**Introduction**

Migration is motivated by a complex set of reasons: economic and social incentives, and conflict and political instability play an important role. In line with its mandate, the World Food Programme (WFP) plays a role in tackling adverse drivers of forced migration, including food insecurity, natural disasters and violent conflict. WFP supports The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and its UN-led Network on Migration. Regardless of whether it is international or rural-to-urban, migration should always be a free choice. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the world’s so-called “migrants” are people who have been forced to abandon their place of origin as a result of serious economic hardship, food insecurity, climate change and, above all, conflict.

**Hunger and Migration**

Food insecurity is both a driver and a consequence of migration. Hunger is a persistent danger that threatens the lives of large numbers of forcibly displaced people and influences their decisions about when and where to move. Evidence indicates that for every 1 percent increase in hunger there is a 2 percent increase in people fleeing their country to seek refuge elsewhere. The relationship between food security and migration can be direct, when people do not see viable options other than migrating to escape hunger or indirect as a strategy by households to cope with income uncertainties and food insecurity risks.

**Examples of WFP’s Support**

For more than forty years, WFP has been providing food assistance to refugees and displaced persons across the globe. Food and nutrition assistance supports gender-sensitive protection outcomes and prevents vulnerable people from seeking negative coping mechanisms. The below two examples are designed to illustrate the kind of assistance WFP is undertaking in support of Resolution A/RES/72/179 and is by no means inclusive of all of the support WFP provides to displaced persons.

**Example 1: Venezuela Crisis**

From April 2018 to December 2019, WFP has provided emergency food assistance to 1.59 million people in seven departments of Colombia. WFP’s assistance is focused on bordering areas where needs are direst (Arauca, Cesar La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Nariño), however WFP also expanded school feeding assistance to other non-bordering departments with a high enrolment rate of migrant children. WFP and its partners have provided hot meals in community kitchens for migrants in transit and those regularly commuting between Colombia and Venezuela; food kits for walking migrants in strategic pick-up points throughout their journey; unconditional food vouchers for migrants with the intention to stay, which can be redeemed for nutritious foods in local shops; and school feeding, which besides providing nutritious meals, also looks forward to promoting the effective integration of migrant children to their host communities through a behaviour change communications strategy to be implemented in 2020.

Since January 2018, WFP has also provided food assistance to 406.000 vulnerable migrants (90.5% Venezuelan) in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Carchi, Imbabura, Sucumbíos, Pichincha, Santo Domingo, Manabí, Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Los Ríos, Chimborazo, Guayas, El Oro and Azuay (Ecuador).

**Example 2: Rohingya / Bangladesh**

As of December 2019, WFP continues to assist approximately 880,000 displaced people with General Food Assistance through a combination of an electronic voucher (e-voucher) and in-kind assistance. Around 60 percent of those WFP serves receive an e-voucher that is redeemed through 14 outlets and 8 retailers. E-vouchers not only empower people with the choice to secure their essential needs in local markets, but also helps boost the viability of local markets. Evaluation findings show how that e-vouchers and other cash transfers empower vulnerable households and that this can improve their food security and overall wellbeing. In turn WFP’s use of e-vouchers is also mindful of protection concerns and accountability to affected populations. In 2019 Approximately $54 million was transferred to WFP beneficiaries through e-vouchers—representing a 122% increase on the previous year.

**Example 3: Libya**

As part of the joint initiative among four UN agencies (IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP) WFP, under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), is providing emergency food assistance to displaced families in and around Tripoli. In November 2019, WFP through IOM’s Migrant Resource and Relief Mechanism (MRRM), distributed Ready-to-Eat (RTE) food rations (composed of canned fish, canned beans, canned hummus, halawa and date bars) and reached 4,800 migrants and refugees in urban areas. The project enhances social cohesion and supports the local economy, as the RTE canned food basket to migrants is locally procured and includes some locally produced items.

**Conclusion**

WFP welcomes the opportunity to provide inputs on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/179. WFP would also like to take this opportunity to call for renewed efforts to tackle the adverse drivers of migration in those parts of the world that account for the largest outflows. This will involve making greater investments into rural development along with other forms of international cooperation and engagement with private sector to promote climate change adaptation and find lasting solutions to conflict and hunger.