



## **Jesuit Refugee Service Position on Incorporating the Forcibly Displaced into Development**

### **Migration and Development**

- 1. The EU should shift a greater amount of resources toward South-South migration.** Forced migrations from South to North often begin as South to South. However the EU has focused too greatly on South-North migration, even though more than half of the world's refugees reside in developing countries. This approach has led to a narrow and exclusionary application of migration and development policies, and it ignores the great state of vulnerability migrants are in while travelling through transit countries. Acknowledging the prominence of South-South migration and taking appropriate action can not only benefit forced migrants in the global South, but it can also positively impact the EU's migration agenda.
- 2. Fostering development in post-conflict communities is a positive way in which the EU can reduce irregular migration while strengthening legal migratory channels.** Many forced migrants possess valuable skills and experiences that can be used for development. Yet when trapped in protracted situations of dependent confinement, their promise and potential for development can become wasted. Incorporating forced migrants into existing and forthcoming migration and development initiatives can benefit both Europe by potentially reducing irregular migration and attracting skilled legal migrants, and post-conflict communities by creating economic opportunities that can positively impact their development status. Furthermore, dedicating development resources to post-conflict communities can ensure the continued protection of forced migrants, and reaffirm the EU's existing commitment to finding durable solutions for forced migrant problems.
- 3. The reduction of restrictive border measures can protect the interests of both forced migrants and Europe.** The EU cannot 'stop' migration. Restrictive border measures will foster greater means of illegal entry that can further endanger the lives of forced migrants while jeopardizing the interests of the EU. The creation of additional legal migratory channels can reduce the need to migrate illegally and increase the transparency of migratory movements. Financial resources that are spent to tighten border control can instead be used to create more permanent solutions for forced migrants, development, and the EU's migration needs. Most importantly, a greater number of legal migratory channels, together with the implementation of positive development solutions for countries of origin, can potentially reduce the need for migration into the EU.
- 4. Strengthening the inclusion of Diasporas is a vital step.** Allowing for Diasporas to become more involved in the stability and development of their home countries can facilitate greater circulation of funds and non-material remittances. Moreover, strengthened Diaspora networks in the EU, such as through Hometown Associations, can play a crucial role in the facilitation of more legal migration into Europe and in the expansion of development programmes in their countries of origin.
- 5. The key is to act holistically.** Migration and development are not mutually exclusive factors. Rather they affect entire communities in both host and home countries. Therefore in its application, migration and development should consider the widest range of actors and variables. Migration may be an individual act, but its repercussions on host and home societies are broader. Similarly, development is a tool that affects entire communities and not just one individual. The gap between the two practises, both at the government policy level and in academia, can no longer perpetuate. In its place a nexus must form to facilitate the exchange of migration and development's best ideas and concepts in order to formulate positive solutions for all stakeholders involved.

- 6. Meaningful collaboration with Civil Society is critical.** Working together with migration and development NGOs, IGOs, faith-based organizations, and the migrant community – in a meaningful manner – can foster the development of goals, targets, and objectives that promote migrant rights and self-determination, while also satisfying the labour and demographic needs of Europe. Effective and positive solutions can be achieved for all stakeholders by allowing the voices of every actor – especially forced migrants themselves – to be heard.
- 7. Development in the global South must incorporate the basic human rights of forced migrants.** Implementing financial-only development solutions in the absence of others would neglect the long-term needs of development. It is important to always remain aware that forced migrants flee not only poor economic situations, but also problems with far deeper roots. Therefore, development must also be made in the context of peace-building, transparency, accountability, the respect of basic human rights and the rule of law. If such foundations are not well rooted, other forms of development will be highly unlikely, and the flow of migration to the global North will not be reduced.

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