

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations Secretariat
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**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

¹The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

QUESTION 1.

Please describe briefly the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken in 2015, or is planning to undertake in 2016, to monitor and implement migration-related commitments related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4).

FAO is committed to collaborate and support Member States as the global community moves towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, assisting countries in the implementation, monitoring, follow up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. It can do so especially in areas where FAO has unique expertise and abundant experience as the UN specialized agency on food and agriculture, including: ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; sustainably managing, conserving and using natural resources; and promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development.

FAO generates knowledge about the root causes of migration and advises countries on how to better manage rural labour mobility, to deal in a coherent way with the issue of migration, mobility and youth employment. With its partners, FAO works to enhance the benefits from migration, while addressing the root causes of distress migration and large movements of refugees from rural areas.

Creating decent farm and non-farm jobs in rural areas is at the core of FAO's approach to address the root causes of distress migration. Through decent rural employment, rural workers and their families can lead productive, healthy and dignified lives. Promoting viable and attractive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture and rural areas, particularly for youth, can make a significant contribution to easing migratory pressures and reduce distress out-migration.

FAO is also increasingly interested in the link and impacts of migration and climate change on agriculture and rural development. This involves formulating a set of practical recommendations for policy makers, with a specific focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, given the high vulnerability of its agro-ecological systems to the effects of climate change.

Moreover, given FAO's expertise in both developmental and humanitarian settings, FAO is in a privileged position to support to refugees and migrants in fragile contexts and protracted crises by supporting sustainable agricultural and rural development, strengthening food security and building resilience, including through social protection systems.

In 2015, FAO started the implementation of the project "Youth migration, food security and rural poverty reduction: Fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility" (RYM Project) funded by the Italian Development Cooperation. This two-year project is of high strategic relevance, as it is the first to implement FAO's integrated approach to rural youth migration. The project is structured in global and country level components (Tunisia and Ethiopia). The aim is to address the root causes of migration in countries of origin and promote innovative mechanisms to youth employment in rural areas, thereby reducing distress rural out-migration of young people. The global component of the project will generate evidence and strong diagnostics on the propensity of young people to migrate from rural areas, as well as disseminate good practices and lessons learned in global policy fora and discussions. At country level, FAO will implement capacity development activities for focal points in key ministries in order to enhance their awareness and expertise to account for migration and labour mobility in agriculture and rural development planning. The project will also promote pilot mechanisms to generate opportunities for rural youth both in terms of self-employment (entrepreneurship) as well as seasonal wage employment.

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- Facilitating pilot mechanisms for youth employment in rural areas, building on FAO's expertise and ongoing work, including the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools and the RYM Project and scaling-up innovative solutions across countries, also involving public-private partnerships.
- Contributing more systematically to existing global cooperation mechanisms and engaging with key partners from the UN System, other inter-governmental bodies, and non-state actors.

FAO's participation in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants builds on these efforts. In this regard, FAO is supporting the preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly through the GMG and other channels, with the ultimate goal of addressing the root causes of distress migration - such as food insecurity and rural poverty - and enhancing country capacity and policy coherence to reduce distress migration and promoting migration patterns that contribute to improve food security and poverty reduction.

Given the importance of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly and the increasing relevance of addressing large movements of refugees and migrants to FAO's program of work and to efforts to promote food security and nutrition and promote sustainable agricultural and rural development, FAO will attend the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants and envisages the participation of its Director-General.