FAO support to improved migration governance in the NENA region

Dalia Abulfotuh
Rural Development Officer
FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa
Migration is intimately linked with FAO’s global goals

- Food and nutrition security
- Reducing rural poverty
- Sustainable use of natural resources
Migration is not just an urban phenomenon...
Challenge 1: Ensuring migration is an informed choice

Source: FAO
Response: Addressing the adverse drivers of migration...

• Supporting integrated rural and territorial development
• Strengthening resilience to climate change
In Tunisa, FAO established youth agri-business incubators to create on and off farm job opportunities.
Challenge 2: The benefits of migration are not always automatic for in rural areas of origin

• Rural areas are loosing productive labour with broader impacts on agriculture production and food security
• Because a majority of international migrants are men, women have growing responsibilities
Response: Minimize potential negative effects of migration and maximize its benefits in areas of origin

- Encourage diaspora engagement and remittance investment
- Supporting women and household members that remain
FAO is working with the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen advisory services to rural women with male household members residing abroad.
Challenge 3: Migrants and host communities in rural areas have unique vulnerabilities

• On average about 40% of forced migrants end up in rural areas where they have unique vulnerabilities
• Migrant agriculture workers are among the most vulnerable labour migrants
Response: Supporting migrants and host communities in rural contexts

• Food security and nutrition interventions for refugees, IDPs and host communities
• Advocating for the rights of migrant agriculture workers and their families
• Building social cohesion
Since the crisis, over 40,000 Syrian households have resumed their production activities through improved access to water.

FAO treated over 11 million heads of livestock to support the food and nutrition security of 1.4 million livestock-dependent Syrians, and provided 2,500 female-headed households with assets and training to start their own small businesses.
Thank you!

Dalia.Abulfotuh@fao.org
In Egypt, FAO is working with farmers in Fayoum, a rural governorate with one of the highest rates of international migration, to improve their competitiveness through more efficient land and water use.
In Sudan, FAO is working to improve land management and tenure through the adoption of Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT)
FAO’s Urban Food Agenda just launched this year to help ensure cities have enough food by strengthening the linkages between rural and urban food production.