



PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

UNDP's Four Specific Focus Areas

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INTRODUCTION

Migration and displacement have reached unprecedented levels. One in seven people on the planet is on the move. More than 258 million people live outside their country of origin. Many are economic (voluntary) migrants hoping to enhance their livelihoods and send money back home. However, there are over 70 million people, almost 1 percent of humankind, who are forcibly displaced, including over 25 million refugees, approximately 3 million asylum seekers and 41 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).¹ The majority of those displaced are women and girls.

Eighty-four percent of refugees are hosted in developing countries, many in areas already characterized by sub-optimal economic productivity and endemic poverty. As refugee flows surge and become protracted, the infrastructure and services of host countries are challenged to absorb the newcomers. As a result, people who are forcibly displaced face extreme conditions—lacking jobs, income and access to health care and social services beyond emergency humanitarian assistance. They are often

Box 1

Defining migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees

International Migrants	Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Refugees
<p>While there is currently no universally agreed definition for who constitutes an international migrant, the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants defines a migrant worker as a “person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.”</p> <p>For international statistics, a person who resides outside his or her country of birth for one year or more, irrespective of the motivation to move, is counted as an ‘international migrant’. Often the term ‘migrant’ is used to refer to voluntary migrants, who choose to move across international borders, as opposed to forced migrants, who are compelled to leave their communities of origin.</p>	<p>Displacement is a forced removal of persons from their home or country, often due to armed conflict or natural disasters.</p> <p>An internally displaced person, or IDP, is someone who is forced to flee their home, but who remains within their country’s borders.</p> <p>The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement outline the rights of IDPs and the responsibilities of national governments to protect and assist them.</p>	<p>According to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, refugees are persons who have fled their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinions.</p> <p>Regional refugee conventions, namely the 1969 Organisation of African Unity Convention and the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, also regard refugees as groups of people who flee because of external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order.</p>

¹ UNHCR Global Trends report 2018. <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018/>

criminalized and face harassment, animosity and violence in transit routes and host countries. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, sexual violence and being forced into sex work.

Movements of people are becoming more mixed, meaning that economic (voluntary) migrants are moving alongside refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs. Such movements are also taking place in different stages, such as moving from home country to host country refugee camps or host communities, transiting through neighbouring countries and reaching borders of developed countries. Mixed migration is motivated by a range of drivers and causes, use similar routes, modes of travel and similar destination and use irregular means with the assistance of smugglers. The trend of mixed migration is increasing due to a failure of refugee containment policies and relative ease of global mobility linked to transnational social networks.

Furthermore, both rapid onset and slow onset climate stresses are also leading to displacement and population movement. Rapid onset disasters such as floods, storms, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and wildfires have led to 24.2 million people being newly displaced in 2016². In addition, slow onset climate stress caused by rising sea level, increasing drought, or accelerating desertification can also drive displacement when combined with economic, social and political factors. While it is conceptually and practically difficult to establish a precise category of environmental or climate migrant, the Nansen Initiative Platform on Disaster Displacement³ is seeking to find ways to address the needs of these groups of migrants.



Migrants on a boat prior to rescue by the Italian Coast Guard © 2014 UNHCR / The Italian Coastguard / Massimo Sestini

² <http://www.internal-displacement.org/disasters-and-climate-change>

³ <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/secretariat/>

Global Compacts for Refugees and Migrants

Within this context, in December 2018 the international community adopted two Global Compacts for refugees and migrants. Firstly, the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) is the first UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions. The GCM aims at optimizing the overall benefits of migration, while addressing its risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. It comprises 23 objectives for better managing migration at local, national, regional and global levels (See Annex 1). The UN Network on Migration has been created to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support to Member States on the implementation of the GCM. UNDP is a member of the Executive Committee together with DESA, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC.

Secondly, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) (see Annex 2) is aimed at strengthening the international response to large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations. Built on existing international law and standards, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and human rights treaties, its main objectives are to ease the pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand access to third-country solutions and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. Towards this, UNDP and UNHCR have strengthened collaboration to develop humanitarian and development interventions together in response to refugee situations and in refugee-hosting countries.



PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

This note provides a snapshot of UNDP's key areas of work as they relate to migration and displacement. It explores four specific focus areas that UNDP works on to promote development approaches to migration and displacement in supporting countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNDP's target groups are migrants, refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host communities. UNDP partners with key government departments, other agencies such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organization, World Bank, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector in providing policy and programme support to countries on migration and displacement.

B.1. UNDP key areas of work on Migration and Displacement, and link to Strategic Plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In many countries, large-scale migration and displacement have become a crisis mainly because national and local governments lack the capacities to address the situation early on. They usually have no means at policy and institutional levels to better equip themselves to provide humanitarian and development support to migrants, refugees, IDPs and/or host communities and lack resources, coordination and integrated approaches that address the full needs spectrum of the affected groups of migrants, refugees, IDPs and host communities. In some cases, there is lack of commitment to address the situation effectively. Where response is undertaken, it is through a siloed and short-term approach rather than through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, UNDP's migration and displacement approach rests on the following three focus areas of the UNDP Strategic Plan (SP) (2018-21):

- a) Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and keeping people out of poverty (SP Outcome 1);
- b) Accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development, especially through innovative solutions that have multiplier effects across the Sustainable Development Goals (SP Outcome 2);
- c) Building resilience to crises and shocks, in order to safeguard development gains (SP Outcome 3).

As its global offer on migration and displacement, UNDP focuses on **FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS**, building on existing capacities at the national, regional and global levels, in close collaboration with its partners such as IOM, UNHCR and other agencies:

- i. Addressing the root causes of displacement and mitigating the negative drivers of migration and factors compelling people to leave their homes;
- ii. Supporting governments to integrate migration and displacement issues in national and local development plans, including during the localization of SDGs, and strengthening positive impacts of migrants/diaspora;

- iii. Supporting refugees, migrants, IDPs and host communities to cope, recover and sustain development gains in crisis and post crisis situations ('resilience-based development'); and
- iv. Supporting national and local authorities achieve sustainable community based re/integration

Strengthening the evidence base for policy and programmes through (joint) assessments and analysis cuts across all the four areas of UNDP's work. Our support is based on needs and demands from countries, that are informed by analysis of the context.

With women and youth forming the majority of refugees and IDPs, UNDP's policies and programmes on migration and displacement fully integrate and focus on empowering these groups in countries of origin, transit, destination and return. UNDP recognizes the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by taking into account gender equality and women's empowerment perspectives into migration policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against women and girls. The four UNDP specific areas of work prioritize gender and women's empowerment, through partnership with UN Women and Ministries/Departments of Women's and Youth Affairs in the different countries of origin, transit, destination and return.

Furthermore, UNDP recognizes that migrants, refugees and IDPs may face many common challenges and similar vulnerabilities. They are all entitled to the same human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled. While migrants, refugees and IDPs all may be particularly vulnerable to the risk of violations and abuses of their rights, only refugees are entitled to additional protections under international refugee law. As UNDP supports the implementation of migration and displacement policies and programmes, it is guided by international laws and



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