

# Changing Routes 2017

To explore solutions for crisis  
and disaster management

First annual meeting, World Refugee Day 2017



**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

20 June 2017, 13.00-17.00h, Gaia Building – Wageningen Campus

Droevendaalsesteeg 3, 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands

On World Refugee Day we organised the first annual meeting 'Changing routes'. During this meeting we explored the challenges ahead regarding crisis and disaster management and humanitarian assistance, from the perspective of water, food and environment.

Bringing together existing networks and building coalitions. An agenda towards possible routes in dealing with the present and future migrations streams, in which the environment plays a crucial role and provides opportunities for quality of life. Putting science into action and towards long lasting positive impact.

## Program

- 13.00 - 13.30h Welcome and registration
- 13.30 - 14.30h Opening and keynote speeches
- 14.30 - 15.00h Coffee break
- 15.00 - 15.45h Workshop sessions
- 15.45 - 16.30h Closing session
- 16.30 - 17.00h Network drink

## Background

In the past decade the number of people in need of protection and humanitarian assistance almost doubled. Displacement around the world due to sudden (natural) disasters and crises, but also due to slow on-set events, has reached record levels. The expectation is that in the next decades the numbers will increase even further, also because of the ongoing climate change and related extreme natural events. Many of them are hosted by developing countries. The question is whether existing systems and structures in emergency assistance and disaster relief, already often overstretched, are able to cope. Perhaps, even more than before, the relationship within the disaster cycle will become crucial.

The last few years many initiatives unfold to find answers on crucial questions that come with this changing world. Crises and disasters are strongly related to the environment. We believe strongly that the complex challenges related to migration will benefit from an integrated, holistic approach. Combining different fields of expertise, cross-cutting, and highly interactive collaboration on all levels. Regardless of sudden or slow onset situations, temporality or permanency, we would like to create mutual benefits and a lasting positive impact for the hosting communities, the displaced persons and donors. Valuing the humanitarian sector to face today's challenges, as well as future ones.

## Organising team

Marian Stuiver, *program leader*  
Bertram de Rooij, *researcher*  
Linda Hendriksen, *assistant*  
Francine Loos, *communications officer*

## Partners

Deltares, Relief Base 31, Universiteit Twente, Clingendael

## Plenary session

The meeting started with an appealing video message from Eric Corton:

*"Remember...it's all about people, dignity and opportunity for quality of life...anytime, everywhere."*

After a short introduction by Marian Stuiver key notes were given by different speakers.

### Key note Bram de Vos

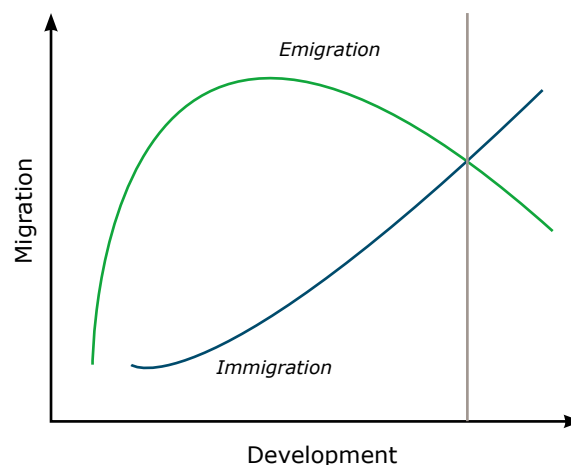
*Managing Director Wageningen Environmental Research*

- » It is important to share knowledge and face the problem of the migration with a holistic approach;
- » The UN have set the Sustainable Development Goals. An important one is orderly, safe and responsible migration.
- » Objective of the day: which solution can we bring and how can we work together?

### Key note Jelte van Wieren

*Director Stability & Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

- » Migration is an important worldwide issue, but there is a lot of confusion and misinterpretation about migration and migrants. Migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, all distinctive groups with different drivers to move and different needs and situations
- » The majority finds a place outside camps, in cities or informal settlements. It's very difficult to deal with the present scattered pattern of people, needs and aid
- » Migration is often a choice, even in crisis situations. Nevertheless, migration patterns are diffuse, many stay within their country (IDP's), some cross borders (refugees) and many times the stateless people are forgotten...but they also deserve attention. The figures
  - 21.3 Million refugees
  - 10 Million stateless people (not recognized by the government)
  - 65 Million Displaced people worldwide
- » Changing attitude: migrants are starting building their future where they are located because they know they will not be able to be back in their lands (refugee camps are getting their new homes)
- » Connectivity is the most important thing for the migrants
- » Most important things for migrants: education/work/connectivity
- » It's important to response to the myths. Yes, migration is increasing, but also the world population increases rapidly. So to call it an era of mass migration? Frankly, it's quite stable, proportionally. 1960-2000 the amount of migrants doubled but also the population grew. It means there is not a big growth of migrants. Media put more attention on them during the last years.
- » Migrants send money at home to develop their countries
- » 93% are legal immigrants
- » Trends:



» Mr. Van Wieren also stands for –a comprehensive, government-wide, integrated approach along entire migration chain. This is essential if we want to manage migration better and prevent irregular migration. Key elements are:

- Address root causes
- Improve prospects refugees and host communities
- Legal migration and mobility
- Strong EU cooperation on asylum system and border management
- Return
- Integration and participation

### **Key note Ehabiddean Jayyousi (via Skype from Jordan)**

*WASH coordinator IRD*

» Ehabiddean Jayyousi from IRD takes us on a journey across the Syrian border. As a WASH coordination he supports and manages coordinated cross border interventions with remote management and evaluation in Syria. The make full use of existing expertise and knowledge in the actual areas concerned.

» Water, sanitation and health are importance parameters to improve the quality of life.

» Water is an element of stabilization

» Zaatari camp: 79000 refugees

» UNHCR Sustainable development:

- Transport
- Greenery
- Recreation

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

*Student working in Za'atari for UNHCR/VNGi*

Hedzer Roodenburg: Za'atari refugee camp Jordan (Syrian refugees, since 2012, UNHCR, entering the development phase). Hedzer works for UNHCR, City of Amsterdam and VNG International on sustainable development of the camp. Inclusive urban planning on camp level, community-based projects, with an emphasize on greenery, transportation and public recreational space.

His current project, Emerging Public Space Project aims at a methodology to develop public space. The goals are self-reliance, liveability and wellbeing. It is highly community-driven, with a voluntary contribution, no fences or guards and starts with small (pilots).

Together with the communities he designed the different opportunities.

His lessons learned:

- » Utilise qualities of refugees
- » Learn from refugees and migrants
- » Make areas near conflict areas sustainable to avoid further migration

Together, Ehabiddean and Hedzer concluded with key notes:

Knowledge and action:

- » Stabilise areas around conflict areas
  - » Learn from the past
  - » Joint solutions: bring people together
- Livelihood
  - Climate change
  - WASH
  - Urban planning

- » Perhaps put up a Centre for Dialogue:
  - Neutral terrain
  - Dialogues backed up by knowledge
  - Define actions according to needs
- » What kind of new international coalitions need to be established to bring people together to find joint solutions and who should be involved?

## Workshop Innovation and connectivity

**Irna van de Molen**, *University of Twente & ReliefBase*

**Ingrid Boas**, *WUR*

**Agricultural engineer migrant** *coming from Syria (Damascus)*

The workshop started with an interview with a Syrian refugee who fled Syria in 2015 and now lives with his family in Wageningen. Important findings were that information during his journey has been crucial. He bought a smartphone before he left Syria for navigation purposes, to get in contact with these relatives abroad and to stay in touch with the family still in Syria. Two of his relatives already fled to Europe before him, and they provided him with crucial information during his trip regarding what to do and where to go. He hesitated to trust people other than his family, so mainly restricted himself to information exchange with his relatives in Europe and family at home.

To stay in touch, he bought different sim cards while changing countries or tried to get free Wi-Fi in case's or hotels. During his journey from Turkey to Greece he didn't have contact with his family for 24h. He did not receive or look for information from humanitarian agencies during his journey.

His key message is that it is important to know whether you can trust the information provided and the source. He considered Red Cross and UN as reliable sources, in case they would provide him with information. A concern is that communication might be monitored by the authorities: they can find migrants through GPS. He was also careful in communicating himself, as to avoid interference from criminal organizations who are involved in human trafficking and benefit from migration.

### **PRESENTATION: INFORMATION AND CONNECTIVITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

The 2016 UNHCR report "Connecting refugees", shows that more and more refugees get connected using basic phones or smart phones (UNHCR, 2016), but even so, not everyone has access. At international level, more efforts are made to improve connectiveness, including between humanitarian agencies, between refugees, and between refugees and humanitarian agencies.

### **Challenges**

- » The responsibility for connectivity should be added to the mandate of one or more UN organizations; at present it is in none of the mandates of the UN organizations
- » The International Community is aiming to arrive at a fully digitalized humanitarian sector in the years to come. How will this look like; how will this work; how does this interact with on the one hand ensuring privacy and on the other the trend towards greater surveillance?
- » Refugees are afraid that their communication may be used against them, either by authorities (from their country of origin, the chance of being granted asylum in their destination-country, or by criminal organizations). They should have access to safe communication
- » Develop a system to achieve accessibility, reliability of communication and availability of data
- » There are a lot of smaller initiatives related to connectivity, but it seems very difficult to scale this up. We have to think of ways in which we can scale-up successful innovations for connectivity
- » There is a divide between on the one hand the humanitarian sector that wants to increase accessibility, reliability and connectivity (taking privacy into account), and on the other hand the cybersecurity sector that wants to monitor, and restrict access on the other hand for security reasons. There should be debate and connection between these sectors to create awareness and to prevent that peoples' safety and connectivity is restricted due to technological measures.



- » ICT alone will not make refugees and migrants more connected. It is always embedded in wider social networks and community relations. It is important to understand these dynamics and therefore to engage with different forms of communication and information techniques and dynamics (ICT-based, non-ICT-based)

### **Actions**

Action plan for the theme boosting innovation and connectivity:

- » Creating conditions for ICT safety and reliability of connectivity for migrants: this requires involvement of ICT experts, humanitarian agencies, cybersecurity experts, expertise/knowledge on the ethics of emerging technology; as well as legal expertise on privacy
- » Develop ways to scale-up successful initiatives and innovations on an international level that contribute to refugees' (and IDPs) connectivity
- » Better engage the private sector. For example, mobile phone and internet providers or social media platforms have a lot of information and expertise, yet they are not sufficiently involved in the discussion how to improve connectivity for IDPs and refugees in the Netherlands. In other countries, like for instance Kenya, the private sector is actually leading these developments.
- » For the international community: include mandate for connectivity and ICT within the UN system or among the international community
- » Start a debate on the divide between demands from the cyber security sector and the needs from the humanitarian sector.

## Workshop Climate Change and migration

**Bas Bolman**, *Deltares*

**Louise van Schaik**, *Clingendael*

**Hester Biemans**, *Wageningen Environmental Research*

**Tim van Hattum**, *Wageningen Environmental Research*

### **Introduction**

Bas Bolman introduces the topic and explains the goal of the workshop:

- » To identify key knowledge question on the relation climate change and migration
- » To define joint action by the workshop participants

### **PRESENTATION: CLIMATE CHANGE, MIGRATION AND SECURITY: HYPE OR REALITY?**

*by Louise van Schaik, Clingendael*

Climate change is related to migration and security, but the relationships are highly contested and very much debated academically. It has been estimated that 200 – 300 million people may migrate due to climate change, but this number seems exaggerated. However, for many politicians the risk of large number of climate migrants, and potential security implications related to it is real enough to be worried. The topic will be addressed at the next Planetary Security Conference (12-13 December 2017, The Hague), cf. <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/> Louise addressed the following research topics in her presentation:

- » Strengthen evidence on climate-migration and security links (e.g. IPCC, etc)
- » From case studies to meta analysis & foresight
- » Overcome misunderstandings between disciplines & fears against "securitization"
- » Analyse (potential) contribution climate-related action to reducing migration & conflict risk
- » Investigate demand in affected territories (e.g. triple S initiative UNCCD)

### **PRESENTATION: WATER SHORTAGE, FOOD PRODUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

*by Hester Biemans, Wageningen Environmental Research*

Water availability, food production and climate change will have impact on migration. Climate change and population growth will have large impact on the availability of water for food production. The gap between current and potential yields is much larger for rainfed agriculture than for irrigated agriculture. Two third of the agriculture in the world is rainfed, which is more vulnerable for climate change. Climate change will influence rain patterns and have negative impact on food production in large parts of the world. Hester addressed the following research questions in her presentation:

- » Where is water shortage affecting agricultural production (“water yield gap”)?
- » Where does food production show high inter-annual variability (frequencies of bad harvest years)?
- » To what extent is food supply depending on import from outside the region? Or how important is export for economy?
- » Where can future food production requirements not be met sustainably because of climate change, land shortage, etc.
- » Where are big fractions of production depending on non-renewable water resources?
- » Will better water management help?

### **Knowledge questions**

In the interactive part of the workshop participants were asked to come up with key knowledge questions about the relationship between climate change and migration. These questions were clustered during the workshop resulting in the following topics:

#### *Data and future scenario’s*

- » How do we get all the data produced by knowledge institutes at the decision makers and implementers?
- » Is there a databank which contain main migration drivers for particular regions?
- » What forecast tools can we develop to be better able to respond to challenges ahead?
- » Are there scenario’s on levels of migration because of climate change?
- » Combine knowledge and tools (water, food production, political, cultural) to identify future hotspots
- » Better estimation of effects of climate change on number of migrants

#### *Food and crops*

- » How can we give advice to countries regarding the risks and opportunities for food security in target city/migration?
- » What is the economic and political will/potential for crop insurance systems to bridge hunger seasons and prevent long term loss of assets
- » Looking at food shortage and migration more knowledge is needed for alternative food items
- » How does international food trade affect food security and indirect migration?

#### *Water*

- » More insight in increased variability of rainfall in East Africa, reduced food production and migration
- » The ability to capture/store water varies greatly per country. Does improved water storage capacities diminish migration via food security (and how?)

#### *Governance*

- » Desirable adaptation. Are the policies in respective goals supportive to adaptation?
- » How can we involve local communities in addressing climate change issues that concern these local communities?
- » How do we deal with climate change in areas with weak governance? Can we find alternative counterparts?
- » We talk about financial incentives, but what about social incentives?
- » What governmental level is the best suited to deal with challenges such as climate change and food security? National governments/regional/local/cities?
- » In many communities the most vulnerable are not able to migrate (lack of capital, assets). How do we address this idea of vulnerability, climate change and migration?

#### *Solutions*

- » How can we work together with organisations/NGO/governments/institutes to build local/national capacity on improved water infrastructure/other solutions. For instance through national educational institutes
- » What are effective solutions to reduce water use on river basin scale?

### **Actions\***

During the workshop the participants defined the following joint actions:

1. Knowledge sharing: Many organisations are working on the issue of migration but it is important to combine knowledge and to joint forces by
  - a. Assessment of research uptake specifying data and infographics (Louise van Schaik, Clingendael)
  - b. Toolbox compilation on food security assessments of key target city-regions at different scales (Dirk Wascher, WEnR)
  - c. Gap analysis by means of a matrix of institutions/knowledge holders against data (Bas Bolman, Deltares)

2. Governance: Identify and study cases and best practices for adaptation strategies
3. Best Practice: Create a Community of Learning with knowledge institutes, NGO's, policy makers
4. Monitoring: Improve and mainstream assessments on the basis of real-time-data (Red Cross)

\* Initiative references are only indicative following the input and have not been confirmed by explicit statements.

## Workshop Hosting refugees

**Bertram de Rooij**, Wageningen University & Research

**Alexander Heijnen**, Reliefbase

**Irna van der Molen**, University of Twente & Reliefbase

**Jaap Graber**, Plan Modules

**Hans van der Made**, Gemeente Amsterdam

### Introduction

In the workshop Hosting Refugees the participants were challenged to flip-think the design, development and evolution of new and existing (semi)temporary settlements to host refugees. Working on safe, secure and sustainable temporary settlements, embedded in their natural and social environment with a positive long-lasting impact. Changing the perception from burden to opportunity. Implementing nature-based solutions and environmental, sustainable design principles and techniques. Forward thinking in emergency phase, implementing adopted to the specific situation and last but not least shared understanding, co-creation and co-ownership.

The objective of the workshop was to come to the first outlines towards a shared proposition and actions to address, develop and implement.

The workshop started with an introductory presentation by Bertram de Rooij (Wageningen University & Research).

### PRESENTATION HOSTING REFUGEES

by Bertram de Rooij, Wageningen University & Research

To set the mind set direct on the existing role of the environment in the way refugees are hosted, in camps –the most recognizable form, in urban areas –cities and slumps or more informal settlements, two statements are mentioned.

The first, quoting Ray Wilkinson in 2002:

*"Environmental projects are often still regarded as 'luxuries' to be implemented only when more urgent matters are attended to..."*

*Ray Wilkinson, A critical time for refugees and their environment, UNHCR 2002*

When showing different situations in refugee camps, regarding heat stress, dust problems, mud and floodings, as such the serious harsh environmental conditions and poor public space, the bridge to the second statement is quite clear. In his article, published in december 2016, Andrew Harper noted:

***"The green refugee camps we envision contribute to a wider environmental strategy, rather than degrading it. The key to achieving this vision is to understand and support the vision of host governments for how refugees can fit into their national environmental policies. (...) We need to find ways to allow everyone to recognize that coordinated, serious actions for protecting the environment provide win-win opportunities to meet everyone's needs now and into the future. (...), thus linking environmental and energy issues with livelihoods and community resilience."***

*Andrew Harper, Head Innovation UNHCR, A critical time for refugees and their environment (again), december 2016*

It is clear that the meaning and value of an integrated approach with environmental measures, not only on the protective side, but especially in a constructive, enabling way, could add value and improve the quality of life for refugees and their hosting communities. Nevertheless, the world is still struggling to address this correctly and open the way to actual (large scale) implementation. Recent research show that different pilots are carried out, but mostly don't come to structural design or implementation, yet.



In the presentation some key issues were addressed:

- » The enabling role of the environment is relevant in all situations, from informal to formal camps and in slumps and cities. In all circumstances don't call upon fixed designs, principles/layout or blueprints, which often nowadays is common practice (based on handbook UNHCR), but build in flexibility and be prepared for the different timeframes of a development: emergency response with forward thinking.
- » Every situation is unique. Use its context (environmental and societal) properly. In the contextual situation the best win-win-opportunities are gained, in quality of life, acceptance, integration and in value-creation. It's about a shared understanding between the refugees or IDPS and their hosting communities on the situation, the needs and the desires from both sides. Working on mutual benefits. Enabling the environment is not about greening as such, but about the purpose of green-blue solutions in order to achieve better living conditions, health, income generation, empowerment and safety.
- » The House of Hope (Common Effort) mentions the opportunities from the environment to benefit basic needs, education and infrastructure. To achieve this it should be based on trust (Inclusiveness, Transparency, Reliability, Cultural Sensitivity, Communication) and supported by the three main acting groups (IDPs/Refugees, UN/NGO's and host communities/governments).

In the second part of the presentation Jaap Graber mentions the importance on thinking and working on different levels (at the same time): strategic, tactical and operational. Activities should not only focus on a long term vision and scenarios, but meanwhile also work and improve existing work. Combining and improving long term and short term, with the help of a design approach.

Hans van der Made stresses out the importance of structural value and end value, as well as the importance of bringing in professionals on planning and techniques. A pro-active and supportive role, and a need for time to think and tailored tools in the emergency phase to prevent no regret measures.

There is a mismatch between humanitarian response and development aid. It's important to be prepared and have some clear guidelines to support fast considerations on possible scenarios and the best fitted and flexible layout/structure to start.

Finally, Bertram de Rooij concludes that the objective and ambition is to start bringing in the Dutch Approach, already famous from Delta management) into the world of humanitarian actions and especially in the challenges for hosting refugees with an enabling environment. An invitation is given to enrich the challenges with experiences and views and to see how make a shared proposition or actions to bring this to the next level –actual practice, policy and politics.

### **Guiding principles**

The group couldn't agree more on the envisioned approach and added value. It's not new, but an overall approach taking into account different important aspects could open opportunities towards actual step forward. To achieve this some guiding principles are addressed that should be incorporated.

- » It's all about politics!  
*How to sensitize governments? And open their view to added value and to take/support actions?*
- » It's all about empowerment  
*A full and active involvement of the refugees, IDP's and hosting communities is essential. To be successful it's important to create ownership from the beginning. Actions have to lead to education, employment and better living conditions in general. And frankly, many of refugees and idp's at stake have good knowledge.*
- » It's all about bringing together the informal and formal  
*There is a huge difference between the formal actions and developments and the actual informal planning and activities inside camps, cities and regions. It's critical not to block the informal actions, because much is generated from actual needs and involvement. The best actions combine the formal and the informal in a strong bond. Flexible planning techniques will facilitate this.*
- » It's all about impact and addressing opportunities  
*In vision and action it the local constraints should be carefully acknowledged. Take in full account the actual competition on resources, local markets and employment/job opportunities, in the short term and the long term. This should be clearly addressed in possible strategies and actions. Much of the present constraints and cautious actions in enabling the environment are related to these possible impacts.*

## Possible actions

- » Sensitizing politics
  - Address evidence-based opportunities from environmental perspective with the short term and long term impact for:*
    - the international community
    - donors
    - hosting countries
    - at different levels
- » Setup Dialogue and design centre
  - community-based support groups (co-creation)
  - design support team
  - supportive knowledge groups and professionals
  - learning by doing! Action-based
- » Develop and use services provided by local communities for refugees and idp's:  
*from camp management to management in the region*
- » Build up local expertise and local ownership (localisation)
- » Work context specific and cultural engaged: cities, camps and informal settlements
- » Bridge the gap between the practice and the available main stream expertise and state-of-the-art knowledge
  - overview of knowledge already ready for uptake
  - support in forward thinking in emergencies (planning)
  - flexible basis infrastructure
  - coordinated actions

## Concluding plenary

- » It is necessary to start actions, and for instance integrate it with subject of food scarcity
- » There is not a complete story: it's necessary to be more prepared and having more data Look at the longer perspective; scenarios and strategies! Evidence-based actions are needed.
- » Make new connections between: municipality/academia/private actors and focus on the implementation of the projects
- » Bring knowledge together in a concrete situation; perhaps starting at hotspots and scaling up
- » Final words: new environment, new expectations...see you next year, hopefully with new projects on the way!

## Our Partners



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