

Urbanisation and Migration in Africa

**Joseph Teye
Centre for Migration Studies
University of Ghana**

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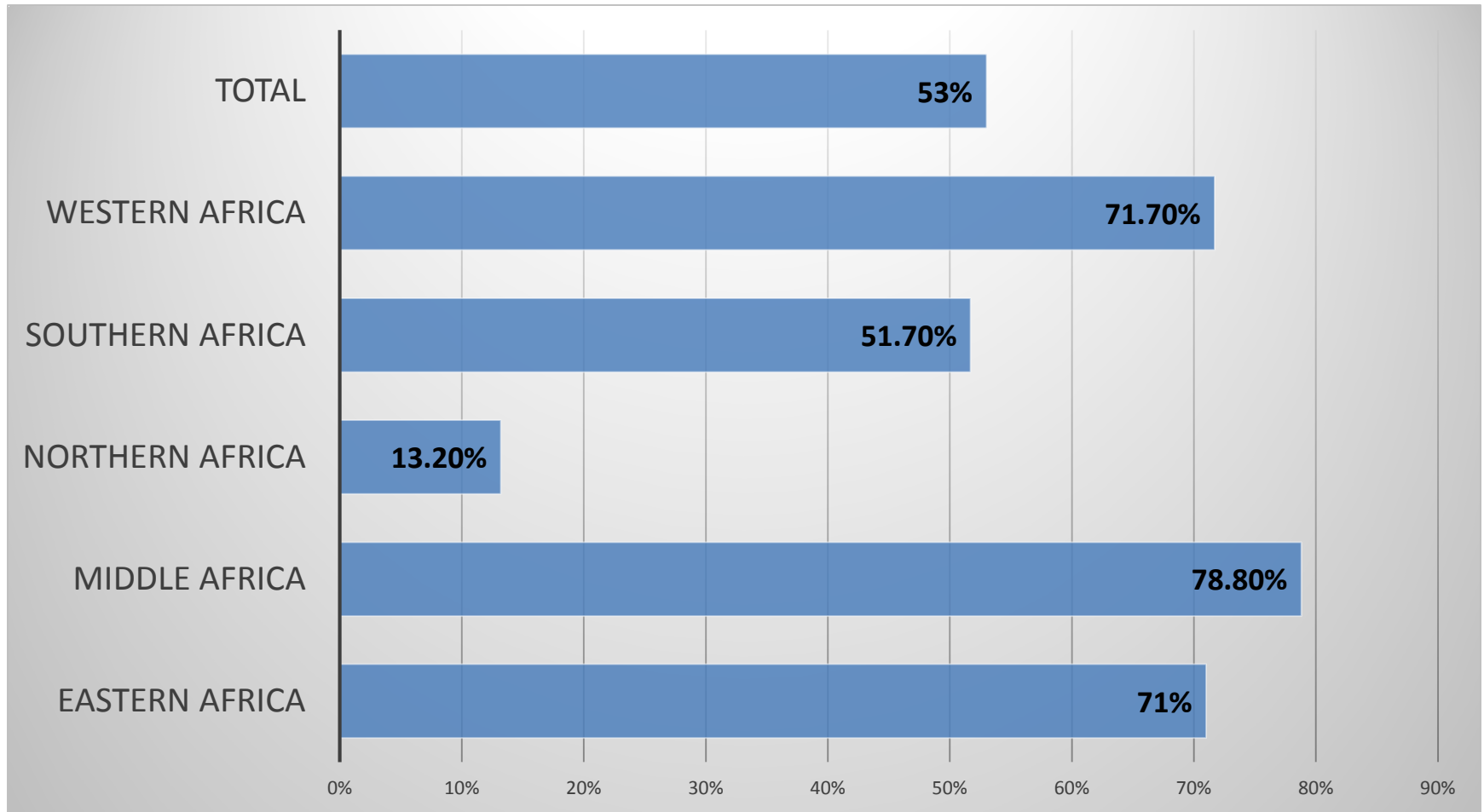
Introduction

- Migration has become a topic of major focus in policy and academic circles.
- One of the major outcomes of migration (Owusu, 2018). The proportion of the world population living in urban areas rose from about 30% in 1950 to 54% in 2015 and is projected to rise to 66% by 2050 (UN-DESA 2014).
- Africa's urban population has been growing at a very high rate (i.e. from about 27% in 1950 to 40% in 2015 and projected to reach 60% by 2050 (UN-DESA, 2014).
- Many African governments have been discouraging rural-urban migration.
- This presentation will examine the relationship between urbanization and migration in the context of sustainable development.
- It is argued that despite the developmental challenges associated with migration and urban growth in Africa, they contribute to socio-economic development. Migration governance should be an integral part of urban planning and sustainable development programmes in Africa.
- **Remaining Presentation:** *African Migration Patterns; Migration and Development; Urbanisation and Migration Linkages; Impacts of Urbanisation; Concluding Remarks*

AFRICAN MIGRATION PATTERNS

Intra-regional migration is dominant

AFRICAN EMIGRANTS LIVING WITHIN AFRICA AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STOCK OF EMIGRANTS



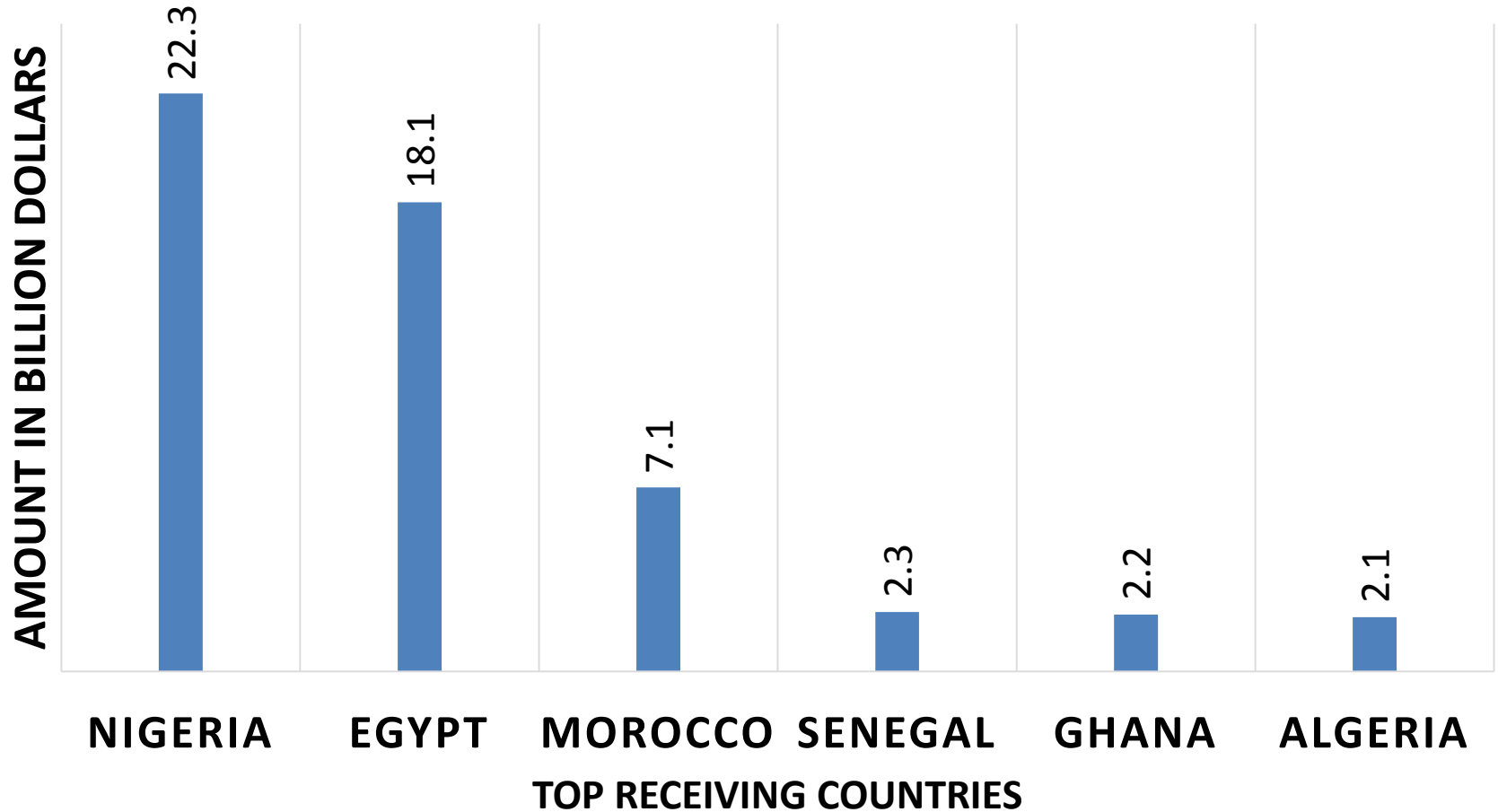
African Migration Patterns Cont.

- In 2017, the main destination countries of intra-African international migrants were South Africa (2.2 million), Côte d'Ivoire (2.1 million), Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Kenya (UN-DESA, 2017).
- Outside Africa, Europe is still the most popular destination of African migrants. However, many Africans are also moving to other regions, especially the Gulf States.
- Restrictive migration policies in Europe (strict border control and securitization of migration) and conflicts have resulted in increased irregular migration.
- Africa has recently attracted increasing number of migrants, especially from Asia.
- Although international migration has received more attention in recent debates on migration, internal migration is far more significant in terms of number of migrants and remittances (Awumbila et al, 2014).
- In Ghana, over 60% of households had at least one migrant member in urban areas. Most of these rural-urban migrants regularly send remittances to their family members in the rural areas (Teye et al, 2018).

Migration and Development in Africa

- Both underdevelopment (poverty) and development have contributed to migration within and out of the region.
- Many governments now recognise the potential for migration to contribute to socio-economic development.
- Efforts to leverage international migrant remittances, which is mainly for consumption.

Receipt of Remittance (in billion dollars)



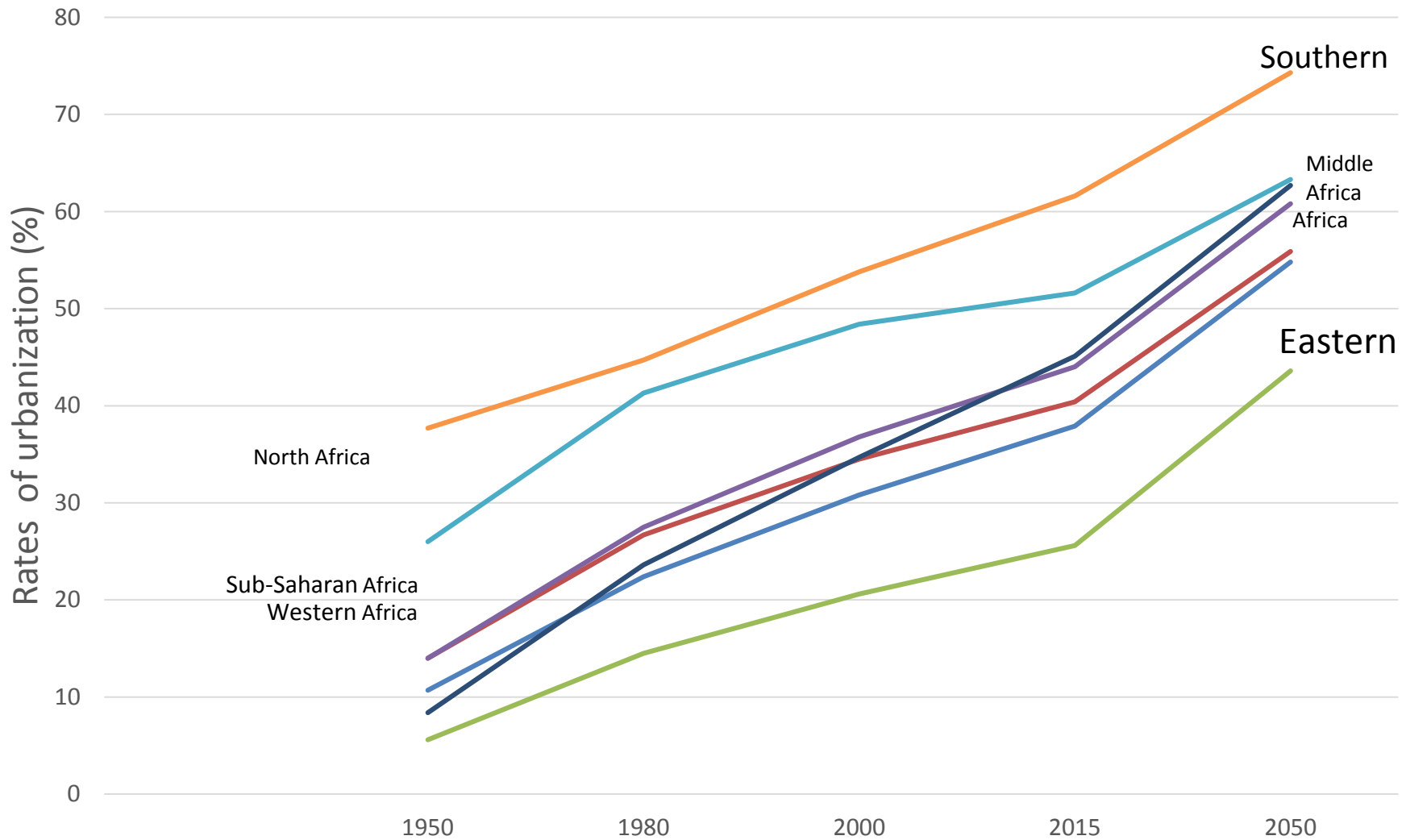
Migration and Development

- Skills transfer programmes (in collaboration with IOM)
- Migrants-led investments
- A number of African countries have recently formulated migration policies to protect migrants and maximize the developmental impacts of migration (Teye, 2017).
- Regional and Sub-regional initiatives to facilitate intra-regional mobility within and across the various regional economic blocs. In 2015, the African Union has elaborated a draft protocol on the free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment. As of July 2018, 32 of the 55 countries have signed the protocol.
- Many of the countries do not have programmes for harnessing the benefits of internal migration (Teye et al, 2015).

Rate of Urbanisation in Regions of Africa (Regional Variations)

REGIONS	1950	1980	2000	2015	2050
Sub-Saharan Africa	10.7	22.4	30.8	37.9	54.8
Africa	14.0	26.7	34.5	40.4	55.9
Eastern Africa	5.6	14.5	20.6	25.6	43.6
Middle Africa	14.0	27.5	36.8	44	60.8
Northern Africa	26.0	41.3	48.4	51.6	63.3
Southern Africa	37.7	44.7	53.8	61.6	74.3
Western Africa	8.4	23.6	34.7	45.1	62.7

Urbanisation Trends in Regions of Africa



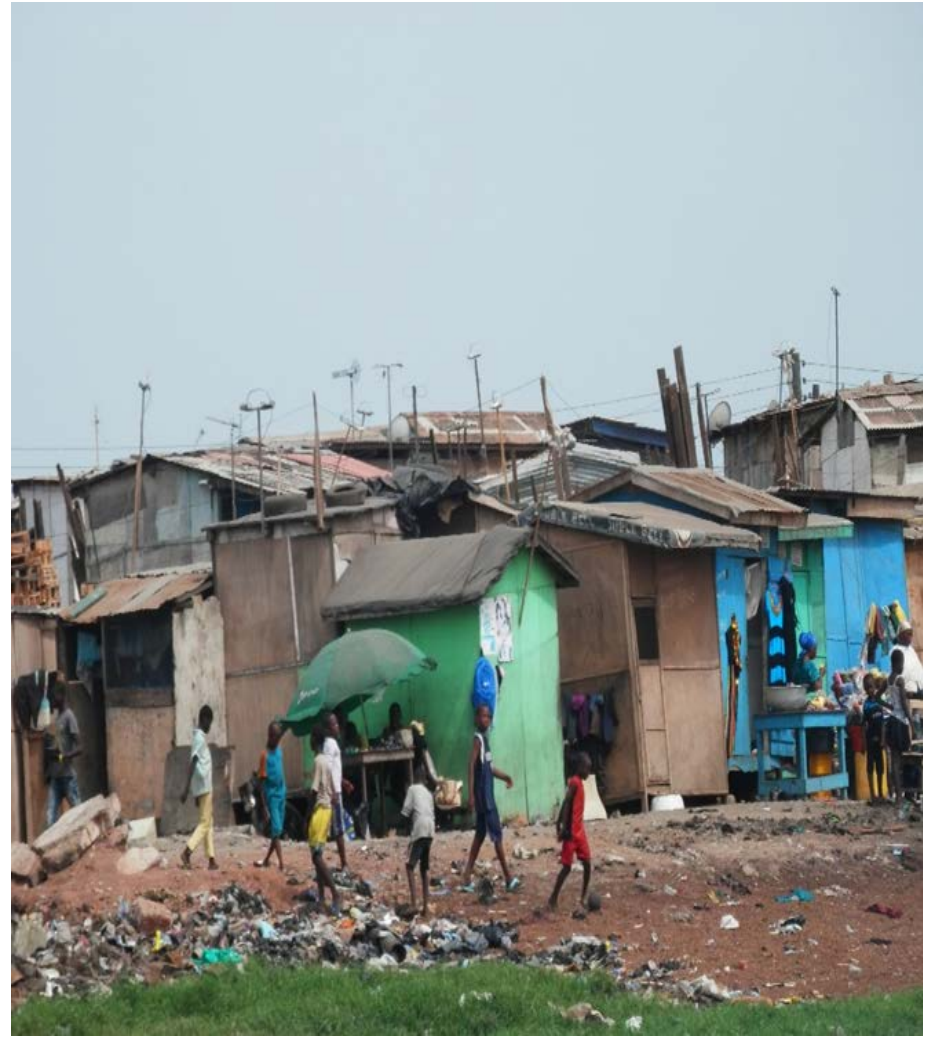
Linkages between Migration and Urbanisation in Africa

- Although a the rapid increase in urban population is also caused by the high rate of natural increase in towns and re-classification of settlements into urban areas, migration accounts for a significant proportion urbanisation in Africa.
- Some of the very large African cities are: Lagos in Nigeria (**21 million people**), Cairo in Egypt (**20.4 million**), Kinshasha in D.R. Congo (**13.3 million**), Luanda in Angola (6.5 million), and Nairobi in Kenya (6.5 Million), Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire (4.8 million), Alexandria in Egypt (4.7 million), Johannesburg in South Africa (4.4 million), Dar es Salaam in Tanzania (4.4 million), Casablanca in Morocco (4.3 million) and Accra in Ghana (4.1 million).
- African urban population will continue to grow, with rural-urban migration continuing to drive the urbanisation process.
- Most of the urban growth is projected to take place in small and intermediate cities and not in the megacities. This implies that the need for urban management is greatest in smaller cities (UN-Habitat, 2014).

Negative Effects of Rapid Urbanisation in Africa

- Unemployment and urban poverty in some African countries. Accra (the capital) more than doubled its standard poverty incidence (4.4% in 1999 to 10.6% in 2006) and extreme poverty incidence rose from 1.3% in 1999 to 4.4% in 2006.
- Housing problems and proliferation of slums which are characterised by **overcrowded houses, limited electricity supply, poor access to water supplies, little sanitation and insecure living conditions.**
- Proportion of households in two slums in Ghana (Nima and Old Fadama) without 'in-residence' water (76%); Toilet Facilities (78%); Bathhouse (47%),

Slum in Accra



Private Bathhouses



Development Challenges of Urbanisation

- **Lack of adequate resources** to enhance the quality of urban infrastructure and promote urban dwellers' access to affordable housing, water, electricity, health facilities and other social amenities (Owusu, 2018)
- **Inadequate investments** to generate employment opportunities (UN-Habitat, 2018)
- **Lack of effective** policy framework for incorporating migration into sustainable urban development programmes
- **Weak policy coherence**
- **Land tenure systems affect planning** (land is controlled by chiefs in some countries)
- **Weak capacity of municipal authorities** to effectively design and implement sustainable urban development policies.

Positive effects of rural-urban migration and urbanisation in Africa

- Urban living has, in a few cases, contributed to access to education, health services, lower fertility, improved access to social services.
- Informal settlements tend to boom with various forms of entrepreneurial businesses and activities mostly in the informal sector.
- Recent studies in Ghana shows that incomes of the migrants were irregular, but **higher than at places of origin.**

“It is now better for me than before migration to Accra because back home in the North I was not doing any work. I am now happily working, able to save some money and remit money to my family back in the north. ... [In addition] “My son has benefited a lot from my migration to this place because I am now able to provide for all his educational needs””

Positive Effects of Rural-Urban migration and Urbanisation

- Over 76% of rural-urban migrants in the slums in Accra save whereas 78% sent remittances within last 12 months prior to the study.
- About 88% of the rural-urban migrants assessed their overall household life as 'improved a lot/somewhat improved' after moving to Accra.
- *“Migration has been helpful to me based on the things that I told you I have gotten. And even though migration has not improved my education, through migration I have been able to continuously support the education of my brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews at home”*
- While development policies continue to regard rural-urban migration as negative and largely leading to an increase in urban poverty, urban slums are not just places of despair and misery, but also places where migrants are optimistically making the most of their capabilities, despite obvious difficulties and trying to move out of poverty.

Demographic Impact of Migration and Urbanisation

- Migrants from developing countries including Africa may be helping to control rapid decline in Total Fertility Rates in developed countries but more evidence is needed.
- The relationship between urbanisation and demographic indicators have not been extensively analysed in Africa.
- However, there is enough evidence to suggest that urbanisation is contributing to a reduction in total fertility rates. In Ghana, for instance, total fertility rate has declined faster in urban areas than in rural areas. The total fertility rate in urban Ghana is 3.3 while that in rural Ghana is 4.7 (GSS, 2018).
- Urbanisation also contributes to reduction in child and maternal mortality rates.
- Although it was initially thought that urbanisation contributes to a reduction in adult mortality rate, a recent assessment by Menashe-Oren and Stecklov (2018) shows that in Sub-Saharan Africa, adult mortality rate is NOW slightly higher in urban areas than rural areas.

Recent Policy Responses to Urbanisation in Africa

- Policy prescriptions focused on discouraging people from moving to urban areas.
- Rampant evictions of poor migrants to make way for infrastructure projects and private development.
- Very few programmes of urban renewal and slum upgrading in decaying urban centres.
- Affordable housing schemes are still not affordable to the urban poor.
- Some African countries have formulated urban development policies.
- Implementation of programmes directed at bridging the rural-urban divide
- Poverty reduction programmes
- Most of these strategies have not achieved desirable results, as a result of lack of financial resources and weak technical capacity.

Concluding Remarks

- If well managed, both internal and international migration can contribute to socio-economic development.
- Receiving countries must therefore not only be concerned about strict border control systems and securitisation of migration.
- Current policy prescriptions that tend to deal with the challenges of migration by discouraging people from moving are bound to fail, unless the underlying drivers of migration are addressed.
- While migration and urbanization can lead to increased urban poverty and the proliferation of slums, they can also lead to economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa.
- Effective policies and actions are needed to reap positive dividends from migration and urbanization in Africa.
- Migration governance should be an integral part of urban planning and sustainable development programmes in Africa.

THANK YOU

