

# **Internal and International Labor Migration in Uganda: The contribution of Remittances to household livelihoods**

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# Introduction

- Development agencies including the World Bank are increasingly recognizing the importance of migrant remittances and are focusing on how these remittances contribute to development (Ammassari and Black 2001; Doorn 2002; El-Sakka and McNabb 1999; MIF 2003; Widgren and Martin 2002).

# Introduction

- According to Sander (2003), Africa's share of remittances is the least worldwide.
  - This least share is attributed to the relatively small share (15%) of migrant remittances to developing countries.
  - Migration from Uganda is relatively smaller compared to other countries in the GHA, perhaps because of its landlocked position.

# The History of Migration in Uganda

It is possible to identify at least three waves of emigration, during the contemporary/post-independence period:

- The first major wave occurring around the period - 1972, when 80,000 Ugandans of South Asian decent were expelled from the country.
- A second wave occurred between 1971 and 1986, when thousands of Ugandan refugees left the country as a result of armed conflict and political instability.

# The History of Migration in Uganda

- A third wave of migration has resulted recently from the prevailing ties with the Ugandan diaspora and the way in which globalization has generated push-and-pull factors on labor mobility.
  - In this last wave there has also been an inflow of Africans into the country, mainly from the Sudan, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and others.

# Migration and Remittances

- Available information shows that about 20% of Uganda's population (equivalent to about 3.6 million persons in 2009) had migrated from one district to another, and 0.2% had migrated from outside Uganda.
- Migration is slightly higher among the males than their female counterparts.
- Most of the people who moved into Uganda were from the neighboring countries in the East African Community.

# Migration and Remittances

- Among those from outside Africa, the majority are from UK and USA. Uganda is among the top six sub Saharan African countries which receive a large volume of workers' remittances proportionate to GDP.
- In addition to the rise of absolute volume of remittances, the significance of remittances relative to Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), Overseas Development Aid (ODA) and Exports has been increasing.

# Migration and Remittances

- Bank of Uganda estimate indicates that remittances averaged US\$325.1 million between 1998 and 2008 and has been increasing at an average 13.5 per cent annually.
- In 2008, workers' remittances were estimated at US\$ 489.11 million, while for 2011 the World Bank put the latter figure for Uganda at US \$773 million.

# Issues

Uganda, therefore, has a longstanding migratory tradition associated with its political history and geography.

- However, little is known of how large the size of the emigrant population or diaspora is or about the extent of the economic activities migrants have with Uganda.
- This paper seeks to examine the role of both internal and international remittances in improving the livelihoods of individuals and households in Uganda.

# Data

In collaboration with the African Development Bank, the World Bank undertook a study of migration and remittances in sub-Saharan Africa and destination countries outside Africa.

Household Survey of Migrants was also conducted in 10 countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Ivory Coast, and Uganda).

The survey was primarily interested in two things:

- i. Measuring the level of internal and international migration in Uganda; and
- ii. Measuring the level of internal remittances and international remittances received in Uganda.

The survey covered 2000 households

# Data

The survey in ***Uganda*** collected information on the following:

- i. household members, including demographic characteristics and employment;
- ii. house characteristics and conditions;
- iii. household assets;
- iv. household expenditures;
- v. health conditions;
- vi. access to finance;
- vii. migration networks;
- viii. international and internal migration and remittances from former household members and non-household members; and
- ix. return migration.

# Way Forward

- Data quality assessment
- Data Analysis and preparation of the migration impact paper will be the next stage of this process.