



## Reporting on General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/179

### Introduction

Migration is motivated by a complex set of reasons: economic and social incentives, and conflict and political instability play an important role. In line with its mandate, the World Food Programme (WFP) plays a role in tackling adverse drivers of forced migration, including food insecurity, natural disasters and violent conflict. WFP supports The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and its UN-led Network on Migration. Regardless of whether it is international or rural-to-urban, migration should always be a free choice. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the world's so-called "migrants" are people who have been forced to abandon their place of origin as a result of serious economic hardship, food insecurity, climate change and, above all, conflict.

### Hunger and Migration

Food insecurity is both a driver and a consequence of migration. Hunger is a persistent danger that threatens the lives of large numbers of forcibly displaced people and influences their decisions about when and where to move. Evidence indicates that for every 1 percent increase in hunger there is a 2 percent increase in people fleeing their country to seek refuge elsewhere. The relationship between food security and migration can be direct, when people do not see viable options other than migrating to escape hunger or indirect as a strategy by households to cope with income uncertainties and food insecurity risks.

### Examples of WFP's Support

For more than forty years, WFP has been providing food assistance to refugees and displaced persons across the globe. Food and nutrition assistance supports gender-sensitive protection outcomes and prevents vulnerable people from seeking negative coping mechanisms. The below two examples are designed to illustrate the kind of assistance WFP is undertaking in support of Resolution A/RES/72/179 and is by no means inclusive of all of the support WFP provides to displaced persons.

#### **Example 1: Venezuela Crisis**

From April 2018 to February 2019, WFP has provided emergency food assistance to 540,000 people in the border departments of Arauca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Nariño (Colombia). Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and host communities have been assisted. WFP and its partners have provided hot meals in community kitchens and transit centres for migrants; food vouchers for three months, which can be redeemed for nutritious foods in local shops; school meals in the department of La Guajira for vulnerable schoolchildren from migrant, returnee and host communities.

Since January 2018, WFP has also provided food assistance to 200,000 vulnerable migrants (87% Venezuelan) in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Carchi, Imbabura, Sucumbíos, Pichincha, Santo Domingo, Guayas and Azuay (Ecuador).



### **Example 2: Rohingya / Bangladesh**

On a monthly basis, WFP assists 880,000 displaced people with General Food Assistance through a combination of e-voucher (400,000) and in-kind (480,000) modalities. By using e-vouchers, WFP provides an array of food options to the refugees at a time and location convenient for them. By the end of the year, WFP plans to scale up e-vouchers to include 80 percent of the entire refugee population. This will be facilitated by 17 e-voucher outlets, of which seven are under construction. WFP's approach to assistance is mindful of protection considerations and is accountable to the affected population. E-vouchers empower people with choice to address their essential needs in local markets, while also helping to boost these markets. Findings show that e-vouchers and other cash transfers empower vulnerable households and that this can improve their food security and overall wellbeing.

### **Conclusion**

WFP welcomes the opportunity to provide inputs on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/179. WFP would also like to take this opportunity to call for renewed efforts to tackle the adverse drivers of migration in those parts of the world that account for the largest outflows. This will involve making greater investments into rural development along with other forms of international cooperation and engagement with private sector to promote climate change adaptation and find lasting solutions to conflict and hunger.