In brief

In view of the fact that migrant workers and refugees face similar challenges (e.g., crossing borders, facing discrimination in the receiving/host country, experiencing exclusion and limited enjoyment of rights, and the threat of detention and deportation), both the UN and the civil society have increasingly resorted to common approaches and solutions to enhance the protection of these different groups. Based on ARDD’s research and experience, and having consulted the Migrant Workers Committee1 the brief proposes six recommendations that could help guarantee a safe and dignified life for all concerned:

1) Invest in quality data gathering through targeted regional research, particularly on borders, to identify: (a) the main challenges refugees and migrant workers face across the region and (b) the main alternative to voluntary or involuntary migration, which could save lives.

2) Make sure that legal aid provides full information about solutions for both migrants and refugees, and those migrants and refugees are not discriminated against on any ground.

3) Raise awareness about the circumstances that push people to move and align responses with international legal obligations. Forced migrants should always be granted asylum, as a basis for durable solutions: (1) voluntary repatriation under the supervision of pertinent agencies, to ensure refugees’ or migrants’ protection, (2) local inclusion with an emphasis on social cohesion; (3) resettlement to places where the refugee can reestablish him/herself.

4) Establish a task force for Arab countries to prioritize regional discussions on how to ensure that the Mediterranean Sea returns to being a place that saves lives, not causes death. For it, Arab countries (and not only those bordering the Mediterranean Sea) should engage with European countries on:
   a. integrated, humane, and coordinated management of borders,
   b. effective prevention and response to the smuggling of migrants and refugees, and trafficking.

5) Promote partnerships among government authorities, the private sector, banks and development organizations, civil society, donors, and the UN, to:
   a. promote social cohesion of migrant workers and their effective protection (by enabling communication in different languages, securing recourse mechanisms, etc.),
   b. support sustainable income-generating projects for migrants/refugees in host countries,
   c. create conditions for migrants and diasporas to contribute to sustainable development in receiving/host country, but also to access fast, safe, and convenient transfer of remittances,

6) Hold all stakeholders accountable, to help maintain the legal status of refugees/migrants during their life journey away from their home/country of origin.

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1 This committee, including 30 representatives of various non-national (migrant worker and refugee) communities in Jordan, is set up and supported through the ARDD’s Haquna project.
**Solutions: ‘uncommon’ commonalities for migrant workers and refugees**

While not recognized as refugees, many migrants are forced to move due to difficult situations in their countries, brought about by conflict, natural disasters, adverse climate impact, environmental degradation (i.e., desertification, heavy pollution, land degradation, drought, and sea level rise) as well as lack of opportunities. In recent years, the growingly common challenges and fate encountered by refugees and migrant workers (e.g., risk of death while crossing borders, discrimination, deprivation of rights, the threat of detention and/or deportation) have led human rights activists and organizations to try to seek common approaches and solutions to the problem.

ARDDD has been advising governments and vulnerable groups on what could work as solutions to the plight of refugees and migrant workers. Based on its experience, ARDDD recommends investing in the following actionable recommendations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1-</th>
<th>Invest in quality data gathering through targeted regional research, particularly on borders (crossed by refugees and migrant workers), to identify (a) the main challenges faced by them across the region and (b) the main alternative to voluntary or forced migration that could help save lives.</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-</td>
<td>Make sure that legal aid provides full information about solutions for both migrants and refugees, and those migrants and refugees are not discriminated against on any ground.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-</td>
<td>Raise awareness about the circumstances that push people to move across the region and beyond. Forced migrants should be granted asylum as a basis for durable solutions: (1) voluntary repatriation under the supervision of pertinent agencies to ensure the protection of migrants, (2) social cohesion in the host country (which should always be a goal); and eventually local inclusion or resettlement.</td>
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<td>4-</td>
<td>Advocate for Arab states to hold regional discussions on how to ensure that the Mediterranean Sea returns to being a place that saves lives, not causes death. This should be reinforced by the pursuit of (1) integrated, humane, and coordinated management of borders, (2) effective prevention of and response to the smuggling and trafficking of migrants and refugees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-</td>
<td>Promote partnership among government authorities, private sector, banks, development organizations, civil society, donors and the UN to: (1) promote greater inclusion of migrant workers and their effective protection (by enabling communication in different languages, securing appeal mechanisms, etc.), (2) support sustainable income-generating projects for migrants/refugees in host countries; (3) create conditions for migrants and diasporas, as well as refugees, to contribute to sustainable development in receiving/host country, but also access to fast, safe and convenient transfer of remittances (for migrants).</td>
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<td>All stakeholders should be held accountable, to help maintain the legal status of refugees/migrants during their life journey away from their home/country of origin.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Advancing Haquna (Our rights)**

In the context of the joint Haquna initiative, ARDD and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Palestine and Jordan (HBS) promote means that guarantee respect for the rights of migrant workers and refugees and raise awareness about ways to improve their living conditions to give rise to peaceful societies.

**Disclaimer**

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