

Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning

‘Assessing the Evidence, Continuing the Dialogue’

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Sir Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Migration and Development,
Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM),
Mr. Donald Kerwin, Executive Director of the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS),
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ambassadors,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Human mobility is now largely considered as an important complementary strategy for human development through the expansion of people’s capabilities and choices. Substantive research supports the premise that migrants in general, and migrant workers in particular, as well as countries and regions can gain substantially from mobility if certain preconditions are met. This is acknowledged through a larger consideration of such movements between the South and the North, and it is the case in the international, regional and national debates which progressively consider South-South mobility as a key factor to human and economic development. Contrary to public perception, movements among countries in the South account for almost every third international migrant. If internal mobility is taken into consideration, migration in the South largely outnumbers South-North movements that still dominate debates and policy frameworks.

Intra- and to a certain extent inter-regional South-South migration trends are rapidly evolving, both in terms of numbers of migrants and countries of origin, transit and destination. Chinese and Indians have long been present in Africa. Over the past years African migrants are also increasingly moving to China and Latin America and the Caribbean. This complex phenomenon is linked to a combination of factors, which makes it difficult to foresee the future prospects of such a global, complex and relatively recent phenomenon. However, migration flows are not static and economic, social and cultural bonds among developing countries are likely to increase further in the next decades. For this reason, alternative and inter-regional South-South migratory flows are expected to develop further and consolidate.

Mainstreaming our understanding of the intrinsic interrelationships between migration and human development is essentially through the refinement of our research tools and methodologies for developing policies in the field of migration. However, how can we expect to do this if large research gaps on South-South mobility still exist, in terms of capacity and quality, and between researchers and policy-makers in developed and developing countries?

At the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration, we focus on commissioning studies and capacity-building actions facilitating ACP countries to commensurate and gain from these movements. We believe that in order to explore and analyze South-South migration, national researchers need to develop direct bonds with policy-makers and take on an advising role to Governments. Moreover, an inclusive approach towards migration research provides us with new insights and promotes the creation of knowledge for policy development based on South-South migration trends and frameworks, which may differ substantially from those in the North. We therefore commissioned four ground-breaking studies to analyze the impact of South-South mobility on human development in Tanzania, Cameroun, Trinidad & Tobago and Papua New Guinea, whose first results from Tanzania will be available soon.

Since the establishment of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration in October 2010, one of our key goals has been to mainstream knowledge on South-South migration trends in ACP countries through the dissemination of data and the promotion of knowledge-based policy development enhancing the needs for mainstreaming migration into development policies.

This has been achieved through the preparation of various tools. Allow me to cite some of them as models for better contributing to South-South migration management:

1. Regional and national overviews on South-South migration and development trends and research and capacity gaps have been shared with countries, presenting the main migration stocks, trends and research needs;
2. A large compendium of relevant cross-cutting, regional and national studies concerning migration and ACP countries has been developed for making information accessible to researchers, civil society and Government officials. This allows greater accessibility to anyone interested in the subject, further promoting the dissemination of valuable information, with the aim to bridge any knowledge gaps;
3. We have also foreseen the publication of a series of Policy Briefs and recommendations, in French, English and Portuguese, on specific topics of relevance such as: the South-South diaspora engagement into human development of their countries; remittances flows in ACP countries; the relationships between the environment, climate change and migration in ACP Countries; migration of girls as well as transnational families and the social impact and gender dimension of migration in the South; to cite a few.

It is now recognized that financial remittances can boost household income in countries and contribute significantly to poverty reduction. However, the impact of migration on development is not limited to an increase in income. Other aspects, such as education, health and women's roles must be analyzed. Impacts can be direct or indirect, simple or composite, and it is difficult

to establish an exhaustive list and commonly accepted list of indicators which would measure such impacts.

Preliminary assessments on existing research gaps, conducted by the ACP Observatory in collaboration with national counterparts in various ACP countries and regions, revealed the need for a set of tailor-made indicators to measure the specific impacts South-South migration has on development. In response to this lack, and in order to better assess, monitor and evaluate the impact of migration and development, the Observatory has developed a set of indicators for impact measurement which builds upon the existing impacts inventory developed by the Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr), a member of the Observatory's Academic Advisory Board.

This new tool gathers 48 indicators, all falling within eight different categories, namely:

- (i) Those measuring **economic** growth and assets, for example migrant's wage differentials before and after migration, remittance levels through time, employment levels in both origin and destination countries, investment rates, demographic aspects, levels of trade and consumption, and foreign exchange rates, for example ;
- (ii) Another important category is the one which encompasses the **educational** impacts of migration on development, measuring for example educational levels and achievements of migrants. This entails a comparison during the entire migration process, as well as an evaluation of the education policy in the country of origin, the degree of provision of private education, availability of teachers, and an assessment of the quality of education;
- (iii) The '**health**' category includes indicators which measure the provision and quality of health services in countries of origin, and specifically assesses the health policy, the degree of provision of private healthcare, the availability of health professionals and healthcare quality;
- (iv) Within the category of '**gender**', we have included indicators which measure the impacts of female migrants and women in a migrant-yielding household, measuring, for example, their income levels, their education levels, the involvement of migrant women into the decision-process, as well as those stayed behind in terms of their access to financial resources, changes in expectations and degree of autonomy. Gender roles are also assessed in terms of changes in perceptions or in the sexual division of labour at both a household and societal levels;
- (v) Another category measures changes at the **societal level** as a whole as a consequence of migration, for instance changing values in terms of traditional culture and norms, and changing family structures;
- (vi) The category of '**Governance and Human Rights**' measures impacts migration may have upon governance in countries of origin, such as the degree of promotion and protection of human rights , the trust citizens have in their Governments and society, relative power among groups within the society, or the degree of criminality;
- (vii) The seventh category deals with the impacts of migration on the **environment**; for instance the degree of environmental protection measured through changes in behaviour and individual actions, the adoption of new technologies, the degree to which migration is influenced by environmental change, etc. ;

- (viii) Finally, the last category encompasses all indicators which measure the ‘**social transfers**’ which take place as part of the migration process, in terms of what many academics have coined as ‘social remittances’. This includes for instance the transfer of knowledge, know-how as well as values and practices. This indicator also measures the degree of social involvement of the diasporas in their home countries, in terms of tourism as well as collective remittances to support certain activities and initiatives.

These indicators will be pilot-tested with the new datasets of our four impact studies and be used as a basis for the analysis.

In order for researchers and policy-makers from the one end to understand and work together with those on the other end, common grounds must be set in place. Our experience working with researchers in ACP countries has led us to acknowledge the importance of common understanding in terms of basic definitions, research methodologies, research tools and ethical principles. In response I am proud to say that after much work and preparation, we were able to publish our own comprehensive Research Guide for all the research conducted by or on behalf of the ACP Observatory. Its aims at guaranteeing common and harmonized approaches in policy-oriented studies through the promotion of a common understanding of concepts and the respect of internationally agreed definitions, as well as an emphasis on context-specific research needs, recommendations and the provision of good practice examples of research methodologies. This research guide aims to inspire the preparation of high quality studies which can effectively contribute to a deeper understanding of South-South migration trends and processes in ACP countries. Among others, we developed a definition for diasporas tailored to the ACP context, one on informal remittances which represent the largest share of transfers in the South and also included new concepts, such as cyber diasporas.

Finally, through the launch of capacity-building activities in ACP countries, the Observatory aims to train ACP researchers in using these tools to assess the development impact on migration in a coherent way, which can allow comparability among studies and provide concrete recommendations both for policy-makers as well as for future research in the area.

Thank you for your kind attention.

For more information please contact us:

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