



**WASAG**

The Global Framework on  
Water Scarcity in Agriculture



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## WATER, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL MIGRATION

Patricia Mejias  
Land and Water Division FAO  
Strategic Programme for Reducing Rural Poverty

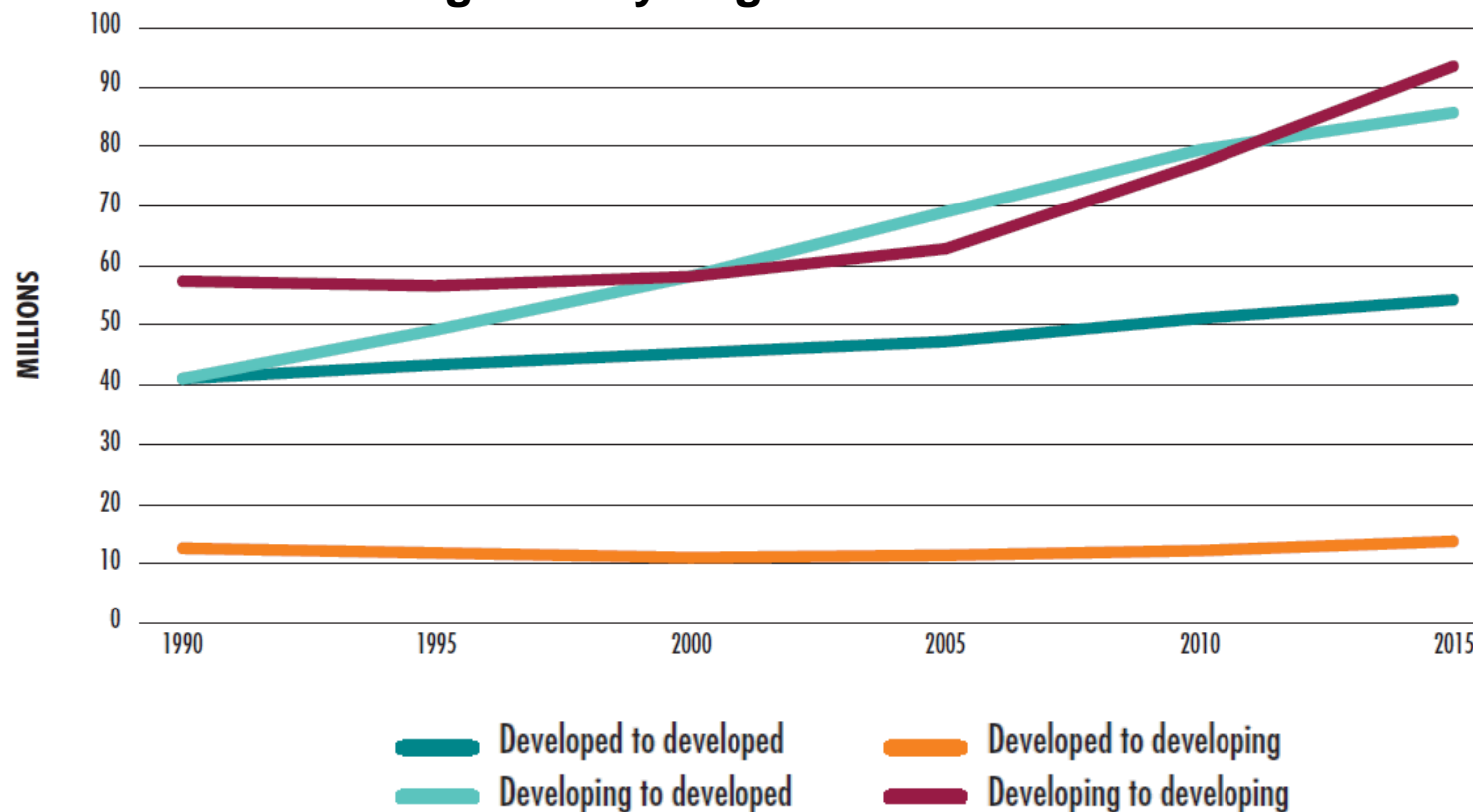


- **Rural Migration: concepts, data and trends**
- **Drivers of Rural Migration**
- **Impacts**
- **Conclusions and policy strategies**
- **FAO' s work on migration**

# Increasing trend in migration: what implications for food security?



## International migrants by origin and destination – 1990-2015

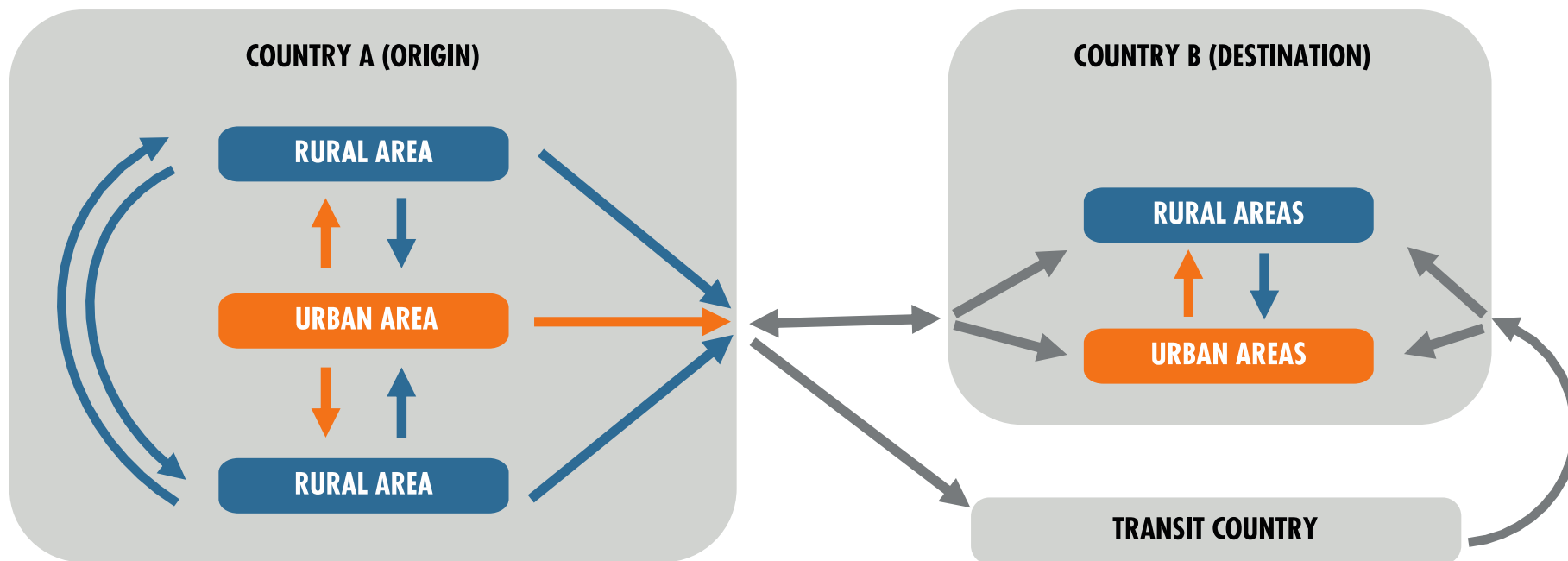


# Focus on rural migration

The many forms of rural migration play an important role in both developing and developed countries



More than 1 billion people in developing countries have moved internally

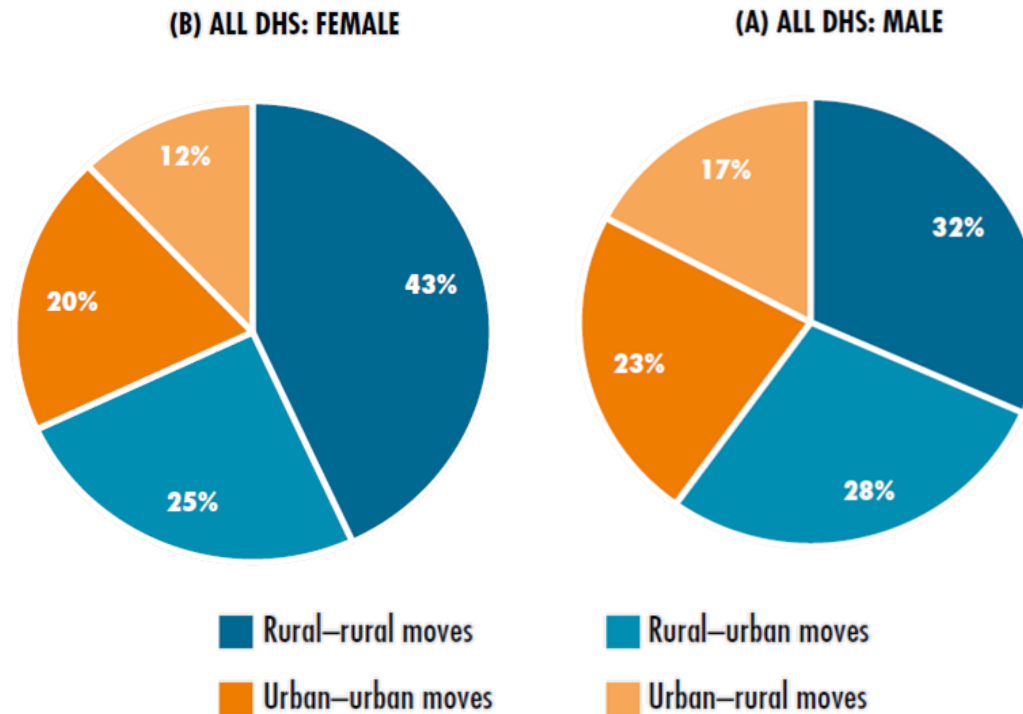


# Rural migration is also central to internal economic transformation

More than 1 billion people in developing countries have moved internally



Share of moves that are between rural and urban areas, intra-urban and intra-rural

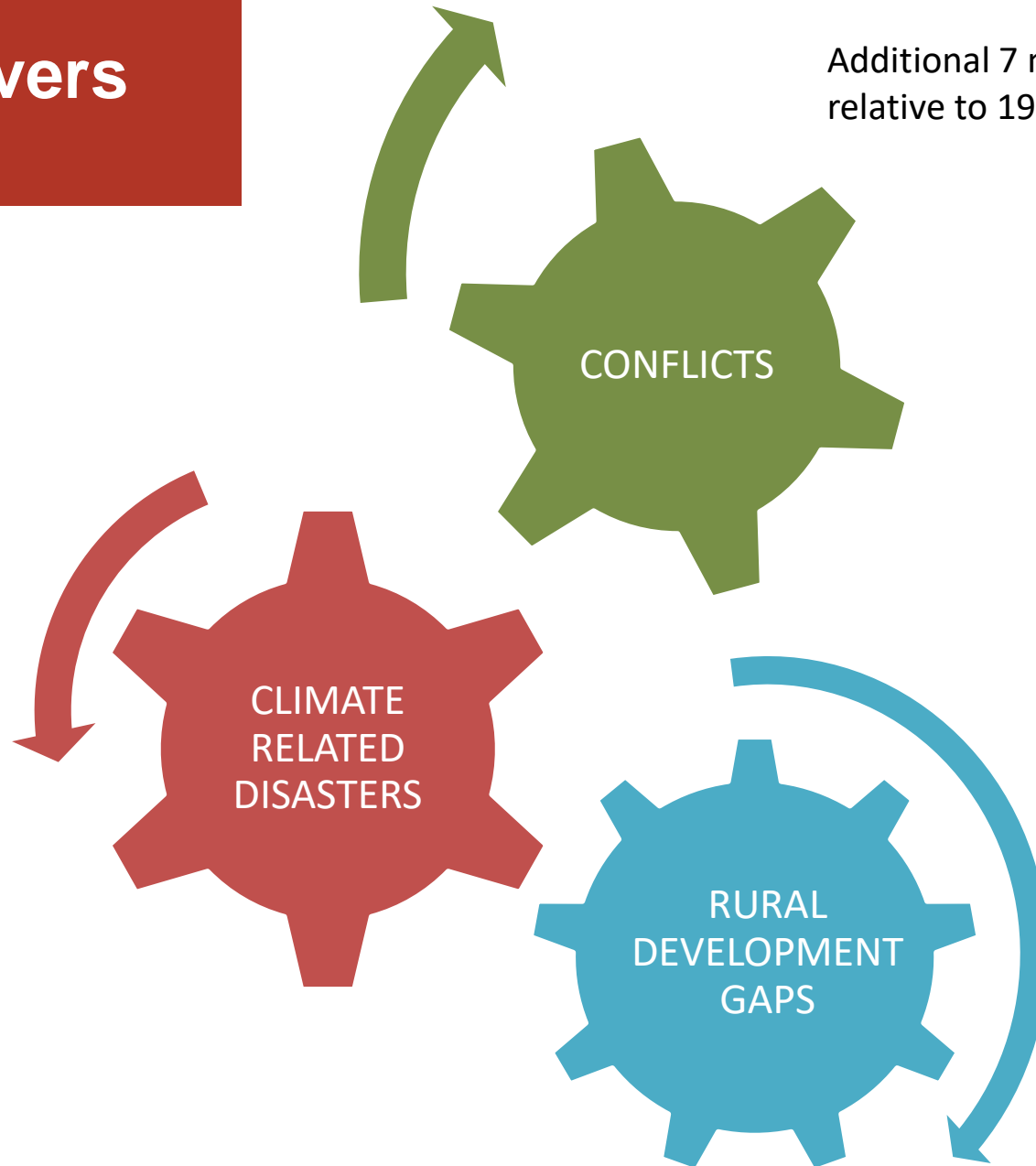




# Main drivers



Additional 7 million refugees in 2015 relative to 1990.



Climate related disasters displaced an average of 26.4 million people a year between 2008 and 2015

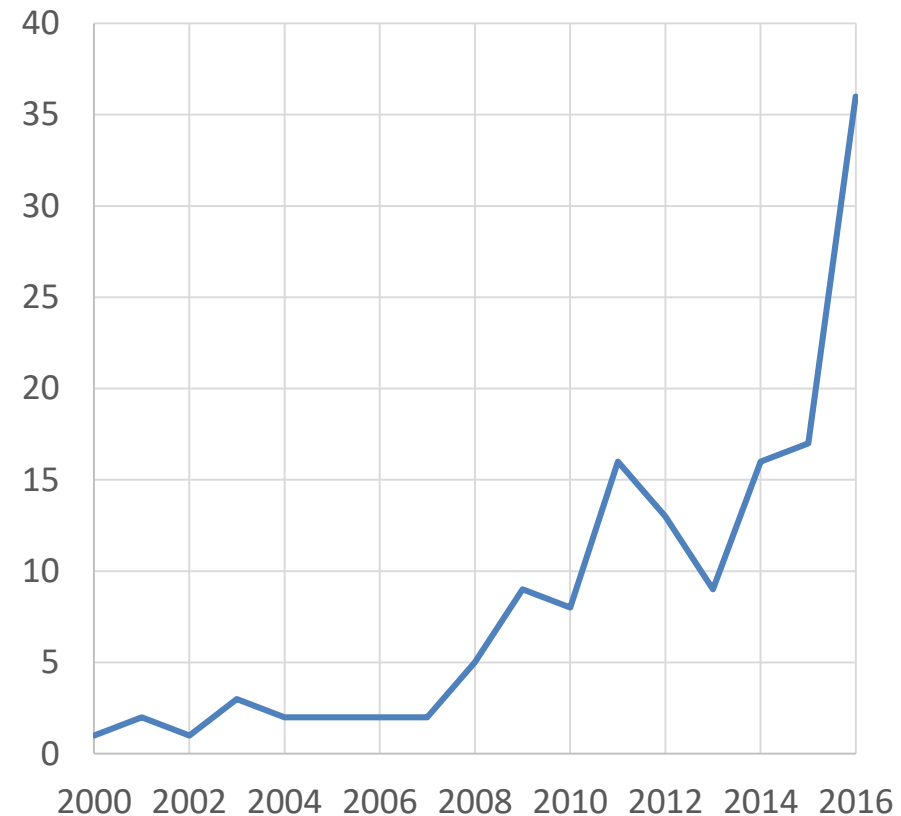
- 80% of the extreme poor live in rural areas depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods and food security
- **Most of people using unimproved sources of drinking water** and lacking basic sanitation services **live in rural areas.**
- **Jobs in the agricultural sector are highly water dependent** (95% of agricultural jobs depend on sufficient water supply)

# Main drivers

- Increasing **number of quantitative studies** since 2010
- Majority agrees that **environmental conditions are relevant** to human mobility
- **Very different conclusions** in how migration depends on environmental factors

# Empirical evidence

## Number of empirical studies on environmental migration



Source:



# Migration has significant but mixed impacts on rural areas

Impacts vary by the migration type and the context in which it occurs

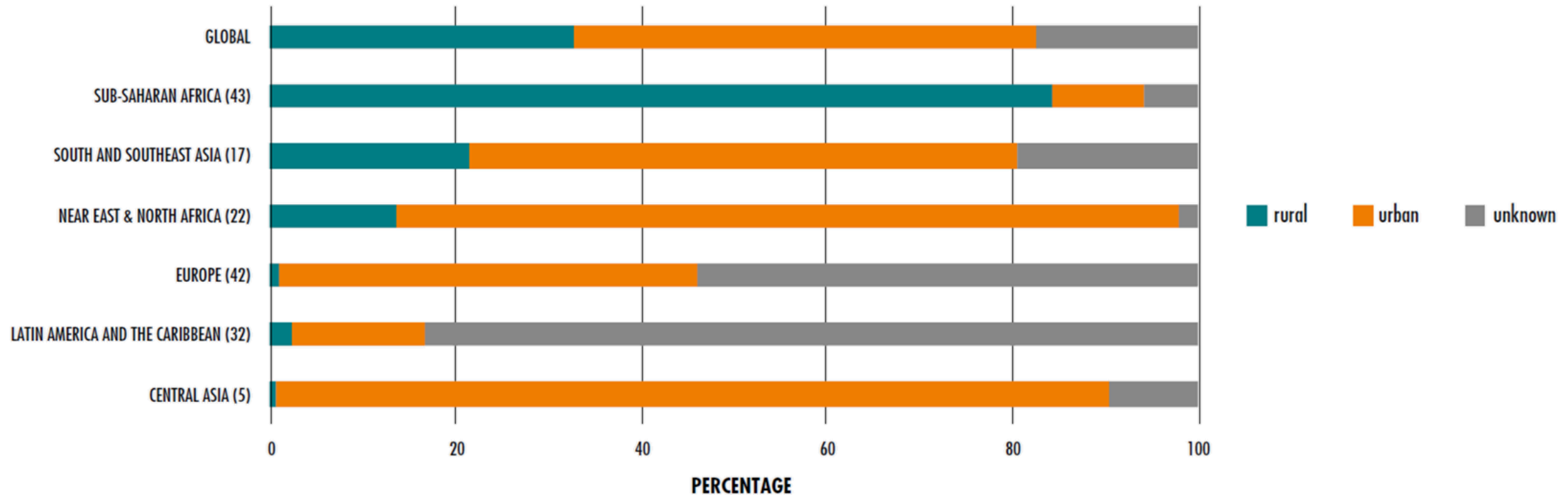
- **Demographic change** mediates pressure on and competition over resources
- **Availability of labour** – migration affects households and can affect rural labour markets in areas of origin and of destination.
  - **Remittances** - cash transfers sent back to the migrants' households – Improve access and management of water.
  - **Non-monetary transfers** “social remittances”: ideas, skills and social patterns brought or transmitted back by migrants



# Rural areas host large numbers of displaced populations during protracted crises

In sub-Saharan Africa, 84 percent of refugees are in rural areas

Distribution of refugee population by type of locality, globally, and by selected regions, 2016



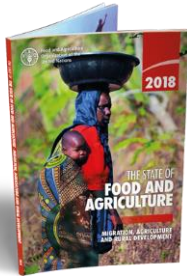
# Conclusions

- Rural migration constitutes a critical portion of both internal and international migration.
- The link between climate change and water scarcity is complex – it depends on the country context
- Important to consider the indirect impacts through which climate may influence migration such as income, crop yields, conflict, etc.
- Migration can be an adaptation strategy to environmental stresses
- Coherence and coordination between agricultural, environmental and migration policies and programmes is critical to achieve sustainable development
- Policy priorities based on country contexts, but with an underlying rationale based on territorial development

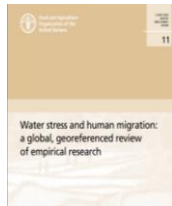
# FAO's work on migration



- **Mitigating the adverse drivers of migration** such as the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation
- **Strengthening livelihoods resilience and people's adaptive capacity to climate change**
- **Harness the potential of migration** for climate change adaptation in the areas of origin, transit and destination
- Through the FAO Migration Framework, FAO is committed to support Member States in achieving the objectives of the **Global Compact for Migration**



[2018 The state of Food and Agriculture. Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development  
http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-agriculture/2018/en/](http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-agriculture/2018/en/)



Water stress and human migration: a global, georeferenced review of empirical research  
<http://www.fao.org/3/I8867EN/i8867en.pdf>

WASAG working group on migration and water

<http://www.fao.org/land-water/overview/wasag/water-and-migration/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/migration/en/>