



vam
food security analysis

AT THE ROOT OF EXODUS:

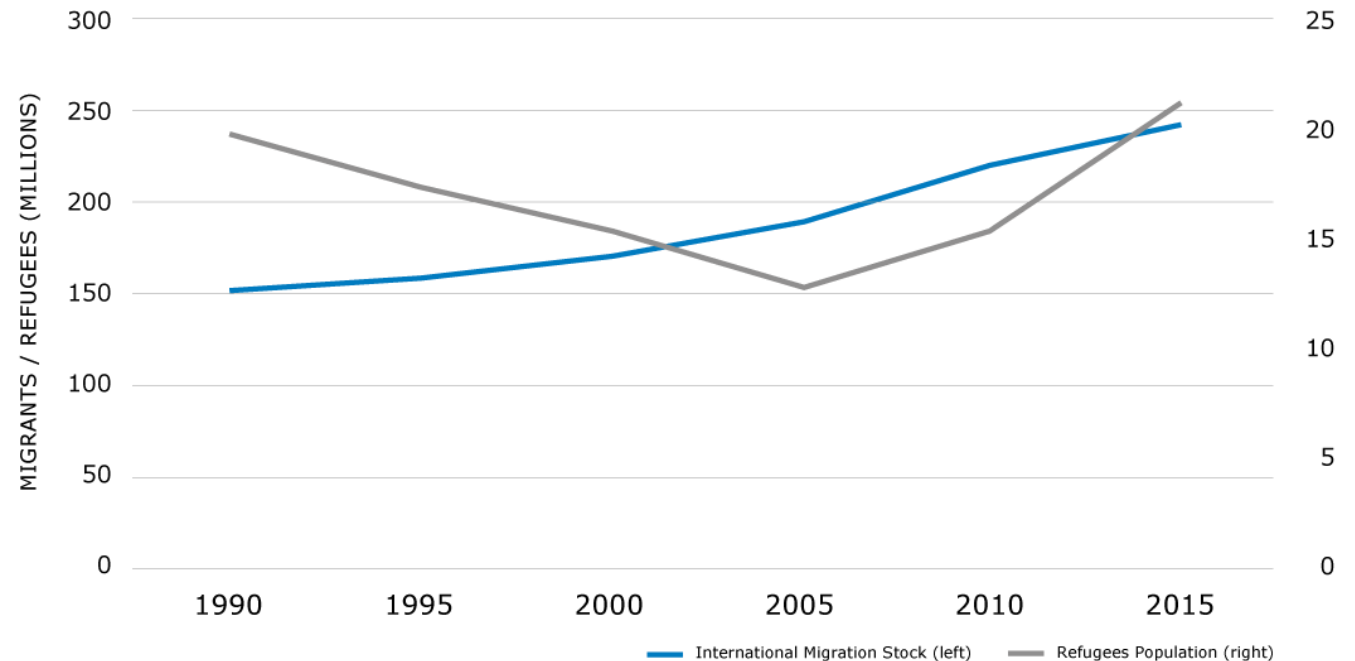
Food security,
conflict and international
migration

Arif Husain, June 2017

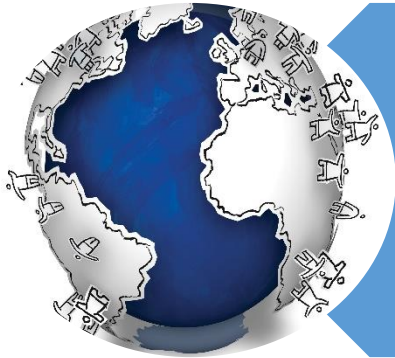


Background and rationale

- International migration: 244 million in 2015 - stable at 3 percent
- Vast majority of migrants remain on their own continents
- 9 out of 10 refugees are hosted by low and middle-income countries
- Limited research on links between food security, conflict and migration



Methodology



MACRO-LEVEL ANALYSIS

- Panel data analysis
- Secondary data: World Bank, FAO, IOM, PRIO, CRED



VOICES OF MIGRANTS

- Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan
- Italy
- Greece

Global drivers of migration – cross-country analysis

- Improved undernourishment leads to a reduction in out-migration by 1.6 per 1,000 persons
- National economic growth is key to offset out-migration
- Current level of out-migration is also substantially influenced by its previous level (diaspora, net work effects)

Global drivers of refugees – cross-country analysis

- Countries with increasing food insecurity, coupled with armed conflict, have the highest outward migration of refugees
- For each additional year of conflict, an extra 40 people out of 10,000 will flee their country.
- A one percent rise in hunger means an extra 200 people out of 10,000 will leave their country.
- Food insecurity is a significant cause for the incidence and intensity of armed conflict

The voices of migrants

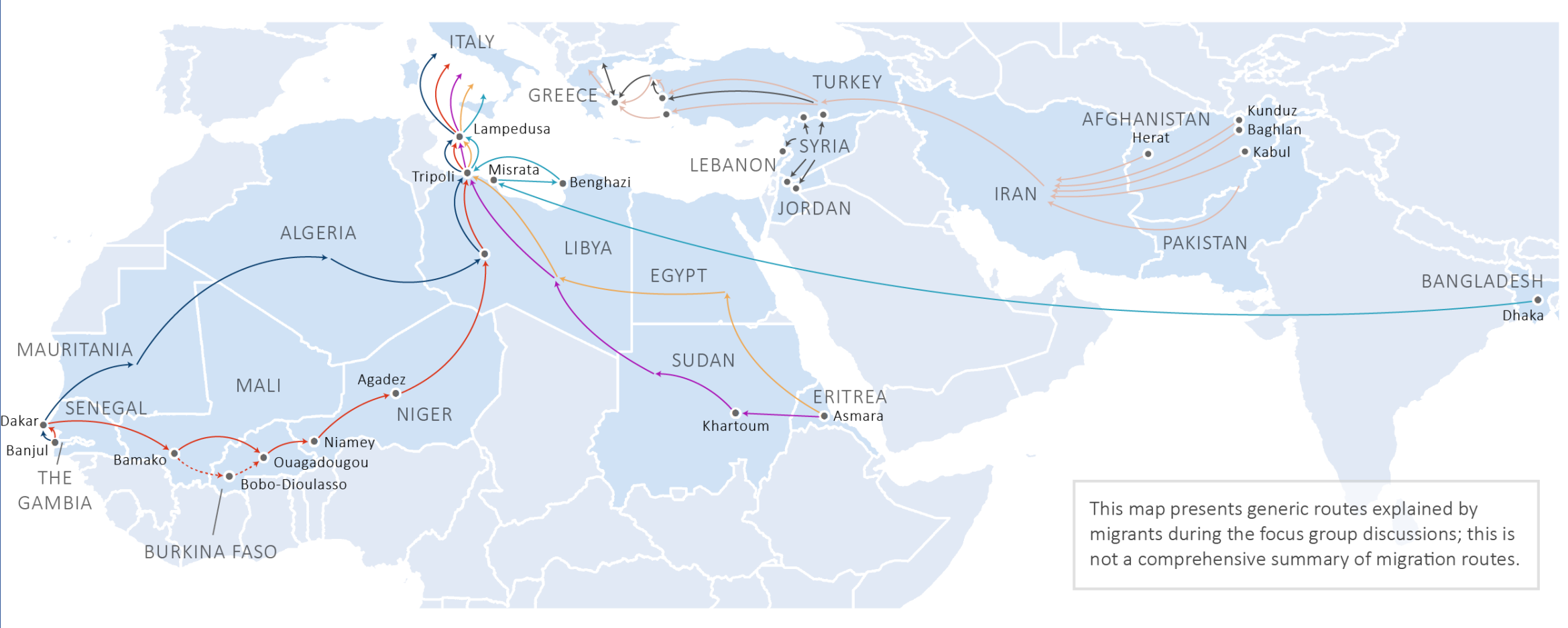


- 231 migrants interviewed in focus group discussions
- from 10 countries of origin: Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, The Gambia, Nigeria, Eritrea, Sudan and Bangladesh



- in 5 destination/transition countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece & Italy
- Remote survey conducted with Syrian refugees

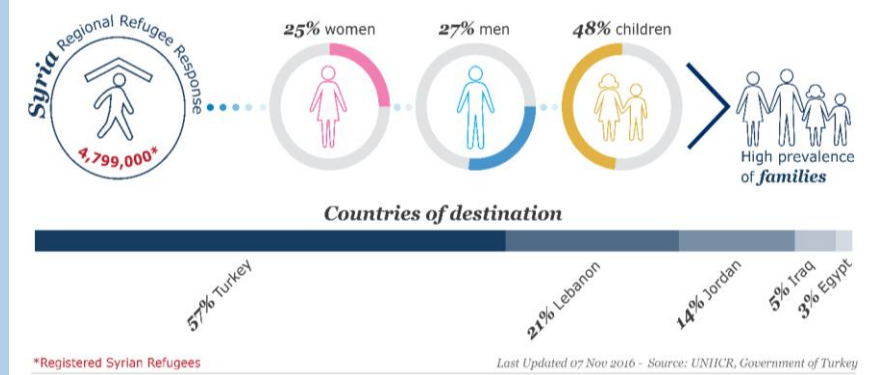
Routes of migrants interviewed



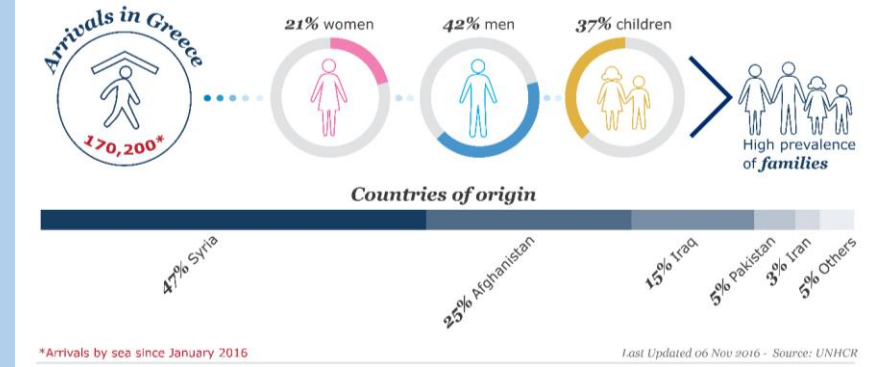
Who is migrating?

Demographic profiles

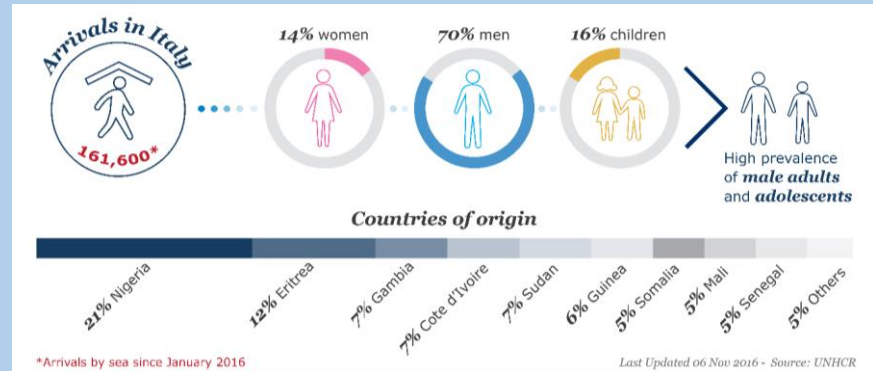
Syria Regional Response



Greece



Italy





Voices

“They made people hungry, stole out produce, closed schools, and prevented people from working” (Syrian man)

“In the end we had to eat grass to survive. My kids stayed up all night crying because they were hungry” (Syrian woman)

The associated costs of migration are known “like the costs of buying a pack of cigarettes” (Syrian man)

“If you work for the Government, the Taliban will kill you. If you work for the Taliban, the Government will kill you” (Afghan man)

““We live in small tents, there is no privacy, there is not enough light to read” (Afghan adolescent at reception site)

*“It was not my intention to risk my life on a boat to Italy”
(Gambian man)*



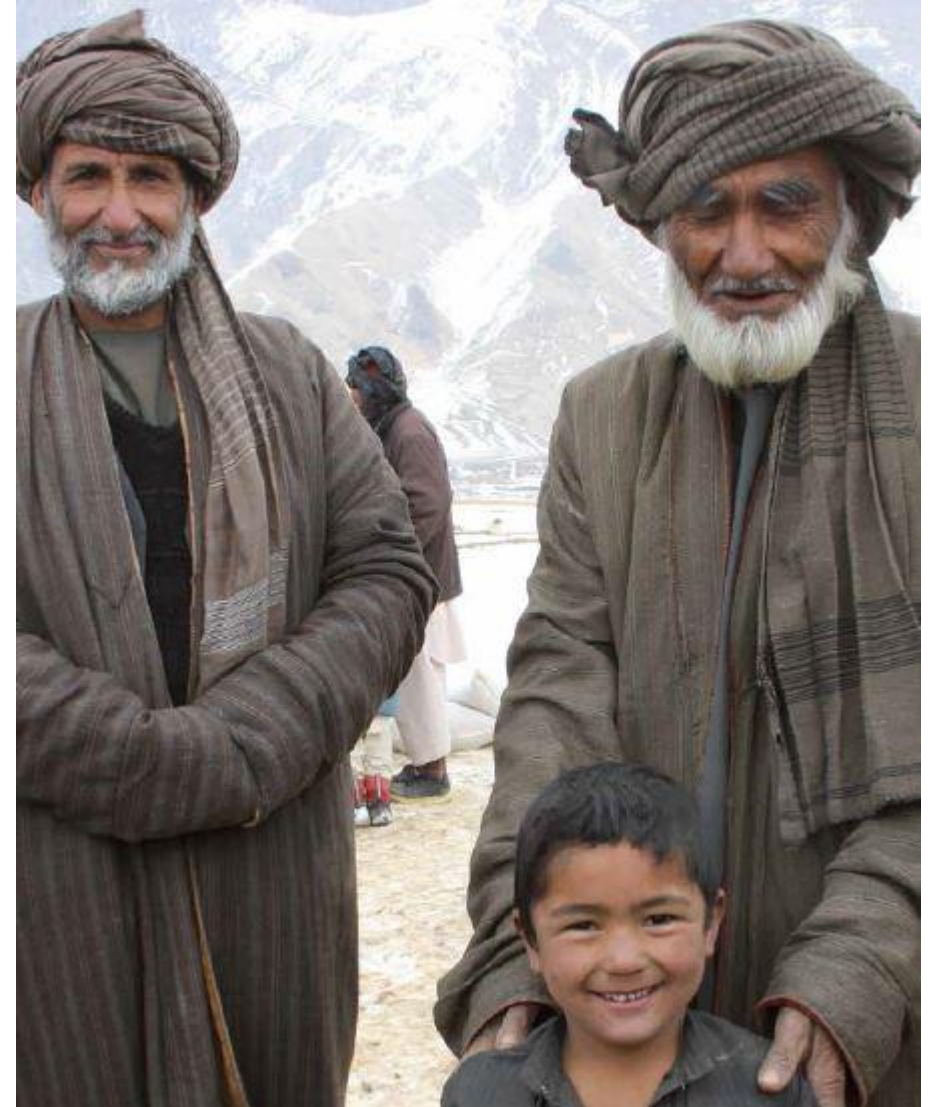
Syria



- 4.8 million in neighbouring countries, about 1 million in Europe
- Conflict disrupted livelihoods and markets, food security situation deteriorated
- During sieges, prices sky-rocketed and food was often not available
- Several times displaced before crossing borders
- Cost of migration seven times higher compared to 2011
- Main triggers: feared for life, death, injury, destruction, struggled to make a living and find food, basic services disrupted

Afghanistan

- Greece: major entry point to reach Europe until early 2016 when borders closed
- Two distinct groups: Those who left Afghanistan recently, those who left many years ago to Iran
- International migration: a coping strategy for Afghans for decades
- Lost all possessions to pay for their journey and now fully dependent on support
- No hope for asylum/relocation. Lack of schooling for children a big issue.



Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa



- Italy: major gateway for migration into Europe. Migrants arrive from Libya and more recently Egypt
- Large majority are single men (only 14 percent women) who are on the move for many years
- High proportion of unaccompanied minors (15% percent) – male adolescents
- Main drivers: economic hardship including food insecurity – multiple underlying factors (political instability, droughts, etc.)
- Situation in Libya is forcing many migrants to move on
- Migration exacerbates food insecurity as families incur debts to cover migration costs

Key summary findings

- People leave due to conflict, disrupted livelihoods and food insecurity after multiple internal displacements
- Migration itself can exacerbate food insecurity
- Food insecurity is one of the causes of conflict
- When migration is conflict-driven, families often travel together
- Onward migration is driven by a desire for stability triggered by economic factors and food security
- The use of new technology and social media has revolutionized information flows

Recommendations



- Seek political solutions to conflicts so people can return to their countries and rebuild their lives
- Provide assistance in countries of origin and the regional host nations
- Support host communities as they are becoming more vulnerable over time
- Advocate for more uniform policies and approaches among those involved in responses to international migration

Recommendations (cont.)



- Better understand the role of mobile technology and social media in migrants' decision-making process
- Further enhance the knowledgebase on food security, conflict and its far-reaching implications for international migration.



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