

GPECS II



Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support II



GLOBAL COMPONENT



October 2016

Political participation in times of mass migration and refugee crises A GPECS II Initiative

The number of international migrants — persons living in a country other than where they were born — reached 244 million in 2015, an increase of 41 per cent compared to 2000. At the end of 2015, more than 65 million people were displaced, the highest level since World War II. Globally, one in every 113 people is now either a refugee, internally displaced¹, or seeking asylum; and the number of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) is further on the rise. In the past five years, at least 15 conflicts have erupted or reignited, and while a few of these crises have been resolved, most still generate new displacement.

The 2030 Agenda fully recognizes migration and displacement as core development considerations and has introduced specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets on migration, pledging to "leave no one behind," including refugees, migrants and displaced persons. Against the background of these alarming numbers, the question of how migrants and refugees can be supported in exercising their political and civil rights — including to participate in the political affairs of their country of origin — becomes more and more topical.

The political rights of refugees and migrants are implicitly mentioned in a number of international and regional conventions that confer political rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 25 of the ICCPR states that citizens have the right to vote and stand for election '*without unreasonable restrictions.*'

What constitutes a 'reasonable restriction,' however, has never been defined. While many believe that migrants and refugees outside their country of origin should continue to enjoy, under these international instruments, the same full rights of citizenship and political participation (including, for example, membership of political parties, the right to stand as candidates for election, access to election information, and enfranchisement) as citizens living within their home country, others believe that foreign residency — even if temporary and forced due to conflict or economic necessity — represents a 'reasonable restriction' on political participation.

¹ UNHCR (2016), www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html.



UNDP advocates for all societal groups having access to institutions and political processes. This inclusivity is crucial to legitimate elections and other political transition processes, which play a key role in returning a country to civil, democratic and accountable governance in post-conflict settings in particular. The acceptance of results of elections, and the subsequent translation of these results into an elected government, is one of the core objectives of UNDP's electoral cycle support, delivered under the lead of the Department of Political Affairs. One of the most important elements affecting the legitimacy and credibility of the electoral process – ultimately determined (in the words of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon)² by the extent to which the outcomes reflects the will of the people – depends on the citizens' participation opportunities.

Migrants' and refugees' continued exercise of political rights in their country of origin, however, requires not only the approval of the host country but can cause significant political and security challenges in the (temporary) host country. Furthermore, the challenges of facilitating out-of-country voting are enormous; the legal frameworks vary from country to country, and logistical and financial burdens on the receiving state can be significant. Complex issues like citizenship law, statelessness, voter eligibility, types of election and matters such as determining the constituencies, in which the votes of displaced citizens will be accounted for, all interplay in this very complex issue of political rights and electoral administration.

Beyond these concerns, the decision to organize external voting is politically sensitive, especially when the external

population is substantial in numbers. A large diaspora could influence the outcome of elections to a degree, which may not be acceptable in-country, and hence further increase tensions.

UNDP's Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS II) seeks to advance research, global knowledge and dialogue on the issue in order to facilitate global debates on future opportunities and challenges in regard to the growing number of citizens living outside their home countries. It also aims at creating understanding on how the United Nations and other members of the international community can support refugees and migrants in exercising their political and civil rights and how these rights can be reflected in global compacts and policy frameworks.

This UNDP initiative seeks to generate dialogue and exchange on innovative solutions for conducting large-scale OCV exercises in host-countries, research and identify practices, including with the use of new technologies, that can reduce cost and address logistical challenges limiting the participation of migrants and displaced persons as well as identifying ways to support other forms of political engagement such as remote campaigning and candidate registration.

UNDP envisages to build up strong global partnerships with regards to promoting the civic and political rights of temporary and permanently displaced people, thus reducing the gap between humanitarian aid and governance-peacebuilding work.

² Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization; Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, 7 August 2015.

For more information, contact Niall McCann, UNDP Lead Electoral Advisor at niall.mccann@undp.org

我们的产品



大数据平台

国内宏观经济数据库

国际经济合作数据库

行业分析数据库

条约法规平台

国际条约数据库

国外法规数据库

即时信息平台

新闻媒体即时分析

社交媒体即时分析

云报告平台

国内研究报告

国际研究报告

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_12218

