The Southward Shift in International Migration: Social Challenges and Policy Implications

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Jason Gagnon – Victoire Lefebvre
A tale of two West African countries

Côte d’Ivoire vs. Ghana

• Lots of similarities
  – neighbour countries
  – ethnic and religious diversity
  – strong immigration...

• However
  – Ghana: economic growth and political stability
  – Côte d’Ivoire: economic and political crisis

• How to explain the difference?
  – Colonial roots (+post-colonial relationships): French vs. English systems
  – Political regime
  – Immigrant “integration” model: nationalism (Ivoirité) vs. liberal regime
Storyline

- South-South migration flows will probably increase faster than South-North flows

- New countries of immigration in the South have to face social challenges, especially in terms of immigrant integration

- A new policy framework needs to be implemented to enhance migration-related social cohesion
I.

Shifting wealth, shifting migration flows
South-South migration outnumbers South-North flows

Global stock of international migrants (millions), 2005

- Developed economies (97.3)
- Transition economies (26.5)
- Developing economies (66.8)

- World: 190.5
- Developed economies: 55.9
- Transition economies: 24.1
- Developing economies: 1.5
- South-South migration outnumbers South-North flows
Migration between developing countries: a second-best option?

• More opportunities in fast-growing economies
  – Petroleum exporters
  – Converging economies

• However, wage gap remains high with developed economies

• Factors that prevent would-be migrants to go North:
  – Increasingly restrictive migration policies in the North
  – Financial constraints
First destination of migrants from developing countries by income group, 2005

- Low-income: 37% developed economies, 63% developing economies
- Middle-income: 67% developed economies, 33% developing economies
- High-income: 74% developed economies, 26% developing economies
South-South flows are expected to increase faster than South-North flows

- **Global economic crisis**
  - More restrictive immigration policies in the North (ratchet effect)
- **Demographic boom in Africa**
  - Few labour opportunities and low real wages
- **Environmental changes (global warming)**
  - Deforestation, desertification, floods... ⇒ eco-refugees
- **Rapid economic growth in converging economies**
  - Less emigration to the North
  - More immigration from the South
II. The social challenges of South-South migration
What does integration mean in the South?

**Migrants in the South**
- Factors of vulnerability
  - Seasonality and circularity, rural areas
  - Low-skilled/unskilled
  - Refugees, transit migrants
  - Human trafficking (in particular children)
- But also some advantages
  - Lower costs of transportation
  - Less stringent formalities
  - Similar culture, language, norms...

**Host countries**
- Diversity: very rich countries (petroleum exporters) but also very poor countries (neighbour effect)
- Low administrative capacity
- High levels of informality (labour market)
- Lack of social protection, civil rights, freedom

Affect immigrants and locals equally
The lack of integration directly affects the living conditions of immigrants

- Poverty-stricken ghettos
- Discrimination: wages, social protection, religion...
- Scapegoating and violence against immigrants
- Cases of massive deportations (economic crises)
- Stranded migrants in transit countries: violations of human rights
Problems of integration also have disruptive effects on the society

- Ghettos
  - Mutually exclusive
  - Vectors for pandemics
  - Human capital affected (lack of schools and clinics)
- Increase in violence
- Civil unrest and long-term political instability
- Wider contagion: return to the countries of origin or to other neighbour countries
III. How to enhance migration-related social cohesion?
Nov. 2010: UN Special Rapporteur on Racism
- Stated that migrants constitute the group subject to “the most insidious forms of racial discrimination”
- Warned against the “deeply marked tendencies to characterise migration as a problem and a threat to social cohesion”.

South Africa:
- After the “dark days of May” (attacks against immigrants)
- Project on “Migration and Social Cohesion” to help design and implement programmes to better integrate immigrants into society
SOCIAL COHESION

A three-pronged approach

- Fighting social exclusion
- Building social capital
- Promoting social mobility

From integration to social cohesion
From integration to social cohesion

Fighting social exclusion

• Fighting against discrimination
  – Protecting the human rights of immigrants and fighting against abuses, in particular on the labour market
  – Facilitating regular immigration and defining various immigrant statuses
  – Campaigning to improve public perceptions

• Fighting against the establishment and development of immigrant enclaves
  – Providing housing and health services
  – Creating an environment for immigrants to participate in the economic, social and political process of the country

• Granting the freedom to organise and practice various components of one’s culture
Building social capital

• Targeting education and training
  – Better interaction between immigrants and local populations
  – Better integration of children

• Supporting hometown associations
  – Facilitate the access to local practices
  – Provide leadership for underrepresented groups of society

• Allowing to share elements of one’s culture with locals
  – Festivals: food, rituals, tradition...
From integration to social cohesion

Promoting social mobility

• Enhancing the benefits derived from working, even in the informal sector
  – Promoting entrepreneurship through loans and by targeting sub-groups suffering from higher discrimination (low-skilled, women...)
  – Extension of social security measures to informal sector

• Providing access to educational and vocational skills-training
  – Immigrants: better, safer, more productive jobs
  – Children: inter-generational mobility
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International Conference on Social Cohesion and Development

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## Top 20 migration corridors, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Migration Corridor</th>
<th>Millions of Migrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bangladesh → India</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mexico → USA</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Turkey → Germany</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>China → Hong Kong</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>India → United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>China → USA</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Philippines → USA</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Afghanistan → Iran</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>India → USA</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>West Bank and Gaza → Syria</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>India → Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Indonesia → Malaysia</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Burkina Faso → Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Vietnam → USA</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>El Salvador → USA</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>UK → Australia</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pakistan → India</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Puerto Rico → USA</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Malaysia → Singapore</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>India → Bangladesh</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**: 11 migration corridors, 18.5 million migrants from developing economies, 7 million migrants to developed economies, 21.7 million migrants between developed economies, 2.9 million migrants.
## Top 20 asylum countries, end 2009

**Thousands of refugees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Developing economies</strong></th>
<th><strong>Developed economies</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Pakistan (Afghanistan)</td>
<td>1,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> Iran (Afghanistan, Iraq)</td>
<td>1,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Syria (Iraq)</td>
<td>1,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> Chad (Sudan, Central African Rep.)</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong> Bangladesh (Myanmar)</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong> Venezuela (Colombia)</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong> Sudan (Eritrea)</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong> DR Congo (Angola, Rwanda)</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16</strong> India (China, Sri Lanka)</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong> Uganda (DR Congo, Sudan)</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 15 | **6,721** | **5** | **1,503** |
First destination of migrants from developing countries by income group, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Low-income</th>
<th>Middle-income</th>
<th>High-Income</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-income</td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle-income</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-income</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>