



# GLOBAL SOUTH MIGRATION: CAUSES OF INEQUALITIES IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AMONG MIGRANTS

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# Background

- In 2017, 68.5 million Individuals were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations and/or other reasons.
- Migration is not only a strategy to improve livelihood, minimize risks and diversify income by several households, it is also primarily a means of escaping clear and present dangers.
- Migrant workers constitute a force for global development. The essence of labour migration lies in the huge income differentials that exist globally thus implying that a worker from a low-income country can earn significantly more in a high-income country thereby leading to improvement in their living standards.
- The multiplier effects of migration in both host and origin countries thus makes migration one of the most powerful poverty reduction instruments (Hagen-Zanker *et al.*, 2017).

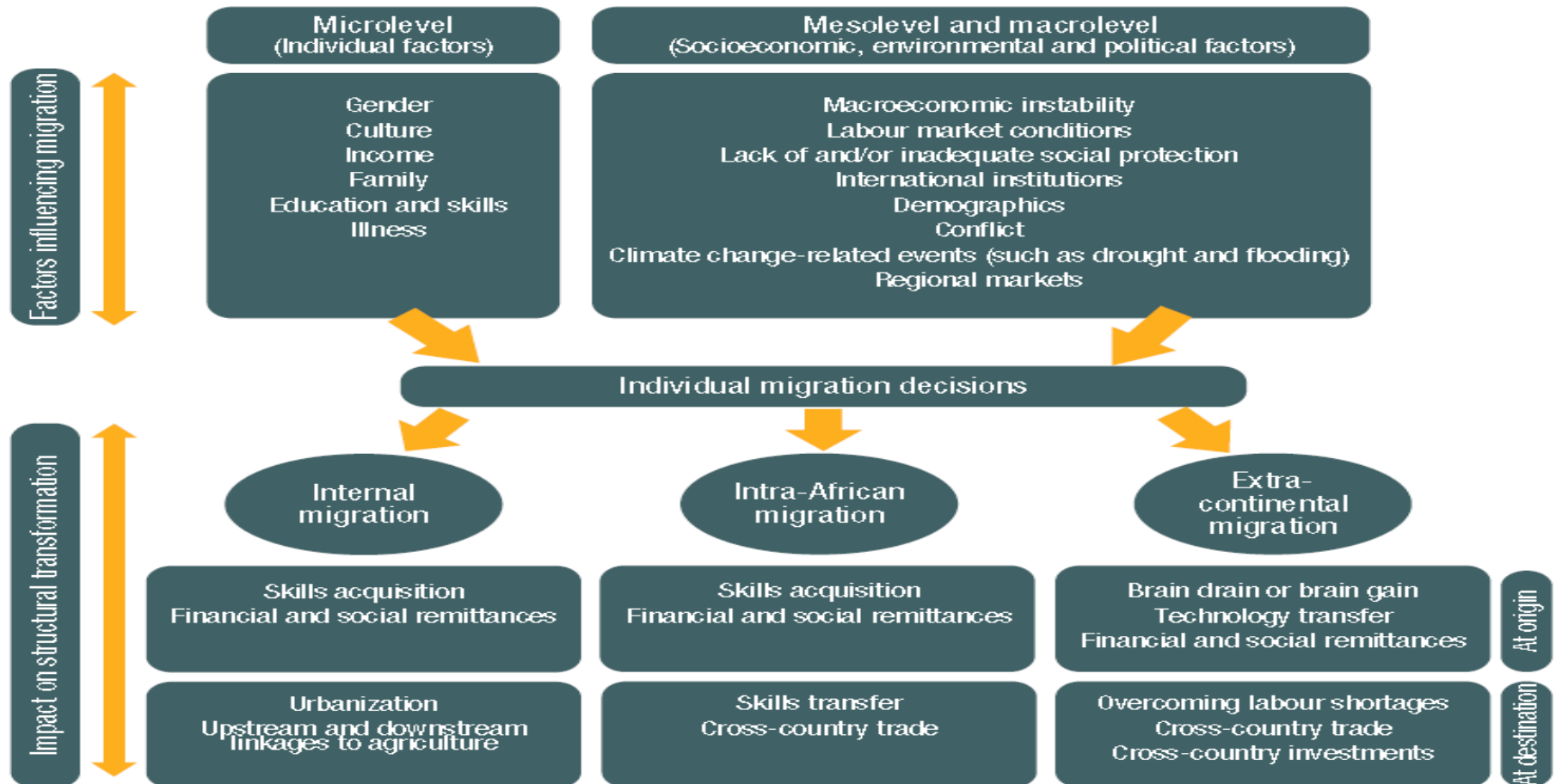


# Research Questions

- Our paper sought to increase understanding on the drivers of inequalities amongst migrants in securing employment while specifically providing answers to the following questions:
- What are the drivers of migration?
- What are the causes of inequalities in migrant employment?
- What modalities are put in place to reduce conflict migration?
- What measures exist to improve migrants' welfare with respect to natural disaster?

# Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Migration and its Drivers

## Conceptual framework of migration and structural transformation



Source: UNCTAD.



# Table 1: Dimensions of Labour Mobility

Dimensions	Labour Mobility	
	Internal (~ 750 million)	International (~ 250 million)
<b>Motivation</b> ✓ <b>Forced (conflict, natural disaster)</b>  ✓ <b>Voluntary (economic/social)</b>	Internally Displaced People (IDPs) (~40 million due to conflict; ~15 million due to Natural disasters)	Refugees (~21.3 million)
<b>Legal status</b> ✓ <b>Regular vs irregular</b>	Registration systems (For instance in Hukou, China)	Proportions unknown;
<b>Duration</b> ✓ <b>Permanent</b> ✓ <b>Temporary, seasonal; churning; returnees</b>	No information No information	Immigrants Labour migrants
<b>Skills</b> ✓ <b>Unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled</b>	No information	All three leads to brain drain
<b>Demography</b> ✓ <b>Gender, age</b>	Male dominated, but increasingly also female (including for economic reason); rural-urban: young; urban-rural: all ages	Predominantly male; feminization in certain regions
<b>Geography</b>	Secondary town/city	S-S (38%); S-N (33%); N-N (23%), N-S (6%); ▪ 3 main corridors South-Asia-Gulf countries; ▪ Latin America-North America; ▪ Within West Africa and Southern Africa

Christiaensen, Gonzalez, and Robalino (2019)



# Causes of Inequality in Migrant Employment

1. Educational Level
2. Skills level (unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled)
3. Family ties, national links and ethnicity: For instance in the ECOWAS region, settled migrants employ co-nationals migrants.
4. Host country(ies) labour needs and labour policies/programmes



# Schemes Targeting Migrants

- Seasonal, circular and temporary visa schemes (Beckford, 2016)
- Right-to-work schemes for asylum seekers and refugees (Zetter and Ruaudel, 2016)
- Schemes leveraging technology to broker jobs (OECD, 2017)
- Return programmes for nationals (Leith and Rivas, 2015).
- Skills development and job placements (Olliff, 2010).



# Tackling Conflict Migration

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) programmes falls under three primary areas:

1. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding,
2. Community stabilization and
3. Disaster risk reduction

## **1 Conflict prevention and Peacebuilding initiatives**

Are diverse portfolio of activities that provide structural and community-based support. They include:

- Security sector reform : involves supporting States in reforming or rebuilding their security sector in order to better provide State and human security as well as inclusive electoral support.
- Social cohesion: involves government and community engagement and support to promote tolerance, reconciliation and conflict resolution, and to create opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and participation within and across communities.
- Example: A peacebuilding initiative in Myanmar focused specifically on youth empowerment as peacebuilders through training, dialogues and networking.





# More on Tackling Conflict Migration

## 2 Community stabilization (CS)

IOM programmes under this area include:

- (Re)establishment of stability and security in vulnerable communities, including communities of origin
- Prevention of further forced migration by mitigating factors that cause tension and displacement,
- Restoring trust among community members, vulnerable populations and local authorities, and
- Laying the foundations for durable peace and sustainable Development.
  
- Examples:
  - Uganda: CS was directed at vulnerable and food-insecure households so as to ensure equitable benefits that contribute to wider goals of community stability, recovery and self-reliance.
  
  - Central African Republic: Activities were targeted towards initiating dialogue and promoting peaceful coexistence in mixed communities.



# Tackling Conflict Migration Cont'd

## 3 Disaster risk reduction

Are efforts that contribute to reducing risks by

- Analysing the causal factors of disasters
- Reducing exposure to hazards and increasing the resilience of communities, and
- Supporting sustainable development.

### Example

- Haiti: Wide range of complementary initiatives with support to construct safe shelters or reinforce existing community buildings to provide safe havens, construction or rehabilitation of key infrastructure, and/or participation in efforts to help reverse deforestation and to prevent floods



## Some Measures to Improve Migrants' welfare from Natural Disasters

These measures include:

- Provision of assistance to persons affected by disasters, supporting community resilience building and harnessing the benefits of migration as adaptation to climate change;
- Data collection and research support, including the flagship Atlas of Environmental Migration, Migration Profiles, MECC country assessments and policy briefs;
- Building governmental capacity and promoting intergovernmental dialogue and policy development on these topics. Inclusion of topics in key global policy processes (the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Agenda for Humanity, and
- Supporting key state-led initiatives such as the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the implementation of the Nansen Initiative Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change; and the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC) and the implementation of the MICIC Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster.



## Practical Measures for Meeting Migrants' Immediate Needs

- Access to remedies to recover lost properties and assets, outstanding wages, pensions, and other benefits.
- Engagement of migrants in host-State reconstruction efforts.
- Flexible immigration procedures to enable migrants to retain regular immigration status.
- Registration, assessment, and recognition of returned migrants' needs and skills.
- Immediate reintegration support, including cash and medical assistance.
- Income and employment regeneration assistance, including assistance with remigration.
- Certification mechanisms for skills, education, and training acquired abroad.



## Some Good Practices on Labour Migration Policies and Programmes

- The Co-development Programme France; Mali
- M-PESA International Money Transfer Service, Safaricom Congo, Democratic Republic of the; Egypt; Fiji; Global coverage; India; Kenya; Lesotho;
- BW Jobs 4 Graduates (Botswana Jobs for Graduates) Botswana
- Inclusion of migration and decent work in the Philippines' nursing curriculum
- Enhancing the visibility of local employment opportunities for health professionals in the Philippines
- Training Indian trade union leaders on the issue of international labour migration
- National labour migration policies in Kiribati and Tuvalu Kiribati; Tuvalu
- National Council of Immigration (acronym CNIg in Portuguese) Brazil



# Conclusion

- Annually, South-South Migration is consistently increasing more than South-North migration.
- Migration due to economic reasons is the main reason for migration. This is closely followed by migration due to conflict and natural disasters .
- Identified causes of inequality in migrant employment are due to educational levels, skills level, family ties, national links or ethnicity and the host country's labour needs and programmes.
- Conflict migration can be managed through programmes such as Conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives, community stabilisation and disaster risk management.



# Flooding in Myanmar



Flooding in Myanmar 2015 © IOM

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