WATER, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL MIGRATION

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Rural Migration: concepts, data and trends

- Drivers of Rural Migration

- Impacts

- Conclusions and policy strategies

- FAO’s work on migration
Increasing trend in migration: what implications for food security?

International migrants by origin and destination – 1990-2015

- Developed to developed
- Developed to developing
- Developing to developed
- Developing to developing
Focus on rural migration
The many forms of rural migration play an important role in both developing and developed countries.

More than 1 billion people in developing countries have moved internally.
Rural migration is also central to internal economic transformation. More than 1 billion people in developing countries have moved internally.

Share of moves that are between rural and urban areas, intra-urban and intra-rural.
Main drivers

Climate related disasters displaced an average of 26.4 million people a year between 2008 and 2015.

Additional 7 million refugees in 2015 relative to 1990.

- 80% of the extreme poor live in rural areas depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods and food security.
- Most of people using unimproved sources of drinking water and lacking basic sanitation services live in rural areas.
- Jobs in the agricultural sector are highly water dependent (95% of agricultural jobs depend on sufficient water supply).
Main drivers

- Increasing **number of quantitative studies** since 2010
- Majority agrees that **environmental conditions are relevant** to human mobility
- Very different conclusions in how migration depends on environmental factors

Number of empirical studies on environmental migration

Source:
Migration has significant but mixed impacts on rural areas. Impacts vary by the migration type and the context in which it occurs.

- **Demographic change** mediates pressure on and competition over resources.

- **Availability of labour** – migration affects households and can affect rural labour markets in areas of origin and of destination.
  - **Remittances** - cash transfers sent back to the migrants’ households – Improve access and management of water.
  - **Non-monetary transfers** “social remittances”: ideas, skills and social patterns brought or transmitted back by migrants.
Rural areas host large numbers of displaced populations during protracted crises
In sub-Saharan Africa, 84 percent of refugees are in rural areas

Distribution of refugee population by type of locality, globally, and by selected regions, 2016
Conclusions

- Rural migration constitutes a critical portion of both internal and international migration.
- The link between climate change and water scarcity is complex – it depends on the country context.
- Important to consider the indirect impacts through which climate may influence migration such as income, crop yields, conflict, etc.
- Migration can be an adaptation strategy to environmental stresses.
- Coherence and coordination between agricultural, environmental and migration policies and programmes is critical to achieve sustainable development.
- Policy priorities based on country contexts, but with an underlying rationale based on territorial development.
FAO’s work on migration

- Mitigating the adverse drivers of migration such as the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation
- Strengthening livelihoods resilience and people’s adaptive capacity to climate change
- Harness the potential of migration for climate change adaptation in the areas of origin, transit and destination
- Through the FAO Migration Framework, FAO is committed to support Member States in achieving the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration
2018 The state of Food and Agriculture. Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development

Water stress and human migration: a global, georeferenced review of empirical research

WASAG working group on migration and water