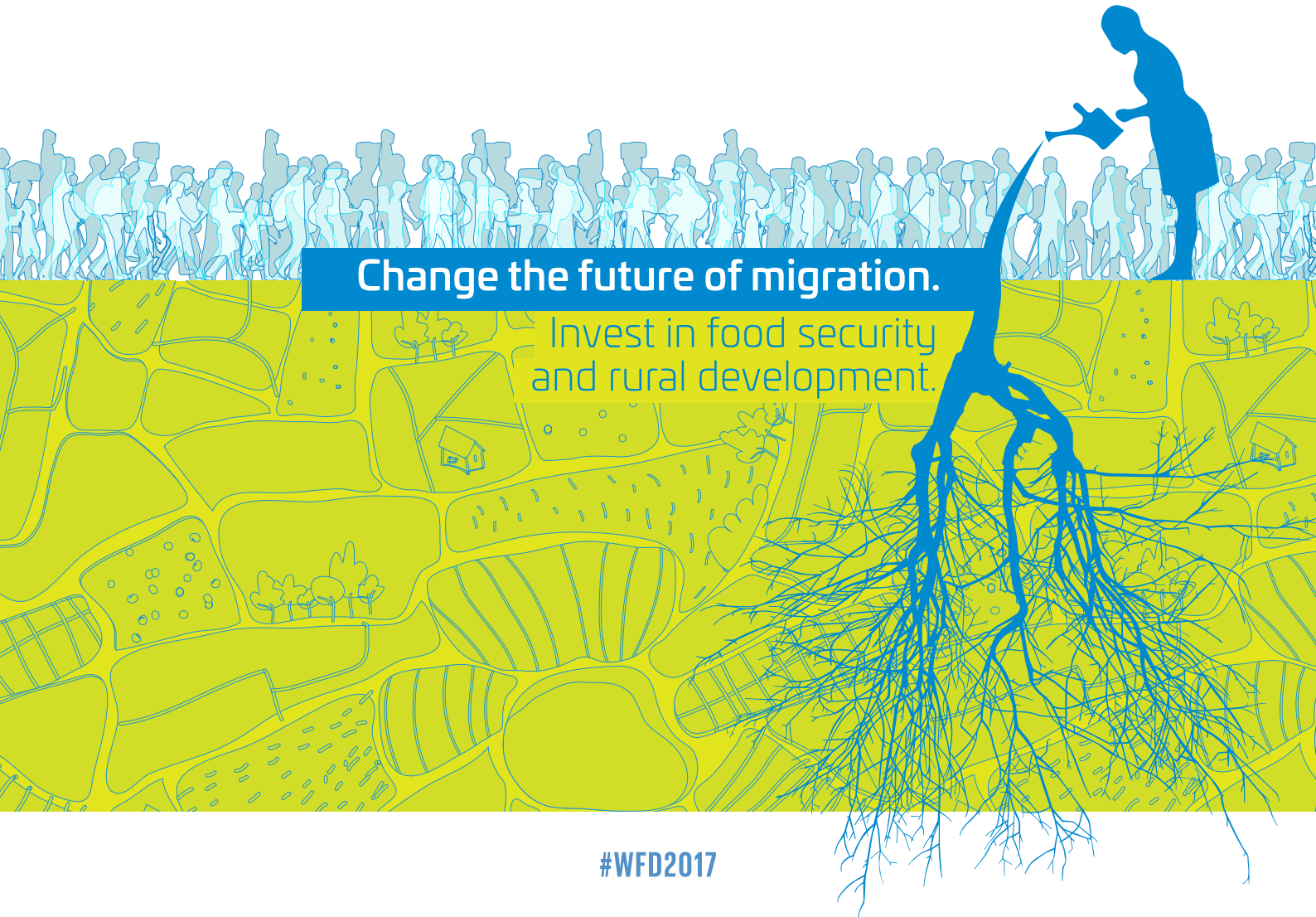




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food Day | 16 October 2017



Change the future of migration.

Invest in food security
and rural development.

#WFD2017

Towards a sustainable future

The global goal to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 cannot be reached without addressing the connections between food security, rural development and migration. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015, 193 countries pledged to end poverty and hunger, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. One year later, the UN held a Summit on Refugees and Migrants at its New York headquarters to seek a comprehensive approach to migration governance. Participants agreed to work towards a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to be adopted in 2018. The Global Compact on Migration will aim to address all dimensions of international migration, including humanitarian, developmental, and human rights-related.



Migration, food and agriculture

Migration has come to the fore of international discussions on social and economic development. And yet, migration has been part of human behavior for centuries. What has changed? Travel and communications technologies have made it easier for many people to leave their hometowns and countries. But for others, migration remains a costly, physically challenging and sometimes fatal pursuit. UN figures show more people are engaged in forced and distress migration, moving due to conflict, persecution and natural disasters, or because they feel they have no choice but to do so, in an effort to escape poverty, threats to their livelihoods, or other extreme pressures. In 2015 alone, 65.3 million people were forcibly displaced by conflict and persecution worldwide, and more than 19 million people were internally displaced because of natural disasters. Between 2008 and 2015, an average of 26.4 million people moved each year due to climate or weather-related disasters.

What is migration?

Migration is the movement of people, either within a country or across international borders. FAO uses the term migration to refer to all kinds of movement, irrespective of the drivers, duration and whether they are voluntary or involuntary in nature.

Who are migrants?

Migrants are a very diverse group of people. They include migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), people who engage in climate-induced migration, unaccompanied minors and trafficked persons. They also encompass people who move for other purposes, including education and family reunification. Migrants may move from one place to another either permanently or on a temporary basis, and their movements can depend on seasonal conditions, occurring during only part of the year. Most migrants move within their countries. Many others move internationally, across borders. They come primarily from developing regions but, increasingly, move among countries of the global south and from north to south.

Impact

UN figures show there are roughly 244 million international migrants, while 763 million migrate within their own countries. Were the 244 million to constitute a nation, they would be more populous than Brazil and a little smaller than Indonesia. There are 65 million forced migrants, of which about 21.3 million are refugees, 40.8 million IDPs, and 3.2 million asylum seekers. Migration, if managed in a humane and orderly way, can contribute to economic growth in both destination countries and countries of origin.

Migrants can provide new sources of labor in their destination countries or regions, but it is also important to note their influence on cash flows in their home regions. Migrants from developing countries send home USD 441 billion through remittances – equivalent to the GDP of a mid-sized European country, such as Austria.

Migration and FAO

The drivers and impacts of migration are intimately linked to FAO's global goals of fighting hunger and achieving food security, reducing rural poverty and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. FAO has a unique role to play in addressing the root causes of rural forced and distress migration and, at the same time, facilitating the benefits of orderly, humane and regular migration. In 2018, FAO, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), will co-chair the Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency body which promotes dialogue on migration issues at the international level.

A rural phenomenon

Food and agriculture remain central to people's well-being and linked to the reasons why many people migrate, especially from rural areas. More than 75 percent of the world's poor and food insecure live in rural areas, mostly depending on agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods. Many individuals and families migrate for economic reasons, as they see no other viable option for moving out of poverty but to migrate.

The rural poor, especially smallholder family farmers, face considerable difficulties in accessing the credit, services, technologies and markets which would allow them to improve the productivity of their natural resources and labor. Most available jobs in agriculture are associated with low and unstable incomes, poor safety and health conditions, gender inequality in pay and opportunities, and limited social protection. Due to restricted access to training, financial and extension services and processing facilities, more attractive prospects may be limited in rural areas.

Sustainable solutions

Agriculture and rural development can address the root causes of migration, including rural poverty, food insecurity, inequality, unemployment and natural resource depletion due to environmental degradation and climate change. Investing in sustainable rural development, climate change adaptation and resilient rural livelihoods is an important part of the global response to the current migration challenge.



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FAO's work on migration aims to address the root causes of distress migration, by improving conditions and creating alternative livelihood opportunities in countries of origin, and to harness the development potential of migration for countries of origin and destination. It also provides other support to displaced people and their host communities, and to people in crisis situations.

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Key terms

Distress migration

Any migratory movement made under conditions where the individual and/or the household perceive that the only viable livelihood option for moving out of poverty is to migrate. Drivers may be poverty, food insecurity, lack of employment opportunities, limited access to social protection, natural resource depletion, and environmental degradation and climate change.

Forced migration

Migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihoods, whether arising from natural or man-made causes, such as the movement of refugees and internally displaced persons and people affected by natural or environmental disasters.

Voluntary migration

Motivated by a decision-making process based on free will and initiative. People move for a variety of reasons, but among the strongest factors influencing the decision to migrate is a desire to improve their livelihoods.

Taking Action

Migration should be a choice, not a necessity. FAO has long experience in supporting the creation of better conditions and resilient livelihoods in rural areas.

Together with its partners, FAO aims to expand its work towards strengthening the positive contribution that migrants, refugees and IDPs are bringing to poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, and the resilience of rural households.

FAO applies its expertise in the following areas:

- Addressing the root causes and drivers of distress migration.
- Helping to create agricultural and off-farm work opportunities for youth, women and others who might otherwise migrate.
- Promoting safe, orderly and regular migration from rural areas, and supporting public information campaigns and policies that are compatible with these objectives.
- Harnessing the potential of migration for agriculture and rural development.
- Preventing conflicts over land and natural resources.
- Strengthening the resilience of communities affected by protracted crises triggered by natural or man-made disasters.
- Developing sustainable strategies for the integration of displaced people in host communities.

FAO works with its partners to:

- Gain a better understanding of international and internal migration, by generating evidence/data on its root causes and its impact on agriculture and rural development.
- Support institutional capacities to deal with large movements of refugees and migrants from an agriculture and rural point of view.
- Disseminate the lessons learned and best practices found for scaling up innovative solutions.
- Facilitate policy dialogue to improve understanding of rural migration.
- Strengthen partnerships and advocacy for addressing the root causes of migration and enhance its positive contribution.

Spotlight



Food security and rural development

In **Honduras**, FAO conducted a project to ease migratory pressures through rural youth enterprise development. Young women and men received training in agricultural and entrepreneurial skills and sought capital funds by proposing microenterprises. In **Ethiopia** and **Tunisia**, an ongoing FAO project aims to provide rural youth with sustainable livelihood options as an alternative to migration. It promotes innovative mechanisms and rural development strategies for generating productive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.



Climate change

In **Uganda** and **Nepal**, FAO helps communities to manage climate risks and adapt to climate change. In Uganda, FAO strengthens the capacities and resilience of rural populations in cattle-related work to cope with adverse climate change impacts. Projects promote integrated watershed management, village savings plans and local knowledge. In Nepal, FAO builds farmers' capacities for disaster preparedness and climate-risk management, to provide communities exposed to the risk of natural hazards with alternatives to displacement.



Protracted crises and conflict

In **Turkey**, an FAO regional initiative aims to enhance livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees and their host communities by fostering greenhouse production in camps, while promoting employment through vocational training. In **Syria**, due to the conflict, agricultural services have been weakened, assets depleted, and national production capacities significantly reduced. FAO is helping farmers to stay on their land and produce food, when it is safe for them to do so. This is crucial to improving food security and making migration a choice.

Fast Facts

Fact 01 In 2015, there were **244 million international migrants, 40% more than in 2000.**

Fact 04 In 2015, migrants sent over USD600 billion in remittances to their countries of birth. Of that, developing countries received about USD441 billion, nearly three times the amount of official development assistance.

Fact 06 Most migrants, whether international or internal, originate from the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Fact 08 A quarter of global refugees **reside in only three countries (Turkey, Pakistan and Lebanon).**

Fact 02 People who move within national borders were estimated at 763 million in 2013, meaning that there are more internal migrants than international migrants.

Fact 03 About one-third of all international migrants are aged 15-34. Nearly half are women.

Fact 05 A large share of migrants come from rural areas where more than 75% of the world's poor and food insecure depend on agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods.

Fact 07 In 2015, 65.3 million people around the world were forcibly displaced by conflict and persecution, including over 21 million refugees, 3 million asylum-seekers and over 40 million IDPs.

Fact 09 In 2015, more than 19 million people were internally displaced because of natural disasters. Between 2008 and 2015, an average of 26.4 million people were displaced annually by climate or weather-related disasters.

2 ZERO HUNGER



Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

In SDG2, food security is seen as a complex condition requiring a holistic approach and a series of complementary actions to tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. Actions needed may include fostering sustainable development, improvements in productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, the resilience of food production systems and the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources. This means taking into account, and directly involving all people, including migrants.

www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals



World Food Day

Each year, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) celebrates World Food Day on 16 October to commemorate the founding of the Organization in 1945. Events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger, and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. World Food Day is also an important opportunity to send a strong message to the public: we can end hunger in this lifetime and become the Zero Hunger Generation, but everyone needs to work together to achieve this goal.



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

world-food-day@fao.org
www.fao.org/world-food-day