



International  
Co-operative  
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# Activating Cooperatives for Migrant & Refugee Response: An ILO Approach



International Co-operative Alliance  
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and General Assembly**

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Co-operatives: Putting People at the Centre Of Development

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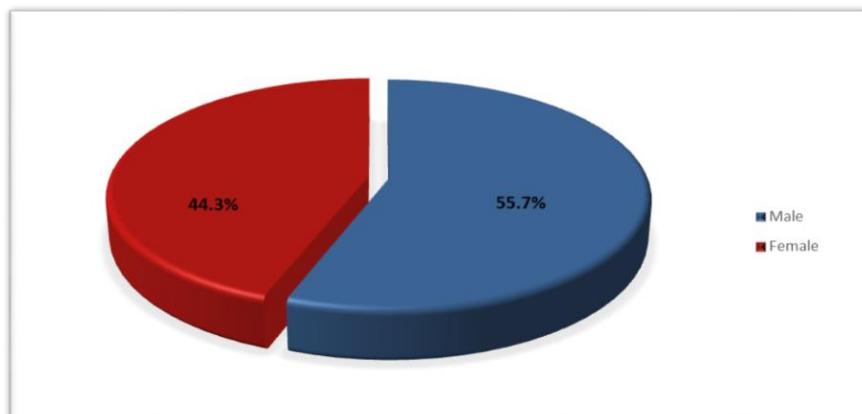
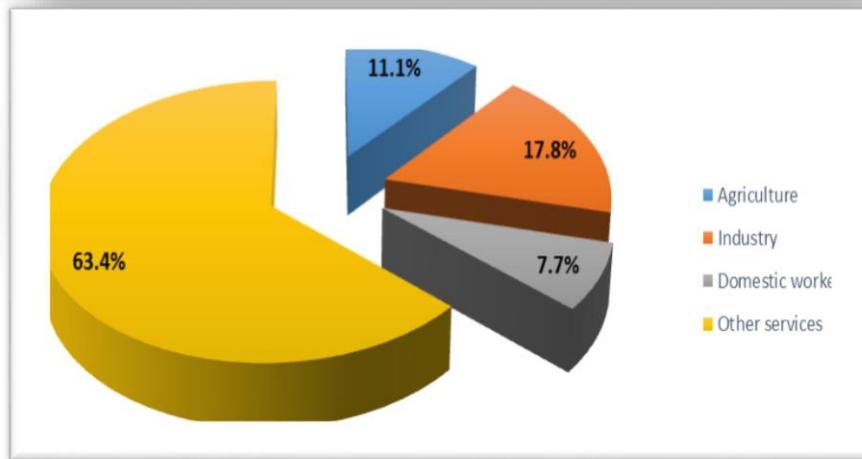
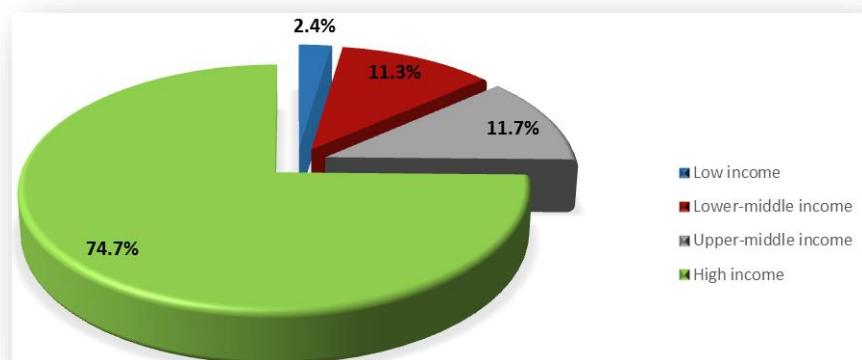
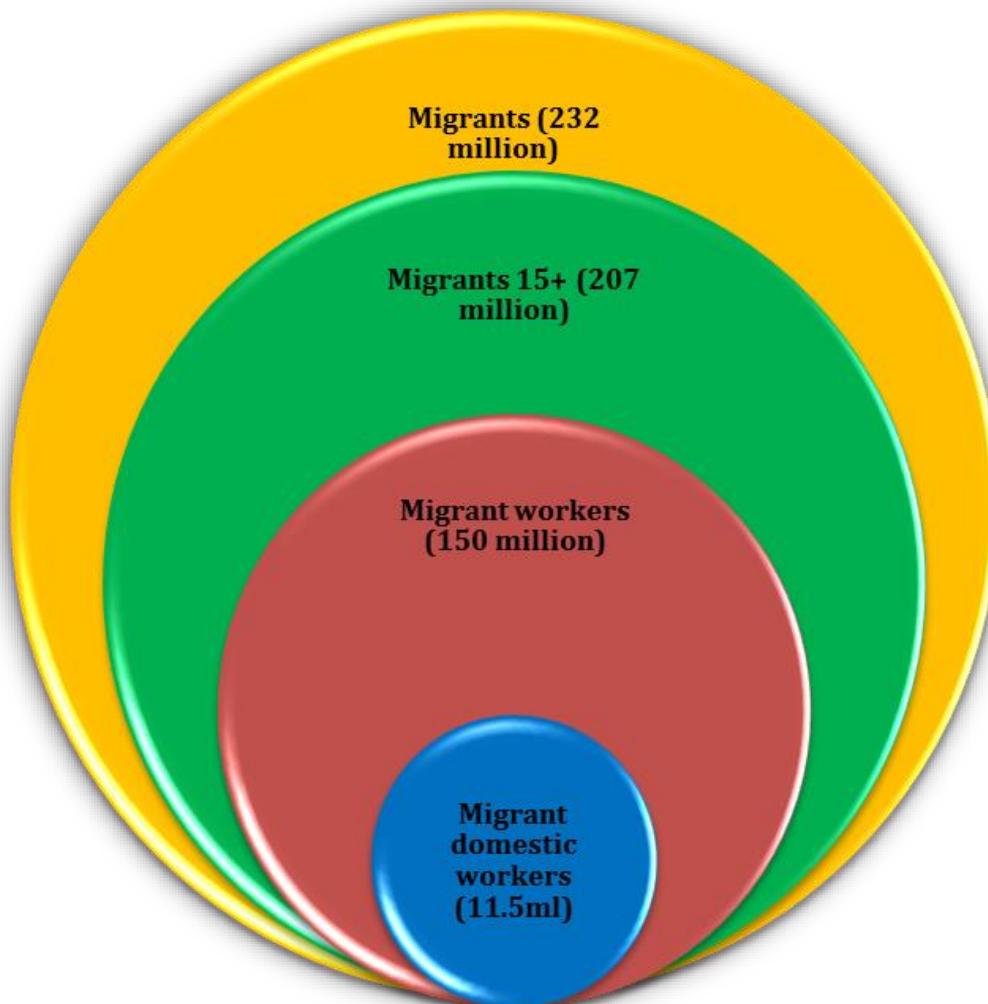
- Global context of migrants and refugees
- Decent work challenges migrants and refugees face
- ILO approach to migrants and refugees
- Cooperative responses to migrants and refugees
- Highlights of ILO's work with migrants and refugees through cooperatives



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# Labour Migration Statistics at a Glance





**65.6 million**  
forcibly displaced people worldwide

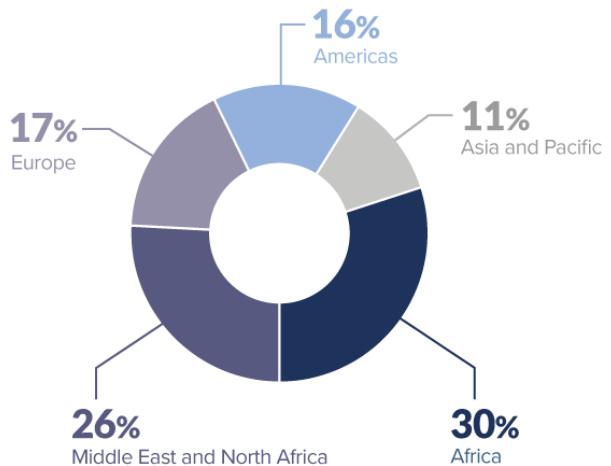
**Refugees  
22.5 million**

17.2 million under UNHCR mandate  
5.3 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA

**Stateless people  
10 million**

**Refugees resettled  
189,300** in 2016

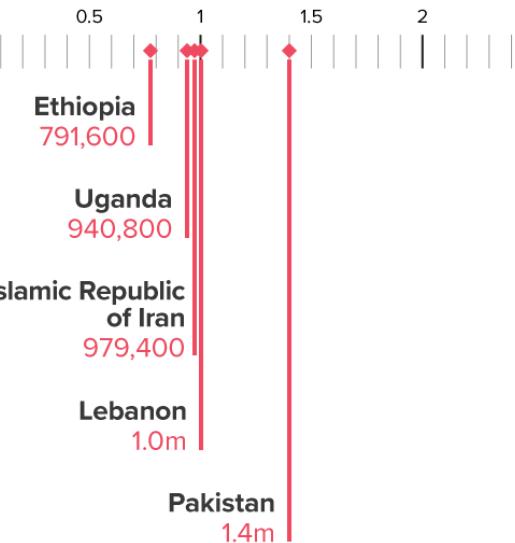
### Where the world's displaced people are being hosted



**55%** of refugees worldwide came from three countries



### Top hosting countries



# Decent Work Deficits 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 the informal economy, including in domestic work, manufacturing, construction and agriculture

# Decent Work Challenges for Refugees



- Most of the world's refugees are unable to earn sufficient income to meet their basic needs
- The right and access to decent work are now seen as key contributors to building self-reliance and strengthening resilience
- Access to work & livelihoods are prohibited or restricted by law for refugees
- 75 out of 145 states parties to the 1951 refugee convention formally grant refugees the right to work
- Even when the right to work is in place, refugees suffer from violations of labour rights (forced bonded and child labour)

# ILO Approach to Labour Migration



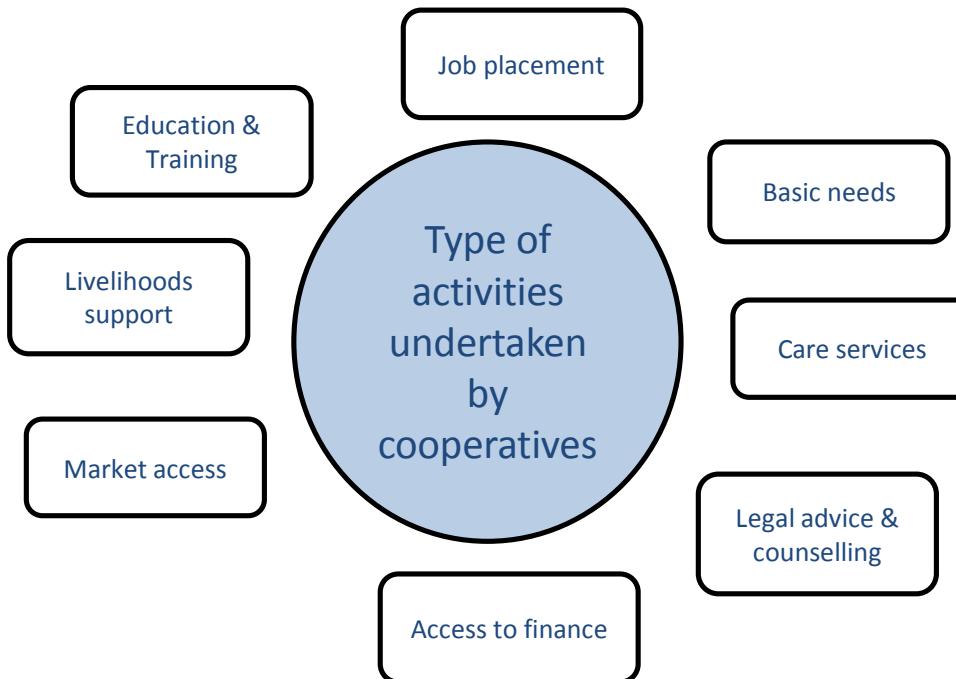
- ILO has a two-fold intervention strategy:
  - Employment and labour market interventions for jobs
  - Protection of migrant workers and equality of treatment
- Mandate is to protect migrant workers; focus on migrants as workers; promote fair (equal) treatment of migrant workers
- Lack of jobs or poor working conditions are often at the origin of migration - goal is creation of productive employment & decent jobs for all
- A number binding (e.g. Conventions No. 97 & 143) & non-binding instruments, e.g. Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration – governance of labour migration & protection mechanisms

# ILO Approach to Refugee Situations



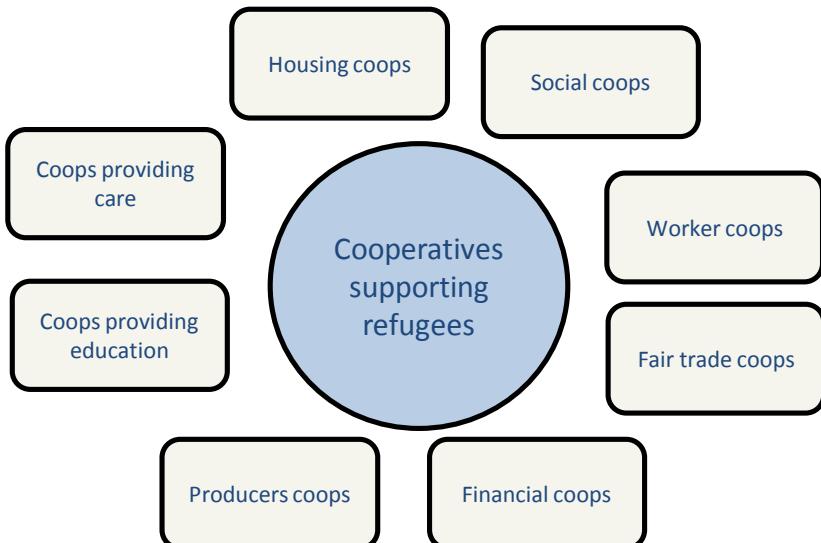
- Guiding principles on access of refugees & other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market adopted at the ILO in July 2016
- Collaboration between ILO and UNHCR including through an MoU signed in 2016 – e.g. value chain integration, microfinance
- ILO has a flagship programme on jobs for peace and resilience with ongoing activities in Ethiopia, Ukraine, Lebanon
- Coordinated response to the Syrian refugee crises through the Regional Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP)
- [Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 \(No. 205\)](#) that was adopted in June with several references to refugees

# Types of Cooperative Activities with Migrants & Refugees



- Social cooperatives provide integration services
- Producer/worker cooperatives of migrants & refugees as primary enterprises
- Service cooperatives by migrants & refugees for improving their livelihood activities
- Migrants & refugees become members of existing cooperatives – taxi, domestic worker
- Migrants & refugees work in existing cooperatives - agriculture, housing
- Return migrants & refugees can rebuild their communities through cooperatives

Based on the literature review "Cooperatives and Refugees", ILO 2016 (unpublished)

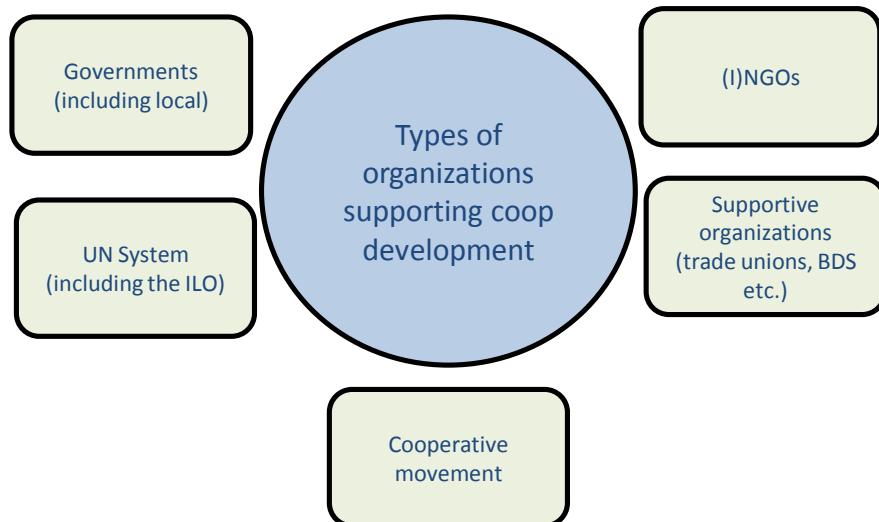


## **TYPES OF COOPERATIVES WORKING WITH MIGRANTS & REFUGEES IN DESTINATION COUNTRIES**

Different types of cooperatives work for migrants & refugees, with them, and can be established by them.

## **TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING COOP DEVELOPMENT FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES IN DESTINATION/HOST COUNTRIES**

A range of organizations support the work of cooperatives with migrants & refugees.



Based on the literature review "Cooperatives and Refugees", ILO 2016 (unpublished)

# Highlights of ILO's Work with Migrants & refugees through Cooperatives

## Pilot cooperative activities



In Ethiopia the ILO is starting to support the development and strengthening of cooperatives among return migrants from the Gulf States and other Arab countries as part of a larger project for return migrant economic reintegration. A number of training packages will be adapted for these purposes.

In India and the Philippines the ILO is conducting participatory research on the role of cooperatives in fair recruitment of migrant workers in general and women workers in particular.

The aim is to assess the scope for the cooperative model to be an option for improved recruitment practices of migrant workers and if so to start pilot testing it where unscrupulous practices of labour intermediaries are a major challenge to worker rights.

In Jordan ILO works with agricultural and multipurpose cooperatives in helping refugees to formalize their work status. In the making is the development of joint activities between Jordanian cooperatives and Syrian refugees for a solidarity brand of agro-food and artisanal products



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# THANK YOU

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