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YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

United Nations Development Programme

PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES
TO MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT:

FIVE UNDP SPECIFIC FOCUS AREAS

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UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

Cover: A tomato farmer in a green house in Tartous, Syria. The farm is one of the businesses supported by UNDP Syria. Crops provide food for conflict-affected Syrians. © UNDP Syria

A. Introduction

Around the world, people are on the move, escaping hardship and looking for safer environments in which to live and find work. In 2015, there were 244 million international migrants globally.¹ The impact of migration is overwhelmingly positive- both for countries of origin and for receiving countries. Yet, regular and orderly migration is not always the norm. Forced displacement presently affects over 60 million people worldwide, of which over 40 million are internally displaced.² At the same time, the duration of displacement has lengthened significantly. More than 80 per cent of refugee crises last for ten years or more; two in five last 20 years or more. The persistence of crises in countries with internal displacement is also alarming.³ National and local government capacities and systems are increasingly strained as they strive to provide adequate protection and access to basic services, while generating opportunities for jobs and livelihoods.

Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are also increasingly joining the tide of urbanization: approximately half of the world's refugees and at least 80 per cent of IDPs are thought to live in urban areas. For many, this means they forgo access not just to humanitarian assistance, but also to rights and services. Displaced people thus join the growing ranks of the urban poor who rely on the informal economy for survival.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully recognizes migration and displacement as a core development consideration. It has introduced a range of specific SDG targets on migration⁴ and pledges to “leave no one behind”, including refugees, displaced persons and host communities. The SDGs also underscore the need for development investments in preventing and resolving protracted displacement. There is widespread and growing recognition that migration and displacement are not merely short term issues, but that their costs, benefits and dynamics are part of longer term global trends. Effective and sustainable solutions can only be reached through joint actions by development and humanitarian actors.

The objective of this note is to provide a snapshot of UNDP's key areas of work as they relate to migration and displacement, and explore five key focus areas for UNDP to promote development approaches to migration and displacement as part of its broader sustainable development work.

1 United Nations (2015). *International Migration Report 2015*, UNDESA, Population Division. www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015_Highlights.pdf

2 *Global Trends on Forced Displacement in 2015*, <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unhcrsharedmedia/2016/2016-06-20-global-trends/2016-06-14-Global-Trends-2015.pdf>; IDMC, 2016. *Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2016*. Available from <http://www.internal-displacement.org/globalreport2016/>.

3 Crawford, N. and others, 2015. *Protracted displacement: uncertain paths to self-reliance in exile*. ODI, Humanitarian Policy Group. Available from: <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications...files/9855.pdf>.

4 The SDGs urge all states and development partners to protect migrant workers' labour rights, promote safe and secure working environments (Target 8.8); implement planned and well-managed migration policies (Target 10.7); reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances (Target 10.c); and produce high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated among others by race, ethnicity, and migratory status (Target 17.18).

B. Promoting development approaches to migration and displacement – UNDP Key Areas of work

Providing development approaches to migration and displacement is at the core of UNDP's work. UNDP provides support to a wide range of countries across all regions through different programmatic responses on migration and displacement. Between 2006 and 2014, UNDP implemented 180 migration-related initiatives, costing about US\$ 375 million. Since 2011, UNDP has engaged in 125 displacement-related initiatives with an overall funding envelope of about US\$ 1.3 billion. UNDP has also been a key partner in joint global displacement and migration initiatives, including the Global Migration Group (GMG)⁵, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)⁶, the Solutions Alliance⁷ and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan⁸ (3RP) in response to the Syria Crisis. UNDP supports integrated development programmes that harness the positive potential of migration for development, address the drivers and root causes, and provide comprehensive responses to a range of situations, including protracted displacement, sudden crisis and the return and reintegration of formerly displaced persons.

UNDP focuses on **three broad areas of work as its global offer**, building on existing capacities at the national, regional and global levels:

- **Developing comprehensive national policy and institutional frameworks for migration.** By supporting the formulation and implementation of comprehensive national policy and institutional frameworks for migration, UNDP helps to strengthen government capacities to integrate migration into regional, national and sub-national development strategies and plans.
- **Managing migration for long-term positive development impacts at the sub-national and local level.** UNDP works with host communities and communities of return to address the local drivers of migration and root causes of displacement (economic, social, political or environmental) while managing the impacts of immigration, emigration, internal migration and displacement. Efforts focus on leveraging the potential of migration for local sustainable development with an emphasis on joint inter-agency programming and inter-agency solutions.
- **Resilience-based development solutions for migration and displacement in times of crisis, conflict and disaster.** UNDP works with countries and communities affected by crisis, conflict and/or disaster to help them cope, rebuild, recover and protect development gains. By partnering with and harmonizing humanitarian and development interventions, UNDP helps affected institutions and communities to withstand shocks. This approach builds resilience while ensuring that communities not only recover from crisis, but also enhance the longer-term development prospects needed to move towards lasting peace and prosperity.

5 <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org>.

6 <http://www.gfmd.org/>.

7 <http://www.solutionsalliance.org/>.

8 <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>.

There are **five specific focus areas** of UNDP's support within the above three broad areas under its global offer. These five specific focus areas include: i) strengthening the evidence base through (joint) assessments and analysis; ii) analyzing and addressing the root causes of displacement and drivers of migration; iii) supporting Government partners with national and local strategy, policy and institutional development; iv) supporting host communities and local integration; and v) enabling voluntary return and community based reintegration. Each of those five key focus areas are presented in more detail below, with examples for each.

1. Strengthening the evidence base through (joint) assessments and analysis

UNDP helps strengthen government capacities to assess the impact of migration, such as the impact of remittances and foreign investment from diaspora on economic development and job creation. This includes multi-stakeholder collaboration with national and local governments to better analyse the impact and root causes of migration and displacement and inform policymaking. In (post) crisis contexts, UNDP supports governments, amongst others, in efforts to conduct needs assessments, assessments of the development impact of displacement, and profiling of displaced people, recognizing that these are critical first steps in providing effective, sustainable solutions.

Other areas of interest for UNDP in assessment and analysis include the economic and social impacts of migration, the role of diaspora in sustainable development, documentation and exchange of best practices, and the role of migrants in achieving Agenda 2030 targets. These assessments and analyses all contribute to enhanced evidence-based programme design, which is further strengthened through partnerships with the World Bank, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).⁹



IDPs from Luhansk Oblast in Ukraine receive packages of bedding and clothing. © UNDP Ukraine

⁹ UNDP will build amongst others on the outcomes of the UN-WB high-level private meeting on humanitarian-development collaboration in the global displacement crisis (16 March 2016). In this meeting, UN Principals committed on data and evidence including working together to launch initiatives such as joint risk assessments, to strengthen and harmonize the data and evidence base to inform policies and programs, and to develop a clear action plan with specific deliverables and milestones.

Examples:

UNDP has carried out a comprehensive **sub-regional economic opportunity assessment in six countries¹⁰ affected by the Syria Crisis, in the Arab States and European/CIS region**. This assessment has been conducted through a UNDP-WFP-ILO-UNHCR partnership, as part of the Regional Refugees Resilience Plan (3RP). These joint assessments aimed to support the acceleration of key commitments made at the 2016 London Conference¹¹ on inclusive labour markets for host communities and Syrian refugees, in particular the creation of 1.1 million jobs and livelihood opportunities. The assessment focused on: (a) identification of critical gaps in employment opportunities; (b) strengthening partnerships at regional level to scale-up employment generation rapidly; and (c) reinforcing advocacy for investment that provides livelihoods at country and regional levels.

Tunisia diaspora study: In 2015, UNDP collaborated with IOM and the Government of Tunisia on a comprehensive assessment of the impact of foreign direct investment by diaspora actors on economic development, including job creation. The enterprise survey amongst Tunisian firms that worked with diaspora and non-diaspora foreign investments revealed new information about the impact of investments on sustainable development and the effectiveness of particular policy incentives. In addition to highlighting ways to enhance the development impact of such investments, the assessment also identified good practices for other governments in tracking the foreign direct investments of diaspora actors. The study provides an important foundation for evidence-based policymaking relevant for Tunisia, but also for the increasing number of countries that aim to harness the investment potential of their emigrant and diaspora populations.

Labor market study in Turkey in response to the Syria crisis – Turkey currently hosts 2.7 million registered refugees, the largest number of Syrian refugees in the world.¹² The Government of Turkey passed legislation allowing work permits for the Syrian refugees under temporary protection. Information on sectors providing jobs and livelihood opportunities and access to formal jobs is therefore a high priority, in order to better target support programmes. UNDP Turkey, therefore, conducted an assessment study focused on the labor absorption capacity of the local economies in provinces that are hosting the highest numbers of refugees (i.e. Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Kilis, Hatay and Kahramanmaras).¹³ The study estimates that approximately 260,000 additional jobs will need to be created to maintain the unemployment rate and identified, amongst others, value chains and specific sectors that have a high potential to generate jobs and employment opportunities. The study also identified sectors in which Syrian refugees are already employed and can potentially be recruited. The findings also highlight challenges, such as sectors where Syrians and host community members with similar profiles are competing over the same jobs. Finally, the study presents evidence-based guidance for employment service providers.

2. Analyzing and addressing root causes of displacement and drivers of migration

Root causes of displacement and key drivers of migration include: insufficient development gains; protracted conflicts; violent extremism; poor governance; systematic exclusion and marginalization; climate change and environmental degradation; and weak natural resources management. The UN Secretary General's Report on *Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants* (May 2016) urges "investments in sustainable development and conflict-prevention, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is more cost-effective than mobilizing a response to large movements."¹⁴ UNDP addresses root causes through:

- i) Strengthening the capacities of governments to analyse root causes, promote inclusive political processes and guarantee equal access to public services, creating a foundation for effective and targeted programming;

10 Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.

11 <https://www.supportingsyria2016.com/>.

12 <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

13 UNDP, *Absorptive capacity and Potential of Local Labour Markets: the case of Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Kilis, Hatay and Kahramanmaras*, March 2016;

14 UN Secretary General's Report, *In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants*, May 2016.

- ii) Conflict prevention, including targeted investment in prevention of violent extremism;
- iii) Support to national and local governments on disaster preparedness, including building communities' resilience to future shocks, reducing the need for future movement;
- iv) Targeted sustainable development programmes in areas that are prone or vulnerable to displacement, creating an enabling environment for people to stay. This may include jobs and livelihoods opportunities in rural areas (such as value chain development), better access to basic services, or enhanced security through support for establishing the rule of law.

Examples:

UNDP and the Government of Sudan collaborate to address radicalization: A key driver of (forced) migration and displacement in Sudan is the increase in violent extremist groups. UNDP Sudan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Guidance and Endowments in June 2016, agreeing to collaborate on strengthening the stability and resilience of citizens who could potentially be radicalized and mobilized to join violent extremist groups, including at-risk youth. The collaboration will include analysis to understand violent extremism in Sudan, advocacy and information-sharing with population groups at risk of recruitment, the provision of alternative livelihoods and promotion of peaceful co-existence and social cohesion in target communities. UNDP is initiating research on the reasons for radicalization, the incentives for youth to join violent extremist groups, and the linkages between radicalization and forced migration and displacement. UNDP will also develop public information materials. In addition, UNDP has been supporting the initiatives of Sudan to forge unity among the Arab countries to prevent violent extremism as migration, displacement and violent extremism are interlinked and have trans- country dimensions.

Support to Afghanistan Livelihoods and Alternatives to Migration (SALAM): The forthcoming UNDP SALAM programme in Afghanistan aims to: i) support comprehensive and coherent national policy and institutional frameworks for migration in time of crisis and (protracted) conflict; ii) support to the Government of Afghanistan in dissuading Afghans from irregular migration; iii) reduce poverty and other factors that drive migration, and support reintegration of returnees through development solutions at sub-national and local levels; iv) provide innovative and legitimate alternatives to irregular migration for semi-skilled and unskilled workers; v) institutionalize linkages between national and international private sectors; and vi) engage with vulnerable groups, community leaders and powerbrokers.¹⁵



© UN Photo/Luke Powell

15 The various programme components under SALAM also indirectly contribute to curbing people-smuggling gangs and dissuade citizens from migrating.

3. Support to government partners on national and local level strategy, policy and institutional development

UNDP supports national and local governments with the **integration of migration and displacement into national and local development plans** and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). For example, UNDP works with IOM in supporting national and local governments to mainstream migration into their development plans through the Joint Global Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies (see example below).

Globally, UNDP facilitates international cooperation, knowledge-sharing and learning on migration mainstreaming. Through the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), UNDP and its partners have created tools such as the “My JMDI Toolbox”¹⁶, a collection of good practices and training materials on managing migration at the local level, and the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) *White Paper on Mainstreaming Migration into Local Development Planning*.¹⁷ These tools assist local and regional authorities in their roles as first responders to the challenges and opportunities of migration and displacement.

UNDP also works with UNHCR on joint strategy development for Durable Solutions. In addition to implementing its own early recovery activities, UNDP is the lead agency for the Early Recovery Cluster that coordinates, harmonizes and standardizes the early recovery efforts of international and national partners. In this capacity, UNDP leads other UN agencies and organizations in the implementation of the October 2011 Secretary General’s Decision on Durable Solutions.¹⁸ UNDP and UNHCR provide joint technical expertise to support UN country offices in developing strategies on durable solutions, in collaboration with national actors and other key partners.



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