



Exploring Early Warning Early Action in conflict and mass migration settings

The Philippines

Early Action amidst conflict

Repeated clashes between the government and non-state armed groups restrain farmers in Mindanao, where natural hazards are also a commonplace. Once conflict occurs, residents often have no choice but to flee to safer areas



From August to December 2018, drought warnings became strong, so FAO acted quickly to protect vulnerable rice farmers

The project



In February 2019, violence and displacement spiked in the area, affecting a number of families assisted by FAO. Rice farmers could no longer access their land



Early Action activities are adapted to the situation. The focus shifts from safeguarding rice production to building alternative livelihoods

Early Actions



Cash for work

Farmers earned money to cover immediate needs by clearing irrigation canals in safe areas



Household gardens

Women's groups built vegetable gardens for cooking and extra income. Whenever it was safe, women would leave the evacuation sites to water and harvest



Duck farming

Distributions of ducks gave families a steady supply of fresh eggs to eat and sell. Farmers jointly reared flocks in community gardens in safe areas

Benefits



Less stress over losing income and food source



Extra income from selling vegetables and eggs



Money for school fees



Increase in women supporting their families

Colombia

Mitigating mass migration impacts

Venezuela's deep economic crisis has sent millions across borders in search of safety and food. At least 1.4 million migrants have settled in Colombia, where rural communities struggle to support large numbers in the midst of a drought



In June 2018, an on-the-ground needs assessment raised concerns about the effects of migrants and returnees on food security in La Guajira



From July to September 2018, weather forecasts highlighted a potential drought affecting the upcoming cropping season

The project



Early warnings pointed toward a marked deterioration of food security in border areas – the average increase in household size was by 4 people and crop production decreased



Early action was needed to protect families' livelihoods and put them in a better position to support themselves through the crisis

Early Actions



Rehabilitated water systems

For both agricultural and basic household activities to cater for growing families



Community Production Centres

Families received a variety of short-cycle crop seeds to produce nutritious food



Animal health campaigns

Treated sick animals and gave them the necessary provisions to keep them fit and productive

Benefits



Improved relationships between host communities and migrant/returnee populations



Families are more resilient against shocks



Knowledge transfers to neighbouring communities



More diverse and healthier diets

