

Background paperⁱ

Theme 3: Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies

Roundtable session 3.2:

Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development

1. Introduction

A large share of migrants comes from rural areas. 80 per cent of the poor live in rural areas and 64 per cent of them earn a living by working in the agricultural sector¹. By 2050, over half of the population in least developed countries will live in rural areas, relying on agricultureⁱⁱ and related economic activities for their livelihoods.² Human mobility is part of the process of economic, social and human development. As societies undergo transformation, people inevitably move within and between countries in search of better opportunities. The shifting of economic activities across sectors and borders, and the consequent declining share of labour employed in agriculture are typically accompanied by a movement of labour from rural to urban areas, where more productive sectors in manufacturing and services are often located.

Within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, migration is recognized as one of the means to reduce inequality within and among countries and to adopt well-managed migration policies (Target 10.7), protect the rights of migrant workers, especially women (Target 8.8), and reduce remittance transfer costs (Target 10.c). Given its cross-cutting nature, migration is also relevant for several other SDGs linked to rural development and in particular to end poverty and hunger by 2030 (SDG 1, 2), mitigate and adapt to climate change (SDG 13) and promote the sustainable management of natural resources (SDG 14, 15) while achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5). The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) calls for a collective commitment to 23 objectives to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration. Many objectives are relevant to agriculture and rural development, and in particular those related to: minimizing the adverse drivers of migration, providing accurate information and enhancing pathways for regular migration, facilitating fair recruitment, reducing vulnerability in migration, eradicating human trafficking, providing access to basic services, facilitating skill recognition, creating conditions for migrants and diaspora to contribute to development, and facilitating remittance transfers and sustainable reintegration.³

2. Key issues: the most important aspects for policy debate

Rural migration is prompted by a complex and intertwined array of factors.

ⁱ This paper has been prepared by FAO, under the guidance of the RT 3.2 Co-Chairs Indonesia and Jamaica, and with valuable inputs from ILO, IFAD, OECD Development Centre, UNDP, UN Women as well as other RT team members during and between the Roundtable consultations. Though all attempts have been made to make sure that the information provided is accurate, the authors do not accept any liability or give any guarantee for the validity, accuracy and completeness of the information in this paper, which is intended to solely inform and stimulate discussion of Roundtable session 3.2 during the GFMD Summit meeting in January 2020. It is not exhaustive in its treatment of the session 3.2 theme and does not necessarily reflect the views of the authors, the GFMD organizers or the governments or international organizations involved in the GFMD process.

ⁱⁱ Agriculture refers to all agricultural subsectors, including crop, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry.

People migrate to improve their livelihoods; to escape poverty, gender inequalities including sexual and gender-based violence, and food insecurity; to look for better employment and life opportunities; for education or family reasons. Lack of decent employment opportunities in the rural economy and the unattractiveness of low productive agriculture are often the main reason driving people to move, especially youth. Where rural employment creation does not keep pace with rural population growth, the pressure to migrate will increase with associated benefits and costs. The lack of quality public and social services (education, health) and infrastructure (schools, roads and hospitals) can also influence the decision to migrate. The poor quality of transport services, processing and storage facilities can for instance affect agricultural productivity by disconnecting the farmers from input and output markets.

Demographic trends constitute both challenges and opportunities for rural areas. Countries can take advantage of the demographic dividend if a favourable economic and institutional environment (infrastructure, skills, innovation and legal frameworks) is in place. Conversely, the demographic bonus could aggravate pressures on natural resources and, coupled with limited employment prospects, it can fuel rural out-migration.⁴

Conflicts, violence and natural disasters are the prevailing drivers of forced migration. Climate change adds further complexities. Rural livelihoods significantly rely on natural resources and thus are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Such greater vulnerability has implications on rural migration patterns.

Rural migrants are generally young and more educated than non-migrants. A gender perspective to rural migration is needed.

Significant shares of migrants originate from rural areas.⁵ However, data on rural migration – whether internal or international – are scarce. Young people are most likely to migrate to look for better opportunities. Prime-age adults (ages 25-64) constitute nearly 87 per cent of migrant workers.⁶ Both migrants themselves and migrant-sending households tend to be better educated than non-migrant households.⁷ The extreme poor are those least likely to migrate, as they have greater mobility constraints (e.g. lack of resources and assets, low access to social networks and information).⁸

Women make up almost half of all international migrants, with significant variation across regions (UNDESA 2017). In 2017, the stock of female migrant workers was estimated to be 68.1 million, 41.6 per cent of all migrant workers.⁹ Migration is a gendered phenomenon and thus, the integration of a gender perspective is essential for the development of policies to counter discrimination, exploitation and abuse¹⁰. In many rural societies, women's migration is determined by social norms and expectations around gender roles and patriarchal systems of decision-making. Differences in migration patterns between women and men are likely to have notable implications for rural communities and rural transformation, and thus need consideration (e.g. male-out migration, increasing number of women working in agriculture, changing roles, technology adoption, etc.).

Internal migration within countries is significantly larger than international migration.

About 1.3 billion people living in developing countries have moved internally between rural and urban areas.¹¹ Internal and international migration can be interrelated, as migrants often move in steps. In low-income countries, internal migrants are five times more likely to migrate internationally compared to those who have not moved.¹² According to data from UN DESA¹³, the share of international migrants who move within the same region is at least half of the total number of international migrants. In both developed and developing regions, migration between countries within the same region or even sub-regions is common. Seasonal migration, a typical feature of rural migration, is increasing across the world. Particularly, the share of international migrants filling seasonal farm jobs, is rising in many middle-income and high-income countries.¹⁴ Rural areas can also be destination for many migrants. While global data are lacking, country case studies highlight the significant contribution of foreign workers in agriculture and food processing (e.g. in the US about three-quarters of all hired workers in high-value crop production were born outside the country).¹⁵ ILO Global Estimates on migrant workers showed that the agricultural sector hosted 16.7 million migrant workers (11.1 per cent) in 2013.¹⁶

The contribution of migrants and diaspora to rural development is manifold.

Around 40 per cent of international remittances are sent to rural areas, partly indicating the rural origins of a large share of international migrants.¹⁷ Remittances are a substantial additional source of income, representing on average about 60 per cent of the receiving household's total annual income.¹⁸ About 75 percent of family remittances are used for immediate needs such as food, shelter and bill payment. The other 25 percent is dedicated to building more secure and independent futures, through better education, improved health, savings and investing in assets and income-generating activities.¹⁹ When women are the recipient of remittances in the family, expenditure in children education, health and food consumption increases.²⁰ Half of what migrants remit to rural communities is spent on agriculture-related expenses (e.g. land purchases, agricultural equipment, business set-up, hiring agricultural labour)^{21 22} and in some cases they play a role in enabling on-farm investments towards more sustainable agricultural techniques and thus better adaptation to climate.^{23 24}

Over the last ten years, the average cost of sending remittances has fallen from 9.8 per cent in 2008 to 6.8 percent in 2018 of the total amount of money sent²⁵. Despite of this significant decrease, transaction costs have remained unacceptably high in many low-volume corridors²⁶, and women face particular barriers.

In addition to remittances, migrants and diaspora can contribute to the development of rural areas at origin and destination by transferring knowledge, skills and technologies, as well as stimulating tourism and trade of local goods. Many migrants contribute directly to rural development in host economies, by filling labour shortages in the agricultural sector²⁷, by paying taxes and injecting their earnings into the economies of host societies²⁸, by countering depopulation in rural areas. As an example, according to data collected by the OECD Development Centre and the ILO in Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire and the Dominican Republic, migrants have a higher employment rate than the native-born in agriculture²⁹. Agriculture also happens to be the sector in these countries most affected by the departure of emigrants.³⁰

Policy coherence between migration, employment and sectoral policies related to agriculture and rural development is essential to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration.

Policies should aim to maximize the social and economic benefits of migration, while promoting and protecting the human and labour rights of migrants.³¹ Better coherence between migration, employment³², rural and sector development policies calls for more coordination between sectoral and migration ministries and other key stakeholders (i.e. workers and employers' organizations, private sector, migrants' and diaspora associations, producers' organizations, academia); and between national and local level authorities.

3. Main challenges: conflicting interests and views

Migration: opportunity or challenge to rural development?

Migration brings both opportunities as well as challenges to rural areas and populations in countries of origin, transit and destination. At origin, migration may reduce pressure on local labour markets and foster a more efficient allocation of labour and higher wages in agriculture. Remittances can help overcome liquidity constraints and foster investments in agriculture, as well as give the possibility of hiring labour. At the same time rural areas risk losing most vital and dynamic share of their workforce. Business can face challenges as skilled workers leave for urban opportunities. People staying behind may experience increases in their workload (e.g., increasing number of women working in agriculture, child labour risks). Changes in intra-household dynamics can disrupt care arrangements for family members, which can have a negative effect on their health and well-being, but it can also have a positive impact in changing stereotypes around gender roles. Depending on the context, women may gain greater control over productive resources and remittances, potentially helping to close the gender gap in agriculture.

In rural areas of destination and transit, large numbers of migrants, refugees and IDPs can create political, economic and environmental challenges for host communities. This can contribute to population changes, environmental degradation and strains in basic social services, labour and housing markets, as well as governance systems. However, there is also an increasing body of evidence showing the benefits of engaging migrants in local economies and their contribution to host communities. For businesses facing skills gaps in rural areas, including in developed countries, efforts to address these

gaps through labor migration may offer opportunities also for skilled workers displaced by crises and conflicts, while addressing private sector needs.

Migration and rural transformation: new territorial and agri-food system dynamics

There is a two-way relationship between rural migration and rural development. On one hand, rural migration depends intimately on conditions in rural areas and has several impacts on agricultural sub-sectors. On the other, the rural economy has a key role to play as integral part of any response to large migratory movements.

Human migration has long been a key livelihood strategy for rural people, to cope with the seasonality and uncertainty associated with agriculture. Furthermore, the transformation of rural areas enhances the access of rural people to financial resources and enables them to develop their skills, and thus often increases incentives, capacities and opportunities for migration. Transformation also generally leads to the development of greater hard (physical) and soft (institutional) linkages with urban areas, particularly in growing intermediate towns and small cities. Small cities and towns can play a key role in rural development and poverty alleviation. Creating jobs around small cities and towns in the non-farm economy is a way of meeting the needs also of potential migrants. These activities offer significant employment generation potential and are important for countries facing challenges associated with youth population bulges, the majority of which are the same ones that stand at relatively early stages of the rural and structural transformation processes.

Some of the prevailing narratives linking rural-urban migration to urban overcrowding fail to take into account some key dynamics. In fact, much urban population growth is natural population growth³³; most urbanization is taking place in relatively small settlements of less than 500,000; and rural people who move may move into urban areas may do so seasonally. Still, rural-urban labour migration (*commuting, seasonal or longer-term movements*) is a relevant phenomenon, which can affect how urbanization unfolds. Hence, a more nuanced understanding of the diversity of labour migration dynamics across the rural-urban spectrum is required. This will promote more integrated spatial planning in coherence with policies towards sustainable and inclusive rural development, as well as investments to increase agricultural productivity and competitiveness throughout agro-food value chains.³⁴

Migration, climate change and environmental degradation

Climate variability and change might not directly cause people to move, but pose risks on livelihoods, health and assets that increase vulnerability and in turn influence the decision to migrate. On the one hand, those who have resources and capacity may migrate temporarily or cyclically to better cope with climate-related hazards. On the other hand, the impacts of climate change could aggravate the vulnerability of the extreme poor and vulnerable to the extent that they will be unable to move away from areas of environmental risk and be trapped in climate hotspots with fewer opportunities to adapt *in loco*. Reduced capacities of local institutions in rural areas to plan and budget adequate responses to climate change may add further layers of complexity.

Migration responses to slow and sudden climate events may differ. Case studies in Indonesia and Bangladesh show that people temporarily relocate in response to extreme weather events like flooding, but migrate on a longer-term basis when affected by environmental stress and repeated slow-onset events like prolonged heat during key agricultural seasons³⁵. The cumulative effect of climate stresses is shifting short-term/seasonal migration, traditionally undertaken in rural areas, into longer-term migration, as an effect of repeated crop failures, reduced income and increased debts.³⁶ Migration, under certain circumstances, can be a desirable adaptation strategy and a pathway out of poverty. This calls for concerted efforts to embed migration in development and environmental policies and programmes to create an enabling environment for migration to benefit countries of origin and destination as well as migrants and their families.

Protection challenges of agricultural migrant workers in destination areas

In many countries, there is a demand for migrant labour in rural and agriculture areas. Various factors contribute to this - from depopulation in rural areas, lack of labour supply to changing demographics, etc. In these contexts, migrant workers are key to maintaining agricultural activities and revitalizing rural livelihoods.³⁷ Agricultural work is often seasonal and associated with many decent work deficits. Migrant workers in the rural economy are confronted with a set of challenges in terms of protection and access to their labour rights such equal treatment, trade union rights, unethical recruitment, lack of opportunities for skills development and recognition, income security, occupational safety and health risks, lack of social protection coverage and portability of benefits³⁸. Many agricultural migrant workers in the rural economy are excluded from national labour legislation (which impacts their protection) and do not enjoy decent working conditions. In cases where they are protected or covered by policies, *de jure* protection often does not translate into *de facto* outcomes, as shown by studies in Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire and the Dominican Republic.³⁹ They run the risk of being recruited unethically and often experience discriminatory treatment, while the low-skilled migrant workers may experience greater difficulties in integrating in the labour market.⁴⁰ The lack of opportunities for skills development and recognition also adds another strain to their precarious situation.

Providing decent work conditions for migrants working in the rural economy can therefore ensure that the migration experience is positive for migrants and host communities and does not exacerbate inequalities. A better matching of labour supply and demand, accounting for skills needs and the seasonality of the demand for agricultural labour, could help better manage migration flows.

Leveraging the impact of remittances and migrants' investments

The positive impact of remittances on local communities is considerable. Remittances can have also a multiplier effects on the local economies. Information and incentives should be provided to increase the use of remittances for productive investments in agriculture and agribusiness, and to stimulate off-farm businesses. The total amount of remittances sent to rural areas and their impact are difficult to be assessed because most rural migrants move within their own countries and internal money transfers are usually not reported. Nevertheless, evidence from household data from six countries in Africa and Asia suggests that between 2006 and 2011, internal remittances mainly flowed to relatively poorer rural areas, implying a significant poverty-reducing impact.⁴¹

This year GFMD “Observance event of the “International Day of Family Remittances – Supporting one billion people reach their own SDGs”ⁱⁱⁱ, highlighted that linking remittances with financial inclusion is central to promote long-term asset building for households and their communities. Experience demonstrates that given more opportunities to save, remittance families will save more; given investment opportunities, remittance families will invest more; and given better mechanisms to develop their own human capital, they will make a strong commitment to their future. Through financial inclusion strategies, remittances exponentially increase their impact to development, and help families to use their financial resources more productively, accompanying them along the way towards financial independence.⁴² This includes providing both financial training and improvements in the financial environment.⁴³ Digitalizing remittances can also contribute to a greater impact. While cash-to-cash⁴⁴ transactions are still the main channel, this situation is changing rapidly with digital banking and the expanding numbers of mobile users, particularly in Africa and Asia. Digital banking can foster financial inclusion as it allows to link the remittances received with additional financial services, such as basic services (i.e., immediate payment of bills and invoices, access to saving accounts), to more elaborated services, such as access to credit and investment. Digital innovation can be further catalyzed by enabling financial and digital literacy and through enabled regulatory frameworks.⁴⁵ Remittances and migrants’ investments can play a role also to increase resilience to climate shocks and stresses and to improve natural resource management (i.e. the Malian diaspora investment in basic infrastructures in areas of origin, including village water supply⁴⁶; in Kenya the recovery of lands from soil erosion was achieved through investment of remittances into soil conservation techniques⁴⁷).

4. Ideas for Action

ⁱⁱⁱ The observance event of the “International Day of Family Remittances – Supporting one billion people reach their own SDGs”, was held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 14 June 2019 and organized by IFAD, the World Bank and UNDESA, in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Algeria, Canada, Ecuador, Guatemala, Madagascar and the Philippines.

A. Strengthening coherence and dialogue between migration and sectoral policies and programmes related to agriculture and rural development

Policy priorities relating to rural internal and international migration depend on country contexts. Interventions will be different for countries at different stages of development, or countries in crises, as well as transitioning and developed countries.⁴⁸ Public policies may also indirectly affect rural migration through a variety of channels. For instance, as agricultural machinery may reduce the labour-intensity and hazardousness of farm tasks the dynamics in rural labour markets may shift and in turn may increase rural-urban migration. For agriculture subsidy policies there are also mixed effects. In Armenia, households receiving agricultural subsidies are found to be less likely to have a member with plans to migrate than households that are not; while in Georgia, agricultural vouchers seem to increase the likelihood of emigration as they release financial pressure and make migration more economically feasible.⁴⁹ Access to financial services or obstacles for migrants to acquire or own rural land can limit migrants' investments and entrepreneurship in rural areas.⁵⁰

For these reasons, it is important to stimulate coherence and coordination between policies, strategies and programmes on migration and on agriculture and rural development. Mainstreaming migration into agriculture and rural development (and vice-versa), both at national and local levels is essential. Multi-stakeholder consultations are key to guarantee integrated and coherent approaches. Policy decisions should furthermore be informed and based on reliable, sound data and evidence. Overcoming data gaps and improving statistics, including on rural (labour) migration with adequate levels of disaggregation (sex, age group, agricultural subsector) will therefore be crucial in designing, implementing and monitoring policies.⁵¹ Data and statistics should be accompanied by a better understanding of rural labour markets, essential to better grasp the determinants and implications of human mobility in relation to agriculture and rural development.

Further, a necessary step is to build the capacities of agriculture and rural stakeholders to engage in and influence migration discussions at local and national levels. In implementing the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, existing multi-stakeholder platforms and mechanisms need to be leveraged for the engagement of multiple actors (rural stakeholders, youth and women's groups, employers' and workers' organizations, producers' organizations, migrant and diaspora organizations, hometown associations) in migration programming and decision-making, sensitive to agriculture and rural development.

B. Addressing the adverse drivers of migration for rural transformation and development

Creating alternatives in rural areas

Fostering decent work opportunities in the rural economy, particularly for rural youth and women, and stimulating diversification is one of the key elements to make migration a choice rather than a necessity. Upgrading agricultural value chains can create decent job opportunities beyond primary agriculture. Complementing the primary sector with upstream and downstream activities (agricultural inputs processing and marketing, etc.) can make agriculture a viable, more attractive option. Strengthening agro-industrial development and the rural non-farm economy, including by fostering the productive investment of remittances, is key to diversify and create additional income-generating opportunities for rural populations.

The efforts in providing comprehensive and accessible information to potential and actual migrants in rural areas on regular and safe migration channels, existing livelihood opportunities as well as alternatives to migration, call for a continuous action, to contribute to informed and voluntary migration decisions. The fair recruitment in the agriculture sector can be achieved by mainstreaming the ILO Guidelines on Fair Recruitment in migration, including in private standards⁵², as well as harnessing the potential of digital technology for promoting more ethical and transparent recruitment practices.

Providing education, training and skills development and enhancing the access to these services, can contribute to enhance the employability of rural populations. Programmes should include both technical and soft and business skills. In this regard, the Regional Model Competency Standards, e.g. the ILO Regional Model Competency Standards: Agriculture and aquaculture,⁵³ which supports countries that are in the process of creating, or reviewing existing, national standards, can help accelerate the improvement of training systems and the mutual recognition of skills.⁵⁴

Investing in agri-food systems across the rural-urban continuum

Fostering rural–urban linkages through appropriate territorial strategies can create both a favourable business environment for farmers and non-farm income opportunities that are vital for building prosperous and sustainable rural economies. Stronger synergies between urban and rural areas can better stimulate both agricultural and non-agricultural economic growth, provide opportunities for rural residents in the agricultural sector and other economic activities in rural areas and facilitate temporary migration between rural areas and regional urban centres. Improving basic infrastructure and services (education, health and communication) in small cities and towns, and in their surrounding rural areas, and creating better links between them, are key steps in ensuring a more inclusive transformation and reducing inequalities. Applying an agro-territorial development approach, focusing on sustainable rural-urban linkages, will bring together the small cities and rural towns and can help to address some of the associated challenges of rural transformation. This will facilitate downstream links of the food value chain between the farmers, agro-industries, traders that provide non-agricultural services across the rural–urban continuum.

Promoting a migration rights-based approach to temporary and seasonal migration

Temporary and seasonal migration programmes should be based on the rights-based approach and integrate good practices. In particular, seasonal schemes should: protect and empower migrants; respond to the needs of the agricultural and rural sectors and of rural populations both at origin and destination; include the participation of employers and unions in the design of programmes and in monitoring the recruitment of workers abroad; ensure the cooperation of governments or employers in the destination areas with regards to assistance for recruitment, pre-departure orientation training and skill development; enable migrants to acquire portable skills and experience. The completion of Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements (BLMAs) should follow ILO Standards in their design and implementation.⁵⁵ If the above conditions are fulfilled, then the potential of temporary migration can be enhanced, including that migrants might not need to leave their areas of origin permanently. Seasonal (agricultural) migration schemes could constitute safe and regular migration channels for rural migrants.

Enhancing resilience to climate variability and change

Policies should look at mitigating and managing the impacts of climate related risks and environmental degradation, promoting climate change adaptation, implementing climate-smart agriculture measures, and developing risk-management strategies for agriculture and related sectors. Investments should be targeted to prevent, mitigate and cope with extreme and gradual onset climate events and associated risks. Policies should also look at enhancing livelihoods' resilience to provide alternatives to migration in climate vulnerable areas and enhance the capacity of rural communities to adapt to change. The engagement of the private sector should be fostered in the planning and implementation of climate change adaptation programmes (i.e. education programmes targeted towards the reskilling of displaced rural populations whose livelihoods were affected by the onset of climactic change effects).

Furthermore, policy coherence needs to be promoted at local, national and international levels by accounting of environmental and climate change implications in migration management policies and practice, and vice versa, migration issues should be considered in climate change policies. Efforts could also be made to harness the role of migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change, for instance, by developing temporary labour migration schemes for environmentally vulnerable communities as a way to strengthen migration contributions to livelihoods diversification and resilience on areas of origin (i.e. through remittances and skills transfer) while potentially benefiting areas of destination by addressing labour gaps.

C. Harnessing the potential of migration for rural development and transformation

Mobilizing human and financial resources of migrants and diaspora

Engaging and integrating migrants, diaspora and rural populations as part of the solution in policy and programmes is a key element for building trust and effective strategies. Governments should provide information, technical support and incentives to increase and facilitate migrants' investment, as well as optimize the use of remittances for productive investments in agriculture and off-farm/non-agricultural

businesses. In this regard, electronic-based transactions can substantially reduce transaction costs of sending remittances.⁵⁶

Diaspora networks can be leveraged (also with support from overseas diplomatic missions) to facilitate investments in the agri-food system and stimulate agri-food trade between host and origin countries, thus driving investments and generating job opportunities. As indicated in last year's GFMD background note for roundtable 3.2 "*Beyond remittances: leveraging the development impact and promoting the transnational engagement of diaspora and migrants*", there are several different typologies of investment mechanisms that are currently being set up in various countries and are demonstrating positive results. These range from crowd-funding platform, to seed capital matching investment fund, from blending mechanisms to diaspora bonds. Mobilizing diaspora skills and knowledge is also crucial, and information and communication technologies (ICTs) can facilitate those exchanges. For instance, virtual platforms can be organized for online mentoring, investment opportunities and knowledge sharing on agri-business.

Remittances remain one of the most concrete and substantial contribution of migrants to the development of their home countries, directly supporting their families and communities back home to achieving their own SDGs. Among the main outcomes of this year GFMD event on "*the impact of remittances on rural transformation in Africa: from commitments to action*",^{iv} it is worthwhile to mention i) the pressing need of much better and more reliable data on remittances in order to better understand the market and fuel sound national and international policies and strategies on this topic, and ii) a call for increased engagement at both national and international level on concrete actions on cost reduction and maximization of the impact of remittances for development. It is only by connecting the dots among the different existing initiatives addressing remittances and financial inclusion that opportunities for the public and private sectors to meet the 10.c target to reduce costs and other SDGs can be up-scaled.

The productive reintegration of return migrants into rural economies can be facilitated by creating an enabling environment for agribusinesses (i.e. legal framework, access to finance, incentives, technical support, skills mapping and database, skills recognition) and supporting awareness-raising on farm and off-farm business opportunities in promising agri-food systems. Interventions should also include livelihoods packages and tailored technical training for the reintegration of returnees, along with measures at community level to increase trust, social cohesion and prevent conflicts over natural resources and land disputes.

Maximizing the contribution of migrants for agriculture and rural development in destination areas

The socio-economic integration of agricultural migrant workers can spur positive effects for the structural transformation of rural areas in countries of destination, both in the global North and South. This includes: protecting migrants labour rights, ensuring adequate working conditions and removing the informal nature of the work. Guarantying spaces for workers' organizations should be fostered so that their interests in political discourses are represented. Capacity building efforts to develop rural migrant workers' skills to articulate their needs and foster linkages with institutional structures that enable their political voice are equally important⁵⁷. When possible, one-stop services and migrants' resource centres should reach and serve rural areas and agricultural migrant workers.⁵⁸ In countries of destination, governments should take and enhance measures and allocate resources to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers, by conducting regularly labour inspection, including in vulnerable and hard-to-reach sectors and workplaces (e.g., fishing, mining, forestry, agriculture, and domestic work), provide training for labour inspectors and set up multi-sector joint task forces for labour inspection⁵⁹. Occupational safety and health (OSH) should be improved through OSH trainings and provision of personal protective equipment, where applicable, by employers at the worksite upon arrival of migrant workers and on a regular basis thereafter.⁶⁰

^{iv} The event: "The impact of remittances on rural transformation in Africa: from commitments to action", was organized by IFAD and the African Institute for Remittances (AIR) on 11 October 2019 at the African Union, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

Roundtable 3.2 Guiding questions

- What are the factors influencing rural migration and how do they interact at multiple scales (international, national, local)? Who leaves? How do gender and age affect migration and its outcomes? What is the climate change-migration relationship in the context of rural transformation? How is work changing in the rural economy and what are the implications for migration and rural development?
- What lessons have governments and partners learned in dealing with rural migration? What are the challenges and opportunities (and for whom)? What kind of policy interventions can enhance the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects of migration from and to rural areas? What is the role of multi-scale and multi-stakeholder cooperation (international, national, local, rural-urban)? How to increase coordination and coherence?
- What is the role played by remittances and migrant investments in rural areas? How can remittances be leveraged to support rural development? What bottlenecks exist in this regard and who needs to come together to address those? Beyond financial remittances, what is the role of the relationship between those who leave and those who stay? What role diaspora can play to enhance the benefits of migration for rural development and transformation?

Annex 1: Examples of policies and practices on harnessing migration for rural transformation and development

Collection of experiences from countries, UN agencies, civil society, private sector. Countries are invited to submit their examples of policies and practices on harnessing migration for rural transformation and development to the GFMD Support Unit (support.unit@gfmd.org).

Country experiences will be listed in the Annex and included in the GFMD Platform for Partnerships Policy and Practice database <http://gfmd.org/pfp>

Ideas for Action	Country	Practices (Policy, Programme, Approach, Project) and Description	Implementing Agency (if applicable)
Addressing the adverse drivers of migration for rural transformation and development			
<i>Creating alternatives in rural areas</i>	India	National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme was designed to increase incomes of the poor directly and reduce expenses incurred on distress migration. Through agro-food processing, sericulture and other village enterprises, India hopes to check rural-urban migration by gainfully employing people in villages.	
	Ethiopia	National Rural Job Opportunity Creation Strategy targets rural job seekers, primarily the unemployed and underemployed women and men, above 15 years of age, literate and illiterate, and those without regular and sufficient income. Furthermore, landless and school drop outs, technical and vocational trainees, and university graduates, farmers evicted from their land due to the expansion of urbanization and industrialization and those who need special support because of disability will be potential beneficiaries of the strategy.	
	Guatemala	National Strategy for Labour Reintegration for Returned Guatemalan Migrants : The strategy is the enabling of an environment to facilitate the labour reintegration of returned Guatemalan migrants and calls for the collection of returnees' socio-demographic and skill profiles and provision of economic support and employment services for at least 10 per cent of migrants repatriated to Guatemala each year.	
	Bangladesh	BRAC (Rural Advancement Committee) , established in 1972, is a learning organization and works to combat poverty in over 70 thousand villages and 2000 slums, offering a service package, support and capacity building: microfinance, health, education. BRAC has established 24 training centers all over Bangladesh with the residential capacity to train 100 participants at a time. The villagers are both trained in human relations (leadership, communication, accounting, management) and occupational skills (agriculture, poultry, livestock, fisheries, sericulture and small business management). Once the poor end the training they are supported by the microfinance programme to take on economic activities. BRAC has played a long role in building the skills of the poor rural villagers in taking up activities in economic and social fields, helping them to deal with solutions related to rural poverty.	BRAC
	Senegal Guatemala	FAO works on Rural Youth Migration , supporting rural youth with alternatives to migration through the promotion of decent rural employment in agri-food value chains.	FAO

	Honduras Tunisia Ethiopia		
	Kenya	“ Rural youth migration, social protection and sustainable value chains ” project. FAO is working towards building the capacity of poor and vulnerable youth in migration prone areas, including cash transfers beneficiaries, and engaging them in productive activities along agro-food value chains; and support youth entrepreneurs to scale-up their businesses along selected value chains.	FAO
	Mali	GIZ supports the National Programme for Sustainable small-scale Irrigation in Mali through job creation in two value chains with high employment potential, fishery and horticulture, in the region of Kayes, particularly affected by emigration.	GIZ
	Indonesia	In 2014, Indonesia issued the so-called ‘ Village Law ’ which intends to push development in the villages and empower the villagers in conducting business and economic activities. In 2018, the Indonesian government launched the village product flagship development program (or Prudes for short in Indonesian) to increase job opportunities in the villages. Moreover, Indonesia has also established productive migrant villages across Indonesia (the target being 400 villages), which do not only provide information and documents for people who do intend to migrate, but also empower the migrants’ families, create a cooperative for migrants’ families and help migrants re-integrate into the society.	
<i>Promoting migration rights-based approach to temporary and seasonal migration</i>	New Zealand	Recognized Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE) : allows the horticulture and viticulture industries to recruit workers from overseas for seasonal work when there are not enough New Zealand workers. The RSE started in April 2007 and now provides places for up to 10,500 workers during the agricultural season (2016/17 figure). Preference is given to workers from Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Workers can remain for up to 7 out of 11 months. Workers under RSE are allowed to be re-employed in subsequent years, and there is a very strong record of their coming back.	
	Australia	Working Holiday Makers fills critical jobs during harvesting and picking seasons and provides a large and mobile workforce that helps meet seasonal demand for agricultural workers. They also provide labour for jobs for which natives are hard to find in rural and remote areas. The Pacific Seasonal Workers Program allows workers from East Timor, Nauru, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to work in low-skilled jobs for up to 7 months in a 12-month period. After a successful pilot programme in the horticultural sector, the Programme is now an uncapped demand-driven source of labour supply for the agricultural sector.	
	Canada	The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) allows for the orderly entry of agricultural workers from the Caribbean and Mexico to meet the temporary/seasonal needs for labour in the agriculture sector when Canadian workers are not available. SAWP helps the horticultural segment in sourcing foreign workforce for labour-intensive and highly seasonal jobs with repeated tasks. Around 18,000 workers are employed annually under the SAWP. Seasonal workforce has an extremely high retention rate, with 59 per cent of SAWP workforce returning to their farms for	

		between 5 - 15 years. 65 per cent ofSAWP participating farmers expect an increase in their production in the next 2 to 3 years, if they have access to an adequate workforce.	
	Mexico	The ILO signed a MoU with the International Fruit and Vegetable Alliance (AHIFORES) to carry out joint work on mainstreaming the General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment in the certification scheme DEAR as well as developing a tool box to address recruitment practices in horticulture and vegetable supply chains in partnership with Verité.	ILO and AHIFORES
	United Kingdom	The Seasonal agricultural workers scheme pilot will allow fruit and vegetable growers to hire non-EU workers for up to six months before they must return home. 2,500 workers will be able to come to the UK in each year of the 24-month scheme. The pilot will run until the end of December 2020 and will be reviewed before any decisions are taken on running a future scheme.	
	ASEAN	ILO Recommendations to the 11th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (2018) to guide ASEAN Member States' efforts on leveraging technology to (i) improve labour migration management, and (ii) provide digital services for migrant workers, with an overarching view of furthering all migrant workers' well-being giving due consideration to gender sensitivity and to the specific needs in rural areas and agricultural sectors.	ILO
<i>Enhancing resilience to climate variability and change</i>	Colombia, Madagascar The Sudan	FAO Early Warning Early Action System (EWEA) translates warnings into anticipatory actions to reduce the impact of specific disaster events. It focuses on consolidating available forecasting information and putting plans in place to make sure FAO acts when a warning is at hand. At country level, the EWEA team works closely with country offices to develop EWEA systems tailored to the local context. Across Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, FAO has successfully implemented a range of early actions to mitigate the impact of droughts, severe winters, animal diseases and forced migration. For instance, in Colombia, FAO has identified three departments at the border with Venezuela (Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander) where the sudden influx of Venezuelan migrants and Colombian returnees is impacting food security and nutrition, and straining the provision of public services.	FAO
	Bangladesh Ethiopia Kenya Syrian Republic Nigeria The Sudan South Sudan	FAO Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) initiative addresses the energy needs during emergencies and protracted crises, and to build resilient livelihoods in a sustainable manner. In implementing the SAFE initiative, The work in this area can have important multiplier effects – from better food security, nutrition and health, to the sustainable management of natural resources, greater resilience to climate change and natural hazards, and increased livelihood opportunities. FAO engages in inter-agency coordination through the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group, which seeks to facilitate a more coordinated, predictable, timely and effective response to the fuel and energy needs of crisis-affected populations. Together with other implementing partners, FAO carried out joint assessments in Bangladesh, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.	FAO UNHCR IOM WFP
Harnessing the potential of migration for rural development and transformation			

<i>Mobilizing human and financial resources of migrants and diaspora</i>	Somalia	SomaliAgriFood Fund targets the successful Somali diaspora in US, Canada, North of EU and Australia, matching their interest to invest with small and medium enterprises in the agribusiness in Somalia on fishing, agriculture, food processing, packaging and cold storage facilities, livestock.	IFAD
	Mali	Babyloan crowd-funding platform identifies good business plans for the development of microenterprises, and matches them with diaspora members and organizations in France keen to invest in their home country, through the intermediation of Malian microfinance institutions.	
	Ethiopia	Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF) is financing people-focused social and economic development projects. The Fund aims to finance projects that meet critical needs selected based on their potential to make the highest positive impact on groups and communities in Ethiopia in such areas as health, education, water and sanitation facilities, agricultural development, technology, small scale entrepreneurship and other income and employment generating projects.	
	Senegal	The Support Fund for Investments of Senegalese Abroad aims to promote productive investments in growth sectors in Senegal by Senegalese citizens living overseas with the long-term objective of encouraging their voluntary return.	
	Republic of Moldova	The Programme for Attracting Remittances into the Economy offers funding to complement migrants' financial resources and provides entrepreneurial training to migrants and their relatives for business development. The Programme also provides beneficiaries with information on the existing business opportunities and for this purposeDiaspora networks act as important information dissemination channels thus raising awareness on available investment opportunities in Moldova. The Programme has had substantial impacts on the national economy with 60 to 70 percent of established and/or expanded businesses are in the agrifood sector.	
	Jamaica	Jamaica Diaspora Agriculture Taskforce (JDAT) Investor Circle provides microfinance funding for local farmers. The Circle provides an opportunity for persons and organizations within diaspora and Jamaica, to pool their resources in an effort to assist the country's agricultural sector. The JDAT has been engaging Jamaican farmers in a number of initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable organic farming. The initiatives are to ensure that local farmers are trained, and that appropriate technology and financing options are available to enable them to capitalise on the demand for organic foods in the United States. The JDAT partnership with the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) works to increase the knowledge of farmers through training in organic farming techniques, packaging (especially for international standards), trading procedures and quality control. As of January 2019, small farmers have benefited from micro grants from the JDAT, which will go towards improving and expanding their operations.	
	Nepal	Loan Programme for Returned Nepalese Migrants provides loans of 1 million Nepalese rupees (\$8,908) to people who've returned in the last three years. The loans are meant to be used to build businesses and should be repaid within five years, says Narayan Prasad Paudel, executive director of Nepal Rastra Bank. To get the loan, applicants must first pass a skills verification test designed by the Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (CTEVT). Returnee Migrant Entrepreneurship Award Program is conducted annually and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MOLESS) recognizes contributions of returnee migrants from across Nepal who are engaged in innovative entrepreneurship programs. Certificate of recognition and monetary incentives are provided to the awardees.	

		<p><u>Remit Hydro, a subsidiary of the Hydro Electricity Investment and Development Company Limited (HIDCL)</u> aims to promote collective remittances for development and encourage the productive use of remittance. Recently, Remit Hydro has been issued survey licenses for two run-off-the-river mid-sized hydro-power projects in Taplejung, in Eastern Nepal, at 19 Arab Rupees. It is expected that 24 per cent of this would be set aside for migrant workers.</p>	
		<p><u>Social Security Fund</u> - Every month, tens of thousands of private sector workers and their employers will be contributing to a common fund which will help needy workers get financial support. Returning migrants can as well pay contributions to this Fund and benefit from social entitlements.</p>	
	Mexico	<p><u>The Migrant Support Fund</u> is a federal fund administered to states according to the size of their repatriated migrant populations, provides migrants a one-time seed grants of up to USD 1,500 to start a new business, which represents a key path to their economic reintegration.</p>	
		<p><u>Tres por Uno (Three for One) Program</u> supports the initiatives of Mexicans living abroad and gives them the opportunity to channel their resources into works of social impact that directly benefit their home communities in Mexico. The project is implemented with the assistance of clubs or federations of migrants living abroad, the Federal Government (through SEDESOL - The Social Development Secretariat) and the state and municipal governments. For every peso sent by migrants, the Federal, State and Municipal governments add 3 pesos each, hence the name: 3x1.</p>	
	El Salvador	<p><u>The Program of Employment Creation for Migrants, Economic and Psychosocial Integration Project for Returnees.</u> These Programs offer migrants access to local job-search databases, vocational training, skills accreditation and seed grants up to USD 3,500 for entrepreneurial projects. Additionally, the National Network of Returned Entrepreneurs offers counselling and seed capital to migrants who demonstrate potential to establish new businesses or projects.</p> <p>FAO is supporting the <u>sustainable reintegration of returnees through livelihoods support</u> and a large-scale project with the Green Climate Fund aimed at increasing climate resilience of smallholder farmers and food systems, addressing an adverse driver of migration.</p>	FAO
	Tajikistan	<p>FAO is supporting the <u>channelling of remittances</u> (using the “1+1” matching approach) for agricultural development, nutrition and social protection in national food systems, including by assisting migrants and their families and communities in formulating small- and medium-scale enterprises in fruit, vegetable and livestock production and agribusiness.</p>	FAO
	Uganda	<p><u>Diaspora engagement in agri-business.</u> The project aims to foster diaspora investments in agricultural value chains in Uganda, by assessing and supporting institutional mechanisms, mapping Ugandan diaspora skills and expertise related to agri-business, and developing a diaspora in agribusiness network and road map for policy dialogue.</p>	FAO
	Uganda	<p><u>Scaling up remittances and financial inclusion in rural areas through post offices.</u> PostBank Uganda, in partnership with Posta Uganda, is finalizing its remittances business plan and expanding financial inclusion through remittances in rural areas of Uganda, leveraging Posta Uganda’s broad network of rural post offices to expand access to financial services for the rural</p>	IFAD PostBank and Posta Uganda

		population. The post offices are being equipped with modern digital and mobile technologies for remittance delivery and financial service transactions, and postal staff is receive specialized training. By 2020, PostBank Uganda aims to serve 50,000 new remittance recipients, provide remittance delivery services to 20,000 refugees, and provide training in financial literacy to both	
	Kenya - Uganda	Deepening financial inclusion and enhancing rural people’s resilience by providing low-cost, cross-border mobile money transfers across the Kenya-Uganda corridor, linked with savings, loans and other financial services, and by promoting entrepreneurship for migrant family investment. With the existing technology, this mobile remittance channel aims at improving rural coverage, proximity and convenience for users, while transforming mobile wallets from a transactional to an advisory tool that manages remittance origination and used in conjunction with bank accounts and related products. The model is being up-scaled and expanded in neighbouring countries. In terms of outcomes, the project aims to reach 5,000 migrant workers and remittance recipients using the mobile channel linked to banking services and to reduce the transaction cost to 5 per cent on average for both ways of the corridor (i.e. Kenya to Uganda and Uganda to Kenya).	IFAD Equity Bank
	Malaysia – Pakistan - Bangladesh	This highly-innovative project aims at digitalizing migrant workers’ remittances both in Malaysia and in countries of origin through e-wallets (wallet-based mobile-enabled remittance system), thus providing the target group remittance recipients access to additional financial services that meet their needs. It aims to link mobile-enabled remittances with digital financial services offered by third parties at the receiving end in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The project aims at enabling financial inclusion for migrant communities who are largely excluded from mainstream financial services due to their unreachable locations, limited operating hours and expensive fees and charges. By providing end-to-end digital mobile financial solutions, migrant workers will be able to access international remittance services and other related products at lower costs and increased reliability.	IFAD ValYou , Mobile Network Operator (MNO)
<i>Maximizing the contribution of migrants for agriculture and rural development in destination areas</i>	Canada	The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot is a community-driven program designed to spread the benefits of economic immigration to smaller communities by creating a path to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers who want to work and live in rural communities where they can quickly become self-sufficient, and exercise their skills in agriculture and food production. This innovative, economic pilot will test a new community-driven approach to attracting and retaining newcomers to communities across Ontario, the Western provinces and the territories. Interested communities must work with a local economic development organization to submit an application that demonstrates how they meet the eligibility criteria and their ability and willingness to take an active role in attracting and welcoming newcomers that meet their economic needs.	
	Australia	Supporting refugee farming initiatives in rural and regional Australia : This initiative evolved spontaneously from research led by University of Wollongong and University of Melbourne academics in partnership with a community-based food cooperative Food Next Door. The researchers were able to connect Burundi refugees and former refugees who are ‘landless farmers’ with donated farmland. with Food Next Door and grow culturally important crops. These refugee farming initiatives are currently being established via support from research grants, private donors (in the form of land and grants to cover irrigation costs) and several hundred volunteer hours. The initiative began in 2016. To date, the academics have supported the establishment of	University of Wollongong University of Melbourne Food Next Door, community-based food cooperative

		refugee farming initiatives. The initiative is open to supporting any refugees, or former refugees, with a desire to farm but without the means to afford access to farmland.	
	The Philippines - Canada	<u>Partnership on Ethical Labour Recruitment:</u> IOM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the ethical recruitment of Filipino workers between the Philippines and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The agreement will involve pilot testing the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS). The agreement was signed on 8 June 2018 by IOM, the Ministry of Service of Alberta, the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety of Saskatchewan and the Department of Labor and Employment of the Republic of the Philippines. The Commission on Filipinos Overseas estimates that there are over 700,000 permanent and temporary Filipinos currently living in Canada. IRIS is a social compliance scheme that is designed to promote ethical international recruitment; it defines and sets a benchmark for ethical recruitment and establishes a voluntary certification process for international labour recruiters that demonstrate good practice.	IOM Ministry of Service of Alberta Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety of Saskatchewan Department of Labor and Employment of the Republic of the Philippines
	Jordan	<u>My.Coop</u> – Building capacity of cooperatives towards involving Syrian refugees and Jordanian farmers in agricultural value chains. The project promotes integration and participation of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in agricultural livelihood opportunities through enhancing capacities of eight ILO-network cooperatives in the governorates of Irbid and Mafraq in the northern Jordan. A training programme on the management of agricultural cooperatives has been developed in partnership with FAO, ILO and ITC-ILO.	ILO FAO ITC-ILO
	Colombia	ILO contributed to <u>improving the representativeness, organizational capacity and socio-political impact</u> of the Colombian trade unions of the rural sector, within the framework of the peace building process, through respect for the rights of workers, in particular freedom of association, consultation and participation for rural development, collective bargaining and gender equality.	ILO

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