

# MIGRATION, DECENT WORK AND COOPERATIVES

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# A GLOBAL SNAPSHOT OF HUMAN MOBILITY

- In 2015 there were 244 million international migrants representing 3.3 per cent of the global population – over 150 million of these are migrant workers;
- 72.7 per cent of all migrants are of working age (15 years or older);
- There are 67 million domestic workers worldwide. 11.5 million domestic workers are international migrants and over 70 per cent of these are women;
- Migrants sent \$US 601 billion in remittances in 2015 to their home countries;
- There are over 65 million people forcibly displaced by conflict, violence and human rights violations of which 21.3 million are recognized as refugees and registered asylum seekers.

# DECENT WORK CHALLENGE IN LABOUR MIGRATION

- Labour migration – the movement of people from one country to another with the purpose of employment.
- Most of the international migrants are migrant workers
  - “The main economic driver of migration is the movement of people from regions of lower labour productivity to regions of higher labour productivity.” (Sachs 2016)
- Migrant workers suffer from significant violations of their human rights, including fundamental rights at work and other labour rights violations that increase the social and financial costs of labour migration
- Many migrant workers are found in sectors such as domestic work, manufacturing, construction and agriculture

# DECENT WORK CHALLENGE FOR REFUGEES AND OTHER FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS

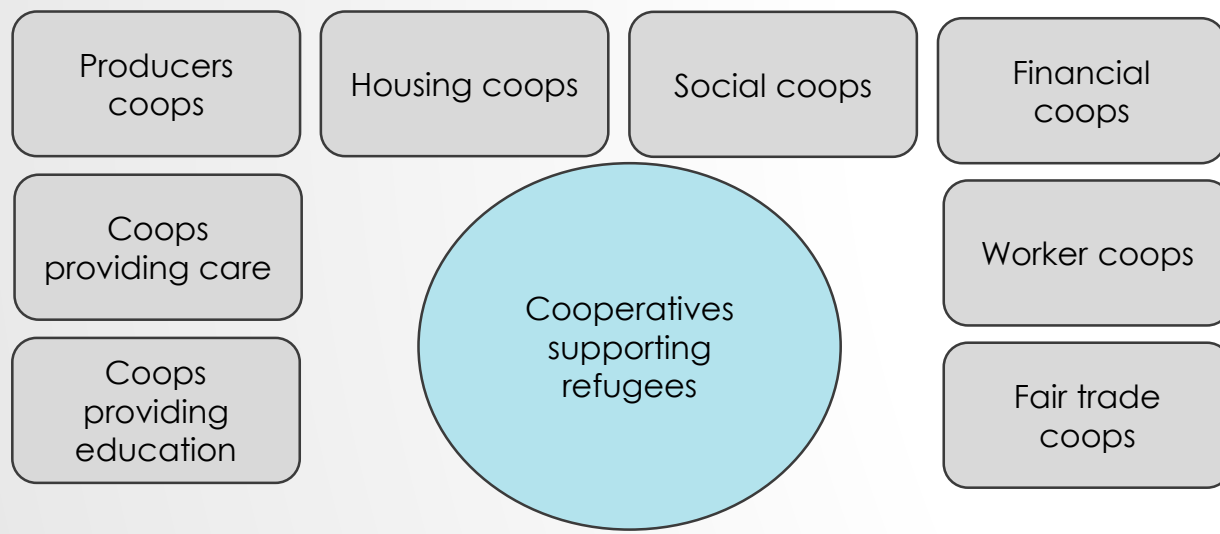
- Only a very small minority of refugees gain access to labour markets in the formal economy, opportunities for decent work and satisfactory conditions of employment and rights protection in the workplace
- Access to work or livelihoods may be prohibited or restricted by law and refugees who do manage to find work do so mostly in the informal economy.
- The precarious situation of these populations renders them vulnerable to discriminatory practices which can lead to exploitation, the denial of fundamental principles and rights at work and situations of forced labour, bonded labour and child labour. This impact on working conditions may have a knock-on effect more widely across labour markets, ultimately affecting all workers.

# ILO APPROACH

ILO contributes towards the global regulatory framework on migration particularly through its role as a standard-setting organization for standards related to the world of work. ILO has a set of migrant specific instruments, and in principle all international standards, including the FPRW, are also applicable to migrant workers

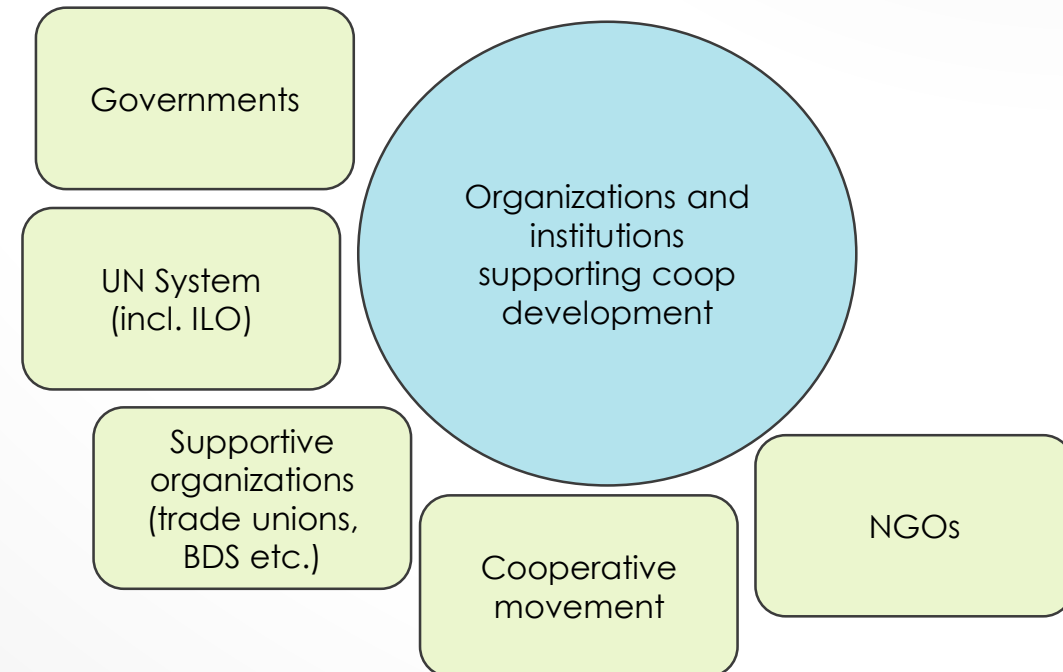
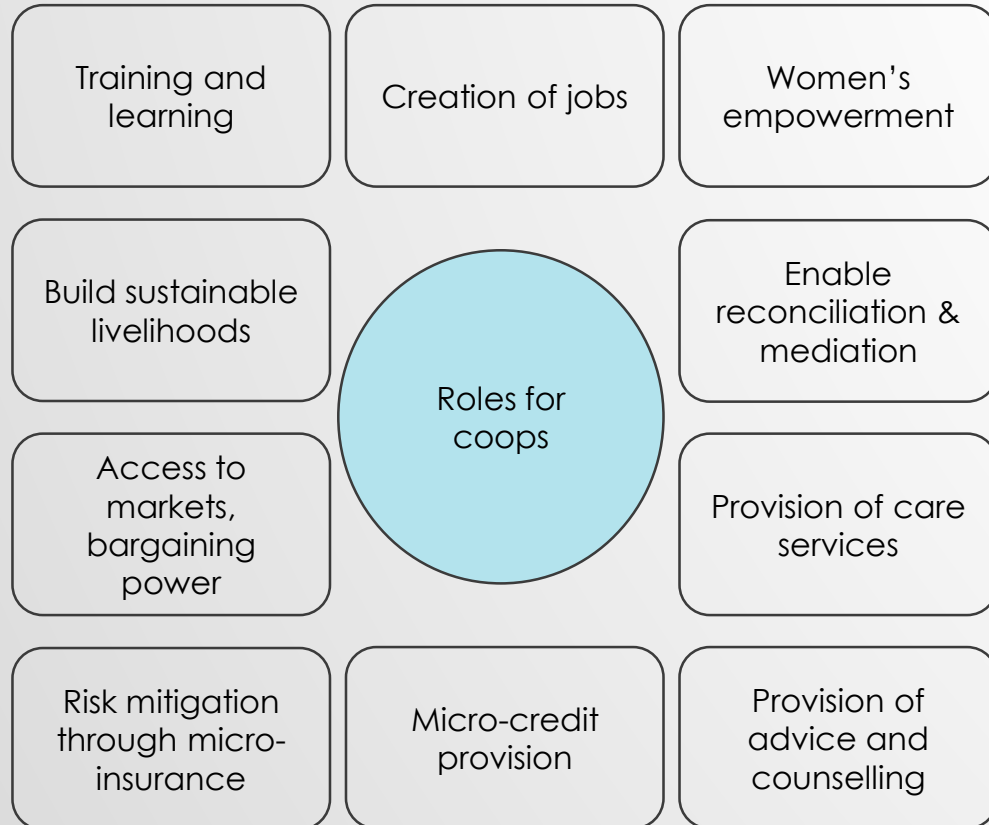
Key elements in addressing the drivers of growing migration, both regular and irregular, require:

- Investment in the creation of more productive, sustainable and better jobs in the countries of origin;
- Action on the establishment of regular migration channels that meet real labour market needs and facilitate family reunion
- Improved oversight of the recruitment of migrants to prevent human trafficking and migrant smuggling; and
- Shared commitment to meet humanitarian assistance to those in need and distress.



# COOPERATIVE RESPONSE IN DESTINATION COUNTRIES

Cooperatives work *for* refugees, *with* refugees, and can be established *by* refugees, through a variety of contributions and types of interventions



# ILO RESPONSE - REFUGEES

## Pilot cooperative activities in different countries



In Turkey, ILO is exploring the ways to providing support to Syrian refugees into the Turkish labour market through cooperatives. This involves the identification of potential sectors for economic activities for pilot cooperative intervention (e.g. artisanal production, catering, marketing, event organizing); identification of potential members among Syrian refugees who could form pilot cooperatives in two preselected locations; the provision of legal and technical assistance for registering and operating the cooperatives.



In Greece, ILO is exploring how cooperatives can be better integrated into refugee response strategies. This includes a feasibility study to assess legal, political, socio-economic and institutional aspects of a potential cooperative response.

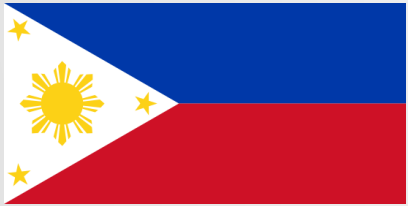


In Jordan ILO works with agricultural cooperatives in helping refugees to formalize their work status, and a project supporting Syrians and vulnerable Jordanians to access decent work in agriculture and construction, including through cooperatives.



# ILO RESPONSE – MIGRANT WORKERS

## Pilot cooperative activities in different countries



The ILO is testing an innovative model of fair recruitment in the Philippines. The main objective of this pilot initiative is to improve recruitment of migrant workers to key destination countries in Asia and the Middle East through the development of workers' cooperatives providing labour intermediation services.

This initiative is part of the global project seeking to contribute to the promotion of fair recruitment practices globally and across specific migration corridors in North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.



As part of the same project, in India the ILO is carrying out participatory research to gather and analyse information on the role of cooperatives in fair recruitment of migrant workers in general and women workers in particular. The main objective of this initiative is to document the scope of cooperative practices for improved recruitment practices of migrant workers.



In Trinidad and Tobago the ILO is supporting the development and strengthening of domestic worker cooperative in close collaboration with trade unions.