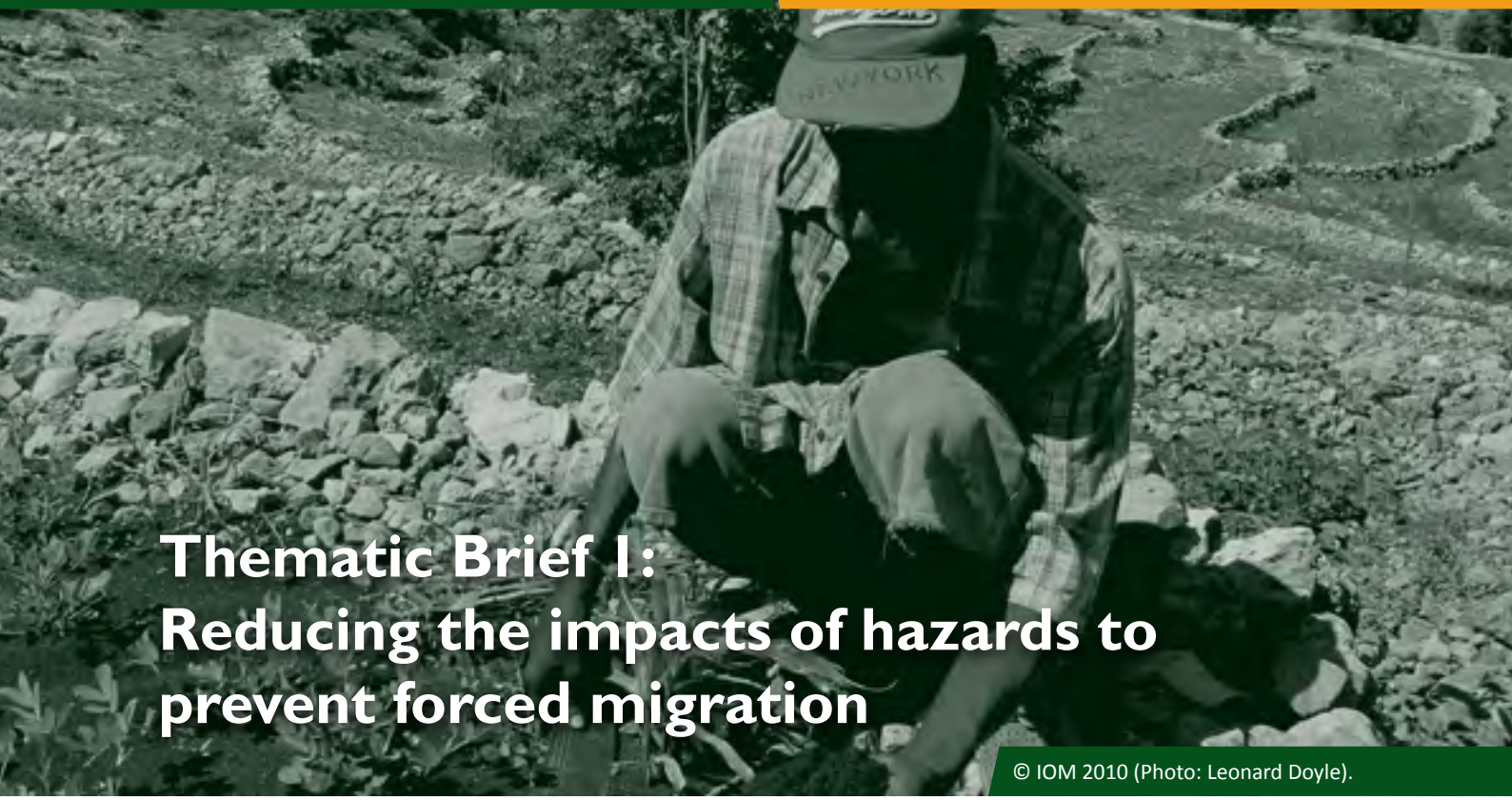

Thematic Brief 1: Reducing the impacts of hazards to prevent forced migration

Reducing the impacts of environmental changes and shocks and enhancing the well-being of people exposed to hazards can go a long way in tackling *in situ* migration pressures. Impact reduction helps prevent forced migration, thereby reducing the risks associated with mobility.

Actions

- Assess the risks (including the risk of displacement as a consequence of environmental shock) in order to inform risk reduction actions. *Example: Haiti*.
- Secure and multiply access to resources (e.g. water, food, employment opportunities and safe shelter), to make sure people have sustainable alternatives to migration. (See thematic brief 16.)
- Reduce the frequency and magnitude of hazards through engineered and natural infrastructure such as slope stabilization works, reforestation and wetland restoration. *Example: Haiti*.
- Reduce the impacts of hazards on buildings and infrastructure, by adopting and implementing hazard-resistant construction standards. *Examples: Haiti and the Philippines*.
- Improve the at risk population's understanding of disaster risks by promoting public awareness campaigns and including risk information in school curricula. *Examples: Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands*.
- Redistribute disaster losses by implementing disaster insurance schemes.
- Modify the population's geographic distribution – to reduce its exposure to hazards – through land use planning and relocation measures. (See thematic briefs 2 and 15.)
- Consider the present and future effects of environmental change and implement a climate-smart DRR programme, to ensure that hazard prevention and mitigation measures will be effective in the long term. *Examples: Egypt and Mauritius*.

CASE STUDY 1: Preventing forced migration in Haiti

The mitigation intervention programmes that IOM carries out in Haiti focus on reducing the risk from hazards faced by the local population, particularly in urban communities and rural areas surrounding IDP (internally displaced person) settlements. All activities are carried out in collaboration with the Civil Defence Direction and with local authorities at the commune and neighbourhood levels.

Most of Haiti's recurrent disasters are caused by hydro-meteorological events associated with storms and hurricanes. Therefore, the DRR intervention that IOM has developed for the country focuses on structural and non-structural measures that prevent and mitigate hazards, for example, by building flood and landslide mitigation structures, enhancing water drainage, reforesting slopes and promoting sustainable watershed management. Beginning in 2010, the Organization has constructed 187,748 metres of stone check dams, excavated 322,988 metres of contour canals and micro-basins, planted 1,392,725 trees and constructed or rehabilitated 157,099 metres of drainage canals.

In close coordination with the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communication, IOM Haiti is also executing soil conservation projects. These labour-intensive cash-for-work projects employ IDPs who fled Port-au-Prince following the 2011 earthquake. By stabilizing slopes with a number of micro-interventions, the IDPs build infrastructure that will reduce flooding for many decades to come.

In order to support the hazard mitigation intervention, IOM has started to systematically map risks at the community level. The local DRR team created a methodology combining field-level and remote sensing data, with inputs from community members, to create community risk maps. As of this writing, work on the pilot study in Cité Soleil has been completed.