

## Concept Note

### Side Event 4 on Migration and Rural Development

#### ➤ Objectives of the Side Event and rationale

The Side Event aims at raising awareness and facilitating a discussion on the interrelations between migration, food security, and agricultural and rural development, and on concrete ways to address the drivers of migration and harness its contribution to all dimensions of sustainable development, in particular towards the adoption, implementation and follow-up of the Global Compact on Migration at regional and national level.

The event will bring together participants in the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) and will serve as a knowledge sharing platform to exchange on relevant approaches, experiences, lessons learned and good practices at regional level on migration, food security, climate change, and agricultural and rural development, including partnering with private sector, financial institutions, civil society, migrants and diaspora communities. The participants will also bring insights from their respective countries and institutions, enriching the discussion and renewing their commitments to improve evidence on rural migration patterns, drivers and impacts and to strengthen policy coherence between migration and key sectoral policy processes and programmes including agricultural and rural development, youth employment, climate change and social protection.

Finally, the Side Event will start discussing initiatives on a regional scale, to integrate migration into national development plans and agriculture and rural development policies, strategies and programmes, in order to address the drivers of migration and harness the related development potential. Special attention should be paid to addressing the needs and aspirations of women and youth (e.g. promoting decent employment opportunities in both farm and non-farm rural activities), as well as to advocating for safe and regular migration channels in the region (e.g. seasonal migration schemes in agriculture), and facilitating the use of remittances and diaspora funds for productive investments in agriculture.

#### ➤ Background

Migration is a complex global phenomenon, which affects the lives of hundreds of millions of people. Available data indicate that there are an estimated 258 million international migrants worldwide<sup>1</sup>, seven hundred and sixty-three (763) million internal migrants<sup>2</sup> and 65.6 million forcibly displaced<sup>3</sup>. Around 14 percent of all international migrants originate from Africa<sup>4</sup> and 75 percent of migration in Sub-Saharan Africa is taking place within Africa. Evidence exists that the majority of migrants in Africa originate from rural areas (e.g. 85 percent in Uganda and 93 percent in Burkina Faso) and that rural youth are more prone to migrate<sup>5</sup>.

The drivers of rural migration are complex and intertwined, including conflict, violence and natural disasters, but also rural poverty, food insecurity, lack of employment opportunities, inequality, limited access to social protection, and the negative impacts of environmental degradation and climate change. Many individuals and families are migrating from rural areas as they see no viable option for moving out of poverty within their own communities.

Migration brings both opportunities and challenges to countries of origin, transit and destination. For rural areas of origin, migration may reduce pressure on local labour markets and foster a more efficient allocation of labour, while contributing to economic growth, food security and rural livelihoods through

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<sup>1</sup> UNDESA, 2017. International Migration Report 2017: Highlights.

<sup>2</sup> UNDESA, 2013. Cross-national comparison of internal migration: and update on global patterns and trends.

<sup>3</sup> IDMC, 2017. Global Report on Internal Displacement.

<sup>4</sup> UNDESA, 2017. International Migration Report 2017: Highlights.

<sup>5</sup> FAO & CIRAD, 2017. Rural Africa in motion: Dynamics and drivers of migration South of the Sahara.

capital investments, skills and technology transfers, know-how and social networks. However, migration can also result in the loss of the most vital and dynamic share of the workforce, with obvious consequences for agricultural productivity. For areas of transit and destination, safe, orderly and regular migration can offset labour shortages and contribute to the development of host communities, but poses challenges for local authorities to provide quality public services to both migrant and host populations. These dimensions of migration call for global action, which must be comprehensive and bring together humanitarian and development responses.

Despite the paucity of data on rural migration, African countries are increasingly aware of the implications and potential of migration for their development, and are designing and/or implementing policies to effectively manage migration to and from their respective countries. However, more efforts are needed to improve the evidence about how the complex nature of migration affects and interacts with their on-going process of structural transformation and to strengthen the policy coherence between migration and agriculture and rural development policies, strategies and programmes.

### ➤ **Migration in the UN Agenda**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its commitment to “leave no one behind”, recognizes that migration is of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination. Migration contributes to the achievement of several goals such as ending hunger, eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and promoting environmental sustainability, among others. Moreover, the 2030 Agenda includes several migration-related targets (e.g. target 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies) and calls for regular reviews of the progress toward their achievement, using data disaggregated by, *inter alia*, migratory status.

In response to large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016 the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugee and Migrants which reaffirmed the commitments of Member States to protect the human rights of all migrants and the need to address the drivers of large movements of people. The New York Declaration called for the development and adoption by 2018 of two global compacts, one on refugees and one on migrants, aimed at translating general commitments into actionable commitments at global, regional and national level.

Therefore 2018 is a crucial year for adopting a comprehensive and cross-sectoral policy approach to migration, and agriculture and rural development must be a core component of this effort. The global response needs to be based on a stronger evidence and understanding of the interlinkages among food security, agriculture and rural development, rural transformation and migration.

### ➤ **FAO's role in addressing migration**

The drivers and impacts of migration are intimately linked to FAO's global goals of fighting hunger and achieving food security, reducing rural poverty and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. FAO's work on migration aims to integrate an agricultural and rural development perspective in the response to migration-related challenges. FAO's comparative advantage resides in its expertise across the humanitarian and development spectrum on aspects relating to the links between rural development and human mobility. In collaboration with governments, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society and local communities, FAO plays an important role in addressing the drivers of internal and international migration, and in harnessing the development potential of migration, especially in terms of food security and poverty reduction.

FAO is strengthening the collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), as well as research institutions and development partners. FAO also contributes to existing global cooperation mechanisms such as the Global Migration Group (GMG) and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Together with IOM, FAO will co-chair the GMG in 2018 and will advocate for the role of agriculture and rural development to achieve the SDGs, and the migration-related targets. Migration has also been the thematic focus for the World Food Day 2017.

The FAO Regional Conference represents an opportunity to work towards strengthening commitments in regional, subregional and interregional coordination and policy processes on migration. It will also be an occasion to explore greater coordination with the ministries engaged in the process towards the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in order to reflect the importance of the interrelation between migration, food security and rural development in the Global Compact, as well as its follow-up and implementation. Once the Global Compact is adopted, it will be crucial to translate these commitments into actions.

### ➤ **Rural youth migration and its drivers**

In 2015, around 34 percent of international migrants from Africa were aged 15-24 years. However, young people predominantly move within their country. Evidence from a set of African countries shows that migrants are predominantly male, aged between 15 and 34, and that employment is the main driver of migration for them<sup>6</sup>. Rural women have different reasons to migrate and face specific social constraints. For them, family-related reasons are the most important drivers of migration.

For many youth, migration out of rural areas and agriculture is the only perceived option for improving their employment and life prospects and meeting their aspirations and needs. While the drivers of rural migration are manifold and often interrelated, in the case of rural youth the lack of access to decent employment and the need for more and better services are particularly relevant. Rural youth interested in earning a living in the agriculture sector face indeed additional constraints, which include insufficient access to information, skills development and education opportunities; limited access to resources (e.g. land and markets) and financial services; and limited involvement in policy dialogue and decision-making processes.

Young people migrating out of extreme need are more vulnerable and at a greater disadvantage than older migrants. They tend to move alone, and may lack important skills and resources to be competitive in formal labour markets, both in rural areas of origin and urban areas of destination. They usually end up living in informal settlements and are at risk of being trapped in low-income or informal employment, hazardous work, unemployment or underemployment. In general, young migrants are vulnerable to discrimination, social exclusion, violence, abuse and exploitation. Young women migrants often face triple forms of discrimination – as women, young people and migrants.

With around 20 million people entering the labour market every year (of which 12 million in rural areas), the challenge for Sub-Saharan Africa is to generate enough employment to absorb its booming labour force. Creating new employment opportunities in rural areas is crucial. Sub-Saharan Africa has the youngest population in the world, with young people aged 15–24 years accounting for over 60 percent of the total population and 45 percent of the labour force<sup>7</sup>. The incidence of long-term unemployment among youth is 48.1 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is therefore no coincidence that, considering the relatively recent urbanizations process, an estimated 62 percent of people are still living in rural areas. Investing in agriculture, sustainable rural development, climate change adaptation and resilient livelihoods needs to be an important part of the response to the current migration challenges.

### ➤ **Target audience/participants to the Side Event**

The event aims to gather those who can provide and learn from success stories. Migration and rural development are horizontal matters, which are influenced by a wide range of actors, including:

- Policy-makers at national and regional levels;
- IOM and other UN organizations;
- Donor organizations;
- Private sector players;

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<sup>6</sup> FAO, 2017. Evidence on internal and international migration patterns in selected African countries.

<sup>7</sup> While the population of Sub-Saharan Africa has increased by 645 million people in 1975-2015, it is set to more than double (1.4 billion) in 2015-2055. FAO & CIRAD, 2017. Rural Africa in motion: Dynamics and drivers of migration South of the Sahara.

- Civil society organizations;
- Youth organizations;
- Migrants and Diaspora associations;
- Academia.

➤ **Expected Outcome**

The proceedings, key lessons and recommendations from the Side Event will be reflected as an ARC result. The event will particularly yield some consensus on the complex nature of migration (including its agricultural and rural dimension) and on why certain migration versus agricultural and rural development policies/models are successful in some countries while in others similar policies/models do not register the same success. This discussion will be expected to continue at country level, in order to influence important policy reforms that will result in better environments for migration and rural development; and to provide support to national and regional stakeholders in translating official declarations and commitments from the Global Compact on Migration into concrete actions and results at regional and country level.

➤ **Expected impact**

The side event will be expected to a) create greater visibility for FAO's and partners' successful programmes/models/approaches to migration and rural development, but also successful country policies and programmes in the same areas; b) support countries' development agenda by applying policies that have a well documented positive impact; c) offer a platform to explore opportunities for positive migration and rural development; d) launch initiative(s) on a regional or subregional scale on migration and development; e) renew the commitment of FAO country offices to improve evidence on rural migration patterns, drivers and impacts; and e) clarify the role that FAO can play in supporting countries towards the adoption, implementation and follow-up of the Global Compact on Migration at the regional and national level.

**Agenda and participants**

	Moderator:
7 minutes	Opening remarks: ADG RAF  Keynote speech: Mr. Hassan Abdel Moneim, IOM's Special Envoy to Sudan
8 minutes	Presenter: Mr Patrick Kormawa, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to the African Union (AU) and to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)  Introducing the Atlas "Rural Africa in motion. Dynamics and drivers of migration South of the Sahara" developed by FAO and the International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD)  Video "Promoting alternatives to migration for Ethiopian rural youth"
20 minutes	Panel discussion moderated by ...  Panelists: representing governments (Ministers from Ethiopia and Senegal), AU (Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture), European Commission (to be confirmed), migrants/diaspora organizations (Migrant Watch) and CSOs will share their experiences and lessons in various areas, which are relevant to the event's topic.
8 minutes	Plenary discussion

	The Moderator will introduce a session of Questions and Answers, comments, observations, recommendations as well as commitments. At the end of the session, he will do a quick recap of key take-aways / recommendations from the event, including tangible commitments.
2 minutes	Closing remarks: ADG- RAF