



Kenya 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 Kenya:

The Nairobi-based African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC), the Consortium partner in East Africa, is implemented one research project in Kenya:

1. Rural Out-Migration to Urban Uncertainties

This mixed methods study investigated the major causes and consequences of out-migration from Siaya and Vihiga counties to Kisumu and Nairobi cities. Researchers analysed existing quantitative migration data from previous censuses and national surveys to frame the qualitative component that comprised semi-structured interviews with 250 migrant and non-migrant households in both out-migration and in-migration areas; key informant interviews; and focus group discussions.

A working paper based this research is now available online:

'Is Migration the Solution to Poverty Alleviation in Kenya? Rural-Urban Migration Experiences of Migrants from Western Kenya to Kisumu and Nairobi':

<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/documents/wp21-oucho-oucho-ochieng-2014-is-migration-the-solution-to-poverty-in-kenya.pdf>

Future Activities in Kenya

AMADPOC is currently finalising a research project that it plans to conduct during the period January 2015 to June 2016:

1. Perception of migration's effects on destination communities

This research strand will consider migration's effects on destination communities in relatively poor and marginalised settings. The planned project in Kenya will complement similar research in South Africa. Its objective is to understand the real and perceived costs of mobility on receiving communities to help inform policy debate, and has the potential to steer them away from hostility to a more reasoned response.