



Ethiopia Country Programme

Briefing Note

December 2014

What is the Issue?

The UNDP's 2009 Human Development Report estimates that 740 million people migrate internally and another 90 million migrate within developing country regions, often to improve development prospects for themselves and their families and due to lack of alternatives. Migration can contribute to improving the economic and social well-being of migrants and their families. However, it can also expose migrants to new vulnerabilities, such as debt and limited access to services. Political authorities and origin and destination communities often do not have effective policies in place to adequately manage migration.

While many governments in the Global South and international donors have become aware of the importance of migration for poverty reduction, they lack substantive evidence and data that can help them to maximise the benefits of migration and minimise its potential harms.

What is the Programme?

The [Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme](#) Consortium is a seven year (2010-2017) multi-partner research programme with funds of £6.425m provided by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), which aims to generate policy relevant evidence on the nature and extent of internal and regional (South-South) migration.

The Consortium is led by the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex, with partners based in five regions: in South Asia, the Bangladesh-based Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) at the University of Dhaka; in Southeast Asia, the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore; in West Africa, the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana; in East Africa, the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) in Nairobi; and in Southern Africa, the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Each partner, under the guidance and support of the Consortium lead, is responsible for designing and conducting research projects that address the overall programme research questions. The projects consist of academic research, complemented by activities to ensure the communication of findings and influencing of migration policy and practice. For more information, please contact: [<migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk>](mailto:migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk) or visit [<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/>](http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/).

What the programme aims to achieve:

The research conducted by each partner is designed to address the following programme objectives:

- To understand why migration plays a significant role in poverty reduction in some places and contexts, but not in others
- To explore the transformational potential of migration on poverty
- To contribute to the generation of quality data on migration
- To have a strong policy focus
- To influence policy and practice through engagement with key stakeholders among policy makers, the media and civil society

Past and On-Going Activities in Ethiopia:

The Kenya-based African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC), the Consortium partner in East Africa, implemented one research project in Ethiopia in collaboration with an associate partner.

1. Poverty Linkages in Studying Migrant Construction and Domestic Workers

This study contributed to the programme goal of understanding why migration plays a significant role in poverty reduction in some places and contexts, through examining migration from rural areas of Ethiopia to Addis Ababa to engage in construction and domestic work, from a migrant perspective.

This qualitative research project employed a range of methods: direct observation, in-depth interviews with 47 domestic and construction worker migrant households and five non-migrant households; 12 key informant interviews with migrant association representatives, local government officials and recruitment agents; and two focus group discussions – one with women and one with men – that provided insights into recruitment processes and changing gender roles.

A dissemination workshop held in Addis Ababa on 13 March 2014 discussed the findings with 27 participants including officials from the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, Urban Development and Construction, and Women, Children and Youth Affairs.

The following outputs based on this research are available online:

'Poverty, Youth and Rural-Urban Migration in Ethiopia' (working paper):

<<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/documents/wp-17---atnafu-oucho-zeitlyn-2014-poverty-youth-and-rural-urban-migration-in-ethiopia.pdf>>

'Rural-Urban Migration and Poverty in Ethiopia' (policy brief):

<<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/documents/gp002-ethiopia-policy-brief-sep14.pdf>>

2. Household Survey in Four Regions of Ethiopia

A second project, a quantitative survey, was undertaken in Ethiopia by an associate partner using the same methodology as similar research previously conducted by the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium in Bangladesh, Ghana and Indonesia.

A survey of 1,200 households in four districts has been completed: data was collected on demographics, migration, remittances and wellbeing, and was administered to household heads as well as to returned migrants. The survey yielded data on the relationship between migration and poverty, which will be analysed to identify the factors that mediate and shape the impact of migration on poverty. Thus the research findings will contribute to our understanding of the role that migration plays in poverty reduction.

Outputs from this project will be forthcoming in 2015.