

## Changing Routes 2018

Second annual meeting *Towards practice*

13 June 2018, 10.30-17.00h  
Lumen Building –Wageningen Campus,  
Droevendaalsesteeg 3, 6708 PB Wageningen

*Organising team:*

Marian Stuiver, program leader  
Bertram de Rooij, senior researcher  
Yvonne Hellegering, program assistant

*Partners:*

Gerd Junne, The Network University  
Arie van Beek en Hedzer Roodenburg-Vermaat, GreenFieldCities  
Margreeth van de Pijl, UNITAR

On the 13th of June 2018 we organised the second annual meeting ‘Changing Routes’. At World Refugee Day 2017 the first annual meeting was organised, where challenges in dealing with present and future global migration streams were explored: bringing together existing networks, building coalitions and putting forward a first agenda. The key findings of 2017 stated ‘It is necessary to start actions’ and ‘bring knowledge together in concrete situations’. To do so, this year’s Changing Routes focused on actual building further on projects in the field with initiators, partners and supporters. The main output and outcomes are summarized in this document, including forward looking for 2019.

See for an extensive read on the relation between Wageningen and the issue: <https://wageningenworld.wur.nl/issue/september-2018/a-better-life-for-refugees/>



## Background

The worldwide movement of people causes many challenges. It is important to get a better understanding of migration, its causes and consequences timely predict and intervene along the chain of migration –from root areas to areas of destination. But while working on this common understanding and unraveling the complex mechanisms of migration, it is also urgently needed to already take actions. Different initiatives along the chain are already in the picture, as well as potential knowledge and tools for intervention.

Changing Routes 2018 aims at setting up an impact-driven research agenda and strengthening cooperation and infield actions, involving several existing and new projects and partners.

This is a huge task and it is not always easy to involve everyone. Therefore a careful selection was made, focusing on developing some concrete projects first. Some projects challenge root causes (push-factor), other projects are working on the pull-factor –creating opportunities for displaced communities and their host communities. Bringing in this diversity makes we can develop and test different interventions along the chain, as an answer to mass migration and to develop secure livelihoods for all people.

## Objective

This years' Changing Routes aims at bringing the current initiatives further towards actual implementation, linking it to specific expertise and to develop a clear action plan for each initiative.

## Method

The plenary morning session was dedicated to getting to know each other, each specific expertise and especially the initiatives and related ambitions and targeted questions. In the afternoon interactive workshops provide common grounds in developing clear strategies and foreseen actions per initiative.

## Program

10.00-10.30h	Welcome and registration
10.30-12.00h	Opening and keynote speeches initiatives SES4Food Mali (UNITAR) Uganda (TNU/ADPC) GreenfieldCities (GFC) <i>Live from Mafraq (GFC)</i> Secure livelihoods (WUR) PIP approach (WUR)
13.00-15.30h	Workshops <i>Bringing initiatives further</i> Enabling Uganda Campus Mafraq SES4Food Mali
15.30-16.00h	Closing session
16.00-17.00h	Network drink

## Plenary session

*Changing Routes 2018 is opened by Marian Stuiver, program manager of the program and knowledge basis Metropolitan Solutions at Wageningen Environmental Research.*

*Marian looks back at Changing Routes 2017 and the actions undertaken and links made. She also mentions that recently structural resources were granted to build on the knowledge basis for this topic. Politically also many things are happening. Europe is working on a joint strategy, even talking about migration platforms in the region, and the Dutch government bring sin focus in foreign policy in hotspots and 'preventing' and guiding migration.*

*Meanwhile it's important to come in action in the field, support this and derive further understanding and knowledge from these actions undertaken, because displacement and migration still matter and emerge every day. Common understanding and practical interventions should be parallel actions.*

*Three current initiatives along the migration chain are introduced via keynotes by the initiators or promoters. Besides, two potential strategies and tools are presented which could be of help within those initiatives.*



### **Key note Margreet van der Pijl (UNITAR)**

#### **–SES 4 Food Mali**

Margreet introduces the SES 4 Food initiative, with a first focus on Mali. SES 4 Food stands for Social Entrepreneurship for Food Security. With its slogan 'Creating Flourishing ecosystems enabling communities to enhance food security' UNITAR aims on capacity building for social entrepreneurship in the region.

By connecting existing actors: support organizations, social entrepreneurs and private sector investors (diaspora and others) and empowering these actors to work together effectively, more food will be produced in an environmentally, climate friendly way and more people gain income or get a job.

In this flourishing ecosystem, existing social entrepreneurs can grow and professionalize their business in an optimal way and marginalized people (in particular refugees, women, and young people in waithood) can be sensitized to become a social entrepreneur or get employed by a social entrepreneur. Creating a flourishing ecosystem will be achieved through mapping, matching, managing and marketing existing support organizations and social entrepreneurs working on food security in a country. Private sector investors will be linked to social entrepreneurs who are investment ready.

Central in the approach are the so-called 'LinkingPins', trained locally based people living and working in different districts in a country, will do the mapping, matching, managing and marketing: they will map existing actors and gather data in a relation-data-base (a data base filled with people who are already connected to each other via-via), match social enterprises and support organizations who are not yet connected during fora, manage action groups who built on leverage actions for the ecosystem and market the social entrepreneurs to private sector investors.

This program is set up and implemented by a consortium of three organizations: UNITAR, SES Inc and Wageningen University. UNITAR will train the LinkingPins during their start-up phase, SES Inc, will organize them in cooperatives with a business model in order to let them become self-running organizations and Wageningen University will provide and gather data for research and monitoring an evaluation.

In 2016 they started with mapping social entrepreneurs in food value chains within their supporting ecosystem, in 7 countries. They found out the support doesn't reach the people. There is a gap; over 50% is not matched! The ambition is to form teams of LinkingPins per region. These LinkingPins will map social entrepreneurs and link it to support schemes and actions.

### **Key note Gerd Junne (The Network University (TNU))**

#### **–Uganda**

TNU carried out an assessment in the last year on how to involve the diaspora more in projects in areas with large refugee communities. In this keynote he will focus on the north of Uganda, but they also derived information and opportunities in other countries and areas of conflict.

They have made specific suggestions for small scale investments and linking it to the potential of the region. A number of potential projects came up, amongst

others, land rehabilitation (with innovative solutions) and coffee husks. Enabling communities will lead to better nutrition, increase income locally and create a more diverse and safe livelihood.

In the workshop he would like to work out some of the projects and see what actions are needed and which knowledge could be put in effect or linked.

### **Key note Arie van Beek (GreenFieldCities (GFC))**

#### **–Greenfield Cities**

Arie van Beek introduces GreenFieldCities. GreenFieldCities has the ambition to build sustainable, safe cities together. New cities or (semi)urban development as enabling environment for refugee communities and their host in affected regions.

The key principles of GreenFieldCities are:

- Refugees & Locals Leading
- SDGs & Sustainability Leading
- Long Term Commitment

They have built a refugee talent team in the Netherlands and teamed up with institutions and companies.

At present they have a first pilot project in Mafraq (Jordan). They work with an “Pop-up” approach: high quality flexible modular infrastructure under a temporary permit, ...boosting permanent development. This will reduce long Jordanian development times from 3-5 years to 12 months, de-risk the design and construction phase almost completely and set strong standards for sustainability and create a show-case. As such they create strong presence fast, start development of permanent structures, strengthen the local network and kick-start job creation and economic development

The aim for today is to make an outline for a “MADAD” Concept Note supportive to the Mafraq development, to be submitted in July 2018

### **Key note Hedzer Roodenburg (via Skype from Jordan)**

#### **–Greenfieldcity Campus Mafraq**

Hedzer Roodenburg (GreenfieldCities) calls in from Mafraq.

He explains more about the challenges of Mafraq and its surroundings and the proposed developments.

Mafraq is traditionally a trade town, but is heavily impacted by the regional unrest. Thousands of -mainly poor- Syrian refugees found shelter in the city and the region's country-side. Additionally, the regional trade collapse has increased unemployment, especially among women. Next to a lack of job opportunities, Mafraq battles an ongoing pressure on its infrastructure, agricultural system, water scarcity, and a drain of economic activities and brains to Amman and Irbid. On the brighter side, prospect of more stability in Iraq and Syria attracts investment to Mafraq. Its geographical location on the main roads to Amman, Damascus, Baghdad and Haifa, and its airbase, create an excellent hub for rebuilding parts of Syria and Iraq.



Mafraq is on track to become an important center for logistics, manufacturing and energy. Such aspirations will only bear fruit when local investments are made including a long-term commitment to create and nurture an enabling environment with sustainable infrastructure, services and strong governance.

GreenfieldCities aims to improve living, learning and business circumstances in Mafraq through the development of a high-quality, sustainable and multifunctional clean-tech campus in the Mafraq Economic Free Zone. The campus includes a farmer field school, an energy “live lab”, a water management company, IT incubation space, hospitality services and homes. This enabling environment with the size of a small city will increase local labour productivity in all key sectors. The objectives of the campus are in line with development initiatives to rebuild regional economies, and will specifically help to tackle a number of domestic challenges in the fields of energy, water, agriculture and youth employment.

Invited by Jordanian public and private stakeholders and partners, GreenFieldCities works on developing a clean-tech campus (enabling environment). This campus will provide over 3000 jobs and where 1.500+ Syrians and Jordanians can live, work and learn, as an integral part of the city of Mafraq, Jordan. This will give Mafraq region a sustainable economic boost. At the moment GreenFieldCities is carrying out a more detailed feasibility study.

**Key note Saskia Visser (Wageningen University & Research)**  
**–Securing livelihood**

Securing livelihood is key in improving conditions in areas of origin. To secure livelihood Wageningen University and Research works on a ‘total package’ for sustaining conditions, production and market chains, together with different partners (like SoilCare and 4Farmers). In many of our projects parts of the total chain are subject, but the ambition is to have a full view on the total package, the full chain. As such, projects can have a great societal impact in SDG’s 2,12,13 and 15.



We value the 'up or out'-principle, but most important we look at scalable projects and area specific strategies and measures.

By not only improving conditions and production, but also putting in effect a good value chain together with stakeholder, livelihood conditions and income will increase.

**Key note Aad Kessler (Wageningen University & Research)  
–PIP approach**

Within securing livelihoods the PIP approach has proven to be a valuable approach. PIP is an innovative way of transforming small-scale subsistence farm households into more productive and sustainable farms; and is the French abbreviation for Integrated Farm Planning.

The three PIP principles are empowerment, integration and collaboration. It is based on a visionary plan which is developed and drawn on a map by all family or community members, as well as a concrete action plan how to realise that vision. By changing farmers' mind-sets by motivating them to transform their reality by conscious collective action is at the core of the approach. Proud farmers, better soils, more food (and less migration).

It's about engagement, without primary incentives, but creating ownership.

Working on a solid foundation, healthy land and motivated people, and a grassroots plan with common grounds, which leads to more sustainable local development and resilient farming systems.

The approach builds on scaling up from farmer to village and local capacity building (also in planning).

## Workshop SES 4 Food

*Margreet van der Pijl*

*Roel During*

The objective of the workshop was to explore cooperation between UNITAR and Wageningen University and Research in the Social Entrepreneurship Support for Food Security (SES4Food) program. Aim of this program is to contribute to ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture (SDG Goal 2) by creating flourishing ecosystems for social entrepreneurs working on food production. More specifically, by connecting social entrepreneurs, support organizations, market actors and private sector investors (including diaspora) and by empowering these actors to work together effectively, the project contributes to the establishment of sustainable food production systems which in turn will ensure access by all people, in particular people in vulnerable situations, to safe food. In this flourishing ecosystem, existing social entrepreneurs – through support organizations, market actors and private sector investors – will grow and professionalize their business in an optimal way, while marginalized and vulnerable populations (such as women, young people in waithood, and members of displaced communities) will be sensitised to become a social entrepreneur or get employed by a social entrepreneur (Unitar 2018).

The workshop discussed the setup of a partnership between UNITAR, Wageningen University. Other relevant organizations (particularly at the local levels) will be invited to join the partnership. Within the framework of this partnership, UNITAR will be responsible for the overall coordination of the project. In addition, UNITAR will focus on the capacity building aspects of the project, as well as on connecting and ensuring information sharing among relevant stakeholders. Wageningen University will be responsible for the provision of data and research on food security, as well as social entrepreneurship. Wageningen University will also provide data through monitoring and evaluation (ibid).

Unitar (2018) Social Entrepreneurship Support for Food Security - SES4Food: Create Flourishing Ecosystems to Enable Communities Enhancing Food Security, Geneva, Switzerland

Unitar around the world:

[http://www.unitar.org/sites/default/files/uploads/unitar\\_home\\_cifal\\_map.jpg](http://www.unitar.org/sites/default/files/uploads/unitar_home_cifal_map.jpg)





## Workshop GreenFieldCities

*Arie van Beek*

*Marian Stuiver*

The aim of the workshop was to explore public-private partnerships, innovation and best practices that are useful for the set up of a campus in Mafraq and to link it with other cross-cutting issues such as environmental issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, the needs of disabled people, the rights of minorities and the rights of indigenous peoples.

GreenfieldCities is an organisation which aims to build a sustainable campus in the city of Mafraq in Jordan, near the refugee camp Zaatari. The campus should provide jobs, housing, or study and business opportunities for about 1500 Jordanians and Syrians. It is an ambitious plan with many challenges and WUR and Greenfieldcities are combining the efforts to build the project. It is crucial not only to involve the regional and local government and aid organisations, but also citizens, investors and entrepreneurs.

During the workshop the collaboration is further explored and what the requirements are for starting joint international development projects. Often it is easy to fall into the trap of determining for others what their needs are. That is why it is so important to encourage and recognize socio-cultural sensitivity among everyone who takes part in these projects. We need to ensure that dialogue is at the heart of the progress made, also when we do not get the messages we are looking for.

<https://www.greenfieldcities.org/partners-en-supporters/wageningen-university-research/>



# Workshop Enabling Uganda

Gerd Junne

Bertram de Rooij

Which projects can be lifted up the coming year to improve livelihood conditions and value chain development in Northern Uganda, bringing together host and refugee communities and partners and current projects/programs?

The workshop starts with leveling knowledge and info about current actions/involvement. For instance CDI of Wageningen University and Research is presently working on a project that aims at innovative, suitable and scalable solutions to increase nutrition and food security. As such, improve access to and consumption of nutritious crops and increase income of refugee and host communities. Part of the proposal is to set up an office in the North of Uganda.

Uganda is quite unique in the management of refugee influx. Often refugees are not settled in camps, but are given land and are spread amongst communities. However the perspectives of host communities and refugee communities tend to differ, and almost 86% of the refugees have severe trauma. And (natural) resource availability and quality remain little. Not only land, but also water.

Challenges are how to take into account current 'booming' Uganda and the high urbanization rates? How to link to other sectors and (potential) big scale projects of themes? Infrastructure development is key to support and improve value chain opportunities. It is essential to find a NGO with practical implementation capacities.

