



DANISH
RED
CROSS



Livelihoods Centre
knowledge creation | knowledge sharing | knowledge networking

+C IFRC

+ Spanish Red Cross

GUIDELINES LIVELIHOODS IN MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT CONTEXTS



March 2022

© Danish Red Cross and Livelihoods Resource Centre of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, March 2022.

Any part of this publication may be cited, copied, translated into other languages or adapted to meet local needs without prior permission from the Danish Red Cross and the IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre, provided that the source is clearly stated.

Danish Red Cross:

Web: www.rodekors.dk

Email: info@rodekors.dk

IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre

Web: www.livelihoodscentre.org

Email: livelihoods@cuzroja.es

Cover photo:

Rayan is one of the 1.5 million refugees in Turkey receiving small cash assistance each month from the Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC with funding from the European Union. The Turkey Red Crescent currently runs 19 Community Centres across the country that offer support to migrants and host communities, including vocational, skills, language training, and work permit assistance, supporting longer-term livelihood opportunities.

Photo credit: Corrie Butler / IFRC.

Design and layout: Yerro Servicios Editoriales

Contents

| | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| 1. | Introduction..... | 4 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. | Potential impacts on livelihood assets of migrants and displaced persons | 6 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. | Response options | 7 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. | Cross-cutting | 16 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. | Case examples..... | 18 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. | Annex 1. General observations considering the different typology and stage of migrants' journey | 21 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. | Annex 2. Potential impacts and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced persons by capital assets..... | 23 |
| <hr/> | | |

1. Introduction

In contexts of migration or displacement, individuals and groups are often challenged to maintain and strengthen existing or new skills, resources and livelihoods necessary for a self-sufficient and dignified life.

The aim of these guidelines is to support Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) staff, volunteers, and technical practitioners working in different contexts of migration and displacement to design, review and organise livelihood interventions.

In line with IFRC's 2009 Policy on Migration, the term '**migrants**' refers to *"persons who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. This includes migrant workers, stateless migrants, undocumented migrants (who are not registered and deemed irregular by public authorities), as well as asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and refugees."*¹

A migrant's regulatory status throughout the journey affects rights and access to services and will heavily influence his/her vulnerability and need for external support in the area². These guidelines refer to migrants and displaced people, including different stages of migration and displacement, from internally displaced, to refugees, undocumented migrants, or returnees. See figure 1 below.

Migrants and displaced persons are exposed to many of the same vulnerabilities as other citizens, but often to a greater extent, and are at increased risk of being **left behind in access to services and opportunities**. This is intensified in countries experiencing socio-economic crises, where popular demands for employment and social protection increase. In countries where informal economies are dominant, migrants encounter difficulties in accessing labour markets, either formal or informal, as do most vulnerable groups of the host population. In addition to these difficulties, the gender dimension –including gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, also shapes the migration experience and has to be taken into account.

Migrants also bring with them a plethora of diverse experiences and knowledge, which contribute to spawning innovation. **Migration has been shown to have positive economic impacts**, filling important workforce gaps supporting aging and shrinking populations of host countries, and also becoming tax contributors. Given the opportunity and supported by progressive policies, migrants' social and economic contributions to society are positive and highly valuable³.

1. [IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018–2022](#).

2. For example, a person not allowed to legally cross a country, will need to take more dangerous routes. A person not allowed to work during transit or at destination, will not be able to provide for himself or herself. A person not allowed to legally rent accommodation, will have to sleep on the streets, rely on the black market, or on external support.

3. OECD 2014 [Migration Policy Debates: Is migration good for the economy?](#)

Colombian Red Cross



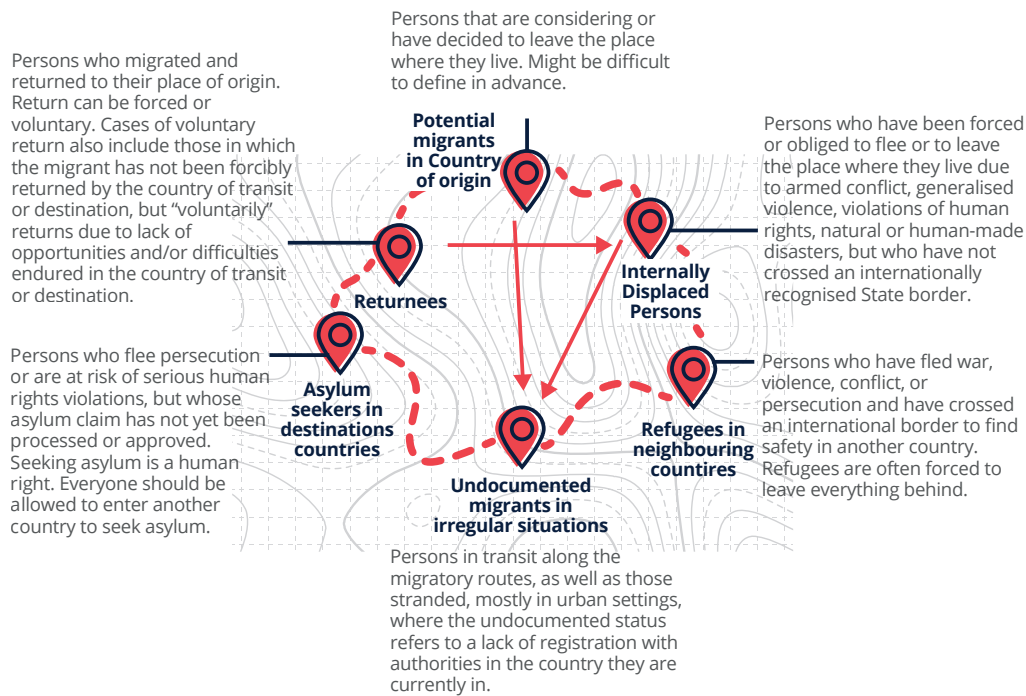


Figure 1. Migration and displacement cycle shows the different situations and status of migrants and displaced persons and how these change depending on contexts and circumstances.

See **Annex 1** for general observations considering the different typologies of migrants and displaced people' journeys.

Livelihoods support is often nonprioritized in acute humanitarian contexts, particularly when people are displaced or on the move because it can be perceived as too difficult or outside the scope of humanitarian work. Prolonged humanitarian assistance may make it more difficult to become self-reliant. The earlier that livelihoods interventions take place, the easier it will be for migrants to sustain their own well-being and self-esteem, ensuring self-sufficiency and breaking with dependency dynamics.

Livelihoods are vital to migrants and displaced persons. Programmes and activities should be considered whenever possible. Beyond economic enhancement, having a livelihood promotes self-esteem, self-resilience, facilitating meaningful social connection and integration, or reintegration upon return to the place of origin.

A holistic approach to livelihoods support increases impact and sustainability. Projects with a holistic approach may integrate socio-economic empowerment, protection, health, social inclusion, and psychosocial support (in liaison with the Psychosocial Support team) and incorporate the human rights framework. When considering social cohesion approaches, it is key to also address host communities' needs and include other vulnerable groups.

There is no **one-size-fits-all when designing livelihoods interventions**. All contexts require systematic and participatory assessment of situations and needs, with a meaningful engagement of groups and individuals including different gender, age, and backgrounds.

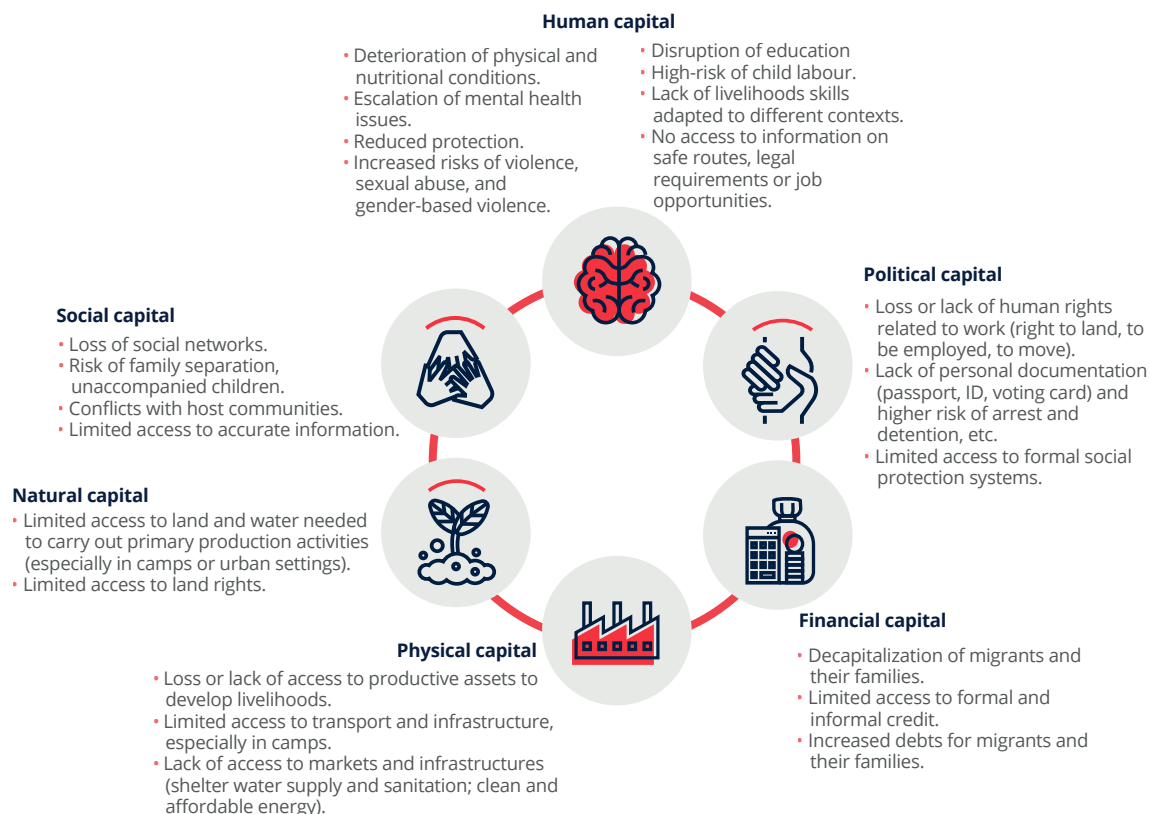
This guidance is informed by years of lessons learned from the RCRC Movement's work in livelihoods support in different humanitarian settings, yet it provides only a brief insight into what is being done at country/National Society (NS) level. For further understanding, references to key resources have been included throughout the document.

2. Potential impacts on livelihood assets of migrants and displaced persons

Migrants provide valuable contributions to host communities⁴, however they often face pervasive, intersecting forms of discrimination that affect their well-being and safety at all stages of their journey.

Individuals and families might begin their migration journey with **livelihood assets**⁵ (savings, social network, educational skills, self-esteem), but these are often disrupted or damaged along the migration process.

The figure below includes the potential negative impacts on livelihoods assets:



See **Annex 2** for more detailed information on potential impacts and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced persons by capital assets

4. OECD 2014 [Migration Policy Debates: Is migration good for the economy?](#)

5. The [Sustainable Livelihoods guidelines sheets](#) identifies five core asset categories or types of capital upon which livelihoods are built: human, social, financial, natural, and physical (DfID, 1999). The initial version included only five assets; political asset were added at a later stage.

3. Response options

To support migrants and displaced persons to cope with and overcome external shocks linked to migration, programming should contribute to strengthen their resilience. Considering the stage of the migration journey, some components of livelihoods support should be prioritized over others.

Basic livelihoods support including training and productive inputs could contribute to enabling migrants to become valuable members of host communities, avoiding potential exploitative work. This support contributes to positive coping skills and resilience by further developing migrants' potential for employability at final destination or upon eventual return and reintegration to their place of origin. Livelihoods support is also vital for **vulnerable host communities**, whose resources and tolerance for migrants may be stretched by the continuous movement of people and negative perceptions of migrants receiving preferential support.

The following are possible response options to improve the livelihood capital and address the most significant needs of migrants and displaced persons:

Below the **10 principles of IFRC Migration Policy** which guides Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) interventions:

1. Focus on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants.
2. Include migrants in humanitarian programming.
3. Support the aspirations of migrants.
4. Recognise the rights of migrants.
5. Link assistance, protection and humanitarian advocacy for migrants.
6. Build partnerships for migrants.
7. Work along the migratory trails.
8. Assist migrants in return.
9. Respond to the displacement of populations.
10. Alleviate migratory pressures on communities of origin.

Access to Basic Needs, Livelihoods, Protection and Psychosocial Support

- Support access to **basic needs through Cash & Vouchers Assistance (CVA) and/or in-kind**. Promoting access to appropriate and permanent shelter should be also considered to facilitate sustainable livelihoods. IFRC has developed a step-by-step [guide for rental assistance to people affected by crises](#).
- **Promote Nutrition programmes**, especially for pregnant and lactating women and children under five, elderly, and chronically ill people. The [IFRC Nutrition guidelines](#) provide information and advice on best practices to combat malnutrition and support “evidence-based programming”.
- Support access to **essential public services** (identification, registration, translation, legal services, etc.), including economic support for migrants' work permits.
- Encourage **school attendance for migrants' children and adolescents**. Children should have access to all levels of education.⁶ It may not always be possible to enroll children in formal education, but informal classes can prevent them from falling too far behind (especially in camps). [UNICEF's School-in-a-Box](#) is a practical resource to help re-establish regular schooling following an emergency and it can be used almost anywhere at a relatively low cost.
- **Psychosocial support to migrants** has strong linkages to livelihoods. Special attention must be considered for survivors of human trafficking and those who have been subjected to sexual abuse and gen-

6. Article 13, ICESCR principle of non-discrimination extends to all persons of school age residing in the territory of a State party, including non-nationals, and irrespective of their legal status. “Undocumented Migrant Children's Right to Education: Human Rights Watch Letter to Jordanian Minister of Education, September 9, 2010



IFRC

der-based violence. The IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support (IFRC PS Centre) has developed valuable [resources](#) to support these activities, such as [Guide on Psychological First Aid](#). And Danish Red Cross has developed [Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Migration and Displacement](#).

- **Early Warning Early Action**⁷ should be considered in hazard-prone areas, enabling people to protect their lives and livelihoods. These types of actions allow people to protect their productive assets, restore livelihoods more quickly, and put in place other protection measures. Particular attention must be paid to displaced populations living in slums in urban settings as they are usually more affected by disasters.
- Advocate for the inclusion of vulnerable **migrants and displaced persons in social protection systems**⁸. Consider also advocating for other vulnerable groups in host communities that might also be neglected and out of the system.

Strengthening and Diversifying Capacities and Skills

- **Language training and cultural orientation**: Engage migrants in training activities (classroom, online, etc.) to develop functional language skills for everyday life as well as skills to enhance employability. Cultural orientation is critical to ensure integration, adaptation and acceptance; peer-to-peer activities engaging migrants and host communities (e.g. conversational exchanges) help in a bidirectional manner and encourage community engagement.
- Advocate for the rapidly recognition of **degrees, certificates, and qualifications obtained** in third countries.
- **Basic life skills and employment skills training** are the basis for successful integration or adaptation to the labour market. Functional language and numeracy literacy⁹ skills should be prioritised for illiterate

7. Also referred to as anticipatory/forecast-based action. Check IFRC site: [Early warning, early action | IFRC](#)

8. More information in [Cash and social protection - Cash Hub \(cash-hub.org\)](#)

9. Numeracy skills are those needed to manage household economy, a business, a job, and to be an engaged citizen.

people. It is also essential to strengthen life skills (e.g. self-confidence, self-discipline, dealing with frustration, initiative, and decision-making, self-organisation, achievement, orientation, analysis and problem solving) and **digital literacy**, especially for women¹⁰. For those seeking a job, **strengthening employment skills** is highly recommended (e.g. preparing a CV and cover letter, getting through an interview, communication skills, teamwork, people management, customer care orientation, basic mathematical operations, flexibility, work quality, creativity, innovation, and negotiation).

- **Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to facilitate adaptation to current labour and market needs:** This kind of training would be most likely conducted through referrals to other actors (public or private) with specific capacities. If the National Society (NS) is conducting this training, ensure that diplomas are recognised outside Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. To build or adapt skills, competencies, and knowledge to the current labour demand, consider the following¹¹:
 - Conduct labour market assessment before supporting recommended vocational training.
 - Include stakeholders from potential employer companies in the implementation of the programme. This can encourage the participation and long-term commitment of both, companies and employees.
 - For rural areas consider specific training in climate-smart agricultural practices¹².
- **Facilitate on-the-job-training** (internships, apprenticeships, volunteering) which is essential to acquire practical knowledge and link to social and professional networks.
- **Training in small business management** to acquire skills and competencies for managing sustainable micro, small-medium enterprises (MSMEs), including topics such as marketing and sales, basic bookkeeping, stock management, negotiation techniques, business plans, cost-benefit analysis, business cycles. Particular attention should be given to new opportunities associated with e-commerce.
- Support **business continuity plans** as a complementary action when working with MSMEs, particularly in places often affected by disasters¹³.
- **Job counseling and referrals:** individual support for access to computers and internet, and guidance on where most local employers advertise job opportunities.
- **Facilitate access to distance learning** whenever possible, due to the considerable progress in making distance learning opportunities more broadly available. Mobile devices (e.g. phones, tablets, etc.) are required for accessing such opportunities¹⁴. Some useful platforms included in the research “[Digital Livelihoods for People on the move](#)”.

Access to Productive Assets, Financial Services and Natural Resources

- **Support with productive assets to start/ restart microentrepreneurships (MEs),** this support can be provided in-kind and/or through Cash & Vouchers Assistance (CVA). Whenever possible, CVA should be prioritised due to the flexibility and autonomy that this kind of assistance allows when choosing a type of micro-enterprise and for the sense of dignity that it conveys. This support could be implemented on individual or collective/group basis. In addition, support for business legal formalization should be considered. In provisional settings or camps, there could be particular legal restrictions on the type and scope of economic activities that migrants are allowed to do. In these settings, small-scale business support, such as gardening, fattening small livestock, or small-scale trade, when allowed it also contributes to the psycho-social well-being of migrants.

10. As lack of digital skills and of access to technology is more frequent among women.

11. Vocational training at different levels, such as mechanics, building construction, plumbing, refrigeration, manufacturing carpentry, communication systems, mobile maintenance, commercial, logistics, hair dressing, fashion, graphic design, accounting, e-commerce, call-centre agent, care worker, cleaning, driving, garden worker, kitchen assistant, waiter/waitress, etc.

12. Check “[Climate Smart Food Security and Livelihoods Programming - Fact Sheet](#)”.

13. [Atlas: Ready for Business](#) has been developed by the Global Disaster Preparedness Center (IFRC GDPC).

14. Some kind of learning passport could be tested to record and monitor individual educational achievements throughout the migration journey, considering the technical, data protection and digital literacy issues related.

- Support **livelihoods diversification** with technical and vocational education and training (TVET), conditional cash grants, or start-up kits. Often migrants cannot resume their livelihoods and need support to reorient or diversify their sources of income.
- Promote **access to land and workspace** for migrants to carry out income-generating activities, as lack of access can be an obstacle to restarting livelihoods. This support can be provided, among others, by:
 - Negotiating with local governments access to land for migrants.
 - Mediating to provide migrants access to premises at affordable cost.
 - Providing a workspace on individual or collective basis.
- **Support through conditional cash grants during the employment pathway** to cover transportation costs, fees for diplomas certification, child-care, tools, etc.
- Promote and facilitate **access to formal or informal financial services** (e.g. saving groups¹⁵, Mothers' Clubs¹⁶).
- Support **migrant families in the country of origin** (mainly those headed by women) to access low-priced, affordable and efficient financial transfer services to reduce transaction costs of migrant remittances¹⁷.

Promote access and restoration of social networks

- **Promote social cohesion and migrants' participation** in existing formal and informal community structures such as leaders' meetings, savings groups, and amateur sports clubs, as well as in recreational and social activities such as ceremonies, weddings, and funerals. Encourage engagement of beneficiaries **in peer-to-peer support mechanisms**, facilitate spaces where people can share knowledge, create synergies between livelihood activities, hold workshops, start community gardens, or engage in collective income-generating activities.
- **Volunteering** with the RC/RC Movement or other organisations might also serve as a vehicle to promote positive interactions between arriving migrants and host communities. Volunteering supports integration, boosts skills transferable to the labour market, and expands social networks.
- **Restoring Family Links**¹⁸ for migrants includes a range of activities from helping to avoid the separation of members of the same family in the migration routes to providing communication opportunities. This kind of support improves the psychosocial state of migrants.
- **Facilitate linkages between migrants and existing services and institutions**, including governmental entities, trade unions, financial services, microfinance enterprises, chambers of commerce, training institutes, etc., as well as with other humanitarian and civil society actors, to support their access to local existing resources. With the aim to promote **market linkages**, organize events, professional or job fairs with relevant stakeholders and successful entrepreneurs.
- Support **cooperatives** to foster collective micro-entrepreneurship among migrants. These cooperatives promote peer support and learning, ideas exchange, and assistance for overcoming the obstacles of initiating and developing entrepreneurship activities.

15. British Red Cross and LRC (2020) [Easy Volunteer Action's handbook. Section 12. Saving and Loans Associations.](#)

16. LRC/British RC (2017) [Mother's Club Integrated Approach](#) documents.

17. In accordance to Sustainable Development goals "by 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%"

18. [The Family Links Network](#), made up of the ICRC and 190 National Societies, helps prevent people from disappearing or getting separated, and works to restore and maintain contact between family members.

- **Promote business incubators**¹⁹ as sites of connection and co-working for entrepreneurs from different backgrounds, providing general and specific support services. Incubators might also offer training and mentorship programmes, and support linkages to local markets and global supply chains.
- **Labour intermediation between migrants and employers:** This engagement implies working in partnership with companies and potential employers from the very beginning of the process to define demanded professional profiles, to identify critical competencies, and to develop selection processes.

Orientation and Access to Accurate Information and Advocacy for Human Rights Protection

- **Provide useful information and orientation** to migrants about their rights for employment and labour opportunities (e.g. how to regularise their legal status, how to register their economic activity). For potential migrants and migrants in transit, provide **accurate information on safe routes and options for legal migration**.
- **Advocate employment of migrants with the private sector, engaging companies in corporate social responsibility.** Private companies can benefit from an opportunity to build their “social” brand while attracting migrants’ talent and skills.
- **Advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy,** Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (NS) can work with government and non-governmental partners to achieve and reinforce human rights. Advocate for migrants’ access to social assistance, education, shelter, and the right to work. Key messages at: [IFRC-Policy-Paper-Global-Compact-on-Migration-Final](#) and [IFRC Position on the Global Compact on Refugees](#).
 - In contexts of political or social opposition to migrants, especially in urban areas, **a conflict sensitivity approach should guide the advocacy and dissemination of the support aimed at the migrant population** to minimize counterproductive reactions.
 - A **system for collecting, sharing, and disseminating evidence-based information** on the benefits of livelihoods programs with the migrant population is essential.
 - **Include promotion of decent work for migrants when possible**, with special attention to domestic workers’ working conditions, to contribute to reducing gender inequalities.

General Considerations

- **Livelihoods assessments** are essential to understand the type of assistance most appropriate in each context and situation. Assessment should include impact on livelihoods assets²⁰ (of migrants and host communities), labour market opportunities, physical and psychosocial condition of migrants, population priorities, social networks, and the legal context (access to land or the right to work), as well as the duration of stay of migrants in the host location.
- To enable livelihoods activities, **basic needs, health, psychosocial and protection support should be ensured**.
- It is crucial to have a clear **targeting mechanism**²¹ involving **migrants and vulnerable host communities**. There should be particular consideration for livelihoods interventions in urban and peri-urban settings, as numerous migrants move towards those areas.

19. Examples of successful incubators can be found in [Policy guide on entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees](#) UNCTAD (2018)

20. The [Sustainable Livelihoods guidelines sheets](#) identify five core asset categories or types of capital upon which livelihoods are built: human, social, financial, natural, and physical (DfID, 1999)

21. For more information and guidance on selection of beneficiaries see [Targeting in Urban and Rural context](#).

- **Strong collaboration with the government and other key stakeholders is essential.** Developing a good network and collaboration with key local actors is fundamental for the effective implementation of support services.
 - Establish **partnerships with public or private** specialised organisations (vocational training entities, microeconomic institutions, NGOs with complementary programs). Note that local branches/organisations have a strong knowledge of the territory and of local issues.
 - The inclusion of **civil society organisations (CSOs)** inputs is essential. CSOs can contribute with complementary perspectives, information, or services.
 - Work in collaboration with partners, **seeking synergies** to leverage the skills of each partner.
- **Strengthen capacities of RCRC National Society and partners** to provide support services in contexts of migration²² and to provide livelihoods support which contributes to build resilience²³.
- Ensure **technical support and coaching to support livelihoods**. A minimum of 6 months of intensive monitoring at the beginning is needed, followed up by one year of moderate monitoring when livelihoods activities are already fully running.
- Have a **clear livelihoods framework**. Pilot before scaling up. It is essential to train staff, have common standard operating procedures, plan for contingencies, coordinate between different internal departments, and collaborate with external partners.




IFRC



22. See IFRC Global Disaster Preparedness Centre (GDPC) [Humanitarian Service Points Toolkit](#) for Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provide a wide range of assistance and protection services to migrants based on need.

23. The IFRC [Livelihoods Resource Centre](#) offers online and in-person trainings for National Societies staff and volunteers.

Table 1: Summary of Response Options for Strengthening Resilience of Migrants and Host Communities¹

| RESPONSE OPTIONS | |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| LIVELIHOODS PROTECTION AND BASIC NEEDS (FOOD & NFI) SUPPORT | | | | |
| Possible activities | Basic needs support through CVA and/or in kind. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Support access to essential services (registration, translation, legal, health, education services, child-care, work permit, etc.). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Early Warning Early Action in hazard-prone areas. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Promotion of Nutrition programmes especially for pregnant and lactating women and children under five, elderly, and chronically ill people. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Encourage and support school attendance for migrant children and adolescents. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Health and psychosocial support for migrants. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Advocacy for the inclusion of marginalized groups in social protection systems. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT | | | | |
| Possible transversal activities | Basic Life Skills training (functional literacy, numeracy, local language skills, basic IT skills, cultural orientation).and digital literacy. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Facilitate access to distance learning. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Provide orientation, technical support and coaching. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Employment skills support and market intermediation for migrant employment | | | | |
| Possible activities | Employment skills training. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Facilitating on-the-job training (internships, apprenticeships). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Productive assets support (equipment, tools). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Access to workspace support. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Career counselling and job search support. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Conditional cash grants to cover basic needs during the employability program. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Supporting employment networks (cooperatives, organization). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Engaging in intermediation with employees and adapting the training curricula to the market demands. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Legal support, including certificates and diplomas recognition. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Entrepreneurship support | | | | |
| Possible activities | Micro-entrepreneurship training (including e-commerce skills). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Provision of basic start-up grants (conditional cash). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Support business continuity plans. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Sponsor access to financial services such as loans, microcredit, community-based microfinance systems (saving groups, Mothers' Clubs). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Promote networking and advice for business start-ups, incubators support, and market linkages with relevant stakeholders. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Facilitate access to business support services including legal and financial. | ■ | ■ | ■ |

1. This table is non-exhaustive and includes generalizations which do not apply to all cases or to all countries.

■ Low Priority
 ■ Medium Priority
 ■ High Priority
  Country of origin
  Country of transit*
  Country destination

* Response options for migrants who plan to stay for less than a year (although, in some cases migrants remain in transit more time than initially planned).

Table 1: Summary of Response Options for Strengthening Resilience of Migrants and Host Communities¹

| RESPONSE OPTIONS | |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Agriculture and livestock support | | | | |
| Possible activities | Agriculture/food production training (particularly in backyard production if there is no access to land for stable crops). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Livestock/ poultry management training | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Seeds distribution (for staple crops or backyard production), tools, irrigation kits. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Livestock/ poultry and animal feed provision animal health support. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Support access to land (individual or collective). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Promote climate-smart agricultural techniques. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Market linkages promotion and value chain initiatives support. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ADVOCACY, SOCIAL COHESION, RIGHTS PROTECTION AND LEGAL SERVICES | | | | |
| Possible activities | Provide useful information and orientation to the persons to assist their rights. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Engage the private sector in migrant employment and in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Promote volunteering at the local RC/RC National Society or other local organisations among migrants. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Promote participation and actively engage beneficiaries on peer-to-peer support. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Restoring Family Links. | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy. | ■ | ■ | ■ |

1. This table is non-exhaustive and includes generalizations which do not apply to all cases or to all countries.

■ Low Priority ■ Medium Priority ■ High Priority  Country of origin  Country of transit*  Country destination

* Response options for migrants who plan to stay for less than a year (although, in some cases migrants remain in transit more time than initially planned).



LIVELIHOODS IN CAMPS²⁴

In camps, the context and the specific regulations will determine migrants' access to essential services. Employment opportunities can enable migrants to cater for several of their needs, but without those opportunities they will require external support for all physical needs, education, psychosocial support, and practical information.

Livelihood activities and access to markets are often restricted in camp settings. To assess existing skills and opportunities for camp residents within and outside the camp, the following factors should be considered: interests, skills and capacities of residents, potential income-generating activities, availability of raw materials, space (for livestock, agriculture, gardening), and access to natural resources (water, pasture, etc.), and markets proximity.

The livelihoods activities to be implemented in these contexts will depend on residents' skills, culture, capacities, resources and social mechanisms, as well as on host communities context, country policies, camp regulations, security situation, and opportunities made available and promoted. Camps may offer adequate space for the training of large numbers of people. The skills acquired through training contribute to strengthening capacities that may be useful in the actual settlement, at destination, or upon a potential return.

Engaging in livelihoods activities, even at a small scale, **has a positive impact on their self-esteem and dignity, and may also contribute to reducing potential conflicts with host communities.**

Livelihood and food security support frequently implemented in camp settings include:

- **Basic life skills and vocational training** adapted to the context and market's demand.
- **Community gardening** through the distribution of seeds and tools, training and food processing support.
- **Poultry or small livestock breeding** through the provision of small livestock and training in animal husbandry.
- **Cash for Work (CFW) and Food for Work (FFW)** to support camp maintenance and development plans.
- **Small-scale business** support through grants or microfinance plans, business management training and monitoring.
- **Community-based microfinance systems** (saving groups, Mother Clubs) for semi-permanent camps.

As for asylum seekers in camps waiting for resettlement, initiatives may also be implemented to enhance their well-being and employability skills **through on-site or distance training, preparing them for the final country or territory of asylum or for a potential return.** It is important to focus on enhancing transferrable skills that they can take with them whether their asylum application is finally granted or not.

Frequent **challenges** faced when supporting migrants' needs in camps include: unequal support across the camp, language and cultural barriers, and tensions with neighboring vulnerable communities. Evidence and **lessons learned from evaluations** show that to minimize these risks it is necessary to: create a clear map outlining roles and responsibilities; include in the support the vulnerable population in host communities, and engage community leaders and migrants with language skills in assessments and implementation of response actions²⁵.

24. IOM, NRC, UNHCR (2015) pag 274–282 [Camp management toolkit](#).

25. [Responses to migrants' needs at migrant camps | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(ifrc.org\)](#).

4. Cross-cutting

Access, participation, dignity and safety must always be prioritised to ensure inclusive and protective programming, **applying the `Do No Harm' principle which helps organizations to be effective, accountable and efficient** by ensuring:

- Targeting and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)
- Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)
- Social cohesion

Targeting and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)²⁶

- Include targeting criteria, and revise when necessary, programmes' targeting criteria to ensure access for migrants and displaced persons.
- To minimize the potential perception that migrants receive more support than local vulnerable groups, and promote community ownership, **ensure participation** of both **migrants** and **host community representatives in decision-making and implementation processes**. Also, engage migrants with language skills in these processes to ensure that activities respond to priority needs and are culturally congruent.
- Humanitarian diplomacy, a **dialogue with the government** might contribute to the recognition that the self-reliance of migrants should be seen as the precursor to any of the three durable solutions: return, local integration or resettlement.
- Involve **local communities** in the implementation process to create spaces and opportunities for integration.
- Engage **stakeholders from potential employers** in the implementation of support activities (e.g. providing training).

Key considerations for communication plan

- Keep different cultural preferences in mind when designing a communication plan.
- Provide materials for migrants in several languages.
- Deliver clear concise information easy to comprehend.
- Consider using a range of distribution/awareness raising mechanisms including radio broadcasting, social media and low technology options.
- Promote engaging migrants in peer-to-peer sharing.
- Engage community interpreters when communicating information.
- Develop a volunteer migration toolkit in multiple languages, including FAQs.
- Establish a good collaboration network with key local actors.
- Ensure that information shared (including to the media) adhere to the Fundamental Principles, particularly to prevent any perception bias.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

- Mainstreaming Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) reduces the risk of discrimination, violence, and abuse. The Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies²⁷ is a valuable tool for risk mitigation, although contexts with migration and displacement are not thoroughly addressed.
- Gender influences reasons for migrating, who migrates, to where, how people migrate, the networks they use, opportunities and resources available at destinations, and relations with the country of origin. Risks, vulnerabilities and needs are also shaped largely by one's gender and often vary drastically for different groups.

26. IFRC (2020) [Community Engagement and Accountability toolkit](#).

27. IFRC (2018) [Minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies](#)

Overview of Opportunities, Risks and Vulnerabilities for women migrants and refugees

- Migration might increase women's access to education, economic resources, and contribute to improving their autonomy and status.
- High-skilled women have high migration rates, although many are employed in low-skilled jobs.
- Most migrant domestic workers are women and adolescent girls.
- Unskilled female migrants work in less regulated and less visible sectors than male migrants.
- Female migrants and refugees are at greater risk of exploitation and abuse, including trafficking.

Key considerations for incorporating Protection, Gender and Inclusion into Food Security and Livelihoods interventions in migration and displacement contexts:

- **A gender and diversity analysis** must inform the design of the intervention and activities. Such analysis allows us to understand and respond to individual and group specific risks, needs and concerns.
- A gender and diversity analysis must include the participation of individuals and groups based on: gender (women, men, and other gender identities), age (children, adolescents, and elderly persons), disability status (physical, sensory, intellectual or mental), and ethnic, religious and cultural minorities.
- **Livelihoods activities²⁸ must be designed** based on the gender and diversity analysis, responding to how gender influences access to social services, economic growth, capacities, risks, and vulnerabilities. **Employment, income-generation, vocational training, and non-formal education opportunities** that are implemented should target the specific needs of women and men of all ages and have to be equally accessible to all.
- **Meaningful participation of all relevant groups** throughout the project cycle (assessment, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation) should be ensured to the broadest extent possible, including feedback and complaints mechanisms. Ensuring diversity and inclusiveness in consultations and participation in activities.
- **Capacity building of staff and volunteers** on PGI-related topics such as sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, child protection, safe referrals, and inclusion of persons with disabilities in migration contexts.

Social Cohesion

- From a social cohesion perspective, interventions should contribute to strengthen the sense of calm, safety, connectedness, and hope of individuals and families with local communities. Livelihoods interventions may also promote individual and community bondage between migrants and host communities, as well as a culture of non-violence.
- The **inclusion of migrants and displaced persons in local communities** may contribute to reduce the vulnerability of being exposed to violence, exploitation, and abuse. This directly addresses the social beliefs, values, attitudes, behaviours, norms, and practices that underlie discrimination and xenophobia.²⁹ It also underlines the importance of the inclusion of local communities and their members in support of migrants and refugees. Interventions have to consider local communities' concerns and specific issues and avoid addressing exclusively the needs of migrants.
- Promoting **positive interactions between arriving migrants and host communities is essential to minimize tensions**. In areas affected by conflict and/or tensions between receiving communities and migrants, interventions should be informed by a conflict-sensitive analysis.
- It is **key to train staff and volunteers** in **livelihoods** support, as well as having **good coordination** between different internal departments and **collaboration** with external partners. It is also essential to support the well-being of staff and volunteers. IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support (IFRC PS Centre) has developed a specific guideline to [Support on the Provision of Psychosocial Support in Crisis to Staff and Volunteers](#).

28. IFRC (2014) [Gender and diversity in food security and livelihoods programming. Guidance note - Livelihoods Centre](#).

29. IOM (2019) [Handbook on protection and assistance for migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse](#).

5. Case examples

DANISH RED CROSS.

Country of destination

Asylum Seekers Employment

With adult asylum seekers, the Red Cross works to promote employability, based on the skills of each individual. The goal is focused on maintaining and developing skills, while promoting resilience, self-maintenance and an entrepreneurial mindset. In a context where most of the people seeking asylum in Denmark do not get permission to stay, an individual approach where each person's skills and ambitions determine the daily structure, is considered the most durable solution. Practically, this involves an assessment interview focusing on skills, experiences and ambitions, that leads to a choice of courses. These courses last 3–6 months and involve practical learning. Participants take part in practical learning at Asylum centres, and are guided to reflect on how to use their knowledge and skills in Denmark or other places, and how to communicate their learning in Curriculum Vitae (CV).



Danish Red Cross

ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS and DANISH RED CROSS. Country of origin

Returnees

Throughout their journey, Ethiopian migrants are exposed to different kinds of risks and abuse which makes them particularly vulnerable. The lack of livelihood opportunities upon return is reported as a main obstacle for migrant returnees to recover and reintegrate into society and in many cases becomes a reason for re-migrating again. They also report having witnessed or experienced violent, traumatic events, including torture, physical and sexual abuse during their migratory journey. The ARV-RC project in Ethiopia supports vulnerable migrants in their reintegration at the individual and community level. Assistance includes essential NFIs on arrival, linkages and access to livelihood opportunities, as well as mental health and psychosocial support. A livelihood framework was initially developed through a participatory approach involving the ERCS team, targeted returnees, community members, government stakeholders, INGO/NGOs. It included self-employment support for returnees through the development of small businesses (including training and start-up support) by individuals or groups, promotion of saving groups, and market linkages with relevant stakeholders.

GUINEAN RED CROSS and DANISH RED CROSS. Country of origin

Returnees and host community

As part of the AMiRA Regional program (Action for Migrants: Route Based Assistance), Guinea Red Cross developed an integrated program with protection and psycho-social support, access to information on the risks and rights related to migration and, finally, support for reintegration. Lack of livelihoods opportunities was one of the main challenges for returning migrants. The project supported the development of income-generating activities (IGA), both individual and collective, including activities such as IGA market opportunities, training in business management and business plan (developed by an external organisation), support in start-up capital, coaching, and follow up. A monitoring system was created to track the impact on beneficiaries' lives. After five months, 85% of the IGAs were fully operational and 80% had a net profit. 94% of beneficiaries surveyed felt more supported by the community and 98% felt financially stronger.

RWANDAN RED CROSS and SPANISH RED CROSS. Country of origin

Returnees

After having greatly contributed to emergency assistance for Rwandan migrant returnees (most of them expelled from Tanzania in 2013), the Rwandan Red Cross Society (RRCS), in partnership with the Spanish Red Cross (SRC), worked toward providing long term solutions. It is within this plan that a 52-month project (from 2015 to 2020) was carried out with the aim of improving the productive and income-generating capacity of vulnerable families in Nyagatare (North-East Rwanda). The approach to livelihoods under this project was focused on integrating the socio-economic empowerment of migrant returnees and social cohesion with the host community and within the human rights framework. Half of the beneficiary families were returnees while the other half belonged to the host community and all worked together with the aim of setting up joint agricultural and livestock cooperatives, acquiring knowledge and equipment to improve productive capacity as well as developing transformation and preserving processes that added worth to their farming produce before they moved up the value chain. Training in business management and promotion of integration into market networks was also a key element to ensure commercial success.

HELLENIC RED CROSS. Country of destination

Asylum seekers, migrants and refugees

Through the Multifunctional Centers for Refugees in Athens and Thessaloniki, Hellenic Red Cross is implementing integrational activities for refugee and migrant populations.

Seeking employment can be very challenging for asylum seekers due to lack of certain documentation, language barriers, etc. However, the economic independence that an individual can obtain through employment is crucial for the persons' integration process into a new society.

The Multifunctional Centre for Refugees in Athens runs different projects of Psychosocial Support for Adults, focusing on preparing and supporting people in their journey to find a job. Greek and English language courses reinforce people in searching for a job. The Job Counselling Program includes sessions that guide beneficiaries in discovering their skills while assisting them in preparing their CV and cover letter for a job application. Additionally, there is communication with employers to connect beneficiaries directly with working opportunities.

COLOMBIAN RED CROSS AND SPANISH RED CROSS. Country of destination

Migrants and hosting community

Over the past few years, 1,7 million of Venezuelan migrants have been entering and establishing themselves in Colombia. Almost half of them have not been able to regularize their status. Most fled Venezuela without resources and, after a hard trip, resettled in urban and suburban neighborhoods. The modest informal small business or jobs they could get were swept away by COVID-19 pandemic, pushing them towards negative coping strategies which raised intolerance among hosts populations, in addition to competing with them for the few available income-generating activities. The project promoted the recovery of livelihood initiatives at a small scale, both for migrants and local vulnerable



families. The project implemented a pathway for support which included basic training on business management, design of feasible business plans, seed capital to cover initial expenses, start-up monitoring, and linkages with local economic actors. Most vulnerable families also received cash transfers to cover basic needs for two months, enabling them to attend the business process without additional financial burdens. In addition, emotional and psychosocial wellbeing was supported, tackling consequences deriving from xenophobic attitudes, gender-based violence, and COVID-19 related depression.

TURKISH RED CRESCENT. Country of destination

Asylum seekers, refugees, and host community



Turkey currently hosts around 4 million migrants and refugees, of which over 3 million come from Syria. To respond to this migration crisis, the Turkish RC has developed the Community-based Migration Programs and Socio-Economic Empowerment Program that aim to contribute to community resilience and peaceful co-existence of migrants and hosts communities. The three main sub-programs implemented within the scope of the Socio-economic Empowerment Program:

Guidance to Employment Sub-Program Guidance to Job Component includes the analysis of the labour demand and beneficiary profile of labour competencies. Activities include identifying hard-to-fill positions and vacancies, gathering employer demands, and labour mediation between stakeholders and employers. Turkish Language Training's Component supports beneficiaries' adaptation, removing the language barrier for social life, orienting them to work, and adapting to business life. Soft Skills Training's Component support CV Preparation, Interview Techniques, Career Planning, Lifelong Learning, Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses, Business Life and Culture in Turkey, information of Labour Law and Social Rights in Turkey.

Entrepreneurship Sub-Program: The first component is Entrepreneurship Supports with Basic and advanced training. Entrepreneurship camps are organized to create business and feasibility plans for beneficiary businesses. The programme includes mentorship and incubation³⁰ assistance for legal advice, marketing, finance and business management during the start-up process. The subprogram also has home-based Production supports and a cooperative Capacity Building Supports component.

Agriculture and Livestock Sub-Program: Beneficiaries are provided with theoretical and practical training on agriculture and husbandry in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, local institutions, agricultural chambers, unions and universities. Beneficiaries who have successfully completed the training are directed towards employment or Home-Based Production, Small-Scale Agricultural, and Livestock Production.

30. Business incubator is an organization that helps startup companies and individual entrepreneurs to develop their businesses by providing a full scale range of services starting with management training and office space and ending with venture capital financing.

6. Annex 1. General observations considering the different typology and stage of migrants' journey

To design a livelihoods support intervention it is necessary to analyze and consider the different typologies and stages of the migration journey as the support will need to be adapted accordingly. Some are outlined below:

| Typology | Specific considerations ³¹ |
|---|---|
| Potential migrants in country of origin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before leaving the country, many migrate from rural to urban areas, and concentrate in the urban areas of their countries of origin. |
| Internally displaced persons (IDPs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unstable political situations in the country of origin could obstacle access to rights, services, and a permanent place to live for IDPs. In these contexts there is a significant risk of exploitation. IDP's are often in camps or in urban settings³² of neighbouring communities. |
| Refugees in neighbouring countries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugees are normally in countries of destination, although in some cases they are moving from one country to another. When refugees have specific needs that cannot be addressed in the country where they have sought protection, voluntary resettlement to a third country may be an option. Refugees may settle in rural or urban settings. Settlements in neighbouring countries are often in camps, but may also be self-settlement. Before defining any livelihoods support for refugees in these contexts, it is necessary to carry out an assessment of current policies regarding rights to work, options for livelihoods, and existing institutional programmes. |
| Undocumented migrants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of protection leaves undocumented migrants at higher risk of trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence and labour exploitation. Lack of access to essential services. |
| Asylum-seekers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum seekers may be in a temporary situation in the country of transit or in the country of final destination, in camps or in self-settlements. In many cases, their status is regulated by the host country with strict movement restrictions and legal barriers to employment both by law and in practice, leading to unequal pay and poor working conditions, especially in the informal economy. |
| Returnees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often, the causes for migration (violence, lack of economic opportunities, and other structural and personal factors) have not changed, and the situation of the returnee may be worse than it was before migration. Returnees may return to their place of origin or settle in another country. Those from rural areas tend to return to larger urban centres. The presence of social networks and the risk of violence, and other reasons may influence decisions for returning to the place of origin. |

31. This table is non-exhaustive and includes generalities that do not apply to all cases or to all countries.

32. For more information see [Displaced in Cities: Experiencing and Responding to Urban Internal Displacement Outside Camps](#), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Each stage of the migration journey has also specific considerations that have to be considered :

| Migratory journey | Specific considerations ³³ |
|--|--|
| <p>Country of origin</p>  | <p>For local communities and returnees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize working in long-term livelihoods solutions, especially with young people, so that migration is a choice but not a situation forced by the lack of opportunities. • Ensure access to accurate information on legal migration processes to possible destination countries. • Provide reliable information on secure routes and ways to stay safe during the journey. • Target households whose main breadwinner disappeared during migration (mainly female-headed). In some patriarchal communities, women and minors are left alone, and thus, may find themselves in highly vulnerable socio-economic situations, with serious difficulties for accessing land and property rights, and for securing their subsistence. • When migrants return to their country of origin, they might be in a situation more vulnerable financially than when they left, thus income-generating opportunities need to be available. Psychosocial support is often extremely important to overcome potential traumas and feelings of failure. Reunification with families in the country of origin is also important as family members often help returned migrants by providing shelter, food, etc. • Endorse and promote that women have access to the right to work. Reducing gender gaps in labour force participation may contribute to boosting countries' economies. |
| <p>Country of transit</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As migrants continue the journey, legal certainty and access to practical information remain important, as well as having a financial safety net, while maintaining family links and addressing physical needs (access to shelter, food, health and general safety) become pressing. • Capacity building during the journey can be supported by facilitating access to distance learning, when internet and mobile devices are available, or through short workshops (e.g. provided at RCRC Humanitarian Service Points or reception centres). |
| <p>Country destination</p>  | <p>Recently arrived migrants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support basic needs and access to fair and personalized regularisation process. • Promote an effective legal environment. Assess relevant laws and policies related to migrants in each country, and work out the practical implementation of these laws to the provision of services: information on the process, rights, information on how to access temporary housing, food, health care, education, legal assistance, psychosocial support, etc. • Support re-establishing broken links with families. Promote acceptance among host communities to overcome challenges and pave the way to integration. Work with host communities, companies, employers to raise awareness about cultural differences, and support self-understanding and acceptance which are key to having access to jobs. <p>Long-term stay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and support micro-entrepreneurship, which will allow migrants to become self-sufficient. Consider that migrants' salaries are often lower, hence external support may be needed for housing, food, etc. Children, youth, and some adults may also need support to access education and vocational training. • Support learning the language and cultural norms in the host country to support migrants feel part of the new community. • Work with host communities, companies, employers to raise awareness about cultural differences as understanding and acceptance of these differences are key to promoting migration's access to jobs. • Support "employability skills" as a way of maintaining and strengthening existing skills and resources, preparing for labour market integration, regardless of where this will be. |

33. This table is non-exhaustive and has generalities that do not apply to all cases or to all countries.

7. Annex 2. Potential impacts and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced persons by capital assets

Human capital

Skills, knowledge, ability to labour and good health.

Lack of means to cover basic needs could increase potential negative coping strategies such as reduced food intake, child labour, child marriage, mendicity, etc. In urban settings, migrants may struggle to find appropriate accommodation, risk harming their physical and mental well-being, or may become destitute. Migrants, in general, are more dependent on informal labour and may need to rely on external support from host communities, authorities, and humanitarian actors. They may have less access to food, often leading to high levels of hunger, malnutrition and disease. In such cases, the nutritional status of migrants and displaced persons could deteriorate significantly, especially among children, women and the elderly.³⁴

The migration journey is often stressful and can result in severe distress and **mental health** problems that significantly impact **self-esteem**, aggravating the conditions of access to a livelihood and increasing the risks of exploitation (at all levels). In some cases, it may lead to harmful coping mechanisms, including abuse of alcohol and/or drugs.

Discrimination and stigma can be factors that prevent migrants from accessing labour markets. Migrants experience intersectional discrimination based on multiple factors, including gender identity, sexual orientation, migration status, age, ethnicity, etc.

Violence and **protection risks** may be potentially higher for migrants and displaced persons, who often live in precarious and unsafe locations. They are exposed to stigma, discrimination, abuse, and exploitation, including human trafficking. Female migrants are particularly at risk of early and forced marriage, transactional sex, rape, sexual harassment, and physical assault during the migration process. Men also often experience violence, abuse, and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) along the migratory routes.

Sexual abuse and **gender-based violence** are often a grim consequence of the lack of access to sustainable livelihoods; women, girls, and boys might be forced to provide sex in exchange for food and basic supplies. In some migration and displacement contexts, men may find themselves unable to fulfill their traditional role as “breadwinners” which may contribute to increasing domestic violence against women to mark gender roles.

Children migrating without proper documentation and without families may be prevented from accessing basic services such as education and health care in countries where legal protection is absent. They are at high risk of exploitation and might be vulnerable to **child labour and human trafficking**³⁵.

Limited access to **good quality information on safe routes, legal requirements and job opportunities** in origin, transit and destination countries.

Lack of **education**: professional capacities, competencies, and skills.

- Migrants and displaced persons often can no longer rely on their income-generating activities and they frequently face **difficulties adjusting to new contexts and labour opportunities**. They may **need to learn new skills** and integrate with host communities.

34. FAO 2013 [Guidance Note - Supporting displaced people and durable solutions](#)

35. [ILO Website Migration and child labour](#)

- **Education Disruption:** Migrants and displaced persons may miss vital years of education, with potentially serious impacts on their future. They may face immediate and longer-term economic hardship, including destitution and homelessness. As many jobs for migrants and displaced persons may be in the informal sector, they are more exposed and vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.
- **For non-documented migrants right to study or work is rarely guaranteed.** Migrants may struggle to be hired as low-skilled labour or to find a job outside their profession if they have no local work experience or references. Undocumented persons may not work for fear of being detected and detained; in the same way, separated and unaccompanied children may be afraid of being taken into care³⁶. For **refugees and migrants with legal status, educational qualifications are not always recognised** or they may not be able to fulfill the accreditation or homologation of studies. Certifying documents can be costly and the process long and complex. As a result they may struggle to find decent work.

Social capital

Social networks and connections (patronage, neighbourhoods, kinship), relations of trust and mutual understanding and support, formal and informal groups, collective representation, mechanisms for participation in decision-making, leadership.

Loss of social networks. Migrants from communities that had developed coping mechanisms and solidarity networks to mitigate the impact of food shortages and to support basic needs, may no longer benefit from such safety nets. Establishing new social networks and a strong sense of cohesion among people from different cultural backgrounds can be difficult and requires time.

Family separation and unaccompanied children. Parents may have to leave their spouses, children, or older relatives behind in their search for work.

Interventions that focus only on providing livelihoods support for migrants and displaced persons may **create tension with host communities**, negatively impacting the potential for durable solutions. Host communities might perceive the presence of displaced persons as a threat, straining already scarce resources, leading to discrimination and exclusion, particularly regarding the labour market.

Limited access to reliable **information on safe routes, legal requirements, or job opportunities** in countries of transit and destination.

In many cases, **trade unions and labour organisations rarely protect the labour rights of migrants.** In some countries, increased focus on illegal employment of migrants may lead to increased crackdowns and punishment, and thus further risks for migrants.

Natural capital

Natural resource stocks from which resource flows and services (e.g. nutrient cycling, erosion protection) useful for livelihoods are derived.

In rural areas, access to land is crucial for livelihoods. **Limited access to natural assets** (e.g. land, water) makes it difficult to engage in primary production, such as agriculture and livestock farming. In many cases, returnees and migrant families do not have access to land, having sold it to pay for their migratory journey. Movement restrictions, especially for displaced persons in camps, intensify this difficulty. Refugees and migrants in destination countries also have limited access to land.

36. Under the Refugee Convention, refugees have the right to work and study, but in many countries this is restricted while their asylum claim is being considered, which can take years.

Physical capital

Basic infrastructure that people need to make a living, as well as the tools and equipment that they use—for example, transport and communication systems, shelter, water and sanitation systems, and energy.

Migrants and displaced persons may lack **productive assets** (goods, tools, or equipment). Productive assets, which may be needed to restart a livelihood, may have been sold to pay for the migration journey, or they may have been left behind, particularly in the case of **people on the move**, traveling with very few items.

Migrants and displaced persons are also affected by a **lack of access to infrastructure** such as shelters and buildings, water supply and sanitation, clean and affordable energy. In camps or restricted areas, a lack of access to markets can be another constraint as they are often located in remote areas and there could be movement restrictions.

Financial capital

Savings, in whichever form, access to financial services, and regular inflows of money.

The migration process often leads to a **reduction in the financial capital of migrants and their families**, with a negative impact on their livelihoods back home. Families may have invested all their savings and productive assets (sale of livestock, land, etc.) and they may have even gone into debt to pay for the migration journey of one or more of their family members. **People on the move** with remaining financial capital may spend at higher rates for survival purposes, e.g. going to hotels for shelter, transport through smugglers, etc.

Lack of expected remittances of migrants' families, for example, if a migrant does not make it to destination or if it takes more time than expected to reach the destination, may lead migrants and families to take on debt that they cannot afford to pay back.

Lack of access to formal or informal financial services (e.g. bank loans, saving groups, Mother's Clubs). In many cases, migrants and displaced persons have **problems accessing formal credit**, from opening a bank account to obtaining a loan, which makes it very difficult to re-start livelihoods. The lack or loss of social networks also makes it very hard to access informal loans from friends, family or community savings groups.

Political capital³⁷

Rights acquired through citizenship, relations with the authorities.

Migrants and displaced persons have difficulties in the exercise of the **right to work** and other related rights (e.g. to land, to vote). **Access to work permits** and recognized certificates are the main obstacles³⁸. Not being able to secure a livelihood affects the exercise of other fundamental rights, such as the right to food, water, housing.

Loss or lack of identity documents (passport, ID, voting card) can also result in the lack of legal recognition, freedom of movement (including a high risk of arrest), and participation in democratic and decision-making processes. Undocumented migrants also lack access to government aid or decent work due to the lack of legal status.

No access to formal social protection systems for those working in the informal labour sector. Migrant women in particular often remain excluded as a result of discrimination in both policies and practices, due in part to their concentration in informal employment and particularly in the sectors of domestic service and care.

37. The initial version of the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) included only five assets; political assets were added at a later stage.

38. Art. 23 of UDHR; Art. 5 (e) (i) of ICERD; Arts. 6 and 7 of ICESCR. refers to the right of everyone to have the opportunity to earn a living in a safe work environment, and also provides for the freedom to organize and bargain collectively. This right also prohibits the use of compulsory or forced labour.

