

A light gray world map is centered in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of continents and oceans.

# MIGRATION AND DECENT WORK

## ROLE OF COOPS IN SOCIAL & ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

ILO COOP  
International Labour Office

**ILO COOP**  
[ilo.org/coop](http://ilo.org/coop)

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- Decent work deficits in labour migration and refugee situations
- ILO approach to labor migration and refugee situations
- Cooperative responses – a typology, examples, ILO work

# 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 CHALLENGE FOR REFUGEES AND OTHER FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS

- Only a very small minority of refugees gain access to labour markets in the formal economy, opportunities for decent work and satisfactory conditions of employment and rights protection in the workplace
- Access to work or livelihoods may be prohibited or restricted by law and refugees who do manage to find work do so mostly in the informal economy.
- The precarious situation of these populations renders them vulnerable to discriminatory practices which can lead to exploitation, the denial of fundamental principles and rights at work and situations of forced labour, bonded labour and child labour

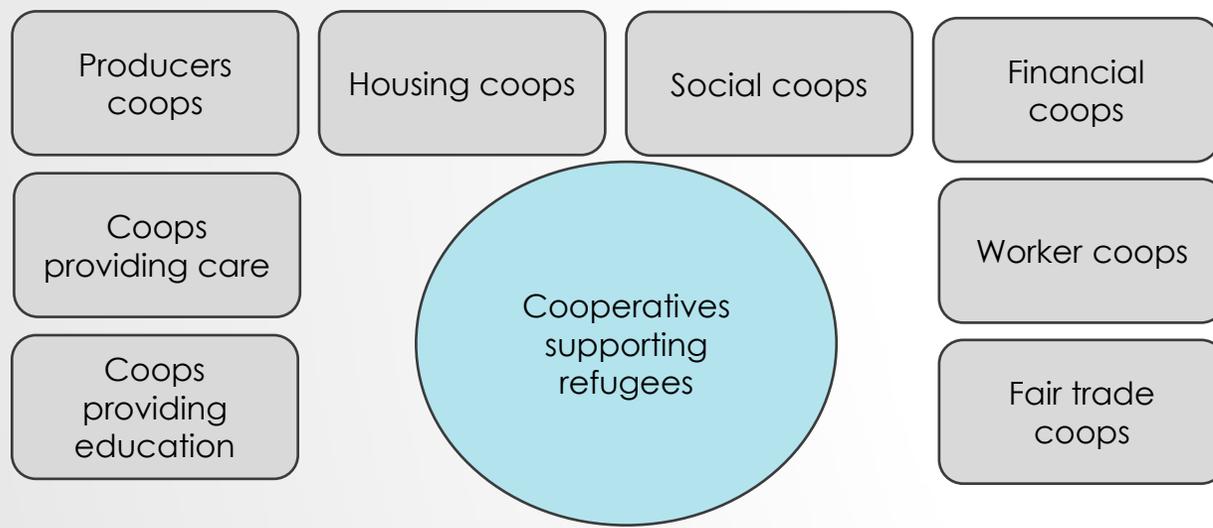
# THE ILO APPROACH

ILO contributes towards the global regulatory framework on migration particularly through its role as a standard-setting organization for standards related to the world of work.

ILO has a set of migrant specific instruments, and in principle all international standards, including the FPRW, are also applicable to migrant workers

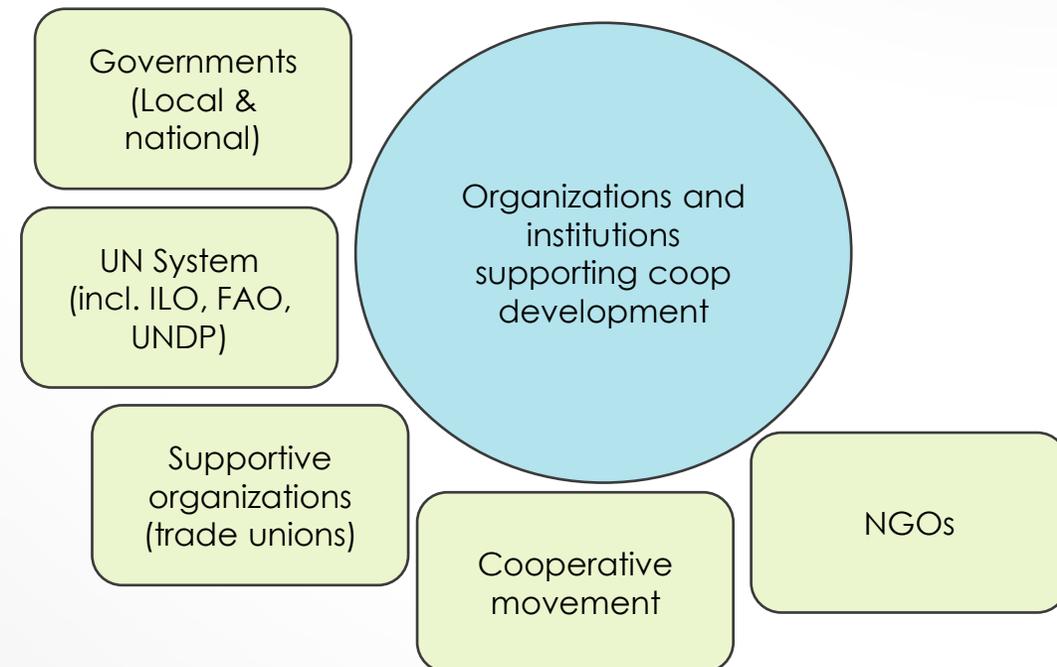
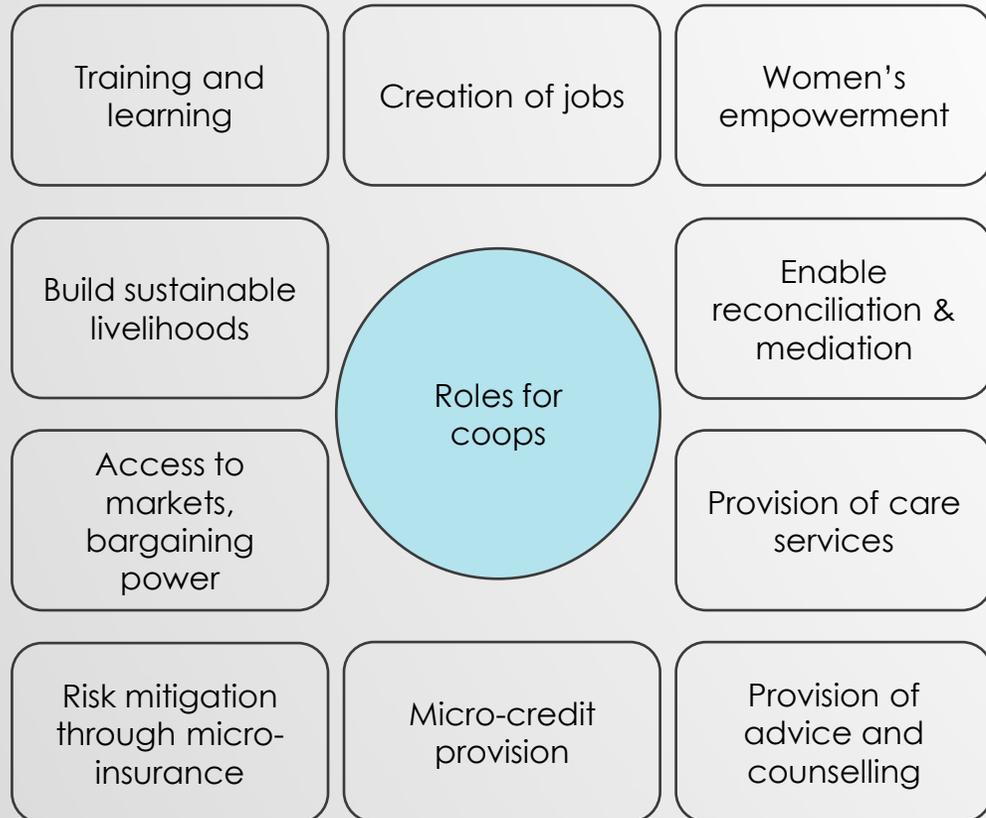
Key elements in addressing the drivers of growing migration, both regular and irregular, require:

- Investment in creating more productive, sustainable and better jobs in the countries of origin;
- Action on the establishment of regular migration channels that meet real labour market needs and facilitate family reunion
- Improved oversight of the recruitment of migrants to prevent human trafficking and migrant smuggling; and
- Shared commitment to meet humanitarian assistance to those in need and distress.



# COOPERATIVE RESPONSE IN DESTINATION COUNTRIES

Cooperatives work *for* refugees, *with* refugees, and can be established *by* refugees, through a variety of contributions and types of interventions



# COOPERATIVA RUAH

[WWW.COOPERATIVARUAH.IT/](http://WWW.COOPERATIVARUAH.IT/)

- A social cooperative based in Bergamo, a northern Italian town
- Works with refugees, providing food, accommodation, clothes, bureaucratic assistance, health care, literacy, daily pocket money
- Italian state reimburses the coops 35 euro/day/person – this is not only specific to RUAH but other cooperatives as well
- In 2016, there were 171,000 arrivals in Italy via boats from North Africa (Nigeria, Eritrea, Sudan and the Gambia)
- In 2016, Italian cooperatives like RUAH provided more than 20,000 refugees with services in 220 welcome centres & 170 dedicated housing structures



# WELCOMMON [HTTPS://WELCOMMON.GR/](https://welcommon.gr/)



- Wind of Renewal is a social cooperative enterprise in Greece for social & green economy, innovation and culture founded in 2014 with ten members.
- In partnership with Athens municipality with funding from UNHCR relocation programme - the cooperative manages a housing facility **Welcommon** for Syrian refugees since 2016
- Accommodates up to 200 people up to 6 months in 66 separate rooms – with priority given to vulnerable groups including pregnant women, families with children & the elderly
- Provides food, clothing, social, psycho-social support, primary health care, legal services, non-formal education, creative activities for adults and children
- It provides employment for Greek people in the cooperative as well as the food catering and other services, creating a more positive outlook on refugees

# ILO RESPONSE - REFUGEES

Pilot cooperative activities in different countries



In Turkey, ILO is exploring how Syrian refugees can be integrated into the Turkish labour market through cooperatives, with a specific focus on women. This involves the integration of Syrian women into existing women cooperative activities in South East Turkey (e.g. artisanal production, catering, marketing, event organizing).



In Jordan ILO works with agricultural cooperatives in helping refugees to formalize their work status. Agricultural cooperatives and women's multi-purpose cooperatives have been providing work permits for Syrian refugees through an ILO project. The cooperatives are oriented and provided with the knowledge and equipment to engage with the Syrian refugees.

# ILO RESPONSE – MIGRANT WORKERS

## Pilot cooperative activities in different countries



The ILO is testing an innovative model of fair recruitment in the Philippines. The main objective of this pilot initiative is to improve recruitment of migrant workers to key destination countries in Asia and the Middle East through the development of workers' cooperatives providing labour intermediation services.

This initiative is part of the global project seeking to contribute to the promotion of fair recruitment practices globally and across specific migration corridors in North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.



As part of the same project, in India the ILO is carrying out participatory research to gather and analyse information on the role of cooperatives in fair recruitment of migrant workers in general and women workers in particular. The main objective of this initiative is to document the scope of cooperative practices for improved recruitment practices of migrant workers.



In Ethiopia the ILO is planning to support the development and strengthening of cooperative enterprises among return migrants from the Gulf States and other Middle Eastern countries as part of a larger project initiative for return migrant economic reintegration. Among the methods under consideration is the use of an orientation package on cooperatives that has most recently been pilot tested in Cambodia.

THANK YOU

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