

Fragility, Conflict, and Migration



Fragility, Conflict, and Migration

addresses challenges to livelihood, food, and climate security faced by some of the most vulnerable populations worldwide. The Initiative focuses on building climate resilience, promoting gender equity, and fostering social inclusion. It forms part of CGIAR's new Research Portfolio, delivering science and innovation to transform food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis.

Objective

The CGIAR Research Initiative on Fragility, Conflict, and Migration (FCM) aims to enhance the resilience of food, land, and water systems in fragile and conflict-affected settings, where migration-related challenges are prevalent. By taking a systems approach and working in partnership with local stakeholders, the Initiative seeks to generate evidence to inform effective policies and programs that promote social and gender equity, climate resilience, conflict mitigation, and peace building in these settings.



Photo Credit: EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

The Challenge

Hunger and severe malnutrition are surging in fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCASs), which often struggle to sustain resilient food, land, and water systems (FLWSs) in the face of the climate crisis. Some 1.5 billion people live in FCASs; they face significant livelihood challenges, compounded by climate change, unsustainable resource consumption, poor governance, weak social cohesion, and a lack of access to basic services. By 2030, an estimated two-thirds of the world's extremely poor will live in FCASs.

Conflict and forced migration often result from and further escalate the humanitarian and development challenges FCASs face. As of 2022, an alarming 103 million individuals globally were forcibly displaced, with 80% of them suffering from acute food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition. 83% of the world's international refugees, many of whom have been displaced for years, even decades, are hosted by low- and middle-income countries.

AT A GLANCE

Primary CGIAR impact area: Gender equity, youth, and social inclusion

CGIAR science group: Systems Transformation

Focus countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen

Works towards Sustainable Development Goals:

No poverty; Zero hunger; Good health and well-being; Gender equality; Clean water and sanitation; Decent work and economic growth; Reduced inequalities; Responsible consumption and production; Climate action; Life on land; Peace, justice and strong institutions; and Partnerships for the goals





Photo Credit: EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

Climate change is triggering more frequent and more extreme weather events, further exacerbating development challenges. Countries enduring conflict are particularly vulnerable to climate-induced shocks. Additionally, climate change is a threat multiplier that may increase the risk of conflict and insecurity and drive migration as resources become scarce.

Voluntary migration is an important development tool, often disproportionately pursued by youth; it can support livelihoods, build resilience, and protect against fragility and conflict. It is most effective when accompanied by systems and support which ensure that migrants and host communities can flourish side-by-side.

Women are disproportionately harmed by shocks and crises, given structural and normative barriers that reduce their access to resources and thus ability to respond effectively. As a result, when shocks and crises hit, they reduce women's access to food and dietary diversity; decision-making power within their households; assets; services including healthcare; and physical safety. They also deepen their time poverty.

“ FCM promotes accelerating innovations that address humanitarian-development-peace priorities alongside local innovators, including women.

Activities

The Initiative team works closely with governments and other partners on local, national, and regional levels to generate evidence on effective policies and programming before, during, and after shocks and crises. The team includes experienced researchers from across CGIAR working on fragility, conflict, and migration.

FCM suggests a comprehensive four-pronged approach aimed at addressing the challenges of compound crises in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The four work packages—Anticipate, Bridge, Stabilize, and Accelerate—are geared toward strengthening anticipatory action and governance, bridging emergency operations with long-term sustainability principles, generating evidence to guide effective policies and programming, and accelerating innovations that address humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) priorities alongside local innovators, including women.

Anticipatory action and governance (ANTICIPATE)

Evidence-based decision-making and strong governance support effective anticipatory action in “compound crisis” situations. International and local stakeholders require robust institutions to track and respond to cascading social, economic, and environmental risks emerging from shocks to FLWSs in FCASs and situations of abnormally high migration. Researchers are co-producing system-level and case study evidence in collaboration with implementers and beneficiaries of early warning /early action initiatives – including humanitarian and development agencies, governments, and local organizations – to generate practical guidance and purpose-built tools that inform gender-sensitive crisis preparedness, prevention, response, and climate adaptation. They will also highlight how governance

arrangements at different levels mitigate fragility and conflict, promote social cohesion, and lay the groundwork for anticipatory action.

Conflict and emergency operations (BRIDGE)

This area of work studies emergency operations serving FCASs. It promotes institutions and partnerships supporting long-term sustainability and resilience. It generates evidence, including rigorous evaluations, on effective immediate responses to conflict and displacement, bridging the HDP nexus by supporting transitions to food security. Specifically, it contributes to: (1) improving understanding of conflict hotspots and migration corridors in space and time; (2) increasing efficiency through tailored identification and targeting of beneficiaries; (3) improving understanding of the dynamics of migration and conflict for more effective, context-specific programming; and (4) leveraging sustainability principles to ensure better alignment of humanitarian, development and peace interventions.

Stabilizing individual and community livelihoods (STABILIZE)

This work focuses on evaluating policies and programs that seek to stabilize livelihoods by promoting food and nutrition security; poverty reduction and resilience; social cohesion and government accountability; and gender equity and inclusion. This includes innovative social protection, food system development, and climate adaptation programs in fragile settings and among migrant populations. Researchers will also analyze the role of migration in livelihoods and income generation. There is a particular focus on how programming can increase women's empowerment in these

settings, and how that empowerment can best be measured – which provides critical lessons on measuring and promoting women's empowerment in especially challenging contexts.

Stability and peace accelerator partnership and grant mechanism (ACCELERATE)

Investments in FLWS and in humanitarian, development, and peace programs are often siloed. This work package pursues an adaptive approach that responds to immediate crises and addresses longer-term systemic causes of conflict, fragility, and forced migration. The Stability and Peace Accelerator Partnership (SAPAP) and grant system that FCM will establish will harness knowledge of local innovators and support it with CGIAR science (e.g., to refine targeting and implementation or evaluate impacts on CGIAR outcome areas) to flexibly respond to FLWS stress in FCASs. Selected innovations will promote FLWS resilience, conflict mitigation, stable livelihoods, and opportunities for women and youth – including among migrants and in host communities.

“ FCM research will focus on innovative social protection, food system development, and climate adaptation programs in fragile settings and among migrant populations.

Photo Credit: EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid





Photo credit: UN Women

Outcomes

Planned three-year outcomes include:

- Government, humanitarian, and development partners in at least five FCASs adopt conflict-sensitive anticipatory action approaches to help prepare for and mitigate volatile scenarios featuring compound conflict-FLWS risks to reduce costs, inclusively promote climate adaptation, alleviate poverty, prevent conflict escalation, and build social cohesion
- Humanitarian or development stakeholders in at least five FCASs utilize the Initiative's Migration Decision-Making Assessment Partnership tools and recommendations to inform and integrate conflict, fragility, and migration programming along the HDP nexus
- Governments, UN agencies, or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in at least five FCASs either implement new programming or strengthen gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and conflict sensitivity dimensions of existing policies and programming to help improve livelihoods and food security, including for youth, while promoting gender equality in FCASs
- Twelve local innovators design and deploy (in partnership with CGIAR scientists as part of the Initiative's grant mechanism) scalable interventions that promote FLWSs resilience, peacebuilding, youth opportunities, and/or gender equality in FCASs and settings characterized by abnormally high migration

Katrina Kosec, Initiative Lead, k.kosec@cgiar.org

Peter Laderach, Initiative Co-Lead, p.laderach@cgiar.org

Sandra Ruckstuhl, Initiative Co-Lead, s.ruckstuhl@cgiar.org

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to transforming food, land and water systems in a climate crisis. Its research is carried out by 13 CGIAR Centers/Alliances in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector. www.cgiar.org

We would like to thank all funders who support this research through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund: www.cgiar.org/funders.

To learn more about this Initiative, please visit www.cgiar.org/initiative/fragility-conflict-and-migration/

To learn more about this and other **Initiatives in the CGIAR Research Portfolio**, please visit www.cgiar.org/cgiar-portfolio

© 2023 CGIAR System Organization. Some rights reserved.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 International Licence (CC BY-NC 4.0).



INITIATIVE ON
Fragility, Conflict,
and Migration