

UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
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50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO
**MIGRATION AND
DISPLACEMENT**

UNDP POSITION PAPER FOR THE 2016
UN SUMMIT FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

United Nations Development Programme



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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.

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1.0 Migration and displacement— not a short term crisis but a longer term trend

Around the world, people are on the move, looking for safer and better environments in which to live, find work and prosper. Migration plays a critical role in economic growth and development by meeting labour market shortages at all skill levels. In 2015, there were 244 million international migrants globally.¹ Demographic trends, including a growing youth population, combined with limited jobs and livelihood opportunities and inadequate investment in human capital are also expected to increase migration levels. By 2030, for instance, the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the number of youth is projected to have grown by 7 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion.² By 2050 an estimated 35 per cent of global youth will be African.

Worldwide remittance flows are estimated to have exceeded US\$ 601 billion in 2015. Of this, it is estimated that more than US\$441 billion were sent by migrants back to their families living in developing countries, nearly three times the amount of official development assistance (ODA).³ Yet, as of the third quarter of 2015, the average cost of sending back remittances worldwide remained close to 8 per cent—far above the 3 per cent target set in the SDGs.⁴

The world is currently witnessing a mounting displacement crisis. Forced displacement affects over 65 million people worldwide (compared to 59.5 million just 12 months earlier), of whom 21.3 million are refugees, 40.8 million are internally displaced and more than 3 million are asylum seekers.⁵ Women are disproportionately impacted by forced displacement. Specific challenges relate, for instance, to the disintegration of families, child care, social anomalies, unprotected employment and work in informal sectors. The rate at which people are fleeing war and persecution has soared from 6 per minute in 2005 to 24 per minute in 2015.⁶

In the last two decades, not only the amount, but also the duration of displacement has increased 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.⁷ As a result, the migration and displacement crisis is increasingly straining national and local government capacities to provide

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

² <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/YouthPOP.pdf>.

³ World Bank Group, 2016. *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2016*. Available from: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1199807908806/4549025-1450455807487/Factbookpart1.pdf> The true size of remittances, including unrecorded flows through formal and informal channels, is believed to be significantly higher.

⁴ Ibid. The cost of remittances is the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa and in the Pacific Islands.

⁵ UNHCR (2016). *Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015*. Available from: www.unhcr.org/576408cd7.pdf.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ 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>.

adequate protection, access to basic services and an environment conducive to jobs and livelihood opportunities. Infrastructure and systems have also been stretched to their limits and beyond.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully recognizes migration and displacement as core development considerations. It has introduced a range of specific SDG targets on migration⁸ and pledges to “leave no one behind”, including refugees, displaced persons and host communities.

Since migration and displacement are key priorities for UNDP’s sustainable development agenda, this paper outlines UNDP’s position on key commitments made in the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*. It further outlines recommendations for the forthcoming *Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework* and the *Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, and it presents UNDP’s Summit and post-Summit corporate commitments on migration and displacement.

2.0 2016 UN Summit and New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

The 19 September 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitments to address large movements of refugees and migrants, and identify collective responses. The Summit will reflect on the understanding that the root causes of displacement and drivers of migration must be addressed and that respect for relevant existing normative frameworks must be reaffirmed and supported. Particularly, the Summit provides an opportunity to work towards a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to be adopted in 2018.

UNDP acknowledges the efforts of Member States who have consulted widely and reached consensus on the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* for the 19 September UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. UNDP particularly welcomes the fact that the Declaration addresses the critical development dimensions of migration and displacement. In particular, UNDP supports the following key commitments made by Member States:

- As highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognition of the positive contributions of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development, and the commitment to “leave no one behind” by addressing the specific needs of migrants, refugees and other displaced persons;

⁸ The SDGs urge all states and development partners to protect migrant workers’ labor 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), produce high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated among others by race, ethnicity, and migratory status (Target 17.18), and eliminate all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking of women (Target 5.2) and children (Target 16.2).

- Commitment to address the root causes of large movements of refugees and migrants, including through achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular those on early crisis prevention, peacebuilding, mediation and sustainable development;
- Reaffirmation of the commitments made under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to address the situations of refugees and migrants;
- Accession to, and implementation of, relevant international instruments on preventing and combatting trafficking in persons, including smuggling of migrants;
- To take measures that make humanitarian financing more flexible and predictable, with diminished earmarking and increased multi-year funding;
- Commitment to respect international law and international human rights in addressing migration and displacement;
- Condemnation of acts of racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance against refugees and migrants;
- Ensuring that responses to migration and displacement mainstream gender perspectives, promote gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as protect the human rights of women and girls;
- Facilitating the development (and implementation) of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration, and a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework by 2018.

UNDP is committed to work with and support Member States in achieving the above commitments and translating the agreements into policy and programmable interventions. Although UNDP respects the Summit's focus on refugees and migrants, UNDP will continue to advocate strongly for sustained attention and support to internal displacement, in line with our commitment under the 2030 Agenda "to leave no one behind", also bearing in mind the risk that internally displaced persons (IDPs) could become refugees or forced migrants in the future.

UNDP is committed to continue to strengthen its partnerships to respond to issues migration and displacement, in particular with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank. Particular, UNDP will seek to advance partnerships with respect to a new approach to strategic planning through joint development-humanitarian assessments, analysis, and multi-year planning and programming for collective outcomes. This will include strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and national and local government capacity building to improve and harmonize the data and evidence base on the development impact of migration and forced displacement, to

inform policies and programmes in countries affected by forced displacement and large movements of migrants.⁹

3.0 UNDP's Summit and post-Summit key recommendations

UNDP advocates for concrete follow up to the 19 September UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. The *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* has two Annexes. Annex I on refugees: the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF); and Annex II on migrants: the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The CRRF and Global Compact will be developed over the next few years and adopted in 2018. This section presents UNDP's key Summit and post-Summit recommendations for the international community to respond to, manage and prevent¹⁰ large movements of migrants and refugees. These recommendations are shared for consideration during the development of both the CRRF and Global Compact in the next two years.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ***BOTH*** THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK AND THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

Advance a joint evidence base on the development impact of large movements of migrants and refugees

Regular migration can be a force for positive globalization and economic growth. Although understanding the social and economic value of migration for both countries of destination and countries of origin has been a challenging issue, comparable data is increasingly available.¹¹ Some areas of the migration agenda are, however, still particularly constrained by the lack of substantial research, including irregular migration and mixed migration flows as well as, for instance, cost benefit analyses of migration vs people staying in their home countries.

At the same time, there is a critical demand for more coherent data on forced displacement across humanitarian and development partners, including reliable information about the development impact of large movements of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), asylum seekers, and forced migrants—including the socioeconomic impact on host communities. Importantly, there is a need for additional research and data on irregular and mixed migration flows. A common understanding of the context and the risks of large movements can provide a better basis for joint humanitarian and development efforts, with the appropriate linkages to peacebuilding efforts. Joint analyses that include humanitarian, development and peacebuilding dimensions remain the exception rather than the rule.

⁹ UNDP is currently a lead agency on multiple joint global and regional initiatives relating to migration and displacement. These include, amongst others, the Regional Refugee Response Plan (3RP); the Durable Solutions initiative, the Joint UNDP-IOM Global Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies; the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD); the Global Migration Group (GMG); the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI); and the Solutions Alliance.

¹⁰ Prevention focuses on addressing the factors that trigger large movements of migrants, refugees and IDPs, so that people are not forced to flee. "Prevention" does not mean preventing people from moving as such.

¹¹ <http://www.knomad.org/>; OECD <http://www.oecd.org/migration/migration-development/>.

UNDP's recommendations

- Invest in shared, strategic analysis, from identifying pre-crisis risks and baselines, to in-crisis and immediate post-crisis analyses, taking into account the evolving needs and institutional dynamics. These analyses should be localized wherever possible. We should improve mechanisms to share analyses between international actors;

- Strengthen national and local government capacities through multi-stakeholder collaboration to build a joint evidence base on the social and economic impact of forced displacement and migration, as a basis for well-informed policies and programming. This will require investment in intensive, technical advice and training support for local and national actors to lead assessment and analyses;

In particular, UNDP recommends measures to strengthen capacities in terms of assessments and analysis in the following areas: i) Root causes of forced displacement and drivers of forced migration; ii) Economic impact of migration on countries of destination; iii) Role of diaspora and remittances on economic recovery and sustainable development; v) Social impacts of migration and displacement; vi) Role of migrants, refugees and IDPs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets; vii) Livelihood and workforce development; viii) Additional research and data on irregular and mixed migration flows.

Build capacity to mainstream migration and displacement into national and local development plans

In order to find sustainable solutions to protracted displacement and to enhance the positive development impact of regular migration, it is essential for host governments to mainstream migration and displacement considerations into their national and local development plans. Guidance has recently been made available to support this process, as embodied in the *Guidance note: Integrating Migration and Displacement in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)*¹².

In terms of displacement, partners are encouraged to build on existing experience through UNDP's and UNHCR's joint support to governments on national strategy development for Durable Solutions, in line with the October 2011 Secretary General's Decision on Durable Solutions. Partners should also build on existing experiences from, for instance, the United Nations Actions for Cooperation Against Trafficking in persons (UN-ACT), which supports governments with national strategy development on human trafficking, noting the close link between migration and human trafficking.

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