



Secure livelihoods

Understanding and developing
solutions for mass migration



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



"Breaking the cycle of displacement by offering durable solutions to end it is of course as challenging as it is important"

Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Kampala, Uganda, 2009

In 2016 1 person was forced to flee every second, resulting in up to 66 million persons being forcibly displaced around the globe. The negative impacts of climate change, the degradation of the environment and the occurrence of natural hazards are laying their burden on peoples livelihoods in the upcoming decades.

The challenge for the future is twofold. And we want to take up this challenge with you as a partner. Understanding and giving answers to the challenge of mass migration.

The first challenge is to understand the root causes of human mass migration. For instance, climate change leads to changing rain patterns, resulting in water shortages in some places and flooding in others. Long periods of drought result in food shortages on the short term and impoverishment for small holder farming families on the mid-term. This can make communities highly vulnerable to mass migration.

The second challenge is developing innovative solutions to give an answer to mass migration and develop secure livelihoods for all people. For this, joint forces of many stakeholders are needed. Communities worldwide need access to freshwater, energy and food to sustain their livelihoods. Our mission is to work together with NGO's, public authorities, communities and businesses to develop solutions.

Our approach: From data analysis to practical solutions

Wageningen University & Research provides an integrated approach to the understanding of mass migration as well as solutions to increase livelihood security. In our approach we start with an extensive analysis of root causes and effects of migration; e.g. we use our knowledge and tools based on earth observation, climate models and spatial big data to forecast crop yields; we identify critical climate hotspots now and in the future, and assess the impact on food production capacities, and with our partners we work on understanding the subsequent effect on human migration.

Consequently we provide practical solutions to mass migration; both in rural areas with sustainable land use solutions, and in metropolitan areas with nature based solutions for climate adaptation. Furthermore with our innovation & valorisation approach we help to create job opportunities in agriculture for young people in developing countries.

Examples

Supporting agricultural productivity in Burundi (PAPAB). The PAPAB project aims to sustainably increase food production in Burundi by promoting market-oriented, climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural techniques, supported by targeted fertilizer subsidies. The project uses a participatory approach (Plan Intégré de Paysan, PIP) centred on integrated crop/soil/farm management and cooperation between stakeholders at all levels. Applying the PIP approach in the PAPAB project in Burundi significantly reduced hunger and provided 33.000 smallholder families with new future perspectives within their own country.

Every year, around the 20th of June, World Refugee Day, we organize the event "Changing Routes". We meet with partners from business, NGO's, public and research organization to find solutions for migration. We invite you to contact and join us <https://www.wur.nl/en/Dossiers/file/Migration-and-refugees.htm>

Services

- Climate adaptation tools and strategies.
- Yield prediction data and tools.
- Participatory livelihood development.
- Training and facilitation of agricultural innovations.
- Prevention measures for soil degradation.

Research Programme

Metropolitan Solutions

For more information, please contact Wageningen Environmental Research

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