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# Social protection and migration

Synergies in action to improve  
resilience and reduce poverty in  
rural areas



**Maastricht University**



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Synergies in action to improve resilience and reduce poverty in rural areas

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

GCM	Global Compact on Migration
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
DSI	Durable Solutions Initiative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSN	Food Security and Nutrition
HSNP	Hunger Safety Net Programme
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NRM	Natural Resources Management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
PDS	Public Distribution System
SCT	Social Cash Transfer
SPF-I	Social Protection Floor Initiative
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WFP	World Food Programme

## 1. Introduction

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present a comprehensive and ambitious plan to eradicate poverty and hunger by 2030. A core aspect of the agenda is the promotion of policy coherence for sustainable development (Target 17.3). Thus, understanding how policies in different areas interact to produce different development outcomes is critical to achieving the overarching goals of Agenda 2030. One such relationship - and this paper's focus - is the relationship between social protection, migration, and rural development.

The relationship between social protection, migration, and rural development is critical to the mandate of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to end hunger for all. In its capacity as an organisation working across emergency and development contexts, FAO is well positioned to promote the synergies that exist at the intersection of social protection and migration in rural contexts.

Migration and social protection are both included in the SDGs. Social protection is *explicitly* mentioned in SDGs 1 (Poverty Eradication), 5 (Gender Equality), and 10 (Reduce Inequality); indirectly referred to in SDGs 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and 8 (**Decent Work**<sup>1</sup> and Economic Growth) and is highly relevant for SDG2 (Zero Hunger). Target 1.3, in particular, aims to 'implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable by 2030'. Migration is also well reflected across Agenda 2030. Migration is explicitly mentioned in SDGs 8 (Promoting Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduce Inequality), and also in the context of data disaggregation in Goal 17 (Means of Implementation). Target 10.7 calls for 'orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies'. Further references to mobility-related phenomena include human trafficking, mentioned in the context of SDG5 (Gender Equality), and SDG8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG16 (Peaceful and Inclusive Societies). Mobility in the context of higher education is captured in SDG4 (Quality Education). However, as several mapping exercises have demonstrated, migration as a phenomenon has relevance across the entire 2030 agenda (McGregor, 2020). The **2019 FAO Migration Framework**, for example, identifies 10 Goals and 22 Targets as being of relevance to migration in the context of FAO's work (FAO, 2019a).

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<sup>1</sup> Key concepts are highlighted throughout the report and further elaborated in the Glossary which can be found in Glossary.



FAO acknowledges migration as an engine of economic growth and innovation, which can significantly contribute to sustainable development and reduce inequalities within and between countries (FAO, 2019a). Migrants from and in rural areas also contribute to development in a variety of contexts. FAO aims to make migration a choice rather than a necessity by supporting 'policies and interventions that maximise the benefits of migration while minimising the costs to migrants and societies' (FAO, 2019a). Similarly, FAO recognises the crucial role of social protection as a key strategy to tackle global poverty and food insecurity. A growing body of evidence shows that social protection when complemented by food security and nutrition strategies and aligned in broader rural development interventions, can generate a broad range of positive impacts such as 'boosting economic growth; enhancing the productivity of families; achieving food security and nutrition, and building the resilience of poor rural families' (FAO, 2017b, p.37).

FAO's endorsement of the United Nations (UN) Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) further sets out its commitment to promote the right to adequate food and social protection for all – including migrants 'as a basic set of rights enabling all members of a society to access a minimum of goods and services' (FAO, 2017b, p. 26). However, FAO recognises that 'social protection alone may not provide sustainable ways out of poverty and food insecurity. It does not address the structural causes of these issues, which in rural areas require establishing close links between agricultural and rural development policies. Therefore, the challenge for governments is to design social protection interventions that are well aligned with broader rural development policies, in which development activities and social protection complement each other (FAO, 2017b).

Member States cemented the relevance of considering social protection in the field of migration in December 2018 with the adoption of two Global Compacts. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) refers to social security in the context of migration under two objectives. Objective 22 explicitly addresses the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits and focuses on questions of equitable access and reciprocal arrangements concerning the portability of earned benefits. Objective 21 touches on access to social protection and services as a critical component of sustainable reintegration. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) identifies the relevance of social protection in the context of ensuring that refugees and host communities have access to 'sufficient, safe and nutritious food' (para 81). The GCR envisages the use of cash-based transfers and social protection systems to ensure that refugees and their host communities have access to food. The GCR also supports the need 'to build the resilience of households and food and agricultural production systems in refugee-hosting areas' (para 81). Following the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees, FAO supported the organisation of the first Global Refugee Forum in

2019, during which it recommitted to the GCR by taking on several pledges to address the challenges faced by [refugee](#) populations.

Recent literature on the intersections between migration and social protection tends to focus on migrants as a group at risk of being excluded from social security provisions, or on the impacts of social security on mobility patterns. Additional literature has started to explore how migration and [remittances](#) interact with social protection. For instance, are remittances and social protection benefits complementary or substitutes? While highly relevant, [migration, like social protection is also an integral part of development. A relatively underexplored area is the relationship between migration, social protection, and rural transformation<sup>2</sup>, particularly in the context of rural-rural and rural-urban migration](#). Exploring the links between migration, social protection, and rural transformation processes is an area where FAO has a comparative advantage thanks to its strong technical expertise and close relationship with governments and relevant stakeholders. Therefore, achieving a better understanding of the relationship between migration and social protection, particularly with respect to rural transformation, is a crucial priority for FAO. The mutual impact of social protection and migration on reducing rural poverty, eradicating hunger and increasing resilience to external shocks, make it highly relevant for FAO to engage in both of these areas.

FAO has a history of working in each of these respective fields. However, the closer examination of the synergies between these fields is a relatively new area of work. Accordingly, this paper seeks to strengthen migration/social protection synergies in FAO's programming by 1) identifying linkages between social protection and migration from currently available literature (Section 2); 2) highlighting illustrative examples of areas where FAO has already started to work at the intersection of migration and social protection (Section 3); 3) offering ways of how FAO can further mainstream migration-social protection synergies (Sections 3 and 4). In doing so, the paper draws on extensive literature review, a mapping of relevant FAO projects, and interviews with key informants (n=39). For a summary of the methodological approach, see Annex 3.

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<sup>2</sup> See Glossary.

## 2. The Relationship between social protection and migration

### 2.1 Key definitions

The linkages between social protection and migration are multifaceted and multidirectional. To better understand these linkages, we first require a clear understanding of what is meant by social protection, and what is meant by migration. By disaggregating each of these concepts we can establish a clearer understanding of the conditions under which certain relationships might be anticipated that in turn can inform our understanding of how social protection-migration synergies may promote rural transformation, increase the [resilience](#) of the poorest members of society, and fulfil the globally agreed-upon objective of ‘leaving no one behind’. Before discussing some of the main findings of the literature review, some brief definitions are offered for social protection (Section 2.1.1) and migration (Section 2.1.2). Definitions of other key concepts used in the report are listed in the Glossary.

#### 2.1.1 Social protection

FAO’s Social Protection Framework defines social protection as:

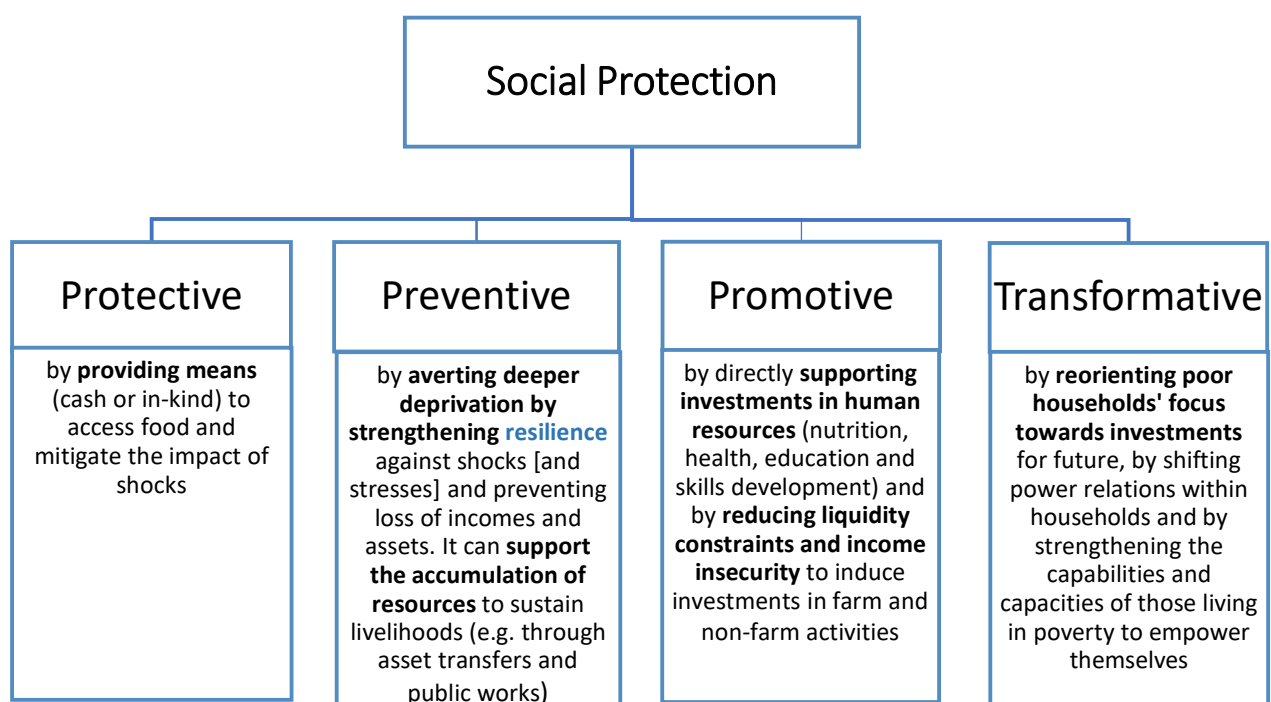
‘a set of policies and programmes that addresses economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities to food insecurity and poverty by protecting and promoting livelihoods’ (FAO, 2017b, p. 6).

[Social protection policies and programmes aim to protect people from, or prevent, economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities throughout their lifecycles, emphasising vulnerable groups](#) (FAO, 2017b). Social protection policies can be divided into three main categories: social assistance, social insurance and labour market interventions. [Social assistance](#) programmes target the most vulnerable groups in society (e.g. children and senior citizens). Examples include cash or in-kind transfers (conditional and unconditional) and input or food subsidies. Social protection policies can also include [social insurance](#) programmes, which are generally conditioned on past contributions and are designed to potential income loss due to life cycle-related events such as pregnancy or old age. Examples include pensions and health insurance, maternity benefits, unemployment benefits and agricultural risk insurance. Finally, [labour market interventions](#), such as programmes skills transfer programmes, employment guarantee schemes and self-employment support, can also be considered under the broad umbrella of social protection policies (FAO, 2019c).

In line with FAO's goals in rural development and agriculture, [Food Security and Nutrition \(FSN\)](#) and [Natural Resources Management \(NRM\)](#) instruments as well as [rural enablers](#) (with social protection functions) are considered part of this broad definition. FSN and NRM instruments cover 'a wider range of policies and programmes that are generally adopted to ensure availability of and access to food' (FAO, 2017b, p. 29). Examples include food transfers, food and agricultural subsidies, livelihood and asset packages, targeted transfers (e.g. seeds), public works programmes, and crop insurance. Rural enablers may include support to access resources (such as land, water, energy or rural finance) and services (such as education) (FAO, 2017b).

Social protection policies can serve different functions (Figure 1) ranging from [protective](#) and [preventative interventions](#) that seek to cushion the impacts of shocks and enhance resilience, to [promotive](#) and [transformative interventions](#) that focus on longer-term development outcomes and may also contribute towards strong resilience to future shocks.

**Figure 1:** Four functions of social protection



Source: Based on FAO (2017b, p. 5).

### 2.1.2 Migration

Migration is an integral part of the transformation of societies and can contribute to sustainable growth and development. People often move for reasons related to work, study, or family. However, people also migrate due to compelling reasons such as conflict, disasters or persecution (IOM, 2020). In 2020, an estimated 281 million people lived in a country other than their countries of birth (UNDESA, 2020). Furthermore, FAO estimates that more than 1.3 billion people living in developing countries have moved internally at some point in their life (FAO, 2018). **Migration** refers to ‘the movement of persons away from their place of usual residence, either across an international border or within a State’ (IOM, 2019, p. 137).

While there is no universal definition of a **migrant**, the following definition, proposed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) captures different mobility patterns:

‘An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students’ (IOM, 2019, p. 132).

FAO works on all forms of migration from **voluntary migration** - mainly undertaken for socio-economic reasons - to **forced migration**, often induced by conflicts, natural or human-made disasters and famine (FAO, 2019a). Given its mandate, FAO’s primary focus in ‘this area is on **rural migration**, which is defined as migration that takes place from, to and between rural areas, independent of the duration of the migratory movement’ (FAO, 2019a, p. 7). A common form of **temporary migration** that is particularly prominent in rural areas is **seasonal migration**. Seasonal migration is when the migrant is driven to migrate by work-related reasons, based on seasonality (i.e. following the seasonal agricultural calendar) and hence only migrates for a period of the year (FAO, 2019a). When repeated regularly, such movements can be defined as **circular migration**, which is the repeated movement of a migrant between countries or areas. However, circular migration is not always seasonal migration.



## 2.2 Migration, social protection and rural transformation

Historically, rural-urban migration was viewed as an integral part of development, with labour from rural areas bolstering industries in urban areas promoting [structural transformation](#) (Lewis, 1954). However, as Lucas (2007) argues, ‘it is important to recognise that both migration out of the rural areas and improvements for those left behind are part of rural development’ (p116). FAO defines [agricultural transformation](#) as a ‘cause and an effect of structural transformation’ (FAO, 2017e, p. 2). Agricultural transformation refers to a shift from primarily subsistence farming to more commercially oriented production systems utilising more advanced technologies, leading to the better integration of the agricultural sector in the overall economy of a country. Hence, [rural transformation is a dynamic and cyclical process that is facilitated by rural-rural and rural-urban migration](#). FAO is well positioned to develop further the knowledge base on how different mobility patterns (rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural, and international) affect rural transformation processes.

In the migration literature, the recognition that migration can often be a household strategy to diversify risk (Stark and Taylor, 1991) led to an increasing focus on how the migration of a household member can impact household members who stay behind and their communities. One key channel through which migration can influence rural transformation is through the receipt of [remittances](#). Remittances can cushion the impacts of shocks, which is why some scholars conceptualise remittances as informal social protection (Beuermann et al., 2014; Brown et al., 2014; Hagen-Zanker and Himmelstine, 2016). Early studies in this field generally found that remittances responded to different shocks (Lucas, 2007). For example, Lucas and Stark (1985) identified higher levels of remittances in villages experiencing drought. Gubert (2002) found that households in the Kayes area of Mali received more remittances after experiencing crop failure or the illness or death of a family member. In Ghana, Quartey and Blankson (2004) identified the role of remittances in consumption smoothing among farmers during periods of inflation. A recent study by Smith and Floro (2020) finds a positive relationship between remittances, both domestic and international, and the reduction of food insecurity.

However, beyond consumption smoothing, remittances can also allow households to take more risks and make investments. This can contribute to raising the living standards of those who stay behind and their communities, particularly when social protection interventions meet the basic needs of recipient households. Hence, another important area for research is understanding the interactions between social protection, remittance receipt, and investments that lead to rural transformation.

Another way that migration can lead to rural transformation is through the transfer of capital and know-how by migrants. National governments have demonstrated their increasing interest in engaging their migrants – primarily abroad – in national development by creating government institutions to promote diaspora engagement. In the 1980s, few governments had such institutions; however, by 2014, more than half of the UN Member States had created such institutions (Gamlen, 2014). FAO has increasingly been focusing attention on how to mobilise diaspora engagement in agribusinesses (Box 1<sup>3</sup>). However, while the term diaspora traditionally refers to an international migrant, internal rural-rural and rural-urban migrants contribute to structural and rural transformations by creating links between areas and ‘creating higher demand for goods, services and food, and generating employment that leads to poverty reduction’ (FAO, 2017e, p. 2).

However, it is essential to recognise that rural areas are not homogenous. Particularly in less developed countries, the scale of rural-rural migration may far exceed rural-urban flows (Lucas, 2007). Rural-rural flows could include movements towards small-scale producers, especially of a seasonal and circular nature, and therefore further the development of rural economies and the links between rural areas, small towns and intermediary cities. While we lack data to understand the patterns of internal migration truly, [FAO is well positioned to deepen the understanding of the relationship between rural migration patterns and inclusive rural transformation.](#)

#### Box 1: Diaspora Agripreneurs

At the Ugandan Diaspora Agri-food Investment Conference, co-hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and FAO on 12 November 2020, three Agripreneurs were given awards for their successful investments in agribusiness in rural areas of Uganda.

The winner in 2020, Sarah Kiyingi Kaweesa, is CEO of Bio Jigsaw Limited, a company that makes organic products from banana fibers. Her business has reduced waste as well as creating income-generating opportunities for banana farmers as well as in the hair salon business.

The awards were organised in the framework of the FAO project ‘Strengthening Capacity to Harness Positive Effects of Migration’ which aims to reduce barriers to diaspora investments in agribusiness with the aim of creating income-generating opportunities and jobs. ultimately

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<sup>3</sup> Box 1 Box 1 is based on FAO (2020f).

Migrants can contribute to [agriculture](#) and rural development in many ways. Often these contributions are considered in terms of remittances, knowledge-transfer and network connections, however, as has been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, migrants - particularly [seasonal migrant workers](#) - are often an integral part of agri-food systems in destination areas. Current estimates suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic may result in a shortfall of around 1 million seasonal agricultural workers in Europe, although the number may be higher. Farmer unions in Europe have estimated a shortfall of 370,000 seasonal workers in Italy, 300,000 in Germany, and 200,000 in France. Beyond the implications that these shortages have on the food production industry, mobility restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have no doubt also resulted in the loss of income for many migrants workers. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted, on a large scale, the importance of social protection mechanisms to cushion the effects of external shocks (FAO, 2020b; 2020d; 2020e).

## 2.3 Social protection needs arising from rural migration

[Migration can lead to vulnerabilities that point to unmet needs for social protection](#) (Sabates-Wheeler and MacAuslan, 2007). Therefore, another critical question addressed in the literature relates to social protection needs that arise from migration that can also limit the development potential of migration. One can consider these effects in three broad categories: 1) effects for migrants; 2) effects for families who stay behind; and 3) effects for host communities, particularly in a forced displacement context. Social protection needs may also arise at different stages of migration.

During their journey, [migrants - especially irregular migrants<sup>4</sup> - are often excluded from legal protection mechanisms or unable access to basic healthcare and education services](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the challenges faced by migrants regarding social protection (FAO, 2020d). Migrants may also be vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, human trafficking, and environmental/geographical risks in unfamiliar surroundings (Sabates-Wheeler and Waite, 2003). In their destinations, migrants may encounter specific spatial, socio-cultural and socio-political vulnerabilities. Ghettoisation and the concentration of low-skilled jobs in dirty, dangerous and demeaning settings can result in the exclusion of migrants from livelihood promotion opportunities and generate health and safety risks (Sabates-Wheeler and Waite, 2003). Moreover, as irregular and low-skilled migrants are often concentrated in the informal

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<sup>4</sup> See definition in Glossary.

sector, they are often automatically excluded from many forms of social protection such as pensions, unemployment or disability benefits, or parental leave.

Avato *et al.* (2010) calculated global estimates on the social protection status of international migrants. They concluded that the majority of [migrants from developing countries, mainly South-South migrants, are not covered by any form of social protection](#) and rely heavily on informal social protection (Avato *et al.*, 2010). However, challenges in access to social protection are not unique to international migrants. Access to social protection can also be a challenge for internal migrants. In India, the public distribution system (PDS) is allocated according to residence status, which, while allowing the possibility to transfer (in the case of a change in usual residence), access for short-term or seasonal migrants can prove to be a complicated bureaucratic process (MacAuslan, 2011). Migrants in unfamiliar contexts might therefore be unaware of social protection programmes for which they are eligible. They might also be unable to provide the requested documentation and follow up on the administrative processes that determine access might require (Hagen-Zanker *et al.*, 2017).

Some countries with a tradition of emigration like the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand provide migrant welfare funds to protect their workers abroad. These funds are contributory schemes that provide a series of services to the migrant abroad, at return and to the migrants' families. These services vary from training and preparation at departure, medical insurance, legal support and repatriation services, and insurance to migrants and their families in case of disability or death (Rosario, 2008; Ruiz and Agunias, 2008). However, such programmes are far from universal.

[Upon return, migrants may also face social protection-related challenges.](#) Portability of social protection benefits refers to whether benefits can be withdrawn when moving to another country (Hagen-Zanker *et al.*, 2017). Like the challenges faced by migrants in accessing social protection in their destination localities, when migrants return, they may also lose the contributions made to the social security systems. This can affect internal and international migrants alike. However, particularly concerning contributions made to social security systems in other countries, a lack of coordination and bilateral agreements between countries can adversely affect migrant workers who return to their country of origin (Sabates-Wheeler and Koettl, 2010). Bilateral agreements on the portability of social security benefits are rare amongst low-income countries and between high- and low-income countries (Hagen-Zanker *et al.*, 2017; Holzmann and Wels, 2020). This points to the importance of integrated support to ensure sustainable return and reintegration, including pursuing complementarities between reintegration support, livelihood packages, Cash+ and social protection programmes.

The families and communities from which individuals migrate also merit attention. As outlined in Section 2.2, successful migration can provide a stable source of income to origin communities. However, migration also involves risks. For example, if a migrant is no longer able to send remittances, the risk of poverty and food insecurity for the families of migrants increases (Moniruzzaman and Walton-Roberts, 2018). In such cases, families might increase their working hours, sell some of their assets (including productive assets contributing to their livelihood), and children might drop out of school to contribute to the increased workload and/or the reduced household income. The increasing interconnectedness of global markets has long provided the rationale for ensuring access to social protection in rural areas. The example of the Ghanaian pineapple sector (Box 2<sup>5</sup>) highlights the impact that a change of preferences among global retailers can have on small-scale producers' livelihoods in rural parts of the developing world.

#### Box 2: Ghanaian pineapple sector

From the mid-1980s to the early 2000s, the pineapple export sector in Ghana witnessed rapid growth. As a labour-intensive process, the increased production of pineapple for exports, largely to European retailers, required more workers. Based on case study research, it was estimated that around one third of workers in the pineapple sector in Ghana were internal migrants. When global retailers decided to switch to a different variant of pineapple, Ghana's pineapples went unsold with great impact on many of the country's small-scale producers. Ultimately this led to many workers, including internal migrants, not being paid, or becoming unemployed with spillover effects on the ability of their households to meet their basic needs (Barrientos et al, 2009).

The case of the pineapple sector in Ghana is not unique, but it highlights the importance of **extending social protection to rural areas, including to migrant workers and their families**, particularly in sectors which are susceptible to

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted, on a large scale, the importance of social protection mechanisms to cushion the effects of external shocks (FAO, 2020b; 2020d; 2020e). Mobility restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the loss of income for many migrant workers. While remittances are often considered to be a shock-resistant form of income, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a reduction of remittances in some contexts. Remittance flows have not declined by as much as was predicted in early 2020, affirming the countercyclical nature of remittance flows<sup>1</sup>. Latest projections from the World Bank estimate an overall decrease in remittances by 7.2 per cent in 2020 and a further 7.5 per cent by the end of 2021 owing in part to pandemic related mobility restrictions as well as job losses associated with the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic (World Bank, 2020, p. vii). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has provided further compelling evidence in support of the necessity of

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<sup>5</sup> Box 3 is based on Barrientos *et al.* (2009).



[shock-responsive social protection systems](#) that can pre-emptively provide support to those most likely to be impacted by a specific threat or crisis, particularly for remittance-dependent households who, without remittances, may be at risk of poverty and food insecurity (FAO, 2020b).

[Another relevant area where social protection needs may arise in a migration context is in cases where a shock leads to displacement.](#) However, as Sabates-Wheeler (2019, p. 2) argued, ‘attention to forcibly displaced populations within the social protection field has been limited’. FAO has a long history of working in displacement contexts utilising instruments with a social protection function to assist displaced persons and host communities (FAO, 2017d).

One challenge relating to social protection in a displacement context relates to social cohesion. In some cases, such as the Kosovar-Albanian crisis of 1999, refugee populations were often in a better position than host communities owing to specifically targeted provisions (Sabates-Wheeler, 2019). This can create tensions in hosting communities. Recent work by Hagen-Zanker, Mosler Vidal and Sturge (2017) on the impacts of a cash transfer for Syrian refugees in Jordan shows that the Jordanian Government provides equitable support to both refugees and host populations. Extending social protection provisions to local populations is one way of helping to resolve local tensions in areas hosting displaced populations. This requires alignment and coordination between national social protection systems and humanitarian responses, and further points to the critical importance of shock-responsive social protection systems that can be scaled up or down to respond to seasonal needs or external shocks (O’Brien et al., 2017). The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in Ethiopia and the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) in Kenya, provide good examples of such programme (Sabates-Wheeler, 2019).

## 2.4 Social protection and the decision to migrate from rural areas

One question that is frequently addressed in the literature is the impact of social protection on migration flows. The multidirectional relationship between migration and development is well established in the literature (cf. Skeldon, 1997; de Haas, 2010). In this context, the question of whether social protection might be one solution for addressing the adverse conditions that prompt migration flows has been a focus for policymakers and researchers alike. [Similar to the more general relationship between migration and development, the relationship between social protection and migration is also multi-faceted. Access to forms of social protection might act as a substitute for migration, where benefits deriving from a social protection programme can act as an alternative to remittances for potential migrants.](#) Access to health care coverage

or pension schemes might replace the need to migrate. Likewise, social protection and other forms of development assistance (such as skills training and capacity building) may act as a facilitator of livelihood generation, which can reduce the likelihood of migration in certain situations. However, social protection can also facilitate migration by loosening income constraints (Kangasniemi et al., 2020). Migration is often costly, so it is often not the poorest of the poor who migrate. The extra income received through social protection schemes might relax households' liquidity constraints and make migration possible for poorer community members as well.

The empirical literature on the impacts of social protection on the decision to migrate provides mixed results (Table 1; Annex 2). [The relationship between access to social protection and migration is not unidirectional, and context-specific factors, such as household characteristics and programme design, play a central role in determining whether social protection interventions will increase or decrease migration.](#) Of the studies reviewed (Annex 2), the majority focused on three specific case study countries (Mexico, India and South Africa) and examined short to medium term effects of social protection on migration flows using primarily quantitative methods. Accordingly, the results should be interpreted with caution, particularly in regard to their application in contexts where conflict or disaster-induced displacement has occurred. Nevertheless, several relevant factors emerged from the review.

**Table 1: Summary of reviewed studies**

Type of Social Protection Programme <sup>6</sup>	Increased Emigration	Decreased Emigration	No Significant Effect on Migration Flows	Total
<i>Conditional Cash Transfer</i>	8	8	4	<b>20</b>
<i>Unconditional Cash Transfer</i>	5	5	0	<b>10</b>
<i>Social insurance (i.e., pensions, health coverage)</i>	10	3	1	<b>14</b>
<i>Public Employment Programmes</i>	3	9	2	<b>14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>58</b>

Note: A total of 58 studies were reviewed, some of which examined different types of social protection programmes in the same article.

The effect of receiving social protection on migration flows might vary according to the time frame considered. Some studies find that access to some forms of social protection can decrease migration, at least in the short-term (Greenwood et al., 1999; Hagen-Zanker et al., 2009; Sana and Hu, 2006a). For example, a cash transfer programme conditioned on school attendance might reduce out-migration in the short term while the children are in education, but may increase out-migration in the long-term if the increased human capital of beneficiary youth is not matched by job opportunities in the area (González de la Rocha, 2009). However, in the long-term, development supported through social protection can lead to more migration. A recent study by Molina Millán *et al.* (2020) concluded that the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programme in Honduras had increased the probability of international migration of young men by 3 to 7 percentage points, 13 years after its inception.

The effects of receiving social protection on migration flows may differ depending on whether we look at internal or international migration flows. While few studies explicitly address internal versus international migration patterns, the few that do find diverging results (Hagen-Zanker and Himmelstine, 2013). Angelucci (2015) found that Mexico's Conditional Cash Transfer programme '*Progresa/Oportunidades*' increased the likelihood of migration to the United States among its low-skilled beneficiaries, for whom financial constraints were loosened. Conversely, the study found that being a beneficiary of the programme had no impact on internal migration, which is less likely to be constrained by cost (Angelucci, 2015).

The effects of social protection on migration may depend on the programme design, including both attached conditions, the transfer size, and programme duration. Another study on the mobility patterns of beneficiaries of the *Progresa* programme in Mexico found a reduction in migration to the United States mainly because of the conditions of the programme, which

<sup>6</sup> Definitions of each category are provided in Glossary.

required all adult members of the household to attend one mandatory health check-up per year (Stecklov et al., 2005). Research conducted on the Mexican *Procampo* programme, a transitional cash transfer programme that provided fixed payments (until 2008) by hectare to agricultural producers affected by NAFTA liberalisation measures, found that its beneficiaries were less likely to migrate and more likely to invest their payments in the agriculture sector (Chort and de la Rupelle, 2017; González-Konig and Wodon, 2005). However, other research found a non-linear relationship between the programme and migration: initially, the transfer was too small to be profitable in agriculture, and so it incentivised migration, but as the amount transferred increased over time, migration diminished as beneficiaries preferred to invest the money received into agriculture (Cortina, 2014). It is clear that the size of transfer matters, but it is unclear where the tipping point is in different contexts. It is also relevant to note that the portability of social security benefits may also influence mobility decisions. Finally, a decrease in humanitarian or development funding can provoke a cut in social provisioning, thus generating onward movement of individuals (Sabates-Wheeler, 2019).

The effects of social protection may depend on the type of social protection provided. The majority of reviewed studies focused on the effects of either conditional (n=20) or unconditional (n=10) cash transfers. However, for other types of social protection, notably social insurance, the results initially suggest that social protection provision increases the propensity to migrate. However, a closer look highlights that these studies examine different types of programmes. Evidence from Mexico suggests that the propensity to migrate to the US for employed individuals with no access to social security is twice as large as the number of individuals with social security coverage provided through their jobs (Sana and Hu, 2006b; Sana and Massey, 2000). Meanwhile, research conducted on South Africa's public pension scheme - which represented the majority of studies reviewed in this category - highlighted that the younger members of recipient households are more likely to migrate (Inder and Maitra, 2004; Posel et al., 2006; Sienaert, 2007, 2008). This may be because the income provided through social insurance reduces the pressure on younger members to generate income to support their households, freeing them up to pursue economic opportunities further afield. The findings of these studies point to another set of factors to consider when assessing the potential impacts of social protection programmes on mobility: household composition, and notably, age and gender.

Hence, the effects of social protection on migration vary according to the household composition of its recipients, including gender and age. Soares (2011), for example, analysed the impact of UCT programmes in Kenya – the Unconditional Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVCs) – and in Malawi – the Mchinji Social Cash Transfer Scheme (SCT) – on migration. The study revealed differing patterns: in Kenya, beneficiary households were

more likely to send-off younger members than households in the control group. In Malawi, receiving the cash transfer increased the number of household members because younger members were less likely to migrate and because new members joined beneficiary households (Soares, 2011).

## 2.5 Complementarities between migration and social protection in rural areas

This section has reviewed the literature on the relationship between social protection and migration. It has highlighted that migration, like social protection, can be integral to rural transformation processes. Therefore, there is space to explore complementarities between migration and social protection policies to enhance these effects and promote inclusive rural transformation. However, it has also been demonstrated that migrants - both internal and international - may face challenges in accessing social protection in ways that may limit the positive transformative and productive effects that migration can have.

Migration can intensify vulnerabilities, in that migrants are often overrepresented in the informal sector, in hazardous jobs and informal settlements. Socio-cultural factors such as social exclusion, ethnic discrimination, marginalisation, and language barriers impede migrants from having equal access to opportunities and social welfare. Shocks that lead to displacement, which can also affect social cohesion in host communities in the context of forced displacement, or shocks that disproportionately affect migrants, may also create social protection needs lending support to the extension of social protection to rural areas. Finally, the literature on the impact of social protection schemes on the decision to migrate suggests that contextual factors, households' characteristics, individual predispositions as well as programme design and the type of social protection scheme (contributory vs non-contributory; conditional vs unconditional), all play a role in determining the impact of different social protection measures on migration decision making. Building on the theoretical and empirical insights outlined in this section, Section 3 discusses how these considerations can be further explored in FAO's portfolio.



### 3. Promoting synergies between social protection and migration in rural areas

#### 3.1 FAO, social protection and migration

FAO's mandate to defeat hunger and achieve food security for all is interconnected with both migration and social protection<sup>7</sup>. However, these areas of work are often siloed in the programmatic work of the Organization. Nevertheless, in recent years, FAO has been exploring ways to promote synergies between these respective areas in a more coherent manner.

In December 2013, social protection was identified as a corporate priority by the FAO Council (FAO, 2013). FAO's Social Protection Framework (2017b) presents a 'forward-looking contribution to maximising the impact of social protection on hunger, rural poverty and resilience by building and strengthening nationally-owned social protection systems that are well integrated into broader livelihood promotion and rural development strategies' (p.xiii). While migration is considered to some extent in the Social Protection Framework – especially from the perspective of addressing the adverse drivers of migration from rural areas - there are many other ways that social protection and migration are of relevance to each other, and to the work of FAO. Accordingly, in 2019, FAO identified several core areas of work at the intersection of social protection and migration<sup>8</sup>:

- [Ensuring better access to social protection for all migrants](#) and their families and communities in both origin and destinations, particularly in rural areas.
- [Strengthening coherence between social protection and rural development initiatives](#) 'to promote stronger, more sustainable rural livelihoods, both in places that are a source of migration and host countries and communities' (FAO, 2019b, p. 21).
- [Advocating for the greater socio-economic inclusion of all migrants](#) and leverage social protection systems to create livelihood opportunities and foster social cohesion.
- [Encouraging the establishment of shock-responsive social protection systems](#) to cushion shocks affecting migrants, their families and communities in their places of origin, transit and destination.

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<sup>7</sup> The illustrative examples presented in this section are drawn from a review of how social protection is integrated into FAO's current portfolio of work on migration (Annex 5.4).

<sup>8</sup> Paraphrased from FAO (2019b, p. 21).

As FAO's portfolio on migration has grown, the Organization has identified other areas where it may enhance coherence between social protection, migration and rural development. The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) report of 2018, which was devoted to the topic of migration, outlines several areas where these two fields interact, with particular attention to areas where FAO may contribute to increasing broader understanding of the connections between social protection and migration in rural contexts, including:

- [How social protection affects the decision to migrate, particularly from the perspective of maximising the development potential of migration](#) and ensuring that migration is considered in the design of social protection systems.
- [What role inequality plays in migration decision making](#) – while there are strong theoretical arguments made regarding the lack of social protection as a driver of, particularly, rural-urban migration, it is challenging to measure these effects.
- [What is the relationship between portable social protection programmes and productivity](#), including how migration affects household composition and labour allocation, the impact of remittances on rural economies, and the impact of migrants on their origin and destination communities through 'capital investment, skills and technology transfer, know-how and improved social networks' (FAO, 2018, p. 11).

The 2018 SOFA report was followed by the publication of [FAO's Migration Framework](#) in 2019. Similar to the Social Protection Framework, the Migration Framework (2019) presents FAO's vision for its work on migration. It was developed through a consultative process between FAO's governing body and representatives of Member States in an effort to guide FAO staff in headquarters and decentralised offices. The Migration Framework highlights FAO's work in four thematic areas along the [migration cycle](#) (Table 2).

- First, before migration occurs, FAO works to '[minimise the adverse drivers of migration and to boost alternatives to make migration a free choice](#)' (FAO, 2019a, p. xvii). This involves work in migration-prone rural areas or with prospective migrants to address decent work deficits and create better employment, entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities in rural areas and agri-food systems. Social protection synergies in this area of work include efforts to promote the economic inclusion and resilience of rural populations in migration-prone areas.

- Second, FAO works to ‘facilitate rural mobility and ensure people can move regularly and safely between rural and urban areas as well as across international borders’ (FAO, 2019a, p. xvii). The relevance of migration in this area of work relates to matters such as the portability of social protection, and the impact of social protection on mobility decisions, including temporary and seasonal moves. Its relevance is also linked to the rights of agricultural migrant workers and the sustainable reintegration of return migrants to rural areas. FAO also advocates for seasonal agricultural migration schemes.
- Third, FAO works to ‘enhance the positive impacts of migration for agriculture and rural communities’ (FAO, 2019a, p. xvii). There is room to explore synergies between remittances and diaspora engagement, and social protection systems in rural areas. Supporting access to social protection may also reduce the financial constraints that inhibit migratory movements, which can support capital accumulation and promote investments in rural livelihoods.
- Finally, FAO works to ‘promote resilience and sustainable rural livelihoods for migrants and host communities and to support their peaceful coexistence’ (FAO, 2019a, p. xviii). Social protection is a cornerstone of FAO’s work on resilience. There is room to explore further synergies between social protection and migration in FAO’s work on forced migration and the promotion of social cohesion.

Before examining how migration can be mainstreamed into FAO’s work on social protection, and drawing on the discussion in Section 2, Table 2 presents a summary overview of relevant synergies that exist between FAO’s Migration Framework and social protection.

**Table 2: Summarising relevant social protection synergies in the migration framework**

FAOs Thematic Areas on Migration	Sub-Areas	Relevant Social Protection Synergies
1. Minimise the adverse drivers of migration and boost alternatives in rural areas.	1.1. Fostering decent work opportunities and access to services and infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extending and improving social protection coverage in rural areas (providing social insurance and assistance such as unemployment benefits, weather/crop insurance/cash to the poor) and in migration-prone areas.</li> <li>- Targeting social protection to households and communities at risk of displacement to enhance resilience to the impact of threats and crisis, particularly climate-related shocks.</li> <li>- Promoting the economic inclusion of rural populations in their areas of origin, through social protection and complementary measures.</li> </ul>
	1.2. Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods to threats and crises.	
	1.3. Mitigating the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, and strengthening adaptive capacity.	
	1.4. Expanding access to social protection.	
	1.5. Preventing and mitigating conflicts over natural resources.	
2. Facilitate rural mobility.	2.1. Advocating and supporting the development of seasonal/circular agricultural migration schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocate for access to social protection for migrants and their families, especially for agricultural migrant workers.</li> <li>- Facilitating rural mobility through reducing liquidity constraints (such as transport or mobility grants or public work programmes in nearby areas).</li> <li>- Information campaigns on the availability of social security.</li> <li>- Setting up migrant specific benefits and insurance schemes and ensure the portability of social security benefits.</li> <li>- Promoting the economic inclusion of migrants and returnees through social protection and complementary measures.</li> </ul>
	2.2. Fostering rural-urban linkages and food systems.	
	2.3. Supporting the reintegration of returnees (when related to agriculture and rural areas).	
	2.4. Supporting information campaigns targeting rural migrants.	
	2.5. Advocating for the rights of agricultural migrant workers and their families.	
3. Enhance the benefits of migration.	3.1. Encouraging the investments of remittances in agricultural and non-agricultural activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encouraging the investments of remittances in agricultural and non-agricultural activities by reducing risk and promoting investments through social protection instruments.</li> <li>- Encouraging the engagement of diaspora in agricultural development.</li> <li>- Encouraging the investment of remittances in climate adaption strategies by promoting investments through social protection instruments.</li> </ul>
	3.2. Fostering diaspora engagement for infrastructure and agri-business development, mentorship and knowledge transfer.	
	3.3. Fostering the potential of migration to enhance adaptive capacity to climate variability and change.	

**Table 2: Summarising relevant social protection synergies in the migration framework**

FAOs Thematic Areas on Migration	Sub-Areas	Relevant Social Protection Synergies
	3.4. Supporting households and communities in mitigating the challenges and negative impacts of migration.	- Extending social protection provisions to communities in rural areas of origin.
4. Promote resilience and agricultural livelihoods for migrants and host communities	4.1. Supporting migrants (including refugees and IDPs) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expanding access to social protection for all migrants, including through shock responsive social protection systems.</li> <li>- Extending social protection provisions to host communities in rural areas hosting refugees and IDPs to promote social cohesion, resilience, and durable solutions in forced migration contexts, including through shock-responsive social protection systems.</li> <li>- Enhancing the resilience of migrants in rural areas using targeted social protection measures such as Cash+ interventions.</li> </ul>
	4.2. Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflict over natural resources.	
	4.3. Supporting migrants in accessing land and assets in host communities.	
	4.4. Supporting food security and nutrition interventions targeted at migrants and their families.	

Source: FAO, 2019a

### 3.2 Enhancing coherence between Social Protection and Migration in FAO's work in rural areas

A growing body of evidence shows that social protection, when complemented by food security and nutrition strategies, and aligned with broader rural development interventions, can generate a broad range of positive impacts including economic growth, enhanced productivity, food security and better nutrition, as well as more resilience for poor rural families and their communities (FAO, 2017b). This can be achieved, for instance, by providing cash and/or in-kind provisions and, at the same time, stimulating positive patterns of food consumption, production, natural resources use, investments in health and human capital formation and strengthening of agricultural-based livelihood of host and migrant/displaced communities, thereby addressing the intergenerational transmission of poverty and **vulnerability** to food insecurity.

One of the main goals of FAO's work on social protection is to support governments 'to ensure the effective operational design of social protection programmes in line with its commitments to (1) a rights-based approach to social protection; (2) a solid evidence base on the critical role that social protection plays in maximising FSN and rural development outcomes; and (3)



addressing multiple social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities by promoting sustainable and resilient livelihoods' (FAO, 2017b, p. 31). Having reviewed the relevance of migration to the achievement of these goals, the remainder of this section discusses how migration could be more systematically integrated into FAO's work on social protection by focusing on three areas of work: 1) extending social protection to rural areas (Section 3.2.1); 2) promoting economic inclusion and rural development through social protection (Section 3.2.2); 3) enhancing resilience through social protection (Section 3.2.3). Building on the literature review and mapping of FAO interventions in the area of migration, with a focus on work that is at least indirectly related to social protection (Annex 3), several areas of relevance for future work are identified.

### 3.2.1 Extending social protection to rural areas

A large majority of the world's population, especially the poor who predominantly reside in rural areas, do not have access to social protection. Hence, FAO support governments to extend and improve their national social protection programmes in rural areas in their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. [The 2019 Migration Framework identifies the relevance of expanding access to social protection to achieve the goals of minimising the adverse drivers of migration, boosting alternatives in rural areas to enable migration as a choice rather than a necessity, and facilitating rural mobility.](#)

To mainstream migration into this area of work, a number of aspects should be taken into consideration. One area of relevance is the extension of social protection to workers in informal sectors. [Many workers in informal rural economies are migrant workers](#), which provides the first rationale for considering how migration is mainstreamed into work on social protection. Particularly in informal sectors, access to social protection is unlikely to be in place, but even where formal social protection is in place, rural workers, including migrants, may face challenges in accessing it. [Seasonal migrant workers may face challenges in accessing social protection due to residence or other bureaucratic requirements](#), as highlighted in the example of India in Section 2.4. These challenges may be particularly prominent in contexts where there is a high degree of circular, seasonal migration, which can often be internal migration, between rural areas or towards small towns and intermediary cities. Owing to FAO's experience in rural settings, the organisation is well placed to help mainstream migration into the design of national social protection systems to account for these contextual factors. Furthermore, through technical assistance to Governments, capacity building activities, country operations, assessments and evaluations, and global publications, FAO is well placed to advocate for the extension of social protection provisions to rural populations, including migrants.

Mainstreaming migration into work on social protection also draws attention to the importance of [considering the impacts of shocks beyond the specific location within which they occur](#). For example, if a particular locality is affected by a shock such as a crop failure (or a change in global preferences as in the case of the Ghanaian pineapple sector) a small-scale producer with employees, many of whom may be migrants, may be unable to pay their workers, which in turn may have adverse impacts on migrant households in origin communities, as migrant workers are less able to send remittances, putting them at risk of hunger and poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance of social security for rural populations affected by a reduction in remittances resulting from lost employment of migrant household members in other locations.

[It is also relevant to consider access to social protection for displaced populations](#). This can apply to internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as to asylum seekers and refugees. For example, in December 2019, the Government of Ethiopia launched the Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) for communities impacted by displacement in the country. FAO-Ethiopia is co-leading the team on Durable Solutions and supporting the roll-out and leading the livelihoods and rural component of the DSI. A key aspect of the DSI is ensuring that IDPs can access Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PNSP) regardless of their location. Accordingly, one component of the DSI is the 'provision of information, counselling and legal assistance to IDPs living in protracted displacement on social protection programmes' (DSI, 2019). In Turkey, refugees with Temporary Protection status have the right to access all public services and social protection. Many refugees receive support from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN); however, on the ground, many refugees still lack access to social protection. FAO has worked with *Sosder* (Turkish Sociological Association) to implement a study into the specific vulnerabilities experienced by Syrian refugees living in rural areas in Turkey, in addition to seasonal agricultural workers and vulnerable rural households to understand the barriers facing these groups in accessing social protection (FAO, 2019a). FAO's work in Turkey also promotes the economic inclusion of refugee populations in Turkey, which will be further discussed in Section 3.2.2.

A final area of relevance is [the extension of social protection to rural communities that host displaced populations](#). For example, in Jordan and Lebanon, FAO is active in promoting the extension of social protection to rural populations impacted by the Syrian crisis. 'Strengthening livelihood and food security of host communities and Syrian refugees through the development of sustainable agricultural practices' is a project led by FAO and implemented in close partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD). The overall objective of the initiative is to 'strengthen the livelihood opportunities and food security of refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon'. The

project involved the extension of social protection to vulnerable farmers affected by the Syrian crisis, helping them to maintain their agricultural livelihoods and be a potential source of employment for Syrian refugees. The relationship between displaced populations and social protection will be further discussed in Sections 3.2.2, with respect to economic inclusion and rural development, and 3.2.3, with regards to resilience. Working together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO supports the extension of social protection to rural and informal economies in Kenya and in Sudan, also covering refugees and IDPs.

### 3.2.2 Promoting economic inclusion and rural development through social protection

FAO has well-developed expertise in [economic inclusion and livelihood approaches in rural areas](#) (FAO, 2020c). Social protection can support economic inclusion by helping rural households to improve risk management, by addressing liquidity and financial constraints, and by supporting productive and human capital accumulation and the reallocation of resources. Associated to the expansion of social protection, complementary programmes that serve to connect poor and vulnerable groups to economic opportunities can support economic inclusion and rural development (FAO, 2020c). Moreover, economic inclusion can also serve the purpose of extending access to social security which in turn can facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration, when benefits are portable. [FAO has considerable experience in working on rural development in migration-prone areas](#) (see for example Box 3). The objective of working in these areas is the creation of opportunities and better living conditions for individuals who wish to stay while ensuring safe migration opportunities for those who choose to leave. There are synergies to be explored in these areas.

**Box 3: Productive investments for decent rural youth employment in migration-prone areas in Senegal**

Implemented by FAO between January 2017 and May 2018, this project aimed to increase policy coherence across different areas, particularly among policies of agricultural and agro-industry, migration, employment, youth, rural finance and social protection; to raise awareness on the linkages between migration, social protection and rural development; to foster productive investments of migrants' remittances and diaspora funds in the rural economy in migration-prone areas; to promote sustainable livelihoods and the creation of decent farm and non-farm jobs, particularly for rural youth.

Over the course of its implementation, FAO proved its commitment to 1) collecting unique migration-related data and 2) setting aside funding for empirical studies utilising these data for the analysis of the relationship between social protection and migration. The project has commissioned a study on the impact of social protection on migratory movements in migration-prone areas that investigates whether the principal social protection scheme in the country acts as an incentive or disincentive for migration.

*Source: (FAO, 2019d)*

Human mobility is key for the process of economic inclusion. Social protection plays an essential role in the facilitation of internal and seasonal migration, which is the most common type of migration among rural populations. A common livelihood strategy among many rural populations is to migrate during the lean season (so as to generate capital to sustain themselves and their households) and return to rural areas for harvest (Islam et al., 2019). As discussed in Section 2.4, residence-based conditions for the receipt of social protection might act as a deterrent to potential rural migrants. Therefore, it is 'crucial to remove legal or administrative barriers that prevent or discourage migratory movements within countries, also by ensuring portability of social protection programmes, so they do not act as a disincentive to migration' (FAO, 2018, p. 112).

The literature also suggests that social protection provisions might be determinant in enabling well-planned (seasonal and circular) migration, which can, in turn, reduce hunger and poverty in rural communities, particularly during the lean season, and be an important livelihood and risk diversification strategy in the face of the impacts of climate change. For instance, during the lean season farmers could be provided with practical assistance on how to find a temporary job in the rural or urban non-agricultural sector. Coupled with social assistance, this may induce them to migrate to support themselves and their families. Bryan, Chowdhury and Mushfiq Mobarak (2014), for example, conducted an experiment to determine the effect of a small cash-transfer (USD8.50) on the propensity of seasonal migration among households in rural

Bangladesh. They determined that the effect of the transfer could explain the seasonal migration of 22 per cent of the households in their study, which led to increased consumption (an average increase of 550-700 calories per person per day) amongst their households. Three years after receiving the benefit, treated households were still eight per cent more likely to migrate, which implies that engaging in migration may have other spillover effects that reduce capital constraints and facilitate future migration. FAO is well positioned to develop similar programmes and to analyse their impacts in order to further our understanding of the relationship between seasonal migration, poverty reduction, social protection and rural development. In particular, [understanding the conditions under which the application of social protection in the context of seasonal rural mobility would produce similarly positive outcomes in terms of consumption, is critical to the design and expansion of social protection in rural settings.](#)

[Another key area meriting further examination is the impact of migration on receiving rural communities.](#) Migration has long been recognised for the positive developmental impacts that it can have on receiving communities. However, the focus has been mainly on migration to urban areas or on international migration. Migrants play an important role in rural development (Chamberlin et al., 2020). FAO is well positioned to examine the impacts of migration on receiving rural communities, particularly through its work on the productive impacts of social protection in rural areas.

[FAO's current commitment in reinforcing the positive contribution of migration for rural development focuses mainly on remittances and diaspora engagement.](#) However, these interventions are generally not tied to social protection programmes. Space exists to explore further the complementarities between social protection, migration, and productive investments, considering the role of social protection for economic inclusion, as mentioned above. For example, [remittances could be considered in projects providing cash or cash+<sup>9</sup> support to migrants' families.](#) For instance, FAO recently supported the Tajikistan government to implement the 'Promoting Inclusive Economic Growth through Matching Grants for Families of Migrants' pilot project. Inspired by Moldova's National Programme for Attracting Remittances into the Economy, the project has been successfully running since 2010 in Moldova with the support of IOM (IOM, n.d.). The project adopts the '1 + 1 approach', according to which for each Moldovan Leu invested by a Moldovan migrant, the state matched

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<sup>9</sup> **Cash+** is 'an intervention that combines cash transfers with the provision of productive assets, inputs and/or technical training and extension services to enhance the livelihoods and productive capacities of poor and vulnerable households' (FAO, 2017a, p. 2).

the investment with the same amount. The matching grants programme in Tajikistan seeks to encourage investments in the agricultural sector by applying the same model and by targeting households receiving remittances as well as returning migrants. Given its expertise, FAO provides technical assistance to support migrant's investments in agribusiness. Future work could focus on targeting migrant households who are also recipients of social protection programmes to bridge FAO's work on enhancing the productive impacts of social protection with its work on remittances and diaspora engagement more broadly.

Another strategy for promoting investments in rural development through remittances should be associated to the extension of social protection coverage to rural areas, as when remittances are used to meet basic needs, in the absence of social protection, recipients are less likely to invest remittances in their livelihoods, including climate adaption strategies (further discussed in Section 3.2.3). Another avenue to be explored would be the potential for channelling diaspora contributions into social security systems, although no contemporary examples of such initiatives were identified.

Finally, FAO has considerable experience working with return migrants in a variety of contexts. Economic inclusion is key to ensuring the sustainability of return (Kuschminder, 2017). Hence there is space to explore how social protection – particularly CASH + interventions, return, and reintegration support – may be enhanced in projects targeting migrants returning to rural and peri-urban areas and their reintegration in agri-food systems. The 'Support to agricultural livelihoods of rural and peri-urban returnees and communities in Ninevah Governorate (Iraq)' is targeted explicitly at returnees and the communities to which they return. A Cash for Work initiative has been targeted at returnees to reduce their household food insecurity and malnutrition and increase their income-generating opportunities, supporting their economic inclusion and promoting rural development. Given FAO's strength regarding rural development and presence in rural communities, the organisation is well placed to expand its cooperation in this area of work with actors, such as IOM, to facilitate the management of sustainable reintegration in rural areas.

Another key challenge to economic inclusion returning migrants may face is access to land and natural resources (Fransen and Kuschminder, 2014). They also may face potential restrictions or challenges in relation to accessing often scarce natural resources, particularly in the case of returnees reliant on agricultural production for livelihood generation. Migrants or displaced people returning to their origin communities in rural areas might face their agricultural plots occupied by other families. In developing countries, FAO regularly engages in work on land tenure and natural resource management and hence may be well positioned to engage in projects that look at this particular dimension of return migration.

Beyond land issues, returning migrants may also face other challenges and vulnerabilities. Returnees, particularly in post-conflict/disaster settings, might face specific vulnerabilities in accessing social protection forms due to weak state and market capacity (Long and Sabates-Wheeler, 2017). Another relevant area here, which applies to both internal and international returnees, is the portability of social protection. FAO might consider deepening its cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to advocate for the portability of social security benefits, with a view to supporting the economic inclusion of returnees in rural settings and ensure their economic inclusion by being associated to agricultural interventions.

### 3.2.3 Enhancing resilience in rural areas through social protection

Section 2.3 established the relevance of shock-responsive social protection systems to cushion the impacts of shocks and promote the [resilience](#) of rural populations. Social protection is a cornerstone of FAO's strategy to achieve resilient livelihoods in crisis situations. Resilience refers to 'the ability of people, communities or systems that are confronted by disasters or crises to withstand damage and to recover rapidly' (FAO, 2018, p. 68). [Social protection can be used to address the drivers and mitigate the effects of forced displacement](#) (FAO, 2017d, p. 5). With unprecedented levels of forced displacement, FAO is exploring new ways to work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to ensure responses that not only seek to address the immediate needs of forcibly displaced persons and their hosting communities but also long-term solutions. In this context, 'social protection has been recognised as a critical strategy to reduce poverty, build resilience and enable development' (FAO, 2017d, p. 4).

[Social protection can help to cushion households from the negative impacts of shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.](#) FAO is focusing efforts on COVID-19 related assistance for migrants and returnees. This includes mobilising technical expertise to design projects and programmes and making targeted policy recommendations to address the needs of migrant workers in the agricultural sector affected by the pandemic, including returnees, seasonal migrants, their families at origin and their hosting communities. Accordingly, FAO has published a series of policy briefs related to COVID-19 (FAO, 2020b; 2020d; 2020e). Furthermore, FAO and Belgium have recently launched a project to 'enhance the resilience of international displaced and returnee farming households impacted by COVID-19' in the agricultural sector in the Salah al-Din Governorate of Iraq. The pandemic has compounded pre-existing challenges related to the destruction of infrastructure and land deterioration due to conflict, which led to the loss of income for many farming households – many of whom were IDPs and returnees. The project foresees the use of social protection instruments. Through the project, families will be offered a



one-time [unconditional cash transfer](#) to help them meet their immediate needs as well as in-kind agricultural inputs to help revive the agriculture sector in the area (FAO, 2020a).

[Social protection can help increase the resilience of populations at risk of displacement as a result of environmental factors, including slow-onset changes.](#) Between June 2019 and June 2020, FAO worked together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan to support 11,600 vulnerable households in communities that were likely to be displaced in the near future because of recurrent droughts that characterise the rural areas of Kunar, Daikundi and Farah provinces. The project used a [Cash-for-Work](#) component to rehabilitate water infrastructure systems for livestock and small-scale irrigation. Additionally, 1000 nomadic households were provided with [unconditional cash transfers](#) to support their livelihoods in times of crisis. This example points to the relevance of social protection in increasing the resilience of populations at risk of displacement, as well as the importance of including mobile populations in social protection schemes<sup>10</sup>. Equally important in this context is the extension of social protection to rural households in climate vulnerable areas that may be unable to use migration as a risk diversification strategy due to a deterioration of livelihoods and resources and have the fewest opportunities to adapt in loco.

[Social protection can also be a crucial part of approaches to managing the impacts of climate-induced shocks and promoting climate change adaptation.](#) The Kenyan Hunger Safety Net Programme, for example, tracks drought data and ensures that vulnerable members of a community receive the necessary support to help them mitigate the effects of a shock without resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as the withdrawal of children from school that can have long-term effects on poverty. With respect to climate change adaption, FAO has already made use of social protection instruments to support rural households in Nepal investing in stress-tolerant crop varieties (FAO, 2017c). In the context of climate change adaption, public work programmes could serve the dual function of providing income to vulnerable households to allow them to meet their immediate needs and supporting their economic inclusion while investing in projects that increase the resilience of rural areas to withstand the effects of climate-related shocks (FAO, 2017c; Schwan and Yu, 2018). FAO is well positioned to develop interventions that focus on adaption strategies that can increase resilience to the effects of climate change for rural households and reduce the risks of forced displacement. In this regard, social protection could contribute to make migration a proactive adaptation strategy rather than a reactive coping mechanism to respond to climate-induced shocks. When migration is a well-planned proactive adaptation strategy, the combined effect of

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<sup>10</sup> The project was funded by the United States of America. For more information, see: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/projects/detail/en/c/1208132/>.

remittances and social protection could foster the uptake of climate adaptive practices and boost long-term adaptation.

Mainstreaming social protection into FAO's work with displaced populations and host communities is, therefore, a core area of relevance. Ensuring food and nutrition security for migrant/displaced and host communities is a core part of FAO's mandate. With much internal displacement occurring in rural settings - and in developing countries hosting a significant proportion of IDPs and refugees (often in already fragile rural settings) – to date, FAO has a significant portfolio of work in forced migration contexts:

‘Globally, FAO is working across key forced migration contexts, to support refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees and host communities in protecting and rebuilding their livelihoods, enhancing their self-reliance, and fostering inclusion and social cohesion at the community level’ (FAO, 2020g, p. 1).

There are many examples of social protection instruments being used in contexts of forced migration. One of the challenges relating to this is to ensure that development and humanitarian interventions are complementary to national social protection systems in order to provide a balanced support to both displaced and host populations. This is important to avoid creating or exacerbating local tensions, for example if host communities perceive displaced populations as receiving more support than the local population. Ensuring a balanced social protection support is also important from a sustainability perspective because it can contribute to the gradual integration of displaced populations and increased levels of social cohesion.

## 4. The way forward: conclusion and recommendations

This report has highlighted the relevance of exploring synergies between migration and social protection with respect to FAO's mandate. FAO is well positioned in the remote and rural parts of many countries, and this widespread and longstanding presence has helped to build trust and networks with local, regional and national authorities. Through its programmes, projects, policy advice, advocacy and research, FAO can promote synergies between social protection and migration at the policy and programmatic level. Accordingly, FAO should continue to address the adverse drivers of migration by promoting the extension of social protection to the rural poor, thereby making migration a choice. In turn, well-planned migration can contribute to the improvements of rural livelihoods, for instance, by combining economic inclusion programmes, which could link social protection, remittances and knowledge transfer. FAO can help countries to further reap the benefits of well-managed migration by creating programs and incentives to invest remittances and skills of migrants into productive and sustainable activities in rural areas and to support seasonal rural migration. In this way, a virtuous cycle could be established, that allows rural households to exit poverty and food insecurity while boosting agricultural and food systems that are sustainable, inclusive and more efficient. By systematically mainstreaming questions relating to migration and social protection in its work, FAO is also well positioned to increase knowledge and evidence on the intersections between social protection and migration in rural areas. This final section of the report concludes by offering some concrete recommendations on how FAO can move forward.

Throughout the report, a number of thematic entry points have been identified which are summarised in Table 3. In considering each of the possible ways in which social protection and migration may be more coherently approached in FAO programming, it is important to acknowledge and understand how specific contextual factors affect the interactions between social protection, migration and rural development. This points to the importance of data and research. While some aspects of the social-protection-migration nexus are well represented in the empirical literature, some gaps exist.

FAO is well positioned to help build the knowledge base. For example, FAO adopts a broad definition of social protection which includes Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) and Natural Resources Management (NRM) instruments and rural enablers with social protection function as outlined in section 1. However, the existing empirical literature often focuses on a narrower understanding of social protection when analysing the impacts of public social protection programmes on rural development, migration and migrants. A systematic empirical analysis of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) and Natural Resources Management (NRM) instruments and

rural enablers with social protection function has yet to be systematically undertaken. Furthermore, FAO has made use of public works programmes and other social protection instruments in their work in rural areas. The effects of public works programmes are not fully understood, and FAO would be well positioned to increase the empirical evidence base. Another important, yet understudied area relates to complementarities between social protection and migration in the context of rural transformation. For example, exploring how remittances and social safety nets could complement one another to promote investments in agriculture, and, in turn, how those investments can facilitate access to social security.

**Table 3: Integrating migration and social protection in FAO's work**

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Relevant Interventions</b>
<b>Extending Access to Social Protection in Rural Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To migrants in rural areas, including displaced populations and individuals working in informal economies such as seasonal agricultural migrants by expanding access and addressing barriers to access.</li> <li>• To rural communities in migrant prone areas to address the adverse drivers of migration, including environmentally induced migration.</li> <li>• To the families of migrants in rural areas to cushion the impact of shocks and stresses experienced by migrant workers.</li> <li>• To host communities in rural areas hosting refugees and IDPs to promote social cohesion, resilience and durable solutions in forced migration contexts.</li> </ul>
<b>Promoting economic inclusion and rural development through social protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By promoting and facilitating safe and orderly internal and international migration, including seasonal and circular migration.</li> <li>• By exploring synergies between social protection and remittances.</li> <li>• By exploring synergies between social protection and diaspora engagement.</li> <li>• By supporting the reintegration of returning migrants in rural areas including through measures to support access to land and natural resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Enhancing resilience through social protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By supporting interventions that promote resilience and adaptation through social protection to reduce the impact of climate-related and other shocks for populations in rural areas at risk of displacement.</li> <li>• By using shock responsive social protection instruments to prevent and cushion the impact of shocks for migrants and their families in origin and destination communities.</li> <li>• By promoting links between development/humanitarian support and national social protection systems to ensure a balanced and complementary targeting of displaced populations and host communities in order to avoid the arising of tensions and to contribute to social cohesion and the gradual integration of displaced populations.</li> </ul>

FAO can contribute to building the empirical evidence base on the complementarities between migration and social protection in rural development by:

- Continuing to mainstream questions on migration into social protection impact surveys.
- Build new and expand existing partnerships with key academic institutes and think tanks working at the intersection of social protection and migration.
- Developing policy briefs, guidance and policy documents, research reports, webinars to ensure maximum dissemination of FAO insights and empirical findings.

Finally, there are also operational recommendations that would help FAO to promote a more coherent approach to its work on social protection and migration. These include:

- Establishing a working group or task force on social protection and migration.
- Establishing similar mechanisms at the regional and national level to promote greater coordination and facilitate the mainstreaming of social protection into work on migration and vice versa.
- Creating a database of relevant projects to enhance FAO's visibility in the area of social protection and migration interlinkages in rural areas.
- Support the increased understanding of the relationship between social protection and migration within FAO by developing training tools.
- Developing operational guidelines for the mainstreaming of social protection and migration into the work of FAO targeted at programme managers.
- Owing to the complex and interrelated nature of social-protection and migration interlinkages, FAO should continue to work with and strengthen ties with strategic partners within the UN System including key partners working at the intersection of social protection and migration, including IOM, UNHCR, ILO, IFAD, UNOCHA, UNICEF, WFP, the World Bank, and other members of the UN Migration Network.
- Continuing to engage in relevant fora, dialogues and committees on migration and/or social protection, including the UN Migration Network and its relevant Working Groups, the Global Refugee Forum, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the World Humanitarian Summit, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), the UN High-level Panel on Internal Displacement, the UNDESA Annual Meeting on International Migration, the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIACB), and the Regional Social Protection Working Group (SPWG), among others.

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## 6. Glossary

**Agriculture** ‘Defined broadly, agriculture includes farming both animals (animal husbandry) and plants (agronomy, horticulture and forestry, in part) (FAO, 1998). For the purpose of this framework, the term agriculture refers to all agricultural subsectors, including crop, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry’ (FAO, 2019a, p. 71).

**Agricultural Transformation** ‘is both a cause and an effect of structural transformation. The process involves a shift from mainly subsistence farming to commercial, highly diversified production systems. At the individual farm level, the process favours specialisation, which allows economies of scale through the application of advanced technologies and modern delivery systems for both inputs and outputs; this, in turn, promotes tighter integration of a more diversified farming sector with the rest of the economy and with international markets’. (FAO, 2017e, p. 3)

**Cash+** ‘An intervention that combines cash transfers with the provision of productive assets, inputs and/or technical training and extension services to enhance the livelihoods and productive capacities of poor and vulnerable households’ (FAO, 2017a, p. 2).

**Conditional Cash Transfer** A cash transfer to beneficiaries provided that beneficiaries adhere to a set of pre-defined conditions, which can include school attendance, residence status or health check-ups. (Bastagli et al., 2016).

**Decent work** ‘Summary of the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for productive work that delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families; better prospects for personal development and social integration; freedom for people to express their concerns, to organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives; and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men. Within this framework, decent work is captured in four strategic objectives or pillars: (i) employment creation and enterprise development; (ii) social protection; (iii) standards and rights at work; and (iv) governance and social dialogue’ (ILO, 2006 in (FAO, 2019a, p. 71)).

**Diaspora** ‘Migrants or descendants of migrants whose identity and sense of belonging, either real or symbolic, have been shaped by their migration experience and background. They maintain links with their homelands, and to each other, based on a shared sense of history, identity, or mutual experiences in the destination country’ (IOM, 2019, p. 49).

**Forced Migration** ‘A migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion, or coercion’ (IOM, 2019, p. 77).

**Fragile States** ‘The term ‘fragile states’ is generally used to describe countries with weak institutions and a lack of capacity to respond to conflicts; by extension, it also refers to these countries’ potential resilience to shocks and stressors. The concept also captures existing violence, latent political instability and overall high risk of conflict’. (FAO, 2018, p. 68)

**Inclusive rural transformation** ‘Benefits the entire rural society, enabling all to exercise their economic, social and political rights, develop their abilities, and take advantage of local opportunities. Improvements in agricultural productivity and the rural non-farm economy should raise the incomes of rural people, especially the poor, weakening the ‘push’ factors that lead to out-migration. Migration may still occur, but as an active choice and not due to the lack of alternatives. Inclusive rural transformation favours forms of human mobility across spaces and sectors that bring productivity improvements and benefits to migrants and their communities of origin and destination’ (FAO, 2017e, p. 3)

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border<sup>11</sup> (United Nations, 1998).

**Internal migration** ‘The movement of people within a State involving the establishment of a new temporary or permanent residence’ (IOM, 2019, p. 108).

**International migration** ‘The movement of persons away from their place of usual residence and across an international border to a country of which they are not nationals’ (IOM, 2019, p. 113).

**Irregular migration** ‘Movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination’ (IOM, 2019, p. 116).

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<sup>11</sup> Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, annexed to United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Francis M. Deng, Submitted Pursuant to Commission Resolution 1997/39, Addendum (11 February 1998) UN Doc E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, 6.



**Migrant** ‘An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students’ (IOM, 2019, p. 132).

**Migration** ‘The movement of persons away from their place of usual residence, either across an international border or within a State’ (IOM, 2019, p. 137).

**Migration cycle** ‘Stages of the migration process encompassing departure from, in some cases transit through one or more States, immigration in the State of destination and return’ (IOM, 2019, p. 138).

**Refugee** According to the 1951 Refugee Convention (Article 1(A)(2)), a refugee is a person who is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable or unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country, because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions.

**Remittances** ‘Personal monetary transfers, cross border or within the same country, made by migrants to individuals or communities with whom the migrant has links’ (IOM, 2019, p. 180).

**Resilience** ‘The ability of people, communities or systems that are confronted by disasters or crises to withstand damage and to recover rapidly (FAO, 2018). Resilience is generally agreed to be a combination of three capacities: adaptive (such as coping strategies, risk management and savings groups), absorptive (use of assets, attitudes/motivation, livelihood diversification and human capital) and transformative (governance mechanisms, policies/regulations, infrastructure, community networks and formal safety nets) (SOFI, 2017 in FAO, 2019a, p. 74).

**Return migration** ‘In the context of international migration, the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border. In the context of internal migration, the movement of persons returning to their place of habitual residence after having moved away from it’ (IOM, 2019, p. 186).

**Rural enablers** ‘socio-economic and/or institutional endowments or conditions whose presence directly correlate with the potential impact of social protection schemes in terms of reducing rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition’ (FAO, 2017b, p. 45).

**Rural transformation** ‘Captures all aspects of agricultural transformation but also includes the emergence of livelihood and income-generating opportunities in the rural non-farm sector. Improvements in access to services and infrastructure in rural areas lead to the expansion of remunerative off-farm employment and enterprises’ (FAO, 2017e, p. 3).

**Rural migration** Migration that takes place from, to or between rural areas (SOFA, 2018 in FAO, 2019a, p. 74).

**Pastoralism** Several hundreds of millions of people are pastoralists, mostly in Asia and Africa, and pastoral production supports the livelihoods of rural populations on almost half of the world’s land (FAO, 2018). The term pastoralism is used to describe societies that derive some, but not necessarily the majority, of their food and income from livestock. It can be defined both in the economic sense (i.e. those who earn part of their living from livestock and livestock products) and also in the cultural sense, in which livestock do not form the main source of income, yet people remain culturally connected to a pastoralist lifestyle (FAO, 2019a, p. 73).

**Public Employment Programmes** Sometimes referred to as Cash for Work. These programmes offer a determined number of days of work per year to members of selected households (generally in rural areas) in exchange for cash or in-kind transfers. Normally, beneficiaries are employed in productive activities aimed at building resilient livelihoods, for example, climate-resilient irrigation systems and infrastructure. The most famous programmes are India’s Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MNREGS) and Ethiopia’s Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)

**Rural Enablers** Socio-economic and/or institutional endowments or conditions whose presence directly correlate with the potential impact of social protection schemes in terms of reducing rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition (FAO, 2017b, p. 45)

**Seasonal migrant worker** A migrant worker whose work, or migration for employment is by its character dependent on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (adopted 18 December 1990, entered into force 1 July 2003) 2220 UNTS 3, Art. 2(2)(b)

**Shock-Responsive Social Protection System** A shock-responsive social protection system is one that can quickly adjust to respond to threats and crisis based on economic and risk-related criteria. They may be linked to early-warning systems. Responses may include temporarily 'increasing the amount of a transfer to cover additional needs, temporarily expanding the number of beneficiaries receiving a transfer or complementing the transfer with other components (seed distribution, and other) to enhance the protection of assets' (FAO, 2016, p. 1).

**Structural transformation** 'The reallocation of economic activities away from the primary sectors (agriculture and natural resources) to industry and services. It is characterised by increasing productivities across sectors, expansion of the urban economy, a declining share of agriculture in GDP, expanded domestic and international trade and increased specialisation and division of labour. In the long term, it leads to increased migration of people from rural areas to urban centres and urbanisation of the countryside, usually combined with a reduction in birth rates, greater participation of women in the workforce, and deep political and sociocultural changes (FAO, 2017e, p. 3).

**Social Insurance** Social insurance is a general term that includes publicly provided insurance and benefits such as health insurance, old-age pensions, sickness and maternity benefits, as well as unemployment insurance.

**Social Protection** Policies and programmes that address economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities to food insecurity and poverty by protecting and promoting livelihoods (FAO, 2017b, p. 6). These include cash transfers (conditional and unconditional), child grants, disability benefits, health and social insurance, in-kind transfers, pensions, public works, unemployment benefits (FAO, 2017b).

**Temporary migration** Migration for a specific motivation and purpose with the intention to return to the country of origin or habitual residence after a limited period of time or to undertake an onward movement' (IOM, 2019, p. 213).

**Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT)** Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) programmes provide a cash transfer to beneficiaries without any conditions attached (Bastagli et al., 2016).

**Vulnerability** Probability of falling below a certain threshold within a time period. The degree of vulnerability is determined by a situation of insecurity caused by (i) exposure to risk and (ii) the unit's ability to face the shock through risk management instruments and strategies. Risk, in particular, is understood as any uncertain event that may damage well-being. This uncertainty

is determined by the timing and/or magnitude of the event (even predictable events, e.g. seasonal changes in weather, can be uncertain as to their potential severity). In addition to the characteristics of the risk and risk exposure, the likelihood that a shock will result in a decline in wellbeing is also said to be a function of the household's asset endowment and insurance mechanisms (WB, 2001 in FAO, 2019a, p. 75).



## 7. Annexes

### Annex 1: Methodological tools

The findings of the position paper are based on the following elements:

- 1) **Desk review:** FAO officials supplied the researchers with documents produced and projects implemented by FAO for review. Additional material was found by (systematically) searching the FAO website. The keywords used were ‘migrant’, ‘refugee’, ‘return’, ‘remittances’, ‘diaspora’, ‘displacement’, ‘asylum-seeker’, and ‘social protection’, ‘cash’, ‘transfer’, ‘training’, ‘youth employment’, thereby trying to include projects and research publications that directly or indirectly combine migration and social protection. However, this was not a straightforward process, as the search engine of the FAO website does not provide all the publications and projects carried out by FAO. A perusal of the website as well as social media tools also allowed the research team to assess the visibility and knowledge dissemination strategy of FAO. Researchers then appraised the material with regards to FAO’s experience on social protection and migration, in particular, what FAO has been doing over the past ten years on these topics, the gaps and challenges, comparative advantage and added value and the recommendations on ways forward.
- 2) **Interviews with key informants** (n=39). Semi-structured interviews via Skype were conducted with FAO officials at headquarters (n=20), regional (n=8), and field/country offices (n=8) charged with policy planning/design, policy evaluation/research/analysis, project management, programming. For a full list of interviewees, see Section 5.2.1. The guiding questions were developed in collaboration with the responsible officer from FAO (Section 5.2.2 and 5.2.3).
- 3) **Online survey:** an online survey using Qualtrics was implemented and ultimately filled out by 15 FAO officials at headquarters, regional and country offices. The questions in the survey were similar to those in the interview guides (Section 5.2.4).

### Annex 1.1 List of interviewees

Name	Team/Office	Position
<b>Headquarters</b>		
Veronique Ancey	Pastoralism team	Expert on livestock and poverty reduction
Adriano Campolina	Rural Institutions, Services and Empowerment (RISE)	Team leader
Silvio Daidone	Social protection	Economist - impact evaluation
Mariaeleonora D'Andrea	Fishery Policy, Economics and Institutions	Decent work and social protection specialist
Benjamin Davis	Strategic Programme 3 (Reduce Rural Poverty)	Delivery manager
Ana Paula De la O Campo	Strategic Programme 3 (Reduce Rural Poverty)	Policy officer
Jacqueline Demeranville	Decent Rural Employment	Policy officer
Etienne Juvanon Du Vachat	Cash and Voucher programming	Team Coordinator
Julius Jackson	Food Security Analysis and Policies Unit	Technical Officer (Protracted crisis)
Patrick Jacqueson	Strategic Programme 5 (Increase the Resilience of Livelihoods to Threats and Crises)	Senior Programme Officer
Sally James	Food Security Analysis and Policies Unit	Specialist on forced displacement and conflict sensitive programming
Mari Kangasniemi	Social protection	Policy Officer + Economist
Elizabeth Koechlein	Gender	Policy officer
Qiang Ma	Forest Governance and Economics Team	Forestry officer
Erdgin Mane	Gender	Policy officer
Emmanuel Moncada	Strategic Programme 5 (Increase the Resilience of Livelihoods to Threats and Crises)	Emergency response and resilience support
Giorgia Prati	Decent Rural Employment	Migration and Climate change specialist
Cristina Rapone	Decent Rural Employment	Migration and Rural employment specialist
Natalia Winder-Rossi	Social protection	Team leader
Peter Wobst	Decent Rural Employment	Team leader
<b>Regional</b>		
Sara Abdoulayi	Regional Office in Africa (RAF)	Social protection officer
Dalia Abulfotuh	Regional Office in Near East and North Africa (RNE)	Social protection, youth employment and migration focal point
Melisa Aytekin	Regional Office in Africa (RAF)	Migration consultant
Pablo Faret	Regional Office in Latin America (RLC)	Social protection specialist
Tomomi Ishida	Regional Office in Asia (RAP)	Social protection officer
Hang Pham	Regional Office in Asia (RAP)	Resilience officer / SP5 focal point
Arniela Renique	Regional Office in Latin America (RLC)	Social protection consultant



### Annex 1.1 List of interviewees

Andre Saramago	Regional Office in Latin America (RLC)	Migration specialist
<b>Country Offices</b>		
Kathryn Clark	Country Office Uganda	Livelihood and resilience officer
Michela Espinosa	Country Office Colombia	Senior specialist Food and Nutrition
Fatou Mbaye	Country Office Senegal	Social protection consultant
Sidy Mbaye	Country Office Ethiopia	Social protection consultant
Elwathig Mukhtar Hamid	Country Office Sudan	Social protection focal points
Mamadou Sene	Country Office Senegal	Migration consultant
Edward Tanyima	Country Office Uganda	Social protection focal point
Maria Consuelo Vergara	Country Office Colombia	Head of the Disaster Risk Management Unit
<b>External</b>		
Cecile Cherrier	Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	Research Associate
Juan Gonzalo Jaramillo Mejia	World Food Programme	Social protection officer
Nupur Kukrety	UNICEF	Programme Specialist - Social protection in fragile contexts

### Annex 1.2 Interview guide FAO officials

- 1) Please describe your main function and daily work at FAO in detail.
- 2) What are specific current interests in migration? What are specific current interests in social protection? *(and how are they connected to the thematic areas of the corporate migration framework: 1. Minimise The Adverse Drivers Of Migration And Boost Alternatives In Rural Areas, 2. Facilitate Rural Mobility, 3. Enhance The Benefits Of Migration, 4. Promote Resilience And Agricultural Livelihoods For Migrants And Host Communities)*
- 3) What are the main social protection and migration-related challenges (in the country/region) and how have these changed over the years (how much, where, for whom?)? How are these challenges and your work related to each thematic area of work of FAO's migration corporate framework?
- 4) What have been the main strategies to promote social protection in work around migration in these contexts? *(Possibly split it up)*
- 5) Can you tell us about the main programs (around migration/social protection) that you are managing/monitoring?  
*Probe with regard to: >> name >> duration (start/end date >> aims and objectives >> key activities>> target groups and location>> national/regional implementing partner/agency>> budget>> donor>> coverage*
- 6) If the (migration-related or/and social protection-related) project/programme you are managing or monitoring does not include aspects of the other, do you foresee a link that should be

promoted with social protection (if it is a migration-related project) or with migration (if it is social protection project)?

- 7) Have these policies/ programs been successful in meeting their objectives? Do you think that adding a social protection and/or migration perspective would have been beneficial? Please explain why.
- 8) What projects have been implemented/supported by FAO (in the past ten years) that involve **both** social protection and migration? Please describe.
- 9) What are the challenges for FAO when it comes to implementing projects that associate or should associate social protection and migration? For instance, do you feel FAO has enough qualified personnel to work on a coherent approach to social protection and migration?
- 10) Are there specific pockets/sources of migration and social protection expertise within the organisation (that are still untapped and if so, why)?
- 11) What initiatives are missing by FAO around social protection and migration?
- 12) What are the interests of different departments / strategic programs in migration and social protection (such as sustainable agriculture/fisheries/forestry/livestock and pastoralism)?
- 13) Can you speak to any unintended consequences of social protection programs/policies on migration from/to rural areas? What are, for you, the linkages between social protection and remittances?
- 14) What reflections and lessons learned can be shared about migration policies/strategies and social protection strategies? Are there any synergies/conflicts between migration and social protection policies and programmes at FAO?
- 15) Social protection is not a traditional aspect of FAO's work: Why do you think FAO should work on social protection, especially in connection with migration? Can you think of a better way to integrate this theme into the work of FAO? Do you think that some aspects of migration / social protection are misunderstood / under-researched (at FAO and in general)?
- 16) What could be the positive impacts on beneficiaries of coherence (or lack thereof) between migration and social protection, on rural development, rural poverty and resilience?
- 17) To recap, what do you think are the benefits, challenges and ways to improve FAO's work on migration and social protection?

### Annex 1.3 Interview guide external partners

- 1) Please describe your current work portfolio as it pertains to migration and/or social protection.
- 2) Can you please describe your experience collaborating with FAO?
- 3) What are specific current interests in migration? What are specific current interests in social protection?

*(and, if possible, how are they connected to the thematic areas of the corporate migration framework: 1. Minimize The Adverse Drivers Of Migration And Boost Alternatives In Rural Areas, 2. Facilitate Rural Mobility, 3. Enhance The Benefits Of Migration, 4. Promote Resilience And Agricultural Livelihoods For Migrants And Host Communities)*

- 4) What are the main social protection and migration-related challenges (in the country/region) and how have these changed over the years (how much, where, for whom?)?

- 5) What have been the main strategies to promote social protection in work on migration in these contexts?
- 6) If the (migration-related or/and social protection-related) project/program you are managing or monitoring does not include aspects of the other, do you foresee a link that should be promoted with social protection (if it is a migration-related project) or with migration (if it is social protection project)?
- 7) What are the challenges for FAO when it comes to implementing projects that combine social protection and migration? For instance, do you feel FAO has enough qualified personnel to work on a coherent approach to social protection and migration?
- 8) Do you think that some aspects of migration / social protection are misunderstood / under-researched?
- 9) What initiatives are missing by FAO around social protection and migration?
- 10) What reflections and lessons learned can be shared about migration policies/strategies and social protection strategies? Are there any synergies/conflicts between migration and social protection policies and programmes at FAO?
- 11) Can you assess FAO's comparative advantage / added value when it comes to an integrated approach to social protection and migration?
- 12) Social protection is not a traditional aspect of FAO's work: Why do you think FAO should work on social protection, especially in connection with migration? Can you think of a better way to integrate this theme into the work of FAO?
- 13) To recap, what do you think are the benefits, challenges and ways to improve FAO's work on migration and social protection?

## Annex 2: Literature overview

Reference	Country	Year(s)	Type of Programme	Methodology	Findings
Conditional Cash Transfer					
Angelucci (2004)	Mexico	1997-1999	PROGRESA	Multinomial logit, bivariate probit, probit model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negative impact of secondary school subsidies on internal and international migration</li> <li>- Positive impact of primary school subsidies on international migration</li> </ul>
Stecklov <i>et al.</i> (2005)	Mexico	1997-1999	PROGRESA	Logit model based on a diff-in-diff and logit model based on cross-sectional data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negative impact on international migration and no significant impact on internal migration</li> <li>- Social networks do not moderate the effect of Progresa either for the US or domestic migration.</li> </ul>
Behrman <i>et al.</i> (2005)	Mexico	2003	OPORTUNIDADES	Reweighted regression analysis based on diff-in-diff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negative impact on migration of boys due primarily to significant declines for the oldest and most schooled boys.</li> <li>- No significant impact on the proportion of girls on average who migrated, but there was a significant drop in the proportion of girls with up to three grades of completed school in 1997 that migrated by 2003.</li> </ul>
Rubalcava and Teruel (2006)	Mexico	1997 and 2003	PROGRESA	Propensity score matching based on diff-in-diff	Positive impact on internal migration
Gonzalez de la Rocha (2009)	Mexico	1997-2007	OPORTUNIDADES	Ethnographic fieldwork, descriptive analysis.	Positive impact on migration
Azuara (2009)	Mexico	1995-2005	PROGRESA OPORTUNIDADES	Regression discontinuity design (parametric estimations using difference-in-difference and longitudinal estimations)	Positive impact on migration: CCTs accelerate migration patterns of marginal individuals that after raising their capital level, decide to out-migrate.

## Annex 2: Literature overview

Rodriguez-Oreggia and Freije (2012)	Mexico	2007	OPORTUNIDADES	Probit model.	- No impact to negative impact on migration
Angelucci (2015)	Mexico	1997-1999	OPORTUNIDADES	Descriptive statistics based on yearly data on villages' demography. Econometric model to predict migration with and without financial constraints.	- Positive impact on international migration - Indirect impact on US migration as being a beneficiary enhances HHs ability to obtain loans. - Compared to US migrants from control villages, who are mainly selected from the middle/high wage distribution, the corresponding distribution for US migrants from treatment villages is shifted to the left. - No impact on internal migration
Himmelstine (2017)	6 locations in Mexico and Los Angeles	2013	OPORTUNIDADES	Qualitative and multi-site ethnographic methods	- The impact of Oportunidades on migration is highly dependent on contextual variables - Negative impact on migration: <i>Oportunidades</i> provided a temporary improvement in the HH's living standards that reduced beneficiaries' incentives to migrate while in education - most beneficiaries migrated after <i>Oportunidades</i> .
Hughes (2019)	Mexico	2002; 2005-2006	OPORTUNIDADES	Logistic and multinomial logistic regression models	- Negative impact of CCT programme on migration of beneficiary women compared with men and nonbeneficiary women
Silveira Neto (2008)	Brazil	2004	Bolsa Familia	Propensity score matching based on the probit model and the bivariate probit model	- Negative impact on internal migration - No impact on return migration

## Annex 2: Literature overview

Silveira Neto and Azzoni (2011)	Brazil	2004	Bolsa Familia	Propensity score matching based on probit model and bivariate probit model	- Negative impact on internal migration - No impact on return migration
Winters <i>et al.</i> (2005)	Nicaragua and Honduras	2000 and 2002	- Nicaraguan Social Protection Network (RPS) - Honduran Family Assistance Programme (PRAF)	Probit model based on first difference for Nicaragua and probit model based on diff-in-diff for Honduras	- Positive impact on internal and international migration for Nicaragua - No impact on internal and international migration for Honduras
Millan <i>et al.</i> (2020)	Honduras	2013	Family Assistance Programme (PRAF II)	Single-difference ITT model	- Positive impact on international migration for young men - No impact to negative impact on domestic migration
Winters <i>et al.</i> (2009)	Nicaragua	2000-2002	RPS	Difference-in-difference and First difference using dummy variables.	- Positive impact on migration of young male members - Negative impact on female migration: reluctance to leave a HH that is assisted by a social safety net (especially as cash transfers were given to female household members).
Deshingkar <i>et al.</i> (2015)	Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania	Not specified	<u>Ethiopia</u> : Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) = CCT <u>Kenya</u> : Hunger and Safety Net Programme (HSNP) = UCT <u>Malawi</u> : Mchinji Social Cash Transfer (UCT) <u>Tanzania</u> : Tanzania Social Action Fund TASAF II (CCT)	Qualitative analysis: 20 in-depth interviews, focus groups and interviews with key informants from NGOs, governments, project administration.	- <u>Ethiopia</u> : Older cash beneficiaries stay; young people migrate from beneficiary and non-beneficiary HHs alike - <u>Kenya</u> : Older beneficiaries stay - <u>Tanzania</u> : Young people migrate - <u>Malawi</u> : Migration for education in beneficiary HH

## Annex 2: Literature overview

Bryan <i>et al.</i> (2014)	Bangladesh	2008	Randomised experiment randomly assigns a USD8.50 incentive to migrate	randomised control trial, and econometric models using a benchmark model	Migration induced by the intervention increases food and non-food expenditures of migrants' HHs remaining at the origin by 30-35percent and improves their caloric intake by 550-700 calories per person per day.
Ndiaye (2018)	Senegal	2017	- Programme National de Bourses de Sécurité Familiale (PNBSF)  - Couverture Maladie Universelle (CMU) universal health insurance. PNBSF beneficiaries are exempt from paying the contribution for CMU.	Propensity score matching (PSM), OLS model and 2SLS model.	No impact on internal and international migration
Gonzalez-Konig and Wodon (2005)	Mexico	1997	PROCAMPO (Programme of Direct Payments to the Countryside)	Regression analysis, probit model.	- Negative impact on permanent migration - weaker evidence of a similar impact on temporary migration (significant only at the 10 per cent level, but the magnitude of the impact is larger than for permanent migration).
Cuecuecha and Scott (2009)	Mexico	2000 (state level), 1990 and 2000 (municipal level), 2005-2006 (individual and HH level)	PROCAMPO	Econometric Regression: random effects, random effects and instrumental variables.	Negative impact on international migration: 1.23 additional pesos of subsidies per ht. represent a .02 percent reduction in the migration flow.
Soares (2011)	Kenya, Malawi	<u>Kenya</u> : 2007 and 2009 <u>Malawi</u> : 2007-08	<u>Kenya</u> : Unconditional Cash Transfer for orphans and vulnerable children (CT-OVCs)  <u>Malawi</u> : Mchinji Social Cash Transfer Scheme (SCT).	Difference-in-difference and propensity score matching	- <u>Kenya</u> : Positive impact on internal and international migration  - <u>Malawi</u> : negative impact on migration

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Cortina (2014)	Mexico	1999/2009; 2000;2010; 2005	PROCAMPO	Fixed effects regressions for the county-level analysis, Probit and IV-Probit clustered regression for the individual-level analysis	Positive impact on international migration: - At the <i>municipio</i> level, the relationship takes the shape of an inverse U-shaped curve, suggesting that given certain small amounts of this transfer, and due to its unconditional nature, Procampo may not provide sufficient incentives for some people to stay, but instead contributes to out-migration. When the cash transfer amount increases, the relationship between Procampo and migration becomes negative. -Positive impact at the individual level
Chort and de La Rupelle (2017)	Mexico,	1999-2011	PROCAMPO and FONDEN.	OLS regressions using panel data over 1999-2011 on state-level Mexico-US migration flows with state and year fixed effects, standard errors being corrected for serial and spatial correlation	- PROCAMPO: An increase in in the share of PROCAMPO received by farmers in the ejido sector for non-irrigated land reduces irregular migration in response to rainfall anomalies  - FONDEN no impact on documented migration and negative impact on irregular migration
Mueller <i>et al.</i> (2019)	Zambia	2010-2014	Child Grant Programme (CGP)	Linear probability model, fixed effects	- Having access to the cash transfer doubles the rate of male migration during cool periods - Less poor households tend to reduce the short-distance migration of male HH during extreme heat. - Cash transfers only directly influence long-distance migration patterns in the long term under normal climate conditions.



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Howell (2019)	China		The Minimum Living Standard Assistance (or Dibao) programme	OLS with county-level fixed effects, IV model.	Positive impact on migration
Tiwari and Winters (2019)	Indonesia		Bantuan Langsung Tunai: national-level unconditional cash transfer targeted toward the poorest HHs in Indonesia	Probit regression using diff-in-diff	Positive liquidity shock increases the probability of migration among low-asset HHs, among HHs with a migration history, and, most significantly, among low-asset HHs with a migration history.
Rosenzweig <i>et al.</i> (1988)	Colombia	1968 - 1974	Candelaria programme: initiated in a small village in Colombia, the programme trained and provided payments for nurse volunteers ( <i>promotoras</i> ) to visit all HHs in the town in which there were any children under six years of age.	OLS	The child health care programme induced in-migration by HHs characterised by high-income. Migrant parents are also on average younger, more educated and wealthier than resident parents.
Greenwood <i>et al.</i> (1999)	60 origin countries	1972-1991	Social insurance programmes (old-age benefits, sickness and maternity benefits, unemployment insurance, and family allowances).	Econometric Regression	Negative impact on international migration.
Sana and Massey (2000)	Mexico,	1982-1983	Social security system à lack of adequate pension system	Logistic method, OLS	Mexicans who work in jobs not covered by Mexico's social security system are considerably more likely to begin and continue migrating to the US than those working in jobs that benefit from such coverage.

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Sana and Hu (2007)	Mexico,	1982 – 1983 and 1999	Social Security coverage (as indicators of the informality of employment).	Discrete-time Logistic	- Lack of social security act as an incentive for international migration.
Inder and Maitra (2004)	South Africa,	1993 and 1997-1999	Old Age Pension (OAP)	Ordered probit estimations, OLS	Positive impact on internal migration
Posel <i>et al.</i> (2006)	South Africa,	1993	OAP	OLS and instrumental variable	Positive impact on internal migration: rural women were significantly more likely to be labour migrants when they were members of a HH of origin in which a pensioner was resident.
Sienaert (2007)	South Africa,	1993-2004	OAP	Linear probability model (LPM) pooled, LPM generalised least squares (GLS) (random effects), probit (random effects) model	- Positive impact on internal migration - The loss of both male and female OAP income makes migration less likely, while the gain of female (not male) OAP makes migration more likely. - strong, positive link between (particularly female) pension income and migration.
Sienaert (2008)	South Africa,	2004	OAP	OLS, pooled regressions, instrumental variable	- Positive impact on internal migration when pensioners are women (the OAP is not significant when pensioners are men).
Ardington <i>et al.</i> (2009)	South Africa,	2001 and 2003-2004	OAP	OLS	- Positive impact on internal migration - presence of a woman pensioner promotes labour migration for both men and women, consistent with female pensioners pooling their income with prime-aged members of both sexes. The presence of a male pensioner promotes labour migration, but for prime-aged men only

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Ardington <i>et al.</i> (2013)	South Africa,	2001 - 2011	OAP	Fixed effects model	Positive impact of OAP on internal migration - pension income helps in particular members of poorer HHs to overcome credit constraints - For potential labour migrants, pension gain appears not to improve the odds that a young man will migrate to find work— unless he has a high school degree. Those who have successfully completed 12 years of schooling are eight percentage points more likely to be a labour migrant.
OECD (2017)	Armenia, Costa Rica, Ivory Coast, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Morocco	2014-2015	Access to health care coverage within the OECD IPPMD project	OLS	- Armenia, Costa Rica and Morocco: marginalised groups, such as those denied health care during their last visit to a health facility, are less likely to plan to emigrate
Chen (2016)	China,	2006 and 2010	New Rural Pension Scheme (NRPS)	Regression discontinuity	- Positive impact on out-migration of adult children. - Stronger effect on sons.  In comparison, married daughters may be less responsive to pension receipt of their own parents than that of their husbands' parents.
Eggleston <i>et al.</i> (2018)	China, Laiwu county,	2012	Rural pension programme	Regression discontinuity	- Positive impact on migration - pension's effect on migration is greater among adult children with a parent in poor health. - pensioners expect that they will be more likely to use hired services and slightly less likely to rely on care from an adult child when ill.

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Mahe' (2017)	Mexico	2002, 2005-2006 and 2009-2012	Seguro Popular (SP)	Difference-in-difference	Positive impact on migration (statistically significant only for men): Induced increases in disposable income because of Seguro Popular affiliation might not be substantial enough, and/or internal migration might be cheap enough not to require a lot of financial means à time rather than financial constraints might be binding domestic migration
García and Orraca-Romano (2019)	Mexico	1997, 2006, 2009 and 2014	Seguro Popular	OLS	- No impact on reducing emigration à this scheme is insufficient to cover the healthcare needs of its beneficiaries fully. This could also explain why migrant households that are affiliated to SP still use remittances to cover their healthcare expenses
Type of Programme: Public Employment Programmes					
Ambasta <i>et al.</i> (2008)	India	2008	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MNREGS)	Descriptive analysis	Negative impact on internal migration
Jacob (2008)	India	2007	MNREGS	Qualitative survey analysis on families from migration-prone areas working at NREGA sites.	- Negative impact on internal migration for women, who prefer to earn less but to stay at home. - Men migrate because of higher wages in the cities.
Menon (2008)	India	2006 -2007	MNREGS	Descriptive Analysis	Negative impact on internal migration

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Ghosh (2011)	India	2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011	MNREGS	Qualitative analysis using primary data collected from 200 participants and 50 non-participants HHs spread over five districts, namely in West Bengal and secondary data from the NREGA website.	- Positive but negligible impact. Implementation issues and failure to provide 100 days of work, higher wages in the city
Ravi <i>et al.</i> (2012)	India	1999-200, 2007-2008	MNREGS	Difference-in-difference	Negative impact on migration.
Parida (2015)	India	2011-2012	MNREGS	Bivariate probit regression model including workforce participation and migration	NREGS prevented seasonal migration and brought financial autonomy for the landless poor and through regular wage income
Das (2015)	India	2012	MNREGS	Bivariate probit model, probit model and IV probit model, qualitative analysis (field observations, survey, interviews)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No significant impact on migration (if MGNREGS is measured as a dummy) 2 households received work for very few days, which is unlikely to influence the decision to migrate.</li> <li>- The extent of participation in the programme in terms of the number of days and annual earnings has a significant and negative impact on migration due to employment opportunities created, especially during the lean season, and also due to an overall increase in rural (agricultural and non) wages.</li> <li>- No impact on long-term migration</li> </ul>
Imbert and Papp (2017a)	India	1999-2000, 2004-2005, 2007-2008, 2011-2012	MNREGS	OLS, probit model and Poisson model	Negative impact on internal migration

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Imbert and Papp (2017b)	India	2009, 2010	MNREGS	OLS, probit model	Negative impact on internal migration
Chau <i>et al.</i> (2014)	China	2003	Yigong-daizhen: initiated in the mid-1980s as part of China's poverty reduction programme.	Difference-in-difference and Difference-in-difference with propensity score matching.	Positive impact on out-migration especially pronounced in villages with newly constructed roads
Hoddinott and Mekasha (2017)	Ethiopia	2006, 2008, 2010, 2012	PSNP (8 drought-prone regions since 2008. Payments are provided in the form of food and cash).	Difference-in-difference, OLS, and fixed effects	- Negative impact on out-migration of 12-18-year-old girls resulting from delayed marriage - No impact on males of any age or females in age groups other than 12-to-18 years.
Gazeaud <i>et al.</i> (2019)	Comoros	2016-2017, 2018.	Comoros Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP): cash-for-work intervention targeted at very poor HHs	A multi-level randomised controlled trial	Positive impact on migration

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Country (recipient)	Title	Duration <sup>13</sup>	Donor	Comments	Focus
<b>Migration Thematic Area 1: Minimise the adverse drivers of migration and boost alternatives in rural areas</b>					
Philippines	Ensuring inclusive risk-informed shock-responsive SP resulting in more resilient BARMM communities	2020-2021	UNDP Administered Trust Fund	This project aims to develop and implement a shock-responsive social protection policy agenda in BARMM to expand the coverage of social assistance to poverty groups, identify registry barriers that heighten exclusion, provide recommendations to include hazards and vulnerability assessment and improve targeting to disadvantaged and excluded groups (including IDPs).	Expanding access to social protection
Afghanistan	Support to Drought-affected and Food Insecure Farming Families in Agriculture, Livestock Protection and Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation	2019-2020	United States	This project targets communities that are likely to be displaced in the near future because of recurrent droughts that characterise the rural areas of Kunar, Daikundi and Farah provinces. It includes a Cash-for-Work component to rehabilitate water infrastructures for livestock and small-scale irrigation. Other components: distribution of animal feed, drought-resistant fodder, crop seed, poultry and vegetable seed packages.	Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods to threats and crises
Ethiopia and Tunisia	Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction: Fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility (RYM project)	2015-2018	Italy	To address the drivers of rural migration, while at the same time enhancing the positive impact of rural outmigration of youth on food security and rural development by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generating knowledge and increase awareness of rural migration;</li> <li>• Promoting innovative mechanisms for rural employment opportunities and enhancing the positive impact of rural migration on areas of origin;</li> <li>• Building capacity and promoting policy coherence between migration and rural development</li> </ul>	Expanding access to social protection
Kenya	Reducing distress migration through local value chain development	2017-2021	Italy	Scaling up of Cash + interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing information and support services to youth on agri-business, migration opportunities and social protection</li> <li>• Increasing capacities of youth through technical and business training and mentoring.</li> <li>• Promoting the productive investment of remittances and cash transfers in farm and off-farm activities.</li> </ul>	Expanding access to social protection
Senegal	Fostering productive investments to create decent farm and nonfarm jobs for rural youth in migration-prone areas of Senegal	2017-2018	FAO Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism	The project aims at disseminating knowledge on the impact of social protection on migration and rural development and to improve coherence among policies of agricultural and agro-industry, migration, employment, youth, rural finance and social protection	Expanding access to social protection

<sup>13</sup> Projects with an end date in 2020 may have been extended owing to the COVID-19 pandemic

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Migration Thematic Area 2: Facilitate rural mobility					
Iraq	Supporting Iraqi community in the newly liberated areas and neighbouring affected areas of Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates through a Cash-for-Work programme	2016-2018	Belgium	Rehabilitation of damaged agricultural/community infrastructure (incl. fruit trees). Capacity-Building on horticulture, good agricultural practices, labour incentive schemes (particularly women), Cash for Work for returnee/host communities.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
Sudan	Promote the provision for legitimate land tenure rights using VGGT to conflict-displaced communities including small scale rural farmers, pastoralist, and IDPs in Darfur region	2016-2020	European Union	VGGT, facilitation of the voluntary return of conflict-displaced people of in the Darfur Region and enhancement of basic services.	Supporting the reintegration of returnees
Pakistan	Critical support to ensure food security and agriculture-based subsistence livelihoods for recently returned families to FATA	2018-2019	UNOCHA	Restoration of agricultural livelihoods for returnees (conflict). Conditional Cash assistance (WFP). Animal feeding packages. Milk collection packages. Poultry inputs. Veterinary support (vaccines, veterinary centre). Animal husbandry training. Rehabilitation of water infrastructure through Cash-for-Work. Reclamation of abandoned land. Nutrition training of women. Protection sensitive distribution and gender targeting and cash assistance.	Supporting the reintegration of returnees
Iraq	Support vulnerable Farmers through agriculture inputs and CFW	2018-2020	UNOCHA	Restoration of fragile livelihoods of returning or vulnerable households. Agricultural inputs. Backyard vegetable production. Wheat and crop production. Training on vegetable production through Farmer Feed Schools (FFS). Rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure + cash for work.	Supporting the reintegration of returnees
Iraq	Support to agricultural livelihoods of rural and peri-urban returnees and communities in Ninevah Governorate	2019-2022	European Union	The aim of this project is to provide basic needs to returnees in the initial phases of return, allowing them to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Activities: the creation of short-term employment opportunities through Cash-for-Work, provision of agricultural inputs, rehabilitation of production and marketing systems, small-scale enterprise development, water technology.	Supporting the reintegration of returnees
Iraq	Support to rural returnees through CFW to rehabilitate agricultural assets and replace agricultural Equipment	2019-2020	Sweden	Livelihood and food security restoration for returnees and host communities. Income and food generation through rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure (land, greenhouses, storage facilities etc.). Agricultural inputs. Cash for Work.	Supporting the reintegration of returnees Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts at the local/community level
Migration Thematic Area 3: Enhance the benefits of migration					
Lebanon	Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Refugee Communities through Cash-for-Work	2019-2020	Korea Rep	Cash-for-work activities for refugees involving reforestation and forest management (training program to build the capacities of the recruited refugees, along with members of the host communities)	Fostering the potential of migration to enhance adaptive capacity to climate variability and change



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<b>DRC</b>	Assistance et production alimentaire dans les zones L3 et non L3 en soutien aux familles d'accueil vivant les répercussions des mouvements de populations.	2018-2019	UNOCHA	Emergency livelihood assistance. Food Distribution and farm kits. Vegetable and crop production. Cash-based transfers, vouchers.	Support households and communities in mitigating the challenges and negative impacts of migration and displacement
<b>Niger</b>	Support pastoralists affected by the cumulative effects of the protracted crises	2019	UNOCHA	Livelihood assessment to pastoralist communities dealing with cross border influx of refugees. Host and refugee response. Livestock inputs (fodder, goats ) Cash. Animal health/herd management/vaccination. Livestock inputs targeting women.	Support households and communities in mitigating the challenges and negative impacts of migration and displacement
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Creating Livelihoods Opportunities for Host Communities through Environmental Rehabilitation	2020-2021	Japan	Support to forest-dependent host communities which have lost access to the timber and non-timber products on which they previously built their livelihoods. Alternative Income Generation, CfW and establishment of facilities for forestry restoration. Complements ongoing efforts of the Joint SAFE Plus project.	Support households and communities in mitigating the challenges and negative impacts of migration and displacement
<b>Chad</b>	Projet d'urgence de sécurité alimentaire et de protection des moyens d'existence des populations réfugiés et hôtes dans le Sud du Tchad	2018	UNOCHA	Livelihood enhancement of host populations. CashPlus approach. Agricultural kits. Small ruminant kit. Unconditional cash transfers to meet urgent needs.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Migration Thematic Area 4: Promote resilience and agricultural livelihoods for migrants and host communities</b>					
<b>Jordan and Lebanon</b>	Enhancing resilient livelihoods and food security of host communities and Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon through the promotion of sustainable agricultural development (Jordan and Lebanon)	2019-	EC - MADAB	Food for assets and food for training for refugees in exchange for engagement in work and training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conditional cash or in-kind transfers to small-scale agri-food entrepreneurs</li> <li>• Skills training</li> <li>• 'One million cash transfers' to vulnerable farming households (Lebanon only)</li> </ul>	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Turkey</b>	Resilience Building via Increased Livelihoods Opportunities and Strengthened Social Cohesion for Syrian Refugees and Host Communities	2019-	EC - MADAB	Vocational training programmes to help beneficiaries obtain new jobs and income sources in the agrifood sector	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Somalia</b>	Sustained Cash Assistance to Prevent Famine and Respond to Drought in Rural Somalia	2018-2020	United States	Among the targeting criteria: Households that are residents of the local village/district or internally displaced people recognised by the host community, and returnees.	

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<b>Yemen</b>	Water for food security	2018-2020	Kuwait	Rehabilitation of local water infrastructure in areas of high numbers of IDPs and returnees. Use of cash for work for reconstruction activities. Capacity building of local institutions on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, food security etc. CB aimed at ensuring more responsive and effective institutions to deliver services and 'build social contract' and meet the identified needs of host and returnees. Claims to contribute to social cohesion and improved social cohesion as an expected result. No measurement of this (no indicators). Old displacement data (Sept 17).	Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts at the local/community level
<b>South Sudan</b>	Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement - Phase Two (BRACE II)	2018-2020	UK	Mapping of conflict drivers built into the project. Strong emphasis on conflict mitigation in relation to communal conflict, including resource management. Significant community consultation. Livelihood activities: Cash transfer and asset creation, crop and livestock management practices (Agro Pastoral Field Schools). Agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, equipment).	Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts at the local/community level
<b>Yemen</b>	Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme - Country Investment Yemen	2018-2021	European Union	PROACT. Strengthening and restoring agricultural livelihoods. CASH +. cash related transfers + livelihoods support (inputs and training). Claims to contribute to improved social cohesion (TOC) through management/of water disputes and use of women as brokers for conflict resolution. Women's economic empowerment focus. No mention of in matrix or related indicators.	Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts at the local/community level
<b>South Sudan</b>	Emergency support to enable food production and rebuild the livelihoods of vulnerable returnees in South Sudan	2019	UNOCHA	Livelihoods support to vulnerable returnees. Provision of livelihood kits, crop kits, vegetable kits and fishing kits. Claims to indirectly benefit social cohesion between host/returnee pop but no explanation or measurement mentioned. Collaboration with IOM who is providing cash for work to rehabilitate productive assets.	Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts at the local/community level
<b>CAR</b>	Emergency livelihood and food security assistance to strengthen the resilience of displaced people and returnees affected by the crisis in the Central African Republic	2019-2023	UK	Cash for work, seeds fairs, direct distributions of agricultural inputs and sharing of sustainable agricultural techniques. 'Rehabilitation works of community interests (e.g. rehabilitation of school, markets, roads, but also soil conservation techniques to reduce impacts of floods and drought, community field works, etc.) will be identified together with the communities and local authorities. Conflict analysis will be conducted in order to integrate social cohesion component among group members as well as with their communities.'	Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts at the local/community level
<b>Chad</b>	Projet d'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations affectées par la crise centrafricaine au	2017-2018	UNOCHA	Strengthening livelihoods of vulnerable refugee and returnee households. Multi-purpose cash transfers. Support income-generating activities (agricultural production, small livestock, braiding, crafts, hairdressing, petty trading). Good food and nutrition practices.	Ensure migrants' food security and healthy nutrition
<b>Nigeria</b>	Improving access to nutritious food and income for vulnerable people in Borno State, Nigeria	2018	Canada	Emergency agricultural livelihoods. Conditional cash transfers. Demonstration centres for farmers. GBV and access to counselling and SAFE spaces. Vocational training (micro-gardening, entrepreneurial, financial, markets and negotiation.)	Ensure migrants' food security and healthy nutrition
<b>Chad</b>	Projet d'urgence de Réponse à la Crise Alimentaire et d'Elevage	2018-2020	World Bank	Improving food security of host and refugee households. Agricultural and animal production. Coupon Food Assistance, food stamps, cash transfer and technical assistance. Creation of farmer-pastoralist dispute settlement for processing and post-harvest.	Ensure migrants' food security and healthy nutrition
<b>Nigeria</b>	Building resilient livelihoods in northeast States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe through climate change	2018-2021	Norway	Agricultural inputs (seed, fertilisers etc.), rehabilitation of water infrastructure, micro gardening, poultry kits, cash grants and nutrition training to female IDP/returnees/host HH. Women's associations/groups/livelihood support activities. Energy access. Institutional capacity building on climate-smart ag policies.	Ensure migrants' food security and healthy nutrition

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<b>Lao PDR</b>	Restoring Food and Nutrition Security of Flood Affected Vulnerable Population in Attapeu Province	2019	France	Restoration of agricultural livelihoods following a flood. Improving food and nutrition security of those impacted. Cash for work (land clearing and preparation) and small scale irrigation repair. Targeting those displaced by floods and living in temporary camps. Cash grants for pregnant/lactating mothers and child nutrition. Coordination (but not partnership) with UNICEF and WFP.	Ensure migrants' food security and healthy nutrition
<b>Cameroon</b>	Strengthening the resilience of food insecure IDPs, returnees and host communities	2017-2019	Sweden	Agricultural inputs, cash transfers, CB - farmer schools.	Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods to threats and crises
<b>Nigeria</b>	Restoring and promoting agricultural based livelihoods for security, employment, and nutrition improvement in Borno State	2018-2021	European Union	Enhance social protection, through the creation of employment and the promotion of environment and climate-friendly livelihood opportunities (with a special focus on women, youth and vulnerable households) with the aim of increasing access to basic needs, significantly reducing malnutrition and strengthening resilience in communities affected by the insurgency.	Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods to threats and crises Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods, access land and assets in host communities
<b>DRC</b>	Amelioration de l'accès aux biens et à la sécurité alimentaire des ménages vulnérables y compris les personnes vivant avec handicap dans les provinces du Grand Kasai et Tanganyika		UNOCHA	The project aims at improving agricultural livelihoods and food security of IDPs, returnees, refugees and host communities in the provinces of Tanganyika, Kasai and Kasai Central. It aims to do so by providing agricultural inputs, conditional cash transfers for agricultural work (opening of land, crop maintenance, pre-harvest), creation of farmers' association through the Dimitra approach. In the area of Djugu, characterised by internal displacement and return migration, the project also works to ensure access to secure arable land and short-cycle seeds for displaced and returnee households.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts at the local/community level
<b>DRC</b>	Réponse d'urgence en intrants agricoles en faveur de 5 000 ménages les plus vulnérables (déplacés internes, retournés et ménages des communautés hôtes), victimes de la crise humanitaire au Kasai Central, Kasai, Kasai Oriental	2017-2018	Belgium	Emergency livelihood response. Agricultural and crop inputs. Conditional cash transfers.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Mali</b>	Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable agro pastoralists' households affected by security crisis	2017-2020	Sweden	Livestock inputs, pastureland regeneration through cash for work - focusing on areas of population displacement - IDP/returnee and host communities.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods, access land and assets in host communities

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<b>Burundi</b>	Assistance d'urgence en intrants agricoles essentiels aux ménages vulnérables identifiés par l'IPC de juillet 2018	2018-2019	UNOCHA	Providing vulnerable farmers (returnee, host families and flood-affected households/displaced persons) with targeted assistance. Crop production inputs (seeds, tools, fertilisers), cash, fungus-farming for returnee households, household gardening kit, agricultural training/extension.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Nigeria</b>	Emergency agricultural and livestock assistance to returnees, IDPs and host communities in NE Nigeria	2018-2019	United States	Agricultural inputs, seed and micro gardening kits, training on good agricultural and nutritional practices. Cash transfers for small ruminants. Protection sensitive (women) livestock activities.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods Ensure migrants' food security and healthy nutrition
<b>Yemen</b>	Agricultural Livelihoods Support for Households with Severe Food Insecurity in Yemen	2018-2020	Japan	Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods support. Ag. Inputs (seeds) + training, distribution of livestock and fodder, vaccination and animal health, tagging, TOT on animal husbandry. Repair and management of water infrastructure, cash transfers, terrace rehabilitation. Water resource management, Installation of local irrigation systems for vegetable irrigation, maintenance, Farmer Field Schools.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods Increase resilience
<b>Iraq</b>	Restoring the Water Supply for Food Production and Livelihoods in post-conflict areas.	2018-2020	European Union	Rehabilitation of water infrastructure in post-conflict areas of Iraq (irrigation systems). Cash for work schemes for returnees and host communities. Direct cash transfers. Rural employment (100,000 seasonal vegetable workers).	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Somalia</b>	Addressing Acute Food Insecurity in Rural Areas of Somalia	2019	United States	Comprehensive response. Emergency livelihood support + livelihood packages. CASH + agriculture (cash transfers plus inputs and land preparation/irrigation vouchers where appropriate). CASH + IDP gardens - IDP settlements with access to land and water resources: Cash transfers to women in urban and peri-urban areas, vegetable kits, micro-irrigation, CB and technical support, good agricultural practices. Entrepreneurship, nutrition and farmer to farmer extension. No protection considerations.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods Contributing to sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts at the local/community level
<b>Somalia</b>	Improving and sustaining food security in rural Somalia	2019-2020	United States	CASH-based intervention. Cash+ IDP gardens: a new Cash+ package being piloted in 2019, targeting women in IDP settlements.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Syria</b>	FAO and WFP partnership to strengthen resilience through restoring irrigation infrastructure	2019-2020	Japan	Reconstruction of water infrastructure to support the rebuilding of sustainable livelihoods. Restoration of key water and irrigation systems. Farmer-led irrigation management. Complemented by WFP's Food for Assets (FFA) and Food for Training (FFT) piloted. Cash transfers/vouchers (supported by WFP).	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Yemen</b>	Emergency agricultural livelihoods support to the most vulnerable households in Yemen	2019-2020	UNOCHA	Cash+ and agricultural production packages. Among the beneficiaries: 'IDP households or host community households living in areas with high concentrations of IDPs'.	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods

### Annex 3: Mapping overview

<b>Turkey</b>	Building Resilience of Syrians under Temporary Protection and Host Communities in Turkey through Supporting Socio-Economic Integration and Creating Livelihood Opportunities (COVID-19)	2019-2022	European Union	Skills improvement, job creation (short-term jobs and training through community-based CfW+ schemes)	Support migrants (including IDPs, refugees and returnees) to engage in food systems and agricultural livelihoods
<b>Cameroon</b>	Supporting household resilience of Lake Chad Basin communities affected by the Boko Haram insurgency	2019-2020	Ireland	Land reclamation through cash for work. Support to agricultural production (inputs) for returnees, IDPs and host communities. Technical training on vegetable production, aquaculture, environmental protection and sustainable land management).	Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods to threats and crises

The relationship between social protection, migration, and rural development is critical to the FAO mandate to end hunger for all. In its capacity as an organisation working across emergency and development contexts, FAO is well positioned to promote the synergies that exist at the intersection of social protection and migration in rural contexts.

Accordingly, the Social Protection and Migration paper seeks to strengthen migration and social protection synergies in FAO's programming by identifying linkages between social protection and migration from currently available literature; highlighting illustrative examples of areas where FAO has already started to work at the intersection of migration and social protection and offering ways of how FAO can further mainstream migration-social protection synergies.

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