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THE EFFECT OF MIGRATION ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Migration is a decision that impacts the welfare of the household, the home community, and in the end the whole economy in various ways. The welfare implications of migration on the origin country are most often, though not always, sizable and positive. The main channels through which migration alleviates poverty are increased incomes from remittances, ability to smooth consumption, access to finance for starting a new business, as well as tapping on to the knowledge and resources provided by the international community of the migrant diaspora. Besides pure monetary gains, migration and remittances allow for higher investment in health care and education.

While migration has economic, social, and cultural implications for the sending and host societies, remittances the migrants send home are perhaps the most tangible and least controversial link between migration and development (Ratha 2007). According to the official estimates, migrants from developing countries sent over \$315 billion to their origin countries in 2009, three times the size of official development assistance (Ratha et al. 2010). The true size of remittances including unrecorded flows through formal and informal channels is likely to be even higher. While remittances to developing countries declined modestly in 2009 because of the global financial crisis, these flows have remained resilient compared to private capital flows, and have become even more important as a source of external financing in many developing countries.

When migration is induced by a natural disaster or a conflict leading to a sudden inflow of migrants, the displaced people may resort to unsustainable activities in absence of other means of survival exacerbating existing environmental problems and

creating new ones. Large refugee camps have especially been observed to put pressure on the ecosystem. McNally et al. argue that even long-term migration can affect the environment through increased competition for limited resources. But, migration can work as a channel for adoption of new techniques and raw materials. It will leading to more environmentally friendly production and consumption practices. Migration can have important implications for domestic institutions and politics. The emigration of capable people may cause loss of governance capacity in countries where institutions are already weak. Also, emigration can serve as a way to release political pressure, which diminishes the incentives of the established political elite to reform, increases corruption, and reduces overall government effectiveness. Migration also shapes values and attitudes towards gender roles within the household. Women are empowered to take more prominent part of the community decision making, control their own income, and expand their role in the domestic sphere when the men emigrate.[1] Even other domestic norms, such as greater emphasis on girls' schooling, higher age of marriage, can filter from the destination country to the sending society. Migration decision is also an integral part of family planning decisions and lead to differences in fertility rates among migrants and non-migrants. Studies find migrants' fertility to resemble more closely that of natives at destination, either self-selection of migrants by fertility preferences or due to social adaptation, although there can be regional variations.

Migrants, especially those in an undocumented or irregular situation, are likely to face discrimination, exclusion, exploitation and abuse at all stages of the migration process (GMG 2010). [2] Female migrants and children often face greater risks, including of trafficking and being deprived of education and access to healthcare. Protecting the human rights of migrants is part of the obligations of the State to respect the internationally guaranteed rights of all persons, to protect those rights against abuses, and to fulfill the rights necessary for them to enjoy a life of dignity and security (GMG 2010).[2] Immigration and border control policies need to recognize that migration is primarily an economic phenomenon (Ratha 2009). Evidence from the US-Mexico border suggests that increasing the number of border

control agents increases smuggler's fees, but is unlikely to curtail the number of migrants as intended (Hanson et al. 1999, Durand and Massey 2002, Martin 2004, Passel and Suro 2005). Instead, providing legal channels for temporary migration when labor is in high demand in the destination country is more likely to enhance the benefits of migration for all parties.

In conclusion, migration and remittances can be a valuable complement to broad based on development efforts. Yet, migration and remittances (collective or individual) should not be viewed as a substitute for official development aid as they are private money that should not be expected to fund public projects. Also, not all poor households receive remittances and official funds are needed to address the needs of these households. Harnessing the development potential of migration and remittances by increasing the awareness of the decision makers and improving data on remittances and migration; facilitating labor mobility and recruitment across borders, while allowing for safe and affordable mechanisms for sending money back; and combating the increase xenophobia and overregulation are some ingredients along the way towards a migration policy. [3] It benefits both migrant-sending and receiving countries.

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