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Population Division  
Department

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a long-term interest in migration, as many of its drivers and impacts 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. Working with governments, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society and local communities, FAO plays a key role in addressing the complex drivers of large movements of refugees and migrants, and in harnessing the developmental potential of migration, especially in terms of food security and poverty reduction. FAO works on all forms of migration, including voluntary migration, mainly undertaken for socio-economic reasons, and forced migration, induced by conflicts, human-induced crises and natural disasters. FAO pays attention to the intersection between forced and voluntary migration, when people move because they perceive there are no other alternatives to escape poverty and survive in dignity.

In its Strategic Framework, FAO is committed to work on [migration](#), under the programme of action for Strategic Objective 3 *Reducing Rural Poverty*, acknowledging the role of [migration and remittances](#) as part of its integrated approach for rural poverty reduction; and under the programme of action for Strategic Objective 5 *Increase the Resilience of Livelihoods to Threats and Crises*, renewing efforts to address the factors that compel people to move, especially those linked to natural disasters, conflict over natural resources and environmental deterioration, and strengthen the resilience of displaced and host communities. FAO works to: (i) generate sound evidence on the dynamics, drivers and impacts of rural migration; (ii) promote policy dialogue and capacity development to integrate migration into agriculture and rural development (ARD) policies, strategies and programmes; and (iii) strengthen partnership and advocate for investing in ARD, climate change adaptation and resilient livelihoods to address current migratory flows.

## 2. RECENT DATA INITIATIVES AND RESEARCH FINDINGS RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION

FAO is implementing a *Migration Evidence Generation Plan*, to fill existing evidence and data gaps on migration. The Plan is covering six areas: (i) Rural migration dynamics (who migrates, from and to which areas, for how long, and why); (ii) Migration and labour absorption capacity of the rural economy; (iii) Impacts of migration on rural and agricultural livelihoods and potential for local development and rural poverty reduction; (iv) Migration and climate change; (v) Migration and protracted crisis; and (vi) Migration and social protection. FAO has initiated collaborations with research institutes for a set of knowledge products on distress migration, mapping of evidence gaps, climate change and migration, and rural youth migration. The *FAO-CIRAD Atlas "Rural Africa in motion Dynamics and drivers of migration South of the Sahara"*, published in November 2017, provides evidence that many migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa originate from rural areas and move internally or within the continent; and that ARD is necessary to address migration's drivers. FAO's flagship publication on *the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)* will focus on migration and agricultural and rural development in 2018.

*Evidence generation component of ongoing FAO migration projects* has focused on internal migration dynamics and rural-urban linkages, and on the potential of rural economy and remittances to generate decent employment opportunities for young people in migration-prone areas. Through 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, FAO has carried out diagnostics on youth migration and employment. In Tunisia, FAO has analyzed the drivers and patterns of rural youth migration and its impact on rural livelihoods; while in Ethiopia the focus has been on youth migration and seasonal mobility, with the aim of drawing lessons on how to better manage seasonal agricultural migration. FAO's project "Fostering productive investments to create decent farm and non-farm jobs for rural youth in migration-prone areas in Senegal", funded through the FMM mechanism, aims to promote productive investments in ARD in migration-prone area and puts strong focus on improving the evidence base to harness the potential of migration for rural development. The project has generated comprehensive data and research to close the gaps on: i) the dynamics and causes of rural outmigration; ii)

the capacity of the rural space to create decent jobs opportunities for youth and absorb new labour market entrants; iii) the impact of remittances and diaspora funds on farm and non-farm activities; iv) the link

migration, agriculture and rural development, and was

