

Development approaches to migration and displacement

CONTEXT

In 2015, there were 244 million international migrants.¹ The average cost of remittances worldwide remained close to 8 per cent—far above the 3 per cent target set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).² Forced displacement affects over 65 million people worldwide, of whom 21.3 million are refugees, 40.8 million are internally displaced and more than 3 million are asylum seekers.³ More than 80 per cent of refugee crises last for ten years or more; two in five last 20 years or more. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully recognizes migration and displacement as core development considerations.

UNDP's APPROACH

UNDP supports integrated development programmes that harness the positive potential of migration for development, address the drivers and root causes of forced displacement, and respond to protracted displacement, sudden crisis and the return and reintegration of formerly displaced persons. UNDP's broad areas of work are:

- Developing comprehensive national policy and institutional frameworks for migration;
- Managing migration for long-term positive development impacts at the sub-national and local level;
- Resilience-based development solutions for migration and displacement in times of crisis to cope with and recover from the impact of large movements and to protect development gains.

Specifically, UNDP provides support on the following 5 areas:

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. In (post) crisis contexts, UNDP supports governments with needs assessments, assessments of the development impact of displacement, and profiling of displaced people.



Women entrepreneurs, Jordan host community support programme (photo: UNDP)

Analysing and addressing the root causes of displacement and drivers of migration- 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; ii) Conflict prevention, including targeted investment in prevention of violent extremism; iii) Support to national and local governments for management of environmental degradation and disaster preparedness, including building communities' resilience to future shocks, reducing the need for future movement.

Supporting Government partners with national and local 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 (UNDAs).

Supporting host communities and local integration- UNDP supports host communities to cope with and recover from the

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 Ibid.

³ UNHCR (2016). *Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015*. Available from: www.unhcr.org/576408cd7.pdf.

impact of displacement and protect development gains through:

- i) Support for municipalities to ensure access to basic services; ii) UNDP supports sustainable livelihood opportunities for displaced people and host community members, including cash-for-work, vocational training and small and medium enterprise development; iii) UNDP supports a wide range of rule of law institutions and actors who contribute to strengthening the protection of different groups, including displaced persons; and iv) UNDP facilitates dialogue and conflict mitigation between host communities and displaced persons.

Enabling voluntary return and community based reintegration- UNDP helps create an enabling environment for people to return to their own communities. In both conflict and disaster affected contexts. This may include support for local authorities through debris management, rehabilitation of socioeconomic community infrastructure, mine action, and stabilization; and it can also include facilitating the diaspora's participation in peacebuilding processes.

UNDP works collectively with other partners, including humanitarian and development actors, governments, urban planners, civil society, International Financial Institutions, the private sector and populations themselves towards a new approach to displacement and migration.

UNDP has set up internal coordination structures to support the overall organization in a whole of UNDP approach to delivering effectively on issues related to migration and displacement. This includes a Senior Steering Group (SSG), chaired by the UNDP Associate Administrator and attended by all UNDP Bureau Directors. The SSG is supported by a Technical Working Group, in which also all UNDP Bureaus are represented.

UNDP IN ACTION

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 been a key partner in joint global displacement and migration initiatives, including the Global Migration Group (GMG)⁴, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)⁵, the Solutions Alliance⁶ and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan⁷ (3RP) in response to the Syria Crisis.

UNDP also has a joint UNDP-IOM Global Programme supporting the mainstreaming of migration into national

development planning. UNDP leads the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI), a global inter-agency programme implemented in partnership with IOM. The United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) is a regional project under UNDP.

In Lebanon- through the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP) UNDP, to date, has supported over 1.1 million Lebanese and more than 332,000 Syrian refugees.⁸

In Turkey- UNDP conducted an assessment study in 2016 focusing on the labour absorption capacity of the local economies in provinces that are hosting the highest numbers of refugees.⁹

In Colombia- UNDP programmes on displacement have reached approximately 57,000 people over the last five years. The Transitional Solutions Initiative (TSI) has reached over 38,700 people across 17 locations.

In Sudan- UNDP, in 2015, supported crisis-affected communities including the provision of livelihoods assets and vocational skills training to 5,200 households (of which 40 per cent were IDPs and returnees). This enabled an average increase of 51.7 per cent in annual incomes for the beneficiaries.

In Burundi- UNDP is currently supporting the development of a National Durable Solutions Strategy, together with UNHCR and other partners.

In Myanmar- UNDP and UNHCR, as part of the implementation of the Secretary-General's Policy Decision on **Durable Solutions**, have jointly supported Kachin State authorities in finding lasting solutions to the displacement of populations due to armed conflicts.

UNDP manages a **joint UNDP-IOM Global Programme** on Mainstreaming Migration into national development planning. Key results under this programme include, amongst others:

In Tunisia- 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.

Policy- UNDP and IOM, under the Global Migration Group, developed a *Guidance Note on Integrating Migration and Displacement into national development planning*.

For more information, visit: www.undp.org

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⁴ <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org>.

⁵ <http://www.gfmd.org/>.

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

⁷ <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>.

⁸ Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP)

[http://www.lb.undp.org/content/lebanon/en/home/ourwork/Response to the Syrian Crisis/in_depth/](http://www.lb.undp.org/content/lebanon/en/home/ourwork/Response_to_the_Syrian_Crisis/in_depth/).

⁹ UNDP (2016) *Absorptive capacity and Potential of Local Labour Markets: the case of Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Kilis, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş*, March.