



Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction (RYM)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project title:	Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction: Fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility (RYM)
Code:	GCP/INT/240/ITA
Countries:	Tunisia and Ethiopia
Duration:	2 years
Budget:	USD 2.5 million
Donor:	Italy

Context

In 2015, there were **244 million international migrants**¹, representing an increase of 40% since 2000. They included 150 million migrant workers². One-third of all international migrants are **aged 15 to 34**³. The phenomenon of internal migration is even larger in scale, with **763 million internal migrants** according to 2013 estimates⁴.

Distress economic migration is particularly acute among rural youth. Relative to adult household members, youth are more likely to migrate. Lack of decent jobs in rural areas and the unattractiveness of agriculture push young people to seek more productive and better-remunerated employment opportunities elsewhere. Youth are also likely to move from one rural area to another to take advantage of different seasonal calendars of farm production or to move to urban areas and abroad to find non-farm jobs. **As a result, every year rural areas**

lose a vital and potentially most dynamic share of their workforce as youth migrate to cities or move abroad in search of better livelihood opportunities.

FAO's role

FAO has a comparative advantage in exploring the links between migration, agricultural and rural transformation processes. Through its strong technical expertise and close relation with governments and agricultural stakeholders, **FAO works to maximize positive impacts of migration, particularly in rural areas.**

In particular, [FAO's work on migration](#) aims to foster rural-urban linkages, advocate for a better management of rural labour mobility, and promote the investment of remittances in agriculture and rural areas. FAO also strives to ensure safe mobility, by increasing incentives for regular migration and promoting good practices, for instance on seasonal agricultural migration. Such interventions should be coordinated with initiatives geared towards increasing youth's involvement in the agricultural sector. Promoting rural youth employment and agro-entrepreneurship is key to reduce involuntary and distress rural out-migration, and generate viable options for rural people.

Approach

The [Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction \(RYM\)](#) project is structured in global and country level components. The aim is **to address the root causes of migration** in countries of origin and promote innovative mechanisms to youth employment in rural areas, thereby reducing distress rural out-migration of young people. FAO will achieve these objectives by improving knowledge and awareness on the potential of migration and economic mobility for youth employment in agriculture; and improving policy coherence, with a focus on addressing the root causes of migration and

1. UNDESA. 2015. Trend in International migration 2015. *Population Facts*, 2015/4.

2. ILO. 2015. *Global estimates on migrant workers - Results and methodology. Special focus on migrant domestic workers*. Turin

3. UNDESA. 2011. *Youth and Migration Factsheet*. New York, U.S.A.

4. UNDESA. 2013. *Cross-national comparisons of internal migration: An update on global patterns and trends*. New York, U.S.A.

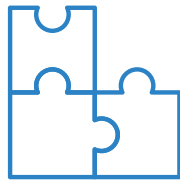
facilitating opportunities for youth through seasonal employment and agro-entrepreneurship.

At **country level**, the proposed programme will be implemented in Tunisia and Ethiopia, with different sets of activities adapted to the two country contexts.

At **regional and global level**, the project will contribute to FAO's normative work on migration in global fora and generate evidence and lessons learned that will inform the European debate on migration and the dialogue between the European Union and African countries.



Generate **knowledge** & increase **awareness** on rural migration & youth employment



Build the **capacities** to incorporate migration into agriculture & rural development planning



Organize policy **consultations** to promote innovative solutions



Facilitate **partnerships**

Prevent distress migration, by giving youth viable alternatives in rural areas

Manage seasonal migration in rural areas, by increasing awareness & information

Utilize remittances for productive activities, by supporting youth agro start-ups

Expected results

The project will **reduce distress economic migration of the rural youth** by strengthening national capacities and supporting the countries in developing and implementing policies and programmes that promote rural youth

employment. FAO attaches particular importance to ensure the **sustainability** of the intervention over time, and it does so by involving relevant stakeholders in policy consultations, aligning activities to the national priorities, and providing technical support to key policy processes.

Main activities in Tunisia	Main activities in Ethiopia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception consultations and establishment of a national Steering Committee • Diagnostic on youth migration and employment • Policy context analysis and rapid capacity needs assessment • Guidance materials on youth employment and migration • Capacities development activities for focal points in key ministries • Rounds of consultations at national and regional level on youth employment and seasonal migration • Facilitation of partnerships and innovative mechanisms for youth employment • Provision of economic and technical support to young agro-preneurs and youth organizations • Information campaigns on jobs opportunities and the rights of youth as workers and migrants • National validation workshop and formulation of an action plan and roadmap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception consultations and establishment of a national Steering Committee • Diagnostic on youth migration and employment • Policy context analysis and rapid capacity needs assessment • Capacities development activities for focal points in key ministries • Initial consultations at national and regional level on youth employment and seasonal migration • Facilitation of partnerships and innovative mechanisms to generate youth employment opportunities • Capacity building trainings for rural youths • National validation workshop and plan of action



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