

The global population of forcibly displaced has increased by 75% in the last two decades.

Between 2008 and 2015, an average of 22.5 million people were displaced each year by climate-related natural disasters. The combination of extreme natural events and the shrinking in quantity and quality of natural resources are causing more and more people to leave agriculture and the rural areas of developing countries.

In developing countries the agriculture sector absorbs about 22% of the total damage and losses caused by natural hazards, with obvious implications for those who rely on agriculture and access to natural resources for their livelihoods.

At the same time, not everybody can or wants to leave. Support to displaced and host communities needs to be associated with investments in the community of origin to assist who stays behind.

Agriculture is crucial when addressing the immediate and longer-term needs of those affected by conflicts and crises. It is an engine of stabilization and recovery for people living in fragile contexts.

And here I wish to reiterate the importance of looking at the links between migration, food security and rural development. Interventions around migration may include:

- (1) enhancing the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers and fishers to climate change including through sustainable agricultural practices; creating livelihood opportunities for people in displaced and host communities including; supporting employment creation and sustainable agricultural value chain development, focusing especially on women and youth; promoting rural education and vocational training; transfer of skills and technologies;
- (2) financial inclusion and literacy for migrants; promoting investment of remittance in farm and non-farm activities; productive re-integration of returnee migration;
- (3) building farmers' capacities for disaster preparedness and climate risk management; promoting risk-informed shock-responsive social protection;
- (4) better management of labour migration particularly seasonal migration;
- (5) promotion of peace and stability through conflict-sensitive programming; building social cohesion and trust through inclusion and social dialogue; preventing conflicts over natural resources including land through promoting tenure rights of women and men smallholders, fishers and forest dependent communities and better governance and management of natural resources.

It is our shared responsibility to sustain peace and prosperity and end the vicious cycle of conflict, forced displacement and distress migration and advocate for a closer cooperation between development, humanitarian and peace actors. In this sense we cannot underestimate the importance of concerted action and global governance to strengthen attention to preparedness, addressing the root cause of migration, while assisting those who are impacted by disasters and conflicts with social protection and gender-responsive measures to recover and strengthen livelihoods. Thank you.

