

Facilitating South –South Labour Migration for development

Using Migration Profiles and other
Existing tools to ensure evidence-
based coherent policy development

The Issues

- Migration has been understudied because of absence of critical information to answer basic questions
- Understanding of migration is hampered by doubtful data quality and availability
- Sources of data are scattered in administrative sources, consular records, population records, MFA sources in receiving and sending countries
- General paucity of data and statistical figures
- Data collected do not have the same definitions and concepts

The Issues Cont'd

- Information, data, evidence essential to obtain a better understanding of what migration is and is not
- Is migration responsible for poverty and underdevelopment?
- Is migration responsible for economic growth?
- Is migration responsible for poverty alleviation
- What is the size of the migrating population?
- What is the size and impact of remittances?
- Recognising that a comprehensive characterization of migration dynamics and info is essential for policy, EU launched MPs in 2005
- MPs have been actively promoted by IOM and are a key aspect of the Swiss GFMD

What are Migration Profiles

- Migration Profiles are information package to 'understand at a glance' the migration situation in a particular country
- It is primarily a data collection and analysis tool to think systematically about the future of migration using current data
- Most informative way to analyse the impacts of migration using available information to package information about political, social and economic characteristics of a country and how they affect development
- A comprehensive account of the migration phenomena and a strategic framework for managing migration and policy making

Cont'd

- Originally proposed as a statistical report, based on available economic and demographic data with no policy related aspects of migration
- Evolved into a more elaborate process, containing data and contextual analysis to give a broader picture of migration dynamics to feed policy
- Involves a wide range of stakeholders, govt, CSOs, researchers, int. organisations
- Extended Migration Profiles was recommended by the 2009 GFMD to cover a range of issues relevant to migration and development, including; Unemployment and youth mobility
Labour market conditions, Remittance management etc,
- To better manage the flows

Why is Migration Profiles Essential?

- Migration has many dimensions and information and data are scattered in many departments and agencies, and between countries
- Public officials responsible for policy are preoccupied with daily routines and crises management to be able to gather and analyse data
- Migration profiles provide a concise and compact document attractive to policy makers and a comprehensive framework to bring all existing information critical to policy making together to address policy gaps

Ghana's Migration Profiles

- Ghana's migration profiles were initially published in 2006 as a statistical report on migration trends in Ghana
- Reviewed in 2008 as part of an EU west and Central African project
- To gather information on labour markets as well as exodus of skilled experts from Africa
- Process involved multi stakeholder consultation under the supervision of a TWG

Objectives

- To enhance government capacity to manage migration using comprehensive information in a migration profile to promote comprehensive approach to migration and development
- To support capacity building and research on migration
- To develop a framework of data analysis to address data gaps and challenges
- To develop a National Migration Policy
- To engage the Ghanaian diaspora for development

Benefits of Migration Profiles

- Process led to improvement in data collection through strengthening of relevant institutions(GIS Data limited)
- Highlighted significant data on migration patterns to and from Ghana as a useful tool for population management
- Process led to effective? Institutional collaboration among stakeholders-government, academia, donors, etc (awareness)
- Research and other materials developed in the course of project are being used for capacity building and policy making

- Process led to the development of a National Migration Policy
- Stimulated considerable awareness and action among public institutions and improved knowledge in the link between migration and development
- Enhanced government capacity to promote a comprehensive and coherent approach to migration and development

Challenges

- Poor data quality;
exit/entry data is crucial to migration management, but this is hampered by porosity of borders. Undocumented mobility remains a challenge
- Lack of data and research capacity which could affect evidence based analysis for future discussions on migration
- Lack of human and financial resources to sustain process

Challenges Cont'd

- Lack of government ownership and commitment: migration profiles seen as an external initiative supported by academics with minimal policy involvement
- Lack of government buy in affects the ability to enter into the policy regime and has implications for policy and updating the profiles
- Change in government could spur collapse of process, as rotation of public officials could lead to capacity destruction
- Perception that priorities of donors do not necessarily reflect the priorities of government

Recommendations

- State of knowledge: MP process revealed a veritable gap in government expertise and capacity. National capacity must be improved to enhance policy ownership. Government must define its own priorities, objectives and scope
- Government capacity is crucial to determine what changes occur within a particular period and the potential impacts . Migration profiles is a dynamic tool.
- Government must take responsibility to play a strong coordinating role for all departments and agencies dealing with migration. This can be done through delegation to a ministry or the setting up of an independent body to carry out the coordinating function

Recommendations cont'd

- Government ownership is crucial to ensuring policy assessments and updates of migration profiles.
- Census information is essential for updating migration profiles
- The gap between research and policy must be bridged through dialogue and sharing of critical information
- Migration profiles must identify critical areas of development and provide the tools for mainstreaming migration into development plans

- The current migration profiles provide data and analysis for policy making, but overlook the root causes of migration
- Migration is deeply rooted in the issue of underdevelopment and unequal access to resources, and this must not be ignored in the story telling
- In our desire to tell the enhance the benefits of migration, (power of remittances and diaspora,) less attention is given to the costs. Issues of rights and protection must not be overlooked.

Migration Profiles and labour mobility

- Migration is basically an issue about labour mobility and search for zones of opportunities
- Migration profiles can provide information about trends, labour markets and availability
- Migration profiles help to analyse/study labour markets and identify skills surplus to guide migrants to take the right decisions based on information
- Migration profiles can help identify labour availability, skills profile and labour matching

Labour migration

- Information from Migration profiles can be used to design policies and to develop skills of migrants to fit into specific markets-taking people to the jobs
- MPs can be used as a tool to address information asymmetries between demand and supply of labour
- Data on labour mobility is crucial for the development of a coherent labour migration policy at the national and regional levels
- Mp can help develop a framework for the mobility of the unskilled to bring balance to emigration-the skilled migrants are already leaving easily

THANK YOU

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Conclusion

- Managing population movements is not a threat to stability but an established pattern of the politics of development
- Migration profiles provides an opportunity to harness reliable data and research on migration to feed into policy
- To influence the understanding of policies that affects migrants
- We need smart and practical solutions of the challenges posed by migration, based on sound evidence. This will lead to better influence public debate and lead to better policy community