



## Consolidated Reply: e-discussion on Forced Migration and Development

10 January – 7 February 2011

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**Original Query: UNHCR Brussels**  
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Dear Members of the Community of Practice,

In collaboration with **UNHCR Brussels**, the [Joint Migration and Development Initiative \(JMDI\)](#) is pleased to launch this **e-discussion on “Forced Migration and Development”**.

The specific focus on forced migrants becomes necessary when recognizing that within the wider migration and development discussion refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, such as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), are a distinct group. Although it is sometimes difficult to make a clear distinction between forms of forced and voluntary migration due to the mixed, complex and shifting motivations of migrants as well as mixed migration movements, the motivation of most voluntary migrants is to find work, earn a better income or enjoy education, while forced migrants flee from their homes due to armed conflicts, violence, fear of persecution or natural or human made disasters and are therefore in need of protection, shelter and the assistance in meeting their basic needs.

Forced displacement means loss of housing, land and property, jobs, physical assets, social networks and resources, and changes in family dynamics and traditional gender roles. It has been documented that too often displacement also results in food insecurity, increased morbidity and mortality, and social marginalization. Often access to services such as education and health becomes exceedingly difficult because the displaced may have left behind the necessary personal documentation, may not be recognized as having any entitlements under the local government authority where they now reside, or because they no longer have the means to pay for school fees and health services and often lack traditional support networks in their new environment. Together these conditions push

the displaced into a cycle of vulnerability, which may grow even worse in those protracted displacement situations where successive generations are affected.

In their vulnerable state, refugees and other forced migrants are beneficiaries of humanitarian aid providing short-term relief in situations of high vulnerability after being forced to flee. However, they are frequently excluded from long-term development programmes. This inadequate response to the needs of IDPs and refugees continues to be the single major obstacle to durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons. The continued perception that concerns of forced displacement can only be addressed by humanitarian means is ill-conceived, and has resulted in the protracted displacements of millions of forcibly displaced persons, unable to find solutions for their displacement that can assist them to break from the cycle of dependence on humanitarian assistance and to move on with their lives.

Protracted displacement means also the prolonged presence of large numbers of forced migrants which may have a negative impact on the development of host communities due to pressure on local resources, infrastructure and services, along with environmental degradation. In this regard we have to bear in mind, that the majority of the hosting countries are developing and poor countries. Today of an estimated 214 million people living outside their country of origin, some 34 million are people of concern to UNHCR (including refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, IDPs and stateless persons, while not including refugees under the mandate of UNRWA). Whether in urban contexts or in camp setting, the vast majority of them live in developing countries, primarily in Africa and Asia, which are themselves often struggling to meet the basic needs of their own populations.

Supporting forced migrants to find solutions through self-reliance and livelihoods, in return or in host countries, not only enables them to make their own living while helping to reduce the compulsion for secondary movement, but allows them also to contribute to developing the local economy and communities. Too often, the productive and peacebuilding potential of forcibly displaced is disregarded. That is why integrating refugee or returnee programmes into national development plans is important for maximising gains to both forced migrants and local populations. In this sense it would be a mistake to ignore the forced migrants' strength to contribute to development or to neglect them in the migration and development discussion. It is this concept of forced migrants being "agents of development" that we would like to explore in the context of this e-discussion.

The e-discussion will last three weeks, **from 10 to 7 February 2011**. Please feel free to answer during this period as many, or as few of the questions raised below. We warmly encourage you to participate in the e-discussion by emailing [m4d@groups.dev-nets.org](mailto:m4d@groups.dev-nets.org) or posting your comments online in the Migration4Development forum here. Please note that responses to the e-discussion are not automatically shared but go to the facilitation teams for compilation.

The results of this e-discussion will be presented in a consolidated reply.

We look forward to a rich and active discussion! Thank you for your participation!

*The M4D-net facilitation Team*

## Questions

### 1 - Who are forced migrants?

Who is a refugee, an asylum seeker, an internally displaced person (IDP) and a returnee?

### 2 - Forced migrants' contribution to development

Can you share any examples of how forced migrants use their skills and capacities to contribute to development and post-conflict reconstruction?

What are the necessary conditions for forced migrants to contribute to the development of their host states/regions/communities as well as those of origin?

### 3 - Supporting forced migrants' contribution to development

Is it necessary to develop specific migration and development programmes for forced migrants? Can you share any specific examples with the e-discussion?

Why is it so difficult to include forced displacement on the development agenda of donors, governments and development agencies' programmes and funds?

Even where forced migrants receive some assistance for return, why are the longer-term needs of the returnees not systematically integrated into the reconstruction planning?

How can humanitarian actors adapt their programmes further to facilitate early recovery without compromising humanitarian principles?

How can additional, flexible and timely transitional and development assistance be ensured for refugees who are non-citizens?

## *Français:*

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### **Requête originale: HRC à Bruxelles**

Chers membres du Réseau de praticiens,

En collaboration avec le HCR à Bruxelles, **l'Initiative conjointe pour la migration et le développement** a le plaisir de lancer cette **discussion en ligne** sur le thème de « **la migration forcée et le développement** ».

Prenant conscience du fait que les réfugiés et autres personnes en situation de déplacement forcée,, sont considérés comme un groupe à part dans les débats sur la migration et le développement, il convient aujourd'hui de s'attacher en particulier aux migrants forcés. Même si il peut parfois apparaître difficile de différencier entre une migration forcée ou une migration volontaire à cause du caractère souvent mixte et complexe des raisons qui contraignent ou motivent une personne à quitter son pays, nous pouvons cependant adopter la distinction suivante : alors que l'objectif de la plupart des migrants est de trouver un travail, d'avoir un meilleur salaire ou de bénéficier d'une meilleure éducation, les migrants forcés quittent généralement leurs foyers par crainte de persécution, pour fuir les conflits armés, la violence, les catastrophes naturelles ou causées par

l'homme, et nécessitent par conséquent que leur soit assurés protection, abri et assistance à la satisfaction de leurs besoins élémentaires.

Le déplacement forcé implique la perte du logement, des terres et des propriétés, de l'emploi, des biens matériels, des réseaux et des ressources dans le domaine social, et conduit à des changements dans les dynamiques familiales et le rôle traditionnellement attribué aux hommes et aux femmes. L'expérience a démontré que trop souvent, le déplacement conduit aussi à l'insécurité alimentaire, à la hausse de la morbidité et de la mortalité, ainsi qu'à la marginalisation sociale. Souvent, il devient extrêmement difficile pour les personnes déplacées d'accéder aux services tels que l'éducation ou la santé, car elles n'emportent généralement pas leurs papiers d'identité et ne peuvent par conséquent prétendre à aucun droit au regard de l'autorité locale de leur lieu de résidence, ou parce qu'elles n'ont plus les moyens de payer les frais de scolarité et les services de santé, et ne peuvent pas compter sur l'appui d'un réseau social traditionnel dans leur nouvel environnement. L'association de ces conditions défavorables fait que les déplacés entrent dans un cycle de vulnérabilité, qui pourrait empirer si la situation de déplacement se prolongeait et affectait plusieurs générations successives.

Les réfugiés et autres migrants forcés vulnérables bénéficient d'une aide humanitaire qui les soulage temporairement de leur grande vulnérabilité immédiatement après leur fuite forcée. Pourtant, ils sont souvent exclus des programmes durables pour le développement. L'inadéquation des solutions offertes pour répondre aux besoins des personnes déplacées ou réfugiées constitue toujours un obstacle majeur à la mise en place de solutions durables pour les personnes déplacées de force. L'idée largement répandue selon laquelle le déplacement forcé peut être réglé par des moyens humanitaires est erronée et a conduit des millions de personnes déplacées de force à des situations de déplacement prolongées, les mettant dans l'incapacité de trouver des solutions à leur déplacement qui pourraient les aider à rompre le cycle de la dépendance de l'assistance humanitaire et à faire évoluer leur vie.

Le déplacement prolongé implique également la présence prolongée d'un grand nombre d'étrangers qui peut avoir un impact négatif sur le développement des communautés des pays d'accueil, étant donné la pression qu'ils font exercer sur les ressources, les infrastructures et les services au niveau local, et la dégradation de l'environnement. A cet égard, il ne faut pas oublier que la plupart des pays d'accueil sont des pays en développement et des pays pauvres. Aujourd'hui, on estime que 214 millions de personnes vivent en dehors de leur pays d'origine, quelque 34 millions de personnes relevant de la compétence du HCR (réfugiés, demandeurs d'asile, rapatriés, déplacés internes et apatrides, excepté les réfugiés relevant du mandat de l'UNRWA). Qu'il s'agisse de contextes urbains ou de camps, la plupart des ces 34 millions de personnes vivent dans les pays en développement, principalement en Afrique et en Asie, pays qui luttent souvent eux-mêmes pour subvenir aux besoins élémentaires de leurs propres citoyens.

Aider les migrants forcés à trouver des solutions favorisant l'instauration de mécanismes et de projets d'autosuffisance et de moyens de subsistance dans les pays de retour ou d'accueil leur permettrait non seulement de reconstruire leur vie et d'éviter un deuxième déplacement, mais aussi de contribuer au développement de l'économie et des communautés locales. Trop souvent, le potentiel de production économique et social de ces personnes ainsi que leur capacité à contribuer à des processus locaux de pacification est négligée. Pour cette raison l'intégration plus systématique de programmes ou de projets bénéficiant aux réfugiés et aux rapatriés dans les plans nationaux de

développement serait largement profitable aux migrants forcés ainsi qu'à la population locale. En ce sens, il serait erroné d'ignorer la contribution potentielle des migrants forcés au développement ou de ne pas en tenir compte dans les débats portant sur la migration et le développement. C'est le concept de migrants forcés en tant que « agent de développement » que nous souhaiterions aborder dans cette discussion en ligne.

La discussion en ligne se tiendra pendant trois semaines, à compter **du 10 jusqu'au 7 Février 2011**. N'hésitez pas à répondre à toutes les questions posées ci-dessous. Nous vous encourageons vivement à participer à la discussion en ligne en envoyant un courrier électronique à [m4d@groups.dev-nets.org](mailto:m4d@groups.dev-nets.org) ou en postant vos commentaires en ligne sur le forum pour la migration et le développement [ici](#). Veuillez noter que les réponses de la discussion en ligne ne seront pas automatiquement partagées mais seront d'abord envoyées à l'équipe de facilitation qui en fera la synthèse.

Les résultats de la discussion en ligne seront communiqués sous forme de réponse consolidée.

Nous espérons que la discussion sera riche et active ! Nous vous remercions de votre participation !

## **Questions**

### Qui sont les migrants forcés ?

Les réfugiés, les demandeurs d'asile, les déplacés internes et les rapatriés ?

### Contribution des migrants forcés au développement

Pouvez-vous donner des exemples de la façon dont les compétences et les capacités des migrants forcés peuvent contribuer au développement et à la reconstruction post-conflit ?

Quelles sont les conditions requises pour que les migrants contribuent au développement de leur pays/région/communauté d'accueil ainsi que de leur pays d'origine ?

### Appuyer la contribution des migrants forcés au développement

Faut-il mettre au point des programmes pour la migration et le développement portant spécifiquement sur les migrants forcés ? Pouvez-vous donner des exemples précis ?

Pourquoi est-il difficile d'inclure le thème du déplacement forcé dans le calendrier des programmes et des fonds pour le développement des donateurs, des gouvernements et des agences de développement ?

Même lorsque les migrants forcés bénéficient d'une assistance au retour, pourquoi les besoins à plus long terme des rapatriés ne sont-ils pas systématiquement intégrés dans la planification pour la reconstruction ?

De quelle façon les acteurs humanitaires pourraient-ils adapter leurs programmes en vue du relèvement rapide sans compromettre les principes humanitaires ?

De quelle façon pourrait-on fournir aux réfugiés non citoyens une assistance additionnelle souple et opportune pour la transition et le développement

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## Responses were received, with thanks, from:

1. [Amaya Valcarcel](#), *Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Italy*
  2. [Ayman Zohry](#), *JMDI Migrant Advisory Board Member, Egypt*
  3. [Wisdom Ejebugha](#), *Rule of Law Insitute Foundation, Poland*
  4. [Dr. Titilola Banjoko](#), *JMDI Migrant Advisory Board Member, United Kingdom*
  5. [Kenza Ziati](#), *National Association of Volunteerism "Touiza", Algeria*
  6. [David](#), *National Workers Congress/Migrants Services Centre, Sri Lanka*
  7. [Anonymous](#)
  8. [Olufunke Aluko-Daniels](#), *Coventry University, United Kingdom*
  9. [Shyama Salgado](#), *International Labour Organization (ILO), Sri Lanka*
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## Summary of Responses:

[Français >](#)

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1 - Who are forced migrants?

[Who is a refugee, an asylum seeker, an internally displaced person \(IDP\) and a returnee?](#)

Forced migrants are people who are forced to move due to unbearable challenges to livelihoods due to natural or man-made conditions, political, social and/or religious persecution. Under the umbrella of forced migrants, contributors identified and defined several different categories, specifically: refugees; asylum seekers; internally displaced persons (IDP); returnees; and victims of human trafficking.

##### *Refugees and asylum seekers*

The [1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, as amended by the 1967 Protocol](#), defines a refugee as a person who “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”.

There is no international legal definition of asylum seeker. This will vary on a country by country basis, however generally an individual is considered an asylum seeker if she/he is seeking protection after arriving in the host country.

##### *Internally displaced persons (IDPs)*

There is also no legal definition of an internally displaced person (“IDP”). However the most accepted definition is that used in the [Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons](#) (1998), which defines them as persons “who have been forced to flee their homes suddenly or unexpectedly in large numbers, as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of human rights

or natural or man-made disasters, and who are within the territory of their own country". Unlike refugees therefore, an IDP remains within the borders of his or her country.

### *Victims of trafficking*

One contributor highlighted the need to include victims of human trafficking within the concept of forced migrants. Under the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children](#), supplementing the [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#), trafficking in persons is defined as “*the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.*”

### *Returnees*

In the context of this e-discussion, a returnee is therefore an individual from one of the above categories of forced migrants who returns to his / her home after a period of forced migration. It is important to distinguish here between voluntary returnees – who choose themselves to return to their home community – and forced returned migrants – who are forcibly returned to their countries of origin as a result of failed asylum claims or other visa issues.

## **2 - Forced migrants’ contribution to development**

[Can you share any examples of how forced migrants use their skills and capacities to contribute to development and post-conflict reconstruction?](#)

There were several ways respondents identified how forced migrants can contribute to both the development of their country of origin and host country as well as post-conflict reconstruction.

Contributors categorized forced migrants’ contribution to development as the transfer of three capitals: social, human and financial capital.

In terms of **financial capital**, forced migrants may send **remittances** to their countries of origin, which can be used by the receivers to contribute to local development and poverty alleviation. According to UNHCR there is **growing evidence** suggesting that forced migrants are involved in remittance transactions (both as senders and receivers), although in small amounts. This was reinforced by one contributor who highlighted the role of the Algerian diaspora in France who contribute to humanitarian aid efforts as well as investing directly in Algeria. However, one contributor had found few examples where refugees were in a position to send remittances.

Forced migrants may also use the **knowledge** and **skills** (some of which may be acquired in the host community) to foster development of both their host country and country of origin – the notion of **human capital** contribution. The extent to which forced migrants have the opportunity to acquire such knowledge and skills while abroad will vary. It was noted that **the more integrated** and well supported forced migrants are while in their host community, **the more knowledge and skills** they are likely to develop, while at the same time allowing individuals to make a positive contribution to the host society. Contributors identified examples of specific programmes which aimed to assist

forced migrants in this regard. For example, in the Saclepea refugee camp, eastern Liberia, the [Jesuit Refugee Service \(JRS\)](#) developed **vocational training programmes** for both the local population and refugees and led by Ivorian refugees. Another training programme in Saclepea saw the training of refugees in baking, tailoring and embroidery – this led to half of the programme’s participants developing **income generating** activities. It was noted that it was important to develop specific programmes to ensure that the skills and knowledge developed during the time abroad are not lost. In Lofa County, northern Liberia, JRS recognized that in addition to providing basic necessities such as access to food, shelter and healthcare, the skills and capacities of returnees had to be harnessed. Consequently, JRS provided almost 300 shelters which were built **with the labour and expertise** of returnees. Furthermore, the skills and capacities of returnees were also utilized in the redevelopment of school agricultural programmes which assisted 29 schools in the area.

**Social capital** can be defined as the social interactions, contacts, ideas and networks a person possesses – this can be used to positively contribute to the development of countries or communities of origin. For example, returnees may engage in and strengthen **democratic processes**, drawing on their experiences of their time abroad. For example, UNHCR organized the repatriation of Cambodian refugees in 1994 – this was part of a wider effort to develop democracy in the country. Furthermore, the development contribution of returnees to their countries of origin who have developed a good understanding of the changes which have taken place in their home communities and also who return with **constructive attitudes** towards their former neighbours, should not be underestimated. Such attitudes can assist in increased levels of **tolerance** within the community, particularly if these individuals are involved in wider development projects, for example in relation to **reconciliation** efforts.

[What are the necessary conditions for forced migrants to contribute to the development of their host states/regions/communities as well as those of origin?](#)

Contributors recognized the importance of local conditions in determining the extent to which forced migrants are able to contribute to the development of their host states/regions/communities as well as those of origin.

The protection of **human rights** of forced migrants – both when they are abroad and once they have returned home - is of fundamental importance to realizing the full potential of forced migrants in the context of development. Indeed, respect for migrant rights underpins and reinforces the **positive linkages** that can be made between migration and development, generally. This includes the importance of **rights awareness** campaigns (in both the host country and country of origin) to ensure forced migrants are aware of their rights and, crucially, enabling forced migrants to have **access to services**, including education and healthcare, thereby empowering migrants to overcome many of the challenges they face in their host community. A number of JMDI funded projects, which were shared with the e-discussion, aim to support forced migrants in these ways. One project – [Migrants Rights: Nigerian-Polish Initiative](#) – run in collaboration by two CSOs (FIPP and Human Support Services) works to protect the rights of asylum seekers and refugees in Poland through the provision of counseling and legal assistance. In Mali, a JMDI project ([Améliorer l'accès aux soins en santé mentale pour les personnes migrantes en situation de retour forcé au Mali](#)) assists forcibly returned migrants in Bamako and at the Malian borders with Mauritania and Algeria by providing legal and psychological support, as well as helping them to find housing and easing their return to their families and communities.

Contributors also noted that it was important for asylum applications to be processed more quickly. This will **avoid possible stigmatization** and will enable recognized refugees to become more fully



integrated – economically and socially – into their host communities, therefore increasing their potential to become agents of development for both their host community and country of origin.

Contributors recognized the importance of **facilitating dialogue** between diaspora, civil society and governments (national and local levels) thereby ensuring that forced migrants are fully included in policy and decision making in this area. Another contributor highlighted the importance of **mainstreaming** forced migration programmes into national development planning. Key to this is to ensure that policy makers recognize that forced migrants are a **heterogeneous** group (diverse in ethnicity, gender, age, educational background, marital status and faith) so that “one size fits all” measures can be avoided.

### 3 - Supporting forced migrants’ contribution to development

#### *Difficulties of including forced displacement on the development agenda*

Contributors recognized the difficulty of including forced migration on the development agenda of donors, government and development agencies. A major factor in explaining this is often the **lack of collaboration** between key actors on the issue, and even conflicting methods of relief and development cooperation. Within the UN system, the “cluster approach” mechanism aims to improve interaction between different agencies to ensure that responses are coordinated according to the mandate of each agency involved. Another important factor which explains why it is often difficult to get forced migration on the development agenda is because of the often **protracted nature** of situations involving refugees and IDPs. Donors usually require regular reporting showing the impact of the projects funded – often focusing on the short term. However, it is not always possible to illustrate the short term development impact of funding in relation to forced migration, as this can take years, if not decades. Indeed, such political constraints can mean that well formulated and well integrated programmes can see an interruption of funding which impacts severely on the sustainability of the programme.

#### *Importance of specific migration and development programmes for forced migrants and returnees*

Despite these challenges, it is crucial to develop specific migration and development programmes for forced migrants, not least because of the **specific challenges** faced by forced migrants (loss of housing, land and property, jobs, physical assets, social networks and resources, and changes in family dynamics and traditional gender roles). Creating specific migration and development programmes for forced migrants will increase the positive linkage between migration and development. As well as the JMDI projects mentioned above, another JMDI project ([Buduburam Community Capacity Development Initiative](#)) aims to harness the development potential of refugees living in the Buduburam refugee camp in Ghana. It provides **capacity development** support to help the establishment of self-reliant economic empowerment initiatives to improve the lives of both the refugees and also those in the local community.

When considering the longer-term needs of returnees it is important that partnerships are developed between international organizations, national governments and NGOs to ensure that emergency relief efforts can be transferred to longer term development activities. Particularly important is to ensure that forced migrants are not simply repatriated and then offered no further assistance. It is key that those who have been repatriated **continue to receive assistance** to ensure their smooth reintegration, and therefore development potential, is maximized. A past example of this level of partnership on ongoing support for returnees, is the Conferencia Internacional para Refugiados Centro-Americanos (CIREFCA) – of which the long term goal was the stabilisation of the

region and prevention of further displacement. UNHCR and UNDP worked closely with donor countries and Central American countries to develop **multi-sectoral** projects which facilitated the reintegration of refugees in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. Such an example illustrates how repatriation programmes can play a key role in post-conflict reconstruction. Another example of a project which supports the needs of returnees is a JMDI project in Ethiopia ([Socio-Economic Reintegration for Illegally Trafficked Ethiopian Women and Returnees from the Middle East](#)) which supports the socio-economic reintegration of Ethiopian women who have returned to Ethiopia after having been trafficked. The project provides returnees with temporary shelter, psychosocial support and skills training, as well as undertaking research on the specific needs of returnees in this context.

**Français :**

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## Résumé des réponses :

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1 – Qui sont les migrants forcés ?

Qui est réfugié, demandeur d’asile, personne déplacée à l’intérieur de son propre pays (IDP) et rapatrié ?

Les migrants forcés sont les personnes contraintes de déménager en raison de problèmes insupportables au niveau de leurs moyens d’existence, en raison des conditions naturelles ou dues à l’homme, ou de persécutions politiques, sociales et/ou religieuses. Sous le terme général de migrants forcés, les contributeurs ont identifié et défini différentes catégories, à savoir : les réfugiés ; les demandeurs d’asile ; les personnes déplacées à l’intérieur de leur propre pays (IDP) ; les rapatriés ; et les victimes de la traite humaine.

#### *Réfugiés et demandeurs d’asile*

La [Convention des Nations Unies relative au statut des réfugiés de 1951, telle qu’amendée par le Protocole de 1967](#), définit un réfugié comme "une personne qui se trouve hors du pays dont elle a la nationalité ou dans lequel elle avait sa résidence habituelle, qui craint avec raison d’être persécutée du fait de sa race, de sa religion, de sa nationalité, de son appartenance à un certain groupe social ou de ses opinions politiques, et qui ne peut ou ne veut se réclamer de la protection de ce pays ou y retourner en raison de ladite crainte".

Il n’existe pas de définition juridique internationale d’un demandeur d’asile. Si celle-ci varie selon le pays, un individu est toutefois généralement considéré comme un demandeur d’asile si il ou elle recherche une protection après son arrivée dans le pays hôte.

#### *Personnes déplacées à l’intérieur de leur propre pays (IDP)*

Il n’existe pas non plus de définition juridique d’une personne déplacée dans son propre pays (IDP). La définition la plus communément utilisée est toutefois celle qui est utilisée dans les [Principes directeurs relatifs aux personnes déplacées à l’intérieur de leur propre pays](#) (1998), qui les définit comme des personnes "qui ont été forcées ou contraintes à fuir ou à quitter de manière soudaine et

*inattendue, en grand nombre, leur foyer ou leur lieu de résidence habituel, notamment en raison d'un conflit armé, de situations de violence généralisée, de violations des droits de l'homme ou de catastrophes naturelles ou provoquées par l'homme ou pour en éviter les effets, et qui n'ont pas franchi les frontières internationalement reconnues d'un Etat ». A l'inverse des réfugiés, une IDP demeure donc au sein des frontières de son pays.*

### *Victimes de la traite*

Un contributeur a souligné le besoin d'inclure les victimes de la traite humaine dans le concept de migrants forcés. [En vertu du Protocole visant à prévenir, réprimer et punir la traite des personnes, en particulier des femmes et des enfants](#), additionnel à la [Convention des Nations Unies contre la criminalité transnationale organisée](#), la traite des personnes désigne "le recrutement, le transport, le transfert, l'hébergement ou l'accueil de personnes, par la menace de recours ou le recours à la force ou à d'autres formes de contrainte, par enlèvement, fraude, tromperie, abus d'autorité ou d'une situation de vulnérabilité, ou par l'offre ou l'acceptation de paiements ou d'avantages pour obtenir le consentement d'une personne ayant autorité sur une autre aux fins d'exploitation. L'exploitation comprend, au minimum, l'exploitation de la prostitution d'autrui ou d'autres formes d'exploitation sexuelle, le travail ou les services forcés, l'esclavage ou les pratiques analogues à l'esclavage, la servitude ou le prélèvement d'organes."

### *Rapatriés*

Dans le contexte de cette discussion en ligne, un rapatrié est donc un individu issu de l'une des catégories ci-dessus de migrants forcés, qui retourne dans son foyer après une période de migration forcée. Il est important de distinguer ici entre les rapatriés volontaires – qui choisissent eux-mêmes de retourner dans leur communauté d'origine – et les migrants rapatriés forcés – qui retournent de force dans leurs pays d'origine en raison de l'échec de leur demande d'asile ou autres problèmes de visa.

## **2 – La contribution des migrants forcés au développement**

[Pouvez-vous nous faire partager des exemples de la manière dont les migrants forcés mettent à profit leurs compétences et capacités pour contribuer au développement et à la reconstruction postconflictuelle ?](#)

Les participants à la discussion ont identifié plusieurs manières différentes par lesquelles les migrants forcés peuvent contribuer tant au développement de leur pays d'origine et du pays hôte qu'à la reconstruction postconflictuelle.

Les contributeurs ont défini la contribution des migrants forcés au développement comme le transfert de trois capitaux : social, humain et financier.

En terme de **capital financier**, les migrants forcés peuvent adresser des **transferts de fonds** vers leurs pays d'origine, qui peuvent être utilisés par les destinataires pour contribuer au développement local et à la réduction de la pauvreté. Selon l'UNHCR, **on a de plus en plus de preuves** que les migrants forcés sont impliqués dans les transactions de transferts de fonds (tant en tant qu'envoyeurs que de receveurs), bien que les montants en soient modestes. Ce fait a été confirmé par un des participants à la discussion, qui a souligné le rôle de la diaspora algérienne en France, laquelle contribue aux efforts d'assistance humanitaire et investit directement en Algérie.

Toutefois, un participant n'a trouvé que peu d'exemples où des réfugiés se trouvaient en position d'envoyer des transferts de fonds.

Les migrants forcés peuvent également utiliser les **connaissances** et les **compétences** (qui, pour certaines, peuvent être acquises au sein de la communauté hôte) en vue de promouvoir le développement tant du pays hôte que du pays d'origine – ce qui fait appel à la notion de contribution sous forme de **capital humain**. La mesure dans laquelle les migrants forcés ont l'opportunité d'acquérir de telles connaissances et compétences pendant leur séjour à l'étranger varie. Il a été noté que **plus les migrants sont intégrés** et aidés pendant leur séjour au sein de la communauté hôte, **plus ils ont des chances de développer des connaissances et des compétences**, tout en, dans le même temps, permettant aux individus de contribuer positivement à la société hôte. Les participants à la discussion ont identifié des exemples de programmes spécifiques visant à aider les migrants forcés à cet égard. A titre d'exemple, dans le camp de réfugiés de Saclepea, à l'Est du Liberia, le [Service pour réfugiés des Jésuites \(JRS\)](#) a mis en place des **programmes de formation professionnelle** à l'intention de la population locale et des réfugiés, et dirigés par des réfugiés ivoiriens. Un autre programme de formation de Saclepea a permis la formation de réfugiés comme boulangers, tailleurs et brodeurs – cela permettant à la moitié des participants du programme à développer des activités **génératrices de revenus**. Il a été noté qu'il était important d'élaborer des programmes spécifiques afin d'assurer que les compétences et les connaissances développées pendant le séjour à l'étranger ne sont pas perdues. Dans le Département de Lofa, au Nord du Libéria, le JRS a reconnu qu'outre l'apport des nécessités de base telles que l'accès à la nourriture, à un abri et aux soins de santé, les compétences et les capacités des rapatriés devaient être exploitées. En conséquence de quoi, le JRS a fourni près de 300 refuges qui ont été bâtis **grâce au travail et à l'expertise** des rapatriés. En outre, les compétences et les capacités des rapatriés ont également été mises à profit dans le redéveloppement de programmes agricoles scolaires, qui ont permis d'aider 29 écoles dans la région.

**Le capital social** peut être défini comme les interactions sociales, les contacts, les idées et les réseaux qu'une personne possède – et qui peuvent être utilisés pour contribuer de manière positive au développement des pays ou des communautés d'origine. A titre d'exemple, les réfugiés peuvent s'engager et renforcer les **processus démocratiques**, en s'appuyant sur les expériences tirées de leur séjour à l'étranger. L'UNHCR a par exemple organisé le rapatriement des réfugiés cambodgiens en 1994 – dans le cadre d'une initiative globale pour développer la démocratie dans le pays. En outre, la contribution au développement apportée à leur pays d'origine par les rapatriés qui ont développé une bonne compréhension des changements qui ont eu lieu dans leurs communautés d'origine et qui y retournent avec des **attitudes positives** par rapport à leurs anciens voisins, ne doit pas être sous-estimée. De telles attitudes peuvent contribuer à promouvoir l'accroissement des niveaux de **tolérance** au sein de la communauté, en particulier si ces individus participent à des projets globaux de développement, en relation avec des efforts de **réconciliation**, par exemple.

[Quelles sont les conditions nécessaires pour que les migrants forcés puissent contribuer au développement de leurs Etats/régions/communautés hôtes ainsi que d'origine ?](#)

Les participants à la discussion ont reconnu l'importance des conditions locales pour ce qui est de déterminer la mesure dans laquelle les migrants forcés sont en mesure de contribuer au développement de leurs Etats/régions/communautés hôtes et d'origine.

La protection des **droits de l'homme** des migrants forcés – quand ils sont à l'étranger mais aussi une fois qu'ils sont retournés chez eux – est d'importance fondamentale pour réaliser le plein potentiel

des migrants forcés dans le contexte du développement. En effet, le respect à l'égard des migrants sous-tend et renforce les **liens positifs** qui peuvent être établis entre migration et développement, en général. Cela illustre l'importance de mener à bien des campagnes de **sensibilisation sur les droits** (tant dans le pays hôte que celui d'origine), en vue d'assurer que les migrants forcés connaissent leurs droits, et montre qu'il est crucial de permettre aux migrants forcés d'avoir **accès aux services**, y compris l'éducation et les soins de santé, permettant ainsi de donner aux migrants les moyens de surmonter beaucoup des défis auxquels ils sont confrontés dans leur communauté hôte. Un certain nombre de projet financés par l'ICMD, qui ont été évoqués au cours de la discussion électronique, visent à aider les migrants forcés par ces moyens. Un projet - **Les droits des migrants : une initiative nigéro-polonaise** – mené à bien en collaboration par deux organisations de la société civile (FIPP et Human Support Services) vise à protéger les droits des demandeurs d'asile et des réfugiés en Pologne, en apportant un accompagnement psychosocial et une aide juridique. Au Mali, un projet de l'ICMD (**Améliorer l'accès aux soins en santé mentale pour les personnes migrantes en situation de retour forcé au Mali**) aide les migrants revenus de force à Bamako et aux frontières maliennes avec la Mauritanie et l'Algérie en leur fournissant un accompagnement juridique et psychosocial, ainsi qu'en les aidant à trouver un logement et à faciliter le retour vers leurs familles et communautés.

Les participants à la discussion ont également noté qu'il était important que les demandes d'asile soient traitées plus rapidement. Cela **évitera une stigmatisation possible** et permettra aux réfugiés reconnus de s'intégrer plus pleinement – économiquement et socialement – à leurs communautés hôtes, augmentant ainsi leur potentiel de devenir agents du développement pour leur communauté hôte comme pour leur pays d'origine.

Les participants ont reconnu l'importance de **faciliter le dialogue** entre la diaspora, la société civile et les gouvernements (aux niveaux national et local), assurant de ce fait que les migrants forcés sont pleinement inclus dans la politique et la prise de décisions dans ce domaine. Un autre participant a souligné l'importance d'**intégrer** les programmes de migration forcée dans la planification nationale du développement. La clé pour cela est d'assurer que les décideurs politiques reconnaissent que les migrants forcés sont un groupe **hétérogène** (divers au niveau de l'ethnicité, du sexe, de l'âge, du parcours éducatif, de la situation matrimoniale et de la foi) afin que des mesures indissociées soient évitées.

### **3 – Appuyer la contribution des migrants forcés au développement**

#### *Les difficultés d'inclure le déplacement forcé dans l'ordre du jour du développement*

Les participants à la discussion ont reconnu la difficulté d'inclure la migration forcée dans l'ordre du jour du développement des donateurs, gouvernements et agences de développement. Un facteur essentiel pour expliquer ce fait est souvent le **manque de collaboration** entre les principaux acteurs sur la question, et même les méthodes de coopération au niveau du secours et du développement. Au sein du système des Nations Unies, le mécanisme de « responsabilité sectorielle » vise à améliorer l'interaction entre les différentes agences, afin d'assurer que les réponses soient coordonnées conformément au mandat de chaque agence impliquée. Un autre facteur important expliquant pourquoi il est souvent difficile de mettre la migration forcée à l'ordre du jour tient à la **durée souvent très longue** des situations impliquant les réfugiés et les IDP. Les donateurs exigent généralement des rapports réguliers montrant l'impact des projets financés – se focalisant souvent sur le court terme. Il n'est cependant pas possible d'illustrer l'impact à court terme sur le développement du financement lié à la migration forcée, cela pouvant prendre des années, sinon des décennies. De telles contraintes politiques peuvent impliquer que le financement de

programmes bien formulés et bien intégrés se voient interrompu, ce qui a des conséquences graves sur la durabilité du programme.

*L'importance des programmes de migration et de développement spécifiques pour les migrants et les rapatriés forcés*

Malgré ces défis, il est crucial de mettre en place des programmes de migration et de développement spécifiques à l'intention des migrants forcés, a fortiori en raison des **défis spécifiques** auxquels ces derniers sont confrontés (perte du logement, de la terre et de la propriété, de l'emploi, des actifs physiques, des réseaux sociaux et des ressources, et changements dans la dynamique familiale et dans les rôles sexuels traditionnels). Le fait de créer des programmes spécifiques sur la migration et le développement à l'intention des migrants forcés permettra de renforcer le lien positif entre la migration et le développement. Tout comme les projets de l'ICMD mentionnés ci-dessus, un autre projet de l'ICMD ([L'Initiative de renforcement des capacités de la Communauté de Duduburam](#)) vise à exploiter le potentiel de développement des réfugiés vivant dans le camp de réfugiés de Buduburam au Ghana. Il permet de fournir un appui au **renforcement des capacités** afin d'aider à la mise en place d'initiatives d'autonomisation économique autosuffisantes en vue d'améliorer les vies des réfugiés et de ceux vivant au sein de la communauté locale.

Au moment d'examiner les besoins à long terme des rapatriés, il est important que des partenariats soient développés entre les organisations internationales, les gouvernements nationaux et les ONG en vue d'assurer que les efforts de secours d'urgence puissent être transférés vers des activités de développement à plus long terme. Il est particulièrement important d'assurer que les migrants forcés ne sont pas simplement rapatriés sans se voir offrir ensuite quelque assistance supplémentaire que ce soit. Il est essentiel que ceux qui ont été rapatriés **continuent de recevoir de l'aide** afin d'assurer leur réintégration en douceur, et par voie de conséquence, que leur potentiel au niveau du développement est maximisé. Un exemple précédent de ce niveau de partenariat concernant l'appui continu en faveur des réfugiés est la Conferencia Internacional para Refugiados Centro-Americanos (CIREFCA) – dont l'objectif à long terme a été la stabilisation de la région et la prévention de nouveaux déplacements. L'UNHCR et le PNUD ont travaillé étroitement avec les pays donateurs et les pays d'Amérique centrale pour élaborer des projets **multisectoriels** qui ont facilité la réintégration des réfugiés au Nicaragua, en El Salvador et au Guatemala. Un tel exemple illustre la manière dont les programmes de rapatriement peuvent jouer un rôle-clé dans la reconstruction postconflictuelle. Un autre exemple de projet appuyant les besoins des rapatriés est celui mené à bien par l'ICMD en Ethiopie ([Réintégration socioéconomique des femmes et des rapatriés éthiopiens venant du Moyen-Orient et faisant l'objet d'une traite illégale](#)), qui aide à la réintégration socioéconomique des femmes éthiopiennes qui sont retournées en Ethiopie après avoir fait l'objet d'une traite. Le projet assure aux rapatriés un abri temporaire, un appui psychosocial et une formation professionnelle, et mène à bien des recherches sur les besoins spécifiques des rapatriés dans ce contexte.

## Related resources (shared by contributors):

### Links shared:

[1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, as amended by the 1967 Protocol](#)

[Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons \(1998\)](#)

[Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#)

[Jesuit Refugee Service](#)

### Further reading:

Forced Migration Online (FMO): [Introductory guide](#) to forced migration. *[This guide gives some information on how to define forced migration.]*

UNHCR: [Forced migration and development](#). 1<sup>st</sup> Global Forum on Migration and Development (Brussels, 9 - 11 July 2007) *[In its contribution to the 1<sup>st</sup> GFMD in 2007 the UNHCR highlights three links between forced migration and development: a) the potential of large-scale refugee populations to development, b) the contribution of returnees to the process of peace building and post-conflict reconstruction, and c) the way in which failed development processes lead to forced migration.]*

Jesuit Refugee Service: [Liberia. The practical contributions of the forcibly displaced to development](#). *[In this paper the JRS gives a concrete example of how forced migrants contributed to the development and post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia after the civil war.]*

COTE D'IVOIRE-LIBERIA: [Planning for the refugee influx](#) *[Shared by Dr. Titilola Banjoko, JMDI Migrant Advisory Board Member, United Kingdom]*

[EC – UN JMDI projects targeting forced migrants \(also referenced in the summary\):](#)

[\[Et-057\] Socio-Economic Reintegration for Illegally Trafficked Ethiopian Women and Returnees from the Middle East](#) *[This project supports the socio-economic reintegration of illegally trafficked Ethiopian women returned or deported back to Ethiopia from the Middle East.]*

[\[Gh-246\] Buduburam Community Capacity Development Initiative](#) *[This project provides capacity development support to help the establishment of self-reliant economic empowerment initiatives to improve the lives of refugees living in and those of the local community living around the Buduburam refugee camp, established by UNHCR in 1990 near Accra, Ghana.]*

[\[Ma-052\] Améliorer l'accès aux soins en santé mentale pour les personnes migrantes en situation de retour forcé au Mali](#) *[This project assists forcibly returned migrants in Bamako and at the Malian borders with Mauritania and Algeria by providing legal and psychological support, finding housing and striving to ease their return to their families and communities.]*

[\[N-226\] Migrant Rights: Nigerian-Polish Initiative](#) *[This project enhances the protection of the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees in Poland - most of them coming from Nigeria - through the provision of counseling, consultation services and legal assistance.]*



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## Responses in Full:

### 1. *Amaya Valcarcel, Jesuit Refugee Service, Italy*

Below I give you some concrete field experiences and JRS initiatives that you might find useful, especially focused on the questions regarding how forced migrants can use their skills and capacities to contribute to post-conflict reconstruction and also the question of assistance for return.

#### 1. Urban refugees

As you can read from below and our first Newsletter on Urban Refugees (available in the [M4D Library](#), especially interesting for you p. 19-21), our experience is that refugees have the possibility to earn some income for their own survival during exile. This opens possibilities of economic potential (I would be careful of talking of "development") in the countries where they live. But we find little, if none, examples of people who can be able to send remittances. Slowly, JRS is finding interesting IGA experiences, especially in these contexts:

**1.1** In Nairobi, JRS Kenya operates the Urban Emergency Program. JRS provides emergency assistance through food and non-food items such as cooking utensils, blankets and other materials to assist newly arrived asylum seekers for about 3-4 months, before they can find their way. This is done through the parish outreach programme, where five parish churches assist JRS in distributing these supplies. In addition, income-generating assistance in the form of short-term loans; scholarships for refugee children to attend nursery, secondary school and adult education (short-courses) are also provided. JRS Kenya also conducts home visits to assess the vulnerability and need articulated by these asylum seekers, before they are included in the programs. In dire cases, medical assistance is provided as well.

**1.2** In Kampala, the JRS urban program has been in existence since 1998.

Limited food assistance for new asylum seekers, assistance with rent payments for those particularly in need and medical support are part of the services provided under this program. Furthermore, skills training in income-generating activities aimed at promoting self-reliance is undertaken. Successful applicants have the opportunity to train in driving, hairdressing, soap-making, computer classes, catering, etc. English language classes are also offered, to help asylum seekers integrate into the community, since many of them are Francophone speakers in an Anglophone speaking country. In all these urban programs, asylum seekers and refugees from the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea are all assisted.

**1.3** For your information, JRS and Georgetown University are working on a research project in support of JRS's review of its engagement in service to urban refugees. In brief, this project, to be conducted during the winter and spring of 2011, will take the form of a broad survey of past and present JRS projects benefiting urban refugees, and a more in depth description of several key projects.

**1.4** Last year JRS undertook an evaluation on its IGA programs with some relevant recommendations and lessons learnt. If you require further information, please contact Amaya Valcarcel (see contact details below).



**2. On the question of how forced migrants use their skills and capacities to contribute to development and post-conflict reconstruction, linked to the issue of assistance for return,** the following are some reflections of JRS workers in the Thai-Cambodia border camps that can be useful as well.

**2.1** The repatriation of Cambodian refugees in time for the well attended May 1994 elections was organized by UNHCR, and was an integral part of the United Nation's efforts to institute democracy and to place a new government in Phnom Penh. Some of the repatriates had been 12 years in exile. The *United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia* (UNTAC) was successful in some of its goals. UNHCR brought home more than 367,500 Cambodians. However, UNTAC failed to disarm the forces active in Cambodia or to de-mine the country. In addition, as numbers of returnees increased, UNTAC lost some control over tracking them and monitoring their safety. UNHCR had difficulty in giving useful repatriation assistance to returned refugees in Cambodia, especially in regard to securing land for cultivation. Many of the returnees had to choose what came to be known as 'option C' from UNHCR, or cash and food but no land. In addition, small development projects, begun by UNHCR in order to rebuild infrastructure (roads and bridges) were not very effective.

The Cambodian case clearly illustrates the need for significant investment in de-arming, de-mining and development work before, during and after the repatriation process. It also points to the need for other organizations to get more significantly involved in helping internally displaced persons. If these elements had been better secured by the UN or others in this operation, it might have been a real model for repatriations for the future.

**2.2** Most of the 400,000 refugees came from the Northern part of Cambodia. We should have paid more attention to this fact since our work on the Cambodia side focused in Phnom Penh. There, we started working with victims of landmines and organizing seminars on peace and reconciliation. These seminars were aimed at the reconstruction of the country, with basic training for young Cambodians who later engaged in NGO work, parliamentary groups, etc., building bridges with those who later arrived. With the people in the camps we did not do this kind of work, which could have been very useful. The main aim in the camps was to close them as soon as possible.

**2.3** Another useful thing we could have done is pay more attention to families. In Cambodia, the family is a cultural value. In the camps, families were not only a value but a meaning of survival: if there were more children, there were more rations, more benefits. What happened is that when repatriation took place many Cambodians had the conflict on whether to stay with the family they had created in the camps, or go back with the ones they had left for several reasons in Cambodia. This sometimes led to violence.

**2.4** The fact that in the camps many refugees acquired important training skills during the 10 or 12 years in exile (computers, English, etc) also created a conflict with those who had stayed in Cambodia. Upon return, many of these skills were not used enough. We should be very careful that all these skills, although acquired in a provisional situation, do not get lost.

None of these experiences and initiatives are labelled as "migration and development" cases but I hope they are useful.

Best regards,

**Amaya Valcarcel**

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### **2. Ayman Zohry, JMDI Migrant Advisory Board Member, Egypt**

Forced Migration and Development: Another point of view

#### Forced migrants' contribution to development

With the widespread of long-term forced migration, this kind of human mobility, could contribute to migration and development in a way or another. Established forced migrants - refugees and asylum seekers could be considered as development agents, first by engagement with their nationals in destination and strengthening their array of skills and knowledge acquired during exile as well as their social capital being built and strengthened while being far from their hometowns as well as knowledge and skill transfer after return.

Despite the fact that refugees and asylum seekers face a lot of problems and intervening factors while in exile, they acquire knowledge and strengthen their skills. The accumulated skills could be utilized to foster development in their origin when they return.

In addition, refugees and asylum seekers contribute to the development of host countries by providing the labor force need in the host economy. Hence, refugees and asylum seekers can contribute to the host economy while being in exile and to their home countries when they return.

**Ayman Zohry**

**JMDI Migrant Advisory Board Member**

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### **3. Wisdom Ejebugha, Rule of Law Institute Foundation, Poland**

#### Who are forced migrants?

- Who is a refugee, an asylum seeker, an internally displaced person (IDP) and a returnee?

Forced migration has also forced different definitions to be applied to the victims of the circumstances. Article 1A of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, defines a refugee as a person who resides outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to avail himself

of the protection of that country, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. The concept of a refugee was expanded by the Convention's 1967 Protocol and by regional conventions in Africa and Latin America to include persons who had fled war or other violence in their home country.

An asylum seeker is a person who processes application for refugee status in a country outside his or her country of nationality. Those that have already completed an application for the granting of the refugee status outside their country of nationality but awaiting for the refugee status decision outside the country of his nationality are classified as asylum seekers.

An internally displaced person (IDP) is a person who is forced to flee his or her home but who, unlike a refugee, remains within his country's borders. Our experience shows that the definition of Internally displaced persons now encompasses a wide range of natural, psychological, physical, mental, social and economic circumstances that push such persons into a cycle of vulnerability. Persons who experience loss of houses, land and property, jobs, physical assets, social networks and resources, and changes in family dynamics and traditional gender roles, food insecurity, increased morbidity and mortality, and social marginalization.

### **Wisdom Ejebugha**

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#### **4. Dr. Titilola Banjoko, JMDI Migrant Advisory Board Member, United Kingdom**

##### Who are forced migrants?

In June 2010, on the occasion of the World Refugee Day celebrated in Africa, the African Union (AU) pointed out that there are over 10 million people affected by forced displacement in Africa, including some 2.1 million refugees, 305,000 asylum-seekers, more than 6.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and an estimated 100,000 stateless people.

Forced migrants can be described as people forced to move due to unbearable challenges to livelihoods due to natural or man-made conditions, political, social and/or religious persecution. In some cases the displacement is sudden and unplanned, taking place under very dangerous

conditions. Movement can be in mass, groups or as individuals – as for example the situation in Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Zimbabwe.

For further information please visit the following websites:

Disputed elections in Côte d'Ivoire: <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=91616>

Post poll camps in Kenya: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=90714>

The African Refugee Development Center: <http://www.change.org/profile/view/121663>

#### Forced migrants' contribution to development

- Can you share any examples of how forced migrants use their skills and capacities to contribute to development and post-conflict reconstruction?

There are past examples of forced migrants who have been engaged in war, giving up their weapons, and contributing to the peace process and reconciliation. In some case the returning migrants bring back the much needed skills to support development e.g. skilled and unskilled labour. In some case the migrants contribute to the political process.

#### What are the necessary conditions for forced migrants to contribute to the development of their host states/regions/communities as well as those of origin?

- Statutory obligations and policies that set the context of integration with the provision of resources to enable the process;
- All partner organizations working in partnership “with the migrants” rather than “doing to the migrants”;
- Targeted support, e.g. facilitate access to services by ensuring that forced migrants are aware of their entitlements and know how to access;
- Empowerment of forced migrants to overcome challenges and discriminatory practices and recognition of their contribution to the host community, e.g. advocacy, languages, welfare and network support;
- Understanding that migrants are not a homogenous group but are diverse in ethnicity, gender, age, educational background, marital status, abilities and faith. The needs should be linked to mainstream services;
- Moving away from “permanent and/or long term camps which only serves to isolate rather than integrate.

#### Supporting forced migrants' contribution to development

- Why is it so difficult to include forced displacement on the development agenda of donors, governments and development agencies' programmes and funds?

This is because the host government does not necessarily see forced migrants as their constituents especially if they are non-nationals sometimes referred to as “stateless”. Donors will have to acknowledge their existence and provide additional support to the host country targeted to the migrants in addition to the business as usual donor support. Is it a question of accountability and responsibility?

- How can humanitarian actors adapt their programmes further to facilitate early recovery without compromising humanitarian principles?
- Advocating to policy makers so that lessons learnt can be mainstreamed into service planning;
- Using ex- returnees to review and adapt the programme, acknowledging that the dynamics change and thus require regular review.
- How can additional, flexible and timely transitional and development assistance be ensured for refugees who are non-citizens?

Providing long term support and targeted resources rather than one off.

**Dr. Titilola Banjoko**

**JMDI Migrant Advisory Board Member**

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## **5. *Kenza Ziati, National Association of Volunteerism “Touiza”, Algeria***

Bonjour,

Ma contribution portera sur les Migrants forcées et leur participation dans leurs pays origines avec un accent particulier sur l'Algérie.

### Qui sont les migrants forcés ?

Effectivement les migrants forcés sont les réfugiés, les demandeurs d'asile, les déplacés internes et les rapatriés. J'ajoute aussi que leurs déplacement internes ou à l'étranger est dû, en plus des causes cités dans le texte « Immigration forcée et développement », à une sorte d'un sentiment de malaise et de manque de liberté. Les migrants forcés, à mon avis, ne quittent pas leurs régions ou leurs pays par volonté, mais par nécessité.

### Contribution des migrants forcés au développement

- Pouvez-vous donner des exemples de la façon dont les compétences et les capacités des migrants forcés peuvent contribuer au développement et à la reconstruction post-conflit ?

A l'étranger de manière générale et en France particulièrement, il ya une forte présence des algériens ; cette communauté qui a quitté l'Algérie pour des raisons sociales économiques et politiques s'attachent toujours à ses origines et leurs pays. En effet, en dépit du « mal » ou la « souffrance » qu'ils ont subies pour certains, les immigrés estiment toujours contribuer, à travers des actions humanitaires ou des investissements, au développement du pays.

- Quelles sont les conditions requises pour que les migrants contribuent au développement de leur pays/région/communauté d'accueil ainsi que de leur pays d'origine ?

Cependant, pour permettre à ces gens d'être des acteurs économiques et des agents de développements, il faut bien mettre en place toute une stratégie afin que les migrants forcés participent à la construction de leurs pays.

Dans le contexte algérien, tout d'abord, il est nécessaire de renouveler le dialogue entre la diaspora algérienne établie à l'étranger et la société civile ainsi que les pouvoirs publics. Le dialogue entre toutes les parties confondues afin d'instaurer un esprit de communication et de confiance, deux éléments essentiels qui facilitent la mise en œuvre du projet et sa réalisation.

Afin de permettre aux migrants de mieux s'impliquer dans le projet de la migration et le développement, il est important, à mon sens, de mener des campagnes de sensibilisations et de former les membres de la communauté algérienne à l'étranger, et aussi, de renforcer les capacités des acteurs locaux.

Par ailleurs, il faut noter qu'en matière de réalisation du projet, notamment sur le plan administratif, la procédure à suivre est généralement lente. Notamment lorsqu'il s'agit de l'autorisation, l'expérience fait état que la période de mise en place du projet relevé la nécessité de l'aval des autorités nationales et locales algériennes. Une fois que l'autorisation est accordée, les initiateurs du projet signe un accord de partenariat avec le(s) Ministère(s) concerné(s).

La réussite du projet exige, également, le soutien des assemblés populaires locaux, car le travail en partenariat avec les pouvoirs publics permettra non seulement l'implication des autorités dans la réalisation du projet mais aussi la flexibilité du travail.

Les chances de réussir un projet ne sont pas basées uniquement sur sa pertinence, sa faisabilité et son financement, mais aussi sur l'implication de toutes les parties concerné (les migrants, les autorités locales, la société civile favorise, et la population cible)

Enfin, la participation active des migrants au développement de leurs pays d'accueil ou pays d'origine méritent une reconnaissance et un appui. Et je pense aussi que les migrants forcés qui se retrouvent à l'étranger et qui ont la possibilité d'apporter des changements positifs, doivent fournir des efforts pour ressembler à un « bon » migrant digne de sa personne, parce que avant tout un migrant est en quelque sorte il "représentant" de son pays d'origine. Un bon élément, là ou il se trouve, il est sensé d'être un bon exemple.

**Kenza Ziati**

**Association Nationale de Volontariat « Touiza »**

ALGERIE

English:

Good day!

My contribution is about forced migrants and their development contribution in their countries of origin with a special focus on Algeria.

### Who are forced migrants?

Actually, forced migrants are refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, and returnees. Additional to the causes cited in the text "Forced immigration and development", their internal or international displacement is due a sense of misery and lack of freedom. Forced migrants do not leave their regions or countries voluntarily, but because they have to.

### Forced migrants' contribution to development

- Can you share any examples of how forced migrants use their skills and capacities to contribute to development and post-conflict reconstruction?

Many Algerians live abroad with a large number in France. This community which left Algeria for socio-economic and political reasons is still connected to its origins and its country. Despite the difficulty and distress they certainly suffered, the immigrants always contribute to the development of their country of origin through humanitarian aid or investments.

- What are the necessary conditions for forced migrants to contribute to the development of their host states/regions/communities as well as those of origin?

However, in order to allow them to be economic actors and agents of development, a strategy has to be set up which supports forced migrants' contribution to the development of their countries of origin.

In the Algerian context, first of all it is necessary to renew the dialogue between the Algerian diaspora abroad, the civil society, and the government. The dialogue between all parties will create a spirit of communication and trust, two essential elements that facilitate the implementation of the project and its realization.

To allow migrants to become more involved in the migration and development project, it is important, in my view, to conduct campaigns to raise awareness, to form the Algerian community abroad, and also to strengthen the capacity of local actors.

Furthermore, it should be noted that in terms of the realization of the project, including the administrative level, the process is generally slow. Especially when it comes to authorization, the experience shows that in order to implement the project, the approval and support of the Algerian national and local authorities is essential. Once permission is granted, the initiators of the project sign a partnership agreement with the ministerial department(s) concerned.

The success of the project requires also the support of local networks as working in partnership with the government will not only allow the official involvement of public authorities in the project, but also the flexibility of labor.

The overall success of the project is not only based on its relevance, feasibility and financing, but also on the involvement of all parties concerned (migrants, local authorities, the civil society, and the target population).

Finally, the active participation of migrants in the development of their host country or countries of origin deserves recognition and support. And I also think that forced migrants who find themselves abroad and who have the opportunity to make positive changes, should make efforts to be 'good' migrants worthy of its person, primarily because a migrant is somehow the 'representative' of his or her country of origin. As an element of the society where he or she resides, he or she is supposed to be a good example.

**Kenza Ziati**

**National Association of Volunteerism "Touiza"**

ALGERIA

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**6. David, National Workers Congress/Migrants Services Centre, Sri Lanka**

Who are forced migrants?

I would like to add economic migrants to the list of forced migrants (refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees).

Forced migrants' contribution to development

- Can you share any examples of how forced migrants use their skills and capacities to contribute to development and post-conflict reconstruction?
- What are the necessary conditions for forced migrants to contribute to the development of their host states/regions/communities as well as those of origin?

All migrants including forced migrants are expected to improve the level of empowerment, policy commitments and financial rewards. The Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora has to be involved in these efforts. In Sri Lanka this was done by offering several incentives for migrants from the national budget; the Minister for economic development has appealed to all individuals abroad and invited them to participate in development activities.

Regards

**David**

**National Workers Congress/Migrants Services Centre**

SRI LANKA



## 7. **Anonymous**

### Who are forced migrants?

Don't forget about victims of human trafficking.

Your definition of forced migrants has left out people who have been trafficked. Many of these people contribute significantly to the development of their host countries whilst receiving limited benefits, services or recognition for their hard work. There are for example millions of trafficked laborers working around the world on construction projects. It is paramount that we remember these victims when we discuss about migration and development.

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## 8. **Olufunke Aluko-Daniels, Coventry University, United Kingdom**

There are different reasons why people migrate, while some migrate voluntarily for economic gains and better lifestyle others are forced to migrate due to human or natural factors that cannot be helped.

### Who are forced migrants?

Forced migrants are people who are forced to flee their homes or native land or country whether due to varying reasons, ranging from disasters, conflict situations and development issues.

Refugee comes from the word 'refuge' and is defined by Article 1 of the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees as a person residing outside his or her country of nationality and who is unable or unwilling to return due to a 'well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a political social group, or political opinion'.

Asylum seekers on the other hand are people waiting to become refugees. Asylum seekers move across international borders to seek protection under the Refugee Convention, but their claim for refugee status have still to be determined.

According to the 1992 report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, internally displaced persons are 'persons who have been forced to flee their homes suddenly or unexpectedly in large numbers, as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of human rights or natural or man-made disasters, and who are within the territory of their own country.'

### Forced migrants' contribution to development

The fact that people are classified as refugees, asylum seekers or internally displaced persons does not in any way affect their capabilities or their mental capacity even though cannot be denied that they went through a traumatic experience.

- Can you share any examples of how forced migrants use their skills and capacities to contribute to development and post-conflict reconstruction?

Forced migrants' ability to contribute positively to the development of their host country should not be undermined. In the 1970s and early 1980s when for development factors there was mass exodus

of Ghanaians from Ghana to neighbouring African countries, the educated ones in Nigeria worked as math teachers in primary and post primary schools and the not too educated ones worked in the informal sector such as hairdresser and dressmakers. In fact, at some point they were preferred to the Nigerians working in those sectors because of the quality of their work.

- What are the necessary conditions for forced migrants to contribute to the development of their host states/regions/communities as well as those of origin?

In order for forced migrants to positively contribute to the development of their host countries there is need to provide them with an enabling environment. For instance their human rights especially with respect to work and wages should be well protected.

#### Supporting forced migrants' contribution to development

- Is it necessary to develop specific migration and development programmes for forced migrants? Can you share any specific examples with the e-discussion?

Although I am not unmindful of initiatives to ensure lasting global peace, it is quite idealistic to think that the world will be conflict free. Nevertheless, it can be managed to the barest minimum. If the world succeeds in reducing conflict situation to the barest minimum we may not be that successful on averting natural disasters and it is for these reasons and many more that it is needful to have forced displacement on development agenda of all relevant agencies.

There is an urgent need for host countries to develop policies and make laws with respect to asylum seekers with human face. The delays experienced in the processing of asylum applications should be done away with. Asylum seekers are human beings and thus should be protected by the various human rights instruments; they should therefore be accorded these rights as much as possible. The rights of refugees and standard of treatment as set out in the Conventions should be complied with by the host countries. Likewise countries of origin should plan ahead in terms of budgetary allocations to cater for internally displaced people.

**Olufunke Aluko-Daniels**

Coventry University

UNITED KINGDOM

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### **9. *Shyama Salgado, International Labour Organization (ILO), Sri Lanka***

#### Forced migrants' contribution to development

- What are the necessary conditions for forced migrants to contribute to the development of their host states/regions/communities as well as those of origin?

It is important to ensure that their documentation is in order and to facilitate the process to ensure that 'labelling' of these people does not take place. In this way they can play an equal role in the local economic development of the areas in which they are settled (whether temporarily or more permanently).

Local economic development planning is built upon the concept of an inclusive approach, but most often forced migrants are not considered as part of the equation and get left out like other vulnerable groups such as young women and men, the poor, etc.

Thus a more inclusive approach is necessary which will not only draw the best out of the experience of these people but also enrich the process and ensure that a cross section of needs are taken into consideration to provide a comprehensive needs-based development response.

#### Supporting forced migrants' contribution to development

- Is it necessary to develop specific migration and development programmes for forced migrants? Can you share any specific examples with the e-discussion?

I believe an inclusive approach in general is the better approach. However, not compromising special needs of forced migrants, e.g. psycho social support (especially in case of victims of trafficking), sensitivity to their religious practices, etc.

- Even where forced migrants receive some assistance for return, why are the longer-term needs of the returnees not systematically integrated into the reconstruction planning?

Often because they get left out of the whole consultative process that informs the reconstruction planning and implementation. Thus the recommended path is to take an inclusive approach and give forced migrants an equal voice.

- How can additional, flexible and timely transitional and development assistance be ensured for refugees who are non-citizens?

Having systems in place to enumerate them and provide fiscal space in programmes taking their specific needs into account and allocating sufficient and efficient human resources to address the issues within the administrative framework charged with such duties.

**Shyama Salgado**  
**International Labour Organization (ILO)**  
SRI LANKA

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***Many thanks to all who contributed to this query!***

***If you have more information that you would like to share with the network on this topic, please send it to: [m4d@groups.dev-nets.org](mailto:m4d@groups.dev-nets.org)***

***Access the M4D discussion forum at: [www.migration4development.org/cop/](http://www.migration4development.org/cop/)  
Learn more about the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) at:  
[www.migration4development.org](http://www.migration4development.org)***

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