

Drivers of Migration in the East African Community Partner States: Pre and Post Common Market Protocol

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Rationale

- Discuss the proposed research activity on drivers of migration in the region particularly with regard to the relationship between migration and poverty and its relationship with development

Objectives

- Draw attention of participants on the proposed research activity on drivers of migration in the region, particularly with regard to what causes and sustains internal mobility and across national boundaries in the region.
- Draw attention of participants on the proposed research activity on drivers of migration in the region, particularly with regard to the relationship between migration and poverty and, its relationship with development.

Introduction

- Migration and development has been high on the global policy agenda in recent years

There is a need to build capacity and promote research to evaluate policy interventions in both countries of origin and destination and to facilitate the mainstreaming of migration considerations into strategic development frameworks

(UN Secretary-General's Report for the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, 2006)

Introduction cont'd

*The role that migrants play in promoting development and poverty reduction in countries of origin, as well as the contribution they make towards the prosperity of destination countries, should be recognized and reinforced. International migration should become an integral part of national, regional and global strategies for economic growth, in both the developing and developed world (**Global Commission on International Migration**)*

*Member States to integrate Migration and Development policies particularly Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in their National Development Plans (**African Union Strategic Policy Framework on Migration in Africa**)*

Response to global call

- A number of issues and challenges need to be addressed in order for countries to respond to the global call
 - what are the major forces and frictions (barriers) of migration today in the EAC member states (sub region of SSA)?
 - Are they likely to be similar or unique?
 - How can we conceptualize factors that maintain the migration systems in the region and what are the policy implications?

Summary of past set of factors

- **Pre-colonial:** trade, labor and religion (for pilgrimages) and occurred without legal restraints and barriers.
- **Colonial period:** result of colonial policies and practices with main drivers being associated with the prevailing sociopolitical and ecological conditions.
- **Immediate Post colonial:** reflected the general global pattern in which a set of push factors (a deteriorating economy, political instability, droughts, and wars) were largely responsible for the exit of people from the sending areas, and a set of pull factors (relative economic prosperity, peace, stability) were responsible for the attraction of migrants to the receiving place.

What are the key questions for today and the future?

- What forces stimulate and which ones sustain current migration patterns?
 - (Often referred to as migration drivers)

Literature in recent past

- Key drivers of migration fall into three categories; namely factors related to:
 - a) the region or country of origin, including political instability and conflict, lack of economic opportunities, and lack of access to resources ('push' factors);
 - b) the region or country of destination, including the availability of employment and demand for workers, higher wages, political stability or access to resources ('pull' factors), and;
 - c) intervening factors that facilitate or restrict migration, such as ease of transportation, family or social networks, government immigration or emigration policies, economic ties such as trade and investment linkages, or social and cultural exchanges.

Debate

- A potential driver of migration and enabling factors that may apply in any one circumstance but not the other.
- the way in which different factors may interact may depend on circumstances.
- Some of the most relevant factors are relational across space for example
 - the classic migration theory posits that people will move from poorer to richer regions or from places where there is population pressure on resources to places where there is not. However, this theory does not tell us whether the 'push' of poverty or the 'pull' of economic opportunity is more important.

Debate cont'd

- Do short-distance, circulatory migration often have different drivers from long-distance or more permanent migration?
 - For example: short distance, circulatory migration may be a response to shocks such as: food shortage/insecurity, flooding, temporary/cyclical shortage of employment. While long distance or permanent migration may be planned as part of a household decision to 'invest' in the migration of certain household members in order to bring longer-term benefits.

Research Implications


- The nature of a driver may have different implications of migration and also development process.
- Drivers of migration are occurring amid rapidly changing socio political and socio economic space.
- The exact nature the major drivers of migration in the recent past have not been clearly articulated.
- Link between drivers and outcomes is likely to be dynamic and may operate at different scales and levels of social structure and time scale/frame.
- Drivers may operate in different locations – at places of origin, transit and destination

Way forward

- Re-examine the drivers strand in finding a conceptual scheme on how to anchor migration systems in the development and poverty reduction agenda.
- Recent work on mixed migration indicates that the notions of configurations, combinations or complexes of drivers are complex, hence the need for exploring the conceptualization and identification of gaps in knowledge.

Research paper focus

- The evolution of the concept of 'migration drivers'.
- Scale, location and timeframe.
- Conceptual framework: combination/complexes of drivers.
- Application of framework to EAC member states.
- Conclusion: knowledge gaps and pointers to future research.



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