

The Urban Migration of Adolescent Girls: Results from Poor Countries

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Outline

- 1 Migrant Adolescent Girls in Cities and Towns
- 2 Put Girls on the Map
- 3 Urban Social Resources and the Larger Context

Why Adolescent Girls? Why Urban?

We know from the literature:

- Pronounced age pattern in migration, peaking in the early to mid-20s. Substantial rates in adolescence, yet under-studied.
- Migration can produce **social dislocation**, expose young girls to risks in transit and upon arrival
- Rural-to-urban moves (in particular) may deposit girls in environments they don't fully understand.
- But cities possess institutions and resources not available in rural areas—how to create **social linkages** that connect girls to them?

Presentation an Excerpt from *Girls on the Move*

A larger report on migration of adolescent girls, funded by the Nike Foundation and the UN Foundation, to be published in spring 2013. Most recent of Nike's *Girls Count* series.

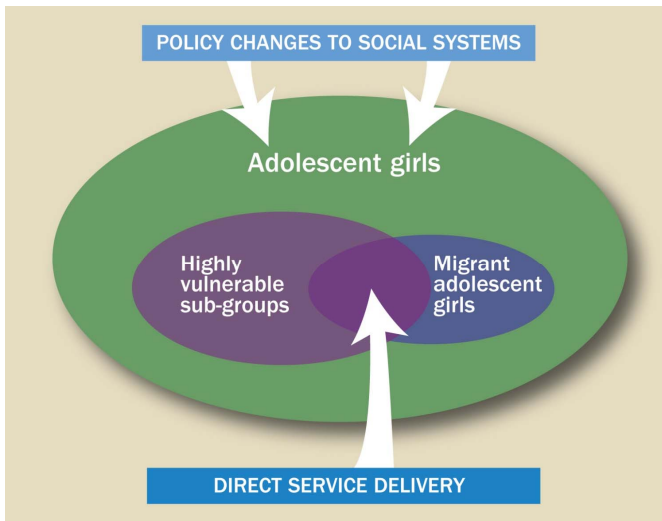


- Reports highlight:
 - Relevant research
 - Promising programs & policies
 - Action agendas for change



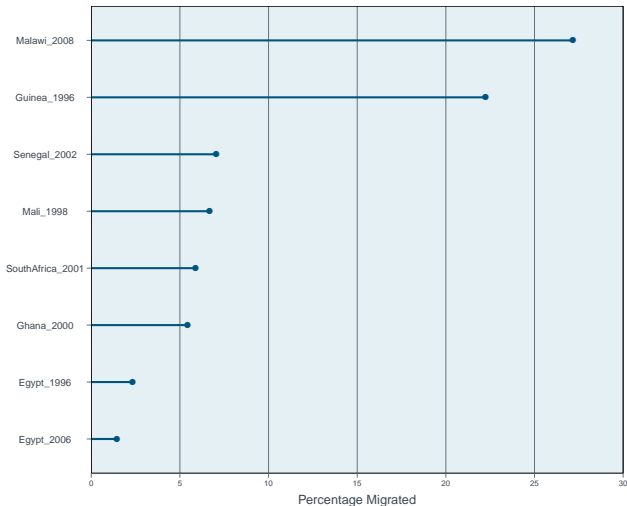
Program and Policy Context of Report

Recognize opportunity as well as risk; and migrant diversity



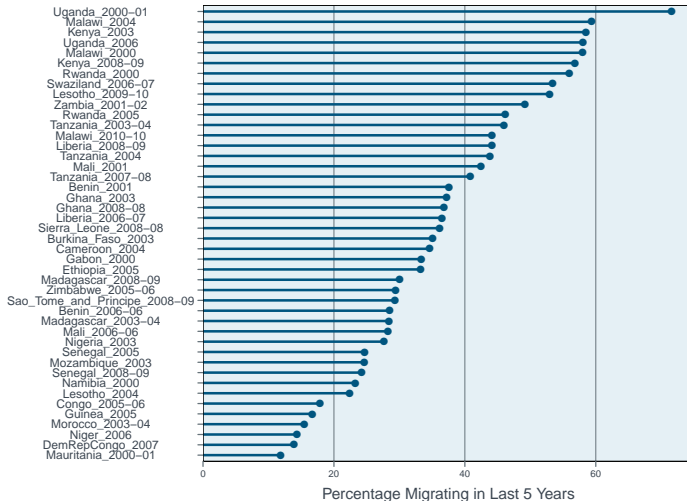
Urban In-Migration, African Girls 15–19

IPUMS, Percentage Changing Province or Equivalent in Past 5 Years



Urban In-Migration, African Girls 15–19

DHS (since 2000), Percentage Changing Locality in Past 5 Years

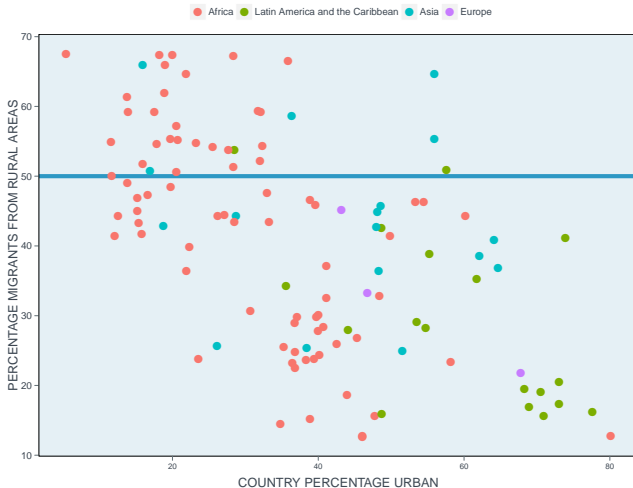


How to Interpret These Differences?

- Both measures meaningful—but they mean different things
- Reasonable (if arguable) that census measures generally refer to longer-distance moves
- But **is distance a proxy** for social dislocation? Not obviously.
- Qualitative evidence suggests: Girls would not move long distances **unless** family or trusted contacts live at destination.

Do Urban In-Migrant Girls Come From Rural Villages?

Girls 15–19, DHS, Change of Locality in Past 5 Years

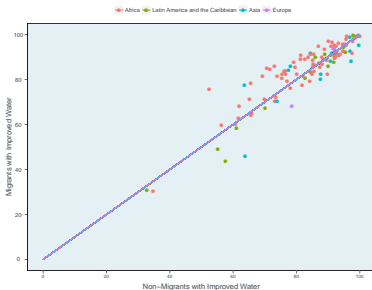
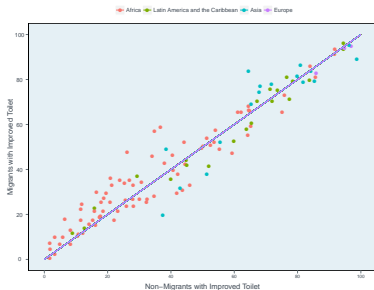


Before the Move and In Transit

- Information** From returned migrants; media; and intermediaries (some more formal—employment recruiters—than others)
- Accompaniment** Girls do not often move alone: kin or near kin; employment intermediaries for girls heading to domestic and factory work
- Risks** Literature dominated by accounts of trafficking, which (we think, and no one really knows) affects perhaps 3% of migrating girls.
- Upon arrival** Window of elevated risk (at bus depot, etc.) until safe housing can be sorted out.

Do Urban In-Migrant Girls Live in Slums?

Percentage in Households with Adequate Sanitation and Drinking Water

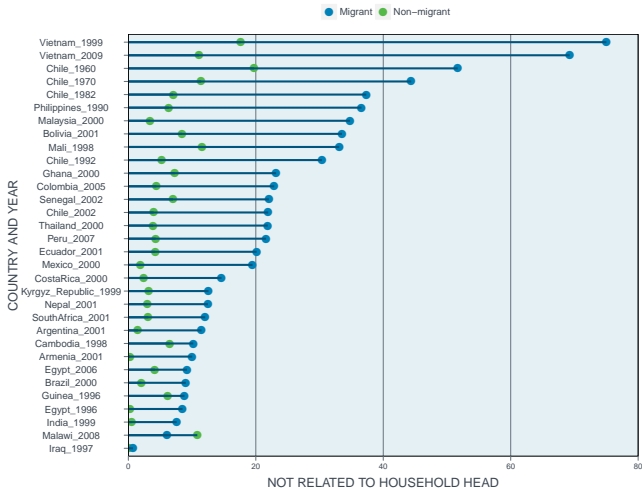


Challenges view that migrants are overwhelmingly slum-dwellers.

Domestic workers: variety of neighborhoods. **Factory workers:** some in dormitories.

Are Urban In-Migrant Girls Socially Isolated?

Percentage Unrelated to Household Head, IPUMS



Agarwal and Jones (2012) describe the unsettling experiences of new migrants in Indore (India),
“Recent migrant adolescent girls described their own hesitation in building relationships initially. They felt anxious about initiating conversation with others as they felt they did not belong and were concerned about how they were regarded by others. Equally, girls perceived a hesitation among neighbours to get to know them: ‘People think they don’t know who we are, where we’re from, and what we’re doing so they’re reluctant to get to know us’ (Jyoti, age 14). This feeling gradually subsided for girls if they became involved in activities within the neighbourhood . . . The early period following migration could be a particularly difficult and lonely time.” (Agarwal and Jones, 2012)

Co-Residence and Social Isolation

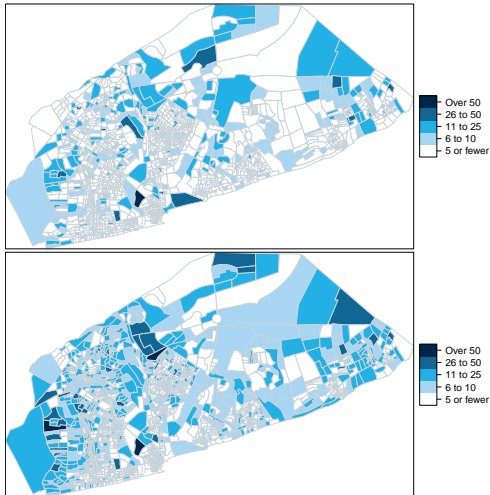
- An urban migrant girl may not live with family, but can have **relatives nearby**
- A long-distance move might not have been considered without relatives at destination.
- Especially in Asia—but no doubt elsewhere—migrant girls maintain contact with family, friends, and peers via mobile phone networks and **text messaging**. An opening for programs? Many migrant girls arrive without much command over the written word, but aided by examples from the pocket-size SMS manuals ubiquitous in the region, texting gives them an informal and pleasurable way to play with words and thereby build literacies. It also provides a network that enables quick exchange of news about job openings, from which both migrant girls and boys benefit.

Use Data to Identify the Disadvantaged

- Countries just now finishing the 2010 round of censuses
- For the first time, many are equipped with ability to map
- Use detailed census data to spotlight disadvantage
- **Example:** Accra girls aged 15–19 who are not in school, not in the labor force, and not related to the household head.
 - Of all Accra girls this age, 12 percent are disadvantaged
 - Of all recent in-migrant girls, 23 percent are disadvantaged—nearly double the non-migrant percentage
 - Yet of all of the disadvantaged girls, only 11 percent are migrants
- Implications for program targeting and resource allocation

All Migrant Girls vs. All Disadvantaged Girls

Accra, 2000 Census



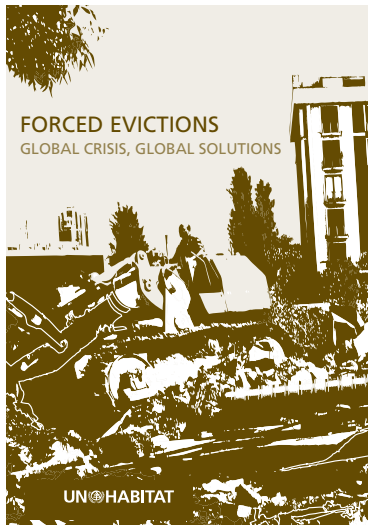
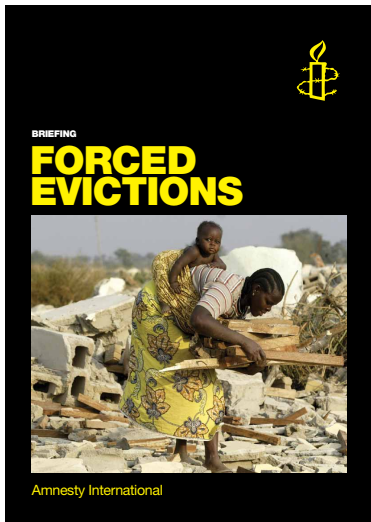
The top map shows the number of adolescent in-migrant girls by EA, whereas the bottom map shows the number of disadvantaged girls, whether migrant or not.

Associations of the Urban Poor

Slum/Shack-Dwellers International

- Associations (founded on women's saving groups, but now being linked nationally and internationally) (<http://www.sdinet.org>)
- Principal concerns: housing, water, sanitation, protection against eviction
- Bridging social capital: Important linkages from slums to municipal governments
- Have not systematically connected to recent migrants, or seen migrant girls as a group needing oversight

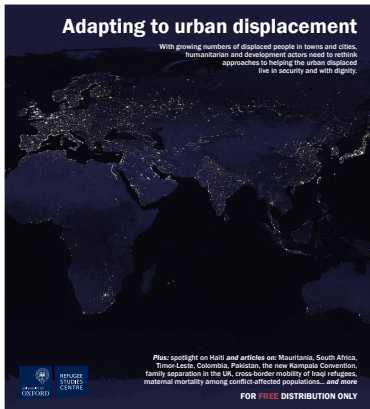
Girls (and other poor) Jeopardized by Forced Evictions



Displaced Populations

FORCED MIGRATION review

Issue 34
February 2010



FORCED MIGRATION review

Issue 40
August 2012

