

DEVELOPMENT ON THE MOVE: PROJECT OUTLINE

Institute for Public Policy Research

This paper describes the work of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) in the field of migration and development. In particular it discusses the work undertaken by IPPR in collaboration with the Global Development Network (GDN) on the research project: Development on the Move: Measuring and optimising the economic and social impacts of migration.

A. ABOUT IPPR

The Institute for Public Policy Research is the largest and most influential think tank in the United Kingdom. The Institute works on different policy-relevant issues in the United Kingdom and the international field, with the aim of helping to build a more socially just, democratic and environmentally sustainable world. The Institute has a reputation for conducting studies that impact policymaking and its media profile is high, with more than 3,500 worldwide media hits in 2006.

The Institute has over a decade's experience in migration research, and has become a key centre for the study on migration, asylum, integration citizenship and development.

B. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT IPPR

IPPR has a long history focusing on the topic of migration and development, much of it linked to United Nations initiatives in this area. The head of the team, Dr. Dhananjayan Srisankarajah, was the expert author of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) report on migration and development. IPPR contributed to both the civil society and intergovernmental days at the recent Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), in particular to the session examining the measurement of migration and development impacts, and to the session on strategies and partnerships for working on migration and development issues.

The current work plan of IPPR on migration and development involves a number of projects, all of which address the questions raised by the GFMD. A study currently undertaken for the OECD, in partnership with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), one of the leading development think tanks in United Kingdom, examines how migration policymaking in OECD countries can better incorporate impacts on developing countries. The main project of IPPR, however, is a more broadly defined project undertaken in collaboration with the Global Development Network (GDN), called "Development on the Move: Measuring and optimizing the economic and social impacts of migration".

C. DEVELOPMENT ON THE MOVE: MAIN AIMS

The following paragraphs summarize the main objectives of the Development on the Move project:

1. Developing better methodologies for assessing the economic and social impacts of migration. The multidimensional nature of migration requires a multifaceted framework for understanding how migratory flows—both emigration and immigration, between all destinations (not just particular corridors or from the South to the North), and resulting from different motivations—impact a

country's economic, social and political development. This project aims to develop nuanced and robust ways of capturing those impacts.

2. Improving the evidence base on migration. There is a clear need to build a more robust evidence base on migration issues. This project will commission six country studies focusing on the impacts of migration in selected cases, including through collecting new data via household surveys (see below). By using similar research questions and methods in each study, the six studies will be an important resource for capturing the similarities and differences in the economic and social impacts of migration across countries. The studies will also provide a valuable learning opportunity for refining the methodology.
3. Analyzing policy impacts and options. In order to ensure that the project has a clear focus on policy, IPPR has proposed conducting simultaneous analyses of the impact of current migration policies to see which interventions are working. This approach would involve assessing policies in developed and developing countries, as well as multilateral institutions. The analysis will also explore new and workable policy ideas to harness the developmental benefits of migration and minimize its costs.
4. Research capacity-building. In keeping with the objectives of the GDN, an important focus of this project will be to build research capacity in developing countries. This will be done primarily through the commissioning of six country studies led by country teams, and supported by specially selected mentors, as well as by core staff and expert advisers. These efforts will be particularly valuable because migration issues have often not been a focus of research interest in the developing world. Much is to be gained from building research capacity in this area.
5. Promoting multidisciplinary analysis. The existing literature on migration concentrates on examining particular topics using particular analytical frameworks. This project aims at promoting a more holistic approach by formally adopting a multidisciplinary framework. Drawing on analyses commissioned by GDN, IPPR believes that carefully combined and sequenced qualitative and quantitative methodologies ('Q squared' research methods) have the potential to substantially contribute to the study of migration and development. For the six country studies, the multidisciplinary analysis will be conducted by multidisciplinary research teams supported by a multidisciplinary group of expert advisers.

D. DEVELOPMENT ON THE MOVE: METHODOLOGY

The project has four key dimensions: (1) developing methodologies to assess the impacts of migration on development; (2) compiling country reports; (3) undertaking policy analysis, and (4) organizing collaborative workshops.

1. Methodological development

Developing better methodologies for assessing the impacts of migration on development is a key component of this project and involves four areas of work.

a. Mapping key issues to assess the impact of migration

While many recent studies have looked at particular ways in which migration can affect aspects of life in developing countries (the effects of remittances and the emigration of the highly-skilled being perhaps the most prominent), there have been few attempts, not even analytical ones that draw together

these various impacts in order to understand the overall impact of migration on a country’s development. IPPR has a strong interest in this type of research. Such a holistic view would allow research findings and policy recommendations about a particular migratory impact to be put into the context of what that impact means for development overall—a vital methodological advance.

This type of research requires both defining what development entails, and then mapping the different potential impacts that migration could have on development. In the paper by Chappell and Sriskandarajah (2007), the authors draw on the capabilities and sustainable livelihoods approaches (e.g. see Sen (2001), and see Livelihoods Connect website¹) to provide guidance as to how to define development in this project. In short, development is the process of expanding the substantive freedoms that allow people to live their lives in the way that has value for them. The migratory impacts that IPPR wishes to examine, therefore, are those which could affect the substantive freedoms that people enjoy. While the same types of impacts are investigated in all countries, attention is also paid to those impacts which are specific in each case.

Building on the insights of the sustainable livelihoods approach, IPPR will examine both the impacts of migration at the individual level on people’s assets, as well as the impacts on macro structures and processes which can shape people’s access to assets and their potential for generating livelihood outcomes.

This framework should help to understand some of the more contentious impacts of migration by providing criteria by which to assess them—i.e. whether the impact expands or restricts substantive freedoms. Where contentious impacts may have positive short-run effects which do not contribute to sustainable outcomes in the long-run, the framework of IPPR recognizes the tension, while emphasizing the importance of sustainability.

Drawing on a comprehensive review of the migration-development literature, as well as discussions with expert advisers, IPPR has put together an impact map, which sets out the ways in which migration might impact development. The Institute defined 38 separate impacts, grouped under eight headings:

Economic impacts	Wider social impacts
Educational impacts	Governance impacts
Health impacts	Impacts on environmental sustainability
Gender impacts	Impacts on the provision of disaster relief

Some of these impacts were found to be relatively direct, at a conceptual level at least—for example the impact of migration on the educational level of a migrant household. Others, however, are more complex—for example the impact of migration in fuelling dependency. While researchers and policymakers have frequently hypothesized about this relationship, it is still far from clear how migration might impact dependency. It appears that there is a number of different channels by which this effect could occur—by altering labour force participation, the investment-consumption split or Government’s economic policies, for example. The mapping exercise also involved investigating the different channels by which dependency occurs.

b. Cross-country analysis

The second component of Development on the Move’s methodological development is to conduct a cross-country analysis. This is a vital aspect of the project as comparative work on migration and development is fairly limited, with much analysis focusing on specific countries, regions or villages. The

Institute plans to examine the extent to which relationships between migration and development are constant—or vary—across countries, and under which circumstances.

Having explored a number of possible comparative methodologies, it was concluded that qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) would be the most useful in the case of Development on the Move. QCA allows for the systematic comparison of case studies, using the researcher’s knowledge of the selected case studies to actively refine the analysis. This approach has proven most suitable for research based on small and medium samples. Given that Development on the Move involves commissioning six country case studies, a better understanding about the specificities of the countries will be generated. GDN has commissioned work examining the potential for QCA to contribute to its current projects (Rihoux, 2007). Early indications demonstrate its usefulness to Development on the Move. The Institute therefore intends to use QCA to examine six case studies together and to explore the extent of commonalities and conclusions that can be generalized.

c. Migration indicator

The third aspect of methodological development is the development of a migration indicator. There is a compelling need for an instrument which can powerfully communicate the importance of migration and development issues to policymakers, the media and the general public in a simple and yet effective way. The need and usefulness of such a tool would draw on lessons learnt from tools such as the Human Development Index (HDI) which has successfully elevated the concept of human development from the realm of academic research and very specific policy fields, to the awareness of the wider policy community and the general public.

One such potentially useful form is the migration diamond. This form is based on the development diamond concept, which depicts multiple indicators of development on the points of the diamond, producing striking visual comparisons between countries. However, in this case the variables charted would describe the extent and nature of migration characterizing a country. A migration indicator of this form would comprise an easy reference tool to compare the migration circumstances of a particular country with the average country in the world, or in that geographical region, or at that level of development, for example. This would allow the public, the media and policymakers to compare their country’s migration circumstances with those of other countries, contextualizing it. It would also demonstrate the different facets of migration to these audiences, increasing understanding of the heterogeneity of migration flows. A migration indicator of this form would provide a powerful, simple and effective communication instrument to improve understanding of the real nature and complexity of migratory flows in a developmental context.

d. Q squared approach

The final aspect of methodological development is utilizing a Q squared approach—i.e. drawing upon a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. As discussed earlier, the potential of multidisciplinary approaches has been under-explored in the area of migration and development research. The Institute therefore intends to use a variety of instruments in its research in a sequenced, complementary fashion in order to draw upon the strengths of both forms of analysis. GDN has also commissioned work exploring the potential of Q squared research methods for Development on the Move (Hulme, 2007), and found that they have strong potential to contribute significantly to the project findings. The discussion of how precisely IPPR intends to combine quantitative and qualitative tools is detailed in section 2 below.

2. Country reports

The country studies are the key evidence-building aspect of the project, but they will also play a major role in methodological development. There will be six studies commissioned in six different developing countries from across the globe (initially, more may follow later in a second round), each conducted from a uniform template to ensure comparability. Each will involve two distinct components, namely a large, nationally representative household survey, and an analytical country report, of approximately 50 to 100 pages, describing and analyzing the impacts of migration on development in that country, and how it is being and could be addressed through policy.

These components will overlap to the extent that the household survey results will be provided to the team compiling the country report, but they will also be used more widely, with a Development on the Move's core team compiling the results from all six household surveys and performing comparative analysis. Similarly, whilst each country report will draw on the results of the household survey in that country, it will also utilize a number of other research methods (discussed below) in order to gather complementary data.

The six countries to be studied will be chosen through a competitive process currently under way. As in previous Global Research Projects, GDN has invited interested individuals and institutions based in developing countries to submit expressions of interest to participate in this project, and the successful teams will be selected in late 2007.

Providing support to the country study teams will be crucial to ensure both quality outputs and successful capacity-building. As well as regular interaction with and visits from the core project team, the country study teams will allocate mentors—experts from the field of migration and development—who will assist them in the research process. The Institute has also been offered in-country research support from the country offices of institutions such as the International Organization for Migration and the World Bank.

a. Household survey

For further details on the survey see the following sub-section on Development on the Move: The survey.

b. Other research tools

The country report will draw on the household survey results, but also draws from existing data on the impacts of migration on development available at the country level, e.g. data from universities on the destination of their students after graduation, where it is available. The country report will also include information regarding the respective country's policies on migration and their effects, and the results of semi-structured interviews with policymakers, business representatives, etc., regarding their opinions on the impacts of migration in their home country, and on how policy might improve migration's developmental impacts.

In order to ensure comparability, detailed guidance will be given to the country teams regarding the type of information to be collected. For example this will include suggestions of particular data sources, as well as an interview guide for use with policymakers. They will also be provided with an outline of the final report. A briefing paper is available with further details on what the country report will examine and how it will be commissioned and conducted.

3. Policy analysis and evaluation

This project will provide an invaluable opportunity to build on recent work of IPPR on policy development in this area (Sriskandarajah, 2005, forthcoming; Farrant, MacDonald and Sriskandarajah, 2006). Country teams, visiting researchers and IPPR staff will map existing policies and policy frameworks relating to migration and development, conduct in-depth interviews with policymakers in more developed regions and developing countries, as well as multilateral institutions, in order to explore what policies are in place at present and what impacts they are having, apply regulatory impact assessments to key interventions currently in place to ascertain their effectiveness, explore the parameters and possible impacts of proposed or nascent policy initiatives, such as temporary movement of natural persons under Mode 4, and explore the scope for new policy interventions at the international and national levels, in both sending and receiving countries, which optimize the developmental benefits of migration.

Country-level policy analysis is to be incorporated into the country reports by the local teams, but policy analysis spanning the six countries and also incorporating developed country and multilateral policies will also be undertaken by IPPR staff, who will then draft the final policy report.

While academics will be a key audience for the work, the aim is to provide a useful and usable tool to policymakers for understanding migration and for better optimizing its benefits. As such, a key part of the research and dissemination strategy will be to involve policymakers. This will include working with country teams to ensure that they build relationships with local policymakers by holding workshops to launch and disseminate information and reports in each of the six countries. IPPR and GDN staff, the country report team and key policy actors, amongst others, will all be involved in order to build ownership for the research amongst the policy community, and ensure that the results it produces reach a wide policy audience. The policy impact of the country studies will also be enhanced by interaction of IPPR and GDN staff with policy actors, as well as the media, ensuring that the project has the sustainable impact.

4. Project workshops

Project workshops throughout the life of the project will play a critical role in helping to promote intellectual exchange, capacity-building and quality assurance. By holding workshops in conjunction with annual conferences of GDN, there will be opportunities to showcase research in progress to several hundred key development experts who will be attending.

The first workshop for the project was held in September 2006, and involved the project team and some of the project's expert advisers spending two days examining the project's objectives and methodology. A second workshop was held in January 2007 alongside GDN's eighth annual conference in Beijing, which again brought project staff and expert advisers together, but also included a broader audience of development experts from around the globe. This meeting discussed the progress made with regard to methodological development, reviewed the research strategies for the different components of the project, and examined complementary research in the field, in order to learn from current best practices.

It is envisaged that three further workshops will be held as part of the project. The third workshop will be held in February 2008 to coincide with the ninth annual conference of GDN in Brisbane in order to gather the country teams together to plan research strategies, discuss lessons learnt from the pilot phase and to strategize in detail about the policy audit. An interim workshop will be held in conjunction with the tenth annual conference of GDN in 2009 to discuss research progress and interim findings. The final workshop will be held in January 2010, again in conjunction with the annual global conference of GDN when the project's research outputs will be presented.

Workshops, and the project as a whole, will benefit from the participation of the project steering committee—a range of international experts in either migration or development who will guide the project, and be present at the workshops to shape discussions and interact with the country study authors. The steering committee includes:

- Dr. Manolo Abella, Chief Technical Adviser, ILO Asian Regional Programme on Governance of Labour Migration, International Labour Organization.
- Prof. Richard Black, Director of Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalization and Poverty, University of Sussex.
- Dr. Ahmed Galal, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum, Egypt.
- Prof. Carolina Hernandez, President, Institute for Strategic and Development Studies, Philippines and GDN Board member.
- Dr. Frank Laczko, Director of Research, IOM.
- Prof. Michael Landesmann, Director of Research, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies.
- Prof. Robert E. B. Lucas, Professor of Economics, Boston University.
- Prof. William Lyakurwa, Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya.
- Dr. John Page, Chief Economist, Africa Region, the World Bank.
- Prof. Lant. Pritchett, Professor of the Practice of Economic Development, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and
- Prof. Alan Winters, Professor of Economics, University of Sussex.

E. DEVELOPMENT ON THE MOVE: THE SURVEY

Given the focus of this meeting on migration data, the key dimensions of the Development on the Move survey will be laid out in more detail. The following discussion refers both to how IPPR has piloted the survey in Jamaica, and the possible alterations that may be made to the survey before the six main case studies will be launched in 2008.

The full title of the survey programme is “Development on the Move: Measuring and optimizing the economic and social impacts of migration”, and the programme is intended to generate new comparable data on the prevalence and impact of migration on households in developing countries. It is a broadly defined survey that was specifically designed to study international migration, especially the economic and social impacts of migration on households in developing countries.

The Development on the Move survey was piloted in Jamaica in 2007. The data will be provided to IPPR and GDN as well as to the Jamaican research team commissioned to write a country report, in the first half of December 2008. IPPR will also commission surveys in six additional developing countries.

The Institute is currently in the process of selecting countries through a competitive process, but intends to select at least four of the countries from the Middle East, the Pacific, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The Jamaican survey will be completed by November 2007. The six additional surveys will be completed in 2008, but may be extended into 2009. At present, there is no plan to repeat the surveys to collect panel data. However, the instruments will be made available to others if they wish to do so in the future.

In Jamaica, IPPR collaborated very closely with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and with a team of their experts on issues such as sampling, fieldworker training, data entry, etc. STATIN directly hired experienced fieldworkers as interviewers on a contractual basis. The survey has also benefited from inputs of the research team that has been hired to prepare the country report. This report will draw on the results of the survey, as well as existing literature and the results of stakeholder interviews. The research team is comprised of researchers from the University of the West Indies, as well as Government officials. The team has reviewed successive drafts of the questionnaire and provided useful feedback.

The Development on the Move project intends to use nationally representative probability samples. The Institute plans a multi-stage process, including a screening operation at the ultimate area units in order to create a probabilistic sample within a reasonable budget. In Jamaica, a quota system was implemented at the final stage, with each fieldworker given a set number of migrant and non-migrant households to interview. This was done to simplify the process and in order to minimize costs. This approach may be applied in the main phase of the project.

While the survey addressed both households and individuals, households are the primary unit of analysis. Most questions regarding the circumstances of the household as a whole are directly put to the household reference person. In the main, the individual questions address views of the respondents on living conditions, including their migration experience. The survey questionnaire has two shorter additional sections—the first pertaining to the experiences of the returned migrant which should be answered by the returned migrant while the second pertains to any absent migrant, to be answered by a proxy respondent.

In Jamaica, information was collected about households without migrants and households with migrants. Information was also collected from returned migrants and from proxy respondents about migrants abroad. In the main phase of the project, information may be collected from immigrants. The project will not attempt to trace migrants in countries of destination, or conduct other forms of complementary analysis, such as corridor analysis in those countries.

This survey explicitly addressed different types of migration flows—both emigration and immigration, between all destinations, not just particular corridors or from the South to the North, and resulting from various motivations (forced movement, travel for study, travel for work, etc.) with no particular sub-group being the primary focus.

The following definitions were applied to identify each of the migrant groups:

- Immigrant: Someone who lives in the country under consideration but who was born in another country.
- Return migrant: Someone who was born in a specific country, who has previously lived in another country for more than three months, and who has now returned.

- Absent migrant: Someone who left the household within the last ten years and directly went to live in another country for more than three months and who has not yet returned.

The survey gathers data on remittances and their use. The section in the survey on remittances includes the following subjects: (a) place of residence of remitter; (b) who within the household is the recipient; (c) relationship between remitter and recipient; (d) gender of the remitter; (e) quantities of money received over the past 12 months; (f) frequency of remittances; (g) methods used to send cash remittances; (h) use of remittances, the household questionnaire includes a general section on expenditures; (i) value of goods received over the past 12 months; (j) methods used to send goods remittances; (k) whether remittances are a gift or a loan, and (l) the existence and size of reverse remittances.

The results will be disseminated first in a series of country studies to be produced by the country's research teams. A comparative analysis of the country reports will follow. Once the project reports are completed, the survey data will be made available in digital form. Project templates, such as the questionnaire, will also be made available so that others can learn from the experiences, and use the templates for their own survey work.

NOTE

¹ See: <http://www.livelihoods.org>.

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