dissolution of armed forces and militias and the lost income. Work can also deter further involvement in gangs and violence. Most disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes include some form of employment support such as emergency temporary jobs or cash for work. What are at times severely lacking is the life skills and the needed psychosocial support that certain vulnerable youth need in order to reintegrate into the communities.

FAO has implemented JFFLS in Sudan to increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged and vulnerable youth amid the conflict and post-conflict situation and particularly for demobilized young soldiers and juvenile offenders, while giving them the required psychosocial support for a healthy reintegration into their communities. FAO was also previously involved jointly with the UNICEF, in the reintegration of child soldiers and the JFFLS methodology was used within the national DDR programme.

3. Preventing instability and distress migration: Tunisia



JFFLS Tunisia. Group work (2014). ©FAO Tunisia/Grandelis

Lessons can also be drawn from development contexts, such as Tunisia, to inform prevention efforts in contexts prone to frequent disasters and instability, so they do not descend into protracted crises. Tunisia's 'Jasmine Revolution' was the first popular uprising that ignited and inspired the overall 'Arab Spring'

in the region. It is widely believed that the Arab Spring was instigated by major dissatisfaction with governments, particularly among the youth. Economic roots and in particular youth unemployment levels have been recognized as major contributors to the uprising.

Sidi Bouzid is a governorate in the central-west of Tunisia and indeed the cradle of the 'Arab Spring' revolts in 2010. The governorate, which has one of the highest unemployment and drop-out rates in the country, is also home to a high poverty rate (almost 20 percent) with a mostly rural population with agriculture as the basis of the local economy. Just after the revolution, FAO piloted the JFFLS there and further expanded in the north east of the country to support vulnerable unemployed youth in setting up their agricultural activities, based on integrated systems of olive production, livestock management and cereal production. FAO collaborated with WFP in providing cash-for-assets activities for the youth groups with a focus on agricultural asset restoration and land erosion reduction.

FAO also piloted a parallel complementary activity to enhance employment opportunities in the agriculture sector for young inmates at the Gafsa and Kef prisons (Sers and Eddir). With the Tunisian Directorate General of Prisons and Re-education and local civil society, FAO initiated a training programme in agricultural skills to enable young prisoners to start up a self-employment business in agriculture or find paid work in the agro sector once released. These activities also further contributed to preventing youth radicalization in those areas.

JFFLS activity reports

The evaluation and end-of-activity reports in the above countries have all observed positive changes in the participating youth – increased interest in and knowledge of agriculture and hope for a brighter future. The governments and partners involved in the activities have strongly praised the FAO youth activities, from economic empowerment, community participation, leadership, and conflict management to well-being during crisis. Many of the youth have themselves become facilitators for other peers and mentors. Furthermore, the JFFLS methodology has been adopted in several peacebuilding and DDR programmes in various countries.

KEY FACTS

According to 2015 estimates by the United Nations, in 2015, there were 244 million international migrants, representing an increase of 40 percent since 2000. They included 150 million migrant workers. One third of them are aged 15-34 years. In particular, according to the 2013 World Youth Report Youth Migration and Development, there are 35 million international migrants under the age of 20, and another 40 million between the ages of 20 and 29. Together, they account for around 30 percent of all migrants.



Remaining challenges and areas for further investigation

Traditional prevention mechanisms in addressing the root causes of conflict and problems leading to the escalation of tensions in many countries have proved top-heavy and ineffective. Older generations have mostly failed to include youth in peacebuilding and prevent outbreaks of violence. Although the international community has incorporated early warning and prevention systems in its peace-building agenda, the critical role of young people has still not been fully integrated and implemented.

Another major challenge remains in ensuring education and skills development for youth in protracted crises. While a number of global commitments exist, there still is very limited implementation of these agreements.

Jobs and income-generating activities are scarce for young refugees and IDPs and the income-expenditure gap is substantial and increasing for many of them. Livelihood sustainability, the cost of living, food insecurity and increasing indebtedness are major concerns. Whilst refugee registration gives access to humanitarian assistance and some public services, many refugees have no legal entitlement to work in host countries, forcing them into the informal sector, which provides the opportunities for income generation but where wages are inevitably very low and working conditions are exploitative.

Further, although youth radicalization is starting to become a major global concern, very few prevention programmes are being implemented.

Going forward, data gathering is a major challenge. There is no systematic collection and analysis of data covering the issues of migration, displacement, youth and rural/agricultural development and gender. There is a paucity of reliable and comparable data on: (i) internal and temporary migration; (ii) the drivers of migration from rural areas; and (iii) main migratory patterns (disaggregated by sex, age and milieu of origin – urban/rural). Evidence gaps exist on climate change and environmental-related migration and in terms of impacts of migration (including return migration) on rural areas of origin and local labour markets. Existing household surveys do not often include questions related to the impacts of migration in rural areas, in particular the impacts of reintegration of returnees and the engagement of diaspora groups on rural labour markets. The role played by migrants and diaspora associations in



protracted crises and post-crisis recovery situations is still undocumented, despite their strong potential for rebuilding livelihoods and improving food security.

Finally, the factors underlying the general social and economic exclusion of youth – especially in the context of protracted crises – are too often ignored. Assessments tend to focus on humanitarian needs, without analysing the evolving legal socio-economic and institutional contexts and their implications for youth inclusion, which is crucial if post-conflict recovery is to be effective and sustainable.



South Sudan - Juba. Villagers preparing their possessions before leaving Fertait village and seeking refuge elsewhere.
©FAO/Isaac Billy Gideon.



The way forward

Humanitarian programming, stabilization initiatives and early recovery efforts have yet to fully address the needs and rights of the youth cohort, or clearly acknowledge and embrace their potential. Critical future steps should include the following:

- Promote the adoption of a multi-dimensional development approach to strengthen and rebuild livelihoods – sufficiently flexible to adjust to changing realities.
- Support and foster local and national institutions in engaging youth during protracted crises.
- Foster youth inclusion in peace-building mechanisms to mitigate tensions in conflict-prone areas.
- Support a common approach to education and skills development in protracted crises with national partners to ensure a seamless transition of support to youth during and after crises.
- Continue to empower youth with ‘portable’ skills that can be replicated in their countries of origin when they return, if migrants, IDPs or refugees.
- Support early economic revitalization with immediate stabilization of employment through income-generation and emergency job creation programmes specific to youth.
- Prevent youth radicalization via specific programming in areas with high levels of insurgencies.
- Ensure access to land for young IDPs and refugees to support long-term development plans.
- Advocate for the protection and promotion of young migrants’, IDPs’ and refugees’ rights according to the legal obligations of specific states.
- Promote sex- and age-disaggregated data collection and better use of existing data from a variety of actors, so as to increase the efficiency of their response to people’s needs, harnessing the potential of migration and displacement for local development.
- Define a data and research agenda to address key evidence gaps, including: (i) data on the main migration patterns and root causes of migration and protracted crises, including improving indicators and survey tools; (ii) analysis of the contribution of migration to agriculture and resilience of rural household, including analysis of what remittances are used for; and (iii) impact analysis of key interventions.
- Advocate for reducing the cost of remittance flows from diasporas in times of crisis to be channeled into youth specific activities to increase their resilience and economic opportunities.
- Build on experience to strengthen capacities and scale up innovations solutions across countries, through existing developmental or humanitarian delivery mechanisms.



High-level meetings, panels, reports and statements have repeatedly called for the UN system, governments and civil society to grasp the opportunity to ‘engage with youth’ and ‘address youth issues’. Youth might well be a powerful part of the solution. But if inadequately equipped and involved, they can also exacerbate existing challenges. Successful programming for youth must be the result of deliberate, targeted, systematic and holistic programming design and implementation that aims to acknowledge youth rights, whether for migrants, displaced or refugees, build national capacity and increase the accountability of governments or other duty-bearers. In situations of displacement, it is even more imperative to adopt the principles of human rights-based programming and adapt them to address the particular experiences and rights of young women and men in protracted crises.

The approach presented here, and the specific youth employment promotion tool described (the JFFLS) are intended to build the capacities and skills of youth to absorb, prepare for, and prevent humanitarian disasters, crises, and long-term stresses. This will contribute to building the resilience of rural households and displaced populations, while at the same time addressing some of the root causes of distress migration out of rural areas. It will also harness the enormous developmental and innovative potential of youth for modernizing agriculture, helping them contribute to conflict prevention and mitigation.





Central African Republic - Samba. Children drawing pictures during a Junior Farmer Field and Life School (JFFLS) session on HIV/AIDS. ©FAO/Riccardo Gangale.

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