The contribution of international migrants to human development

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New York, 13 February 2013
The international migrant stock is increasing…but not in relation to the total population

International migrant stock, 1990-2010 (millions)

Proportion of international migrants in total population
The majority of migrants are from the South and live in the North.
Most international migrants come from Asia and Europe... however, their proportion to the total population differ.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Stock (millions)</th>
<th>Proportion of migrants in total population at origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern America</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most migrants move within their region of origin

Migrant stocks by destination region, according to their region of birth, 2010 (percentage)

- **Africa**: 81%
- **Asia**: 75%
- **Latin America & Caribbean**: 60%
- **Europe**: 54%
- **Oceania**: 15%
- **Northern America**: 3%

- Green: Region of birth ≠ region of destination
- Yellow: Region of birth = region of destination

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International migrants in the South are relatively young.

Migrant stock under age 20, 2010 (percentage)

United Nations, Population Division/DESA
Proportion of refugees in total migrant stock is much higher in the South than in the North.
% of immigrants from the South to the North is significant, but patterns differ

Spain

Germany

United States

Australia

Proportion of immigrants from South

Total inflow of immigrants
Substantial labour migration in Asia, but crisis has left some impact.
Migrants contribute substantially to development through remittances

Top 5 recipients (2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>US$ billion</th>
<th>% of GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>66</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>21</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Top 5 recipients as a share of GDP (2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% of GDP</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyz Republic</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Bank
Migration has little impact on population growth in Africa...

Africa
Reducing population growth (but little impact)

Europe
Slowing population decline

United Nations, Population Division/DESA
..but it impacts on the population of small countries in the South, particularly on their highly-skilled citizens

Emigration rates of selected small countries, 2000

Saint Lucia
Tonga
Samoa
Trinidad and Tobago
Haiti
St Vincent & Grenadines
Jamaica
Grenada
Guyana

Total emigration rate
Emigration rate of persons with at least tertiary education

Data: DESA (2010)
Docquier & Marfouk (2005)
Migration impacts on the dependency ratio of old people

Dependency ratio of old people (65+) over working age population (20-65), (percentage)

Moldova

USA

2010 2030 2050

17.4 30.7 41.2
16.6 26.9 36.4
21.8 36.5 39.5
26.9 38.9 44.3
36.4 39.5 44.3

with migration
without migration

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International migration:
Some development opportunities

**Remittance flows**
- $372 billion to developing countries (officially recorded)
- About three times official development assistance (ODA)
- Invested in human capital (health, education, etc.)
- How to increase their productive use (but: private flows)
- “tres por uno”
- Leveraging remittances - access to micro-credit

**Other contributions to countries of origin**
- Temporary, long-term or virtual “return” of diaspora members
- Transfer of knowledge and skills
- Diaspora bonds, etc.

**Contribution to destination countries**
- Contribution to filling labour market shortages
- Reduced dependency ratios
- Potential for entrepreneurship
International migration: Some development challenges

- **“Brain drain”**
  - Emigration of skilled persons
  - Code of conduct (i.e. health personnel)

- **Undocumented migration**
  - Limited avenues for legal migration
  - Protection and respect of the human rights of all migrants
  - Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

- **High costs of migration**
  - Lack of portability (skills, social security, diplomas, ...)
  - Recruitment fees
  - Costs of transferring remittances
  - Costs involved in providing documentation
Ratification of major legal instruments dealing with migration in the South

- 2000 Migrant Smuggling Protocol
- 2000 Human Trafficking Protocol
- 1990 Migrant Worker Convention
- 1967 Refugee Protocol
- 1951 Refugee Convention

[Bar chart showing ratification rates for different regions across various legal instruments.]

- Oceania (minus Australia/New Zealand)
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Asia
- Europe, Northern America, Australia and New Zealand
- Africa
International migration and the UN development agenda: Major milestones

- Copenhagen
- Oslo
- Beijing
- Monterrey
- World Summit
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High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, 3-4 October 2013, New York

**Preparations**
Civil society hearings, panel discussion, regional preparations

**Overall theme**
“Identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative impacts”

**RT1:** International migration, sustainable development and post-2015 development agenda

**RT2:** Migrant rights, smuggling & trafficking, regular migration, women and children migrants

**RT3:** Partnerships, cooperation and coherence

**RT4:** Labour mobility and its impact on development

United Nations, Population Division/DESA
www.unmigration.org

Questions?