

International Migration and Development: Linked, but how?

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“Migration is one of the tools we have to help put more of the world’s people on the right side of -- and ultimately, to eliminate – the vast divides that exist today between poor and rich, and between fettered and free.”

-Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General



Objectives

- Introduction-State of knowledge
- Major Issues in the Migration/Development Nexus
- Policy Implications
- Discussion



International migrants: Where are they?

| | 1960 | 2000 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Global | 76 million 2.5% of population | 175 million 2.9% of population |
| Developed Countries | 4% of population 42% of migrants | 8% of population 63% of migrants |
| Developing Countries | 2% of population 58% of migrants | 1% of population 37% of migrants |
| Africa | 3% of population 11.8% of migrants | 2% of population 9.3% of migrants |



Source: UN Population Division



Who are they?

- Compare to 35 million *internally* displaced persons (IDPs)
- 16.6 million refugees
- Uneven distribution of refugees
- Uneven distribution by gender
- The poorest rarely migrate inter-regionally
- Education matters



Developing Country Immigrant Admissions by Category of Admission, 2001.

| | Workers | Family Reunification | Refugees |
|----------------|---------|-------------------------|----------|
| United States | 19% | 70% | 11% |
| Australia | 55% | 33% | 12% |
| Canada | 26% | 62% | 12% |
| United Kingdom | 54% | 35% | 11% |
| Sweden | 2% | 65% | 33% |



Source: OECD, SOPEMI, 2003.

Does development cause migration?

- Higher incomes
- Skill/education sets
- Structural adjustment
- Population change
- Environmental degradation
- Development projects



Environmental Degradation and Migration

- Not reliably measured/defined
- Population growth is implicated
- Largely internal and regional
- Not necessarily most vulnerable people
- Causality not clear
- “Environmental refugees” are not protected by international law



Top Causes of Development-Induced Displacement

(W. Courtland Robinson, Johns Hopkins University)

1. Water supply (dams, reservoirs, irrigation)
2. Urban infrastructure
3. Transportation (roads, highways, canals)
4. Energy (mining, power plants, oil exploration and extraction, pipelines)
5. Agricultural expansion
6. Parks and forest reserves
7. Population redistribution schemes

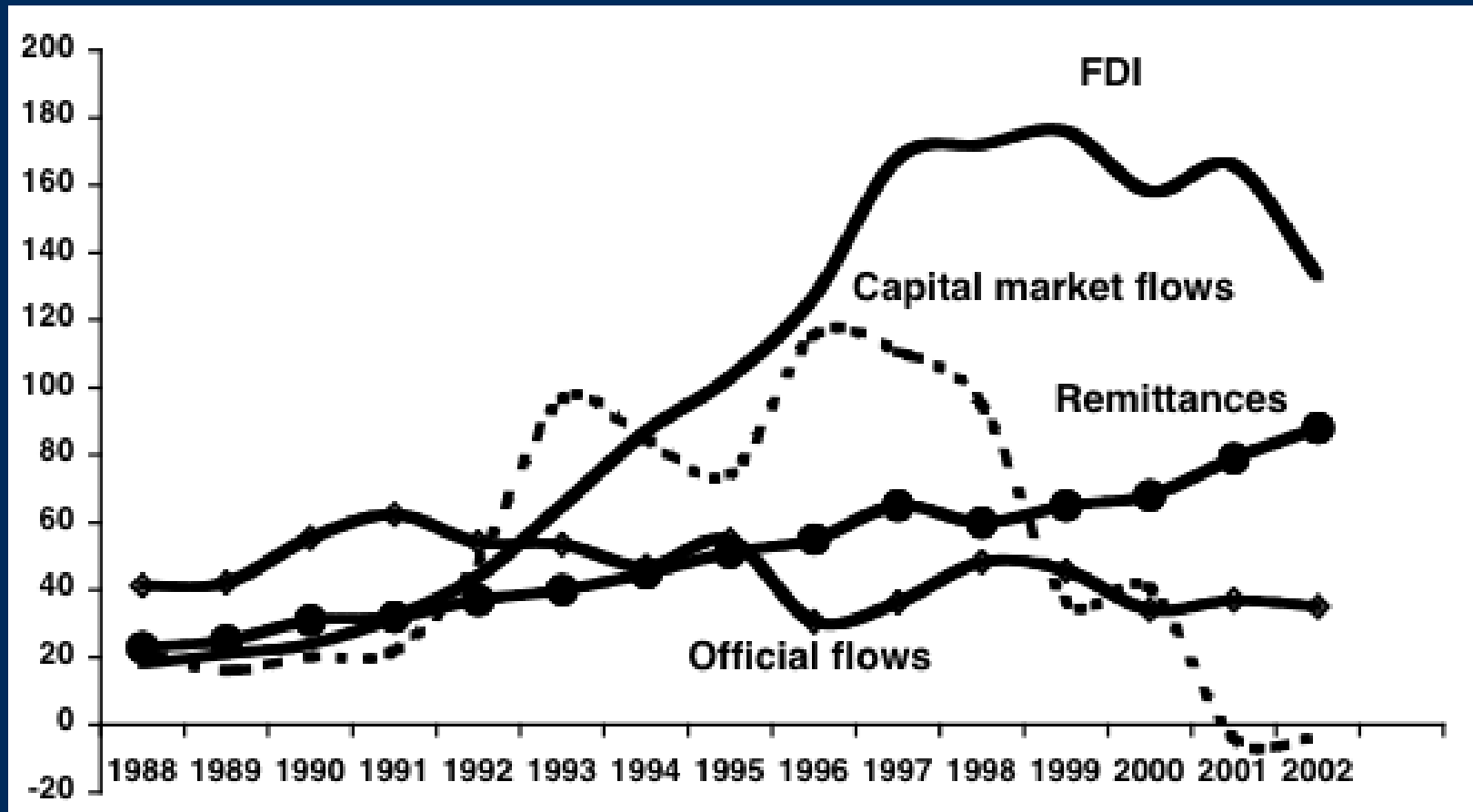


How does migration affect development?

- Remittances
- Return migration
- Philanthropy
- Social capital
- Education
- Brain drain and gain
- Family, health and social stresses
- Cultural and social change



Resource Flows to Developing Countries (Billions of Dollars)



Reproduced from Dilip Ratha, "Understanding the Importance of Remittances, *Migration Information Source*, October 2004.



Top “Remittance Dependent” Countries, 2001

Remittances, Per capita
as % of GDP Remittances, US\$

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|--------|
| 1. Lesotho | 26.2 | 112.80 |
| 2. Vanuatu | 25.0 | 276.14 |
| 3. Jordan | 22.8 | 390.23 |
| 4. Bosnia-Herzegovina | 18.0 | 219.29 |
| 5. Albania | 17.0 | 199.12 |
| 6. Nicaragua | 16.2 | 68.25 |
| 7. Yemen | 15.7 | 82.21 |
| 8. Moldova | 15.1 | 50.34 |
| 9. El Salvador | 14.0 | 308.64 |
| 10. Jamaica | 13.6 | 397.17 |



Source: IMF, *Balance of Payments Yearbook 2003*



Remittances

- Go both ways
- Play credit and insurance functions
- Generally, used for same purposes as other income: debt maintenance, housing, consumer durables, everyday expenses, education and health care.
- Efforts to “channel to productive investment” meet mixed success
- Vary over time
- Countercyclical?
- Can have negative effects
- Transmission methods and costs vary



Migration and Development: Thoughts on Policy

- Migration-related policies work best as a complement to good development policy.
Examples:
 - Remittance bonds
 - Emphasis on basic education over advanced
 - Formalization of financial markets
- Efforts to reach out to diaspora **may** yield benefits
- Return programs have generally not been successful



Thoughts on Policy (cont.)

- Remittances
 - Clarification of regulations can cut costs, encourage formalization
 - Continue to use remittances as “lure” to other financial services
 - Creativity in establishing credit, new financial products
 - Take into account **all** household income streams/investments in setting policy



Thoughts on Policy (cont.)

- **The Brain Drain**

- Acknowledge potential benefits of a “brain export” industry

- Examine public spending on education. Private financing is preferred where migration is a possibility

- Reconsider curricular priorities

- More creative financing of education



Thoughts on Policy (cont.)

- The politics of migration and development are a double-edged sword
- Further research needs:
 - Collaboration between migration, development researchers/practitioners
 - Treat international/regional/internal migration together
 - Closer interaction with financial, legal worlds
 - Development of assessment tools



Discussion

- Evidence/experience on marginal lands/environmental degradation and migration
- Further lessons from internal migration



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