

June 13, 2013

Mainstreaming migration in development agendas: South Asia

PIYASIRI WICKRAMASEKARA

Mainstreaming migration in development agendas: South Asia

Presentation at the International Conference on
Mainstreaming Migration to The Development Agenda:
South Asian Experience

Organized by Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka and Friedrich Ebert
Stiftung, Colombo

Taj Samudra Hotel , Colombo, Sri Lanka, 13-14 June 2013

By
Piyasiri Wickramasekara
Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA)



Structure of the presentation

- Key messages
- Definitions
- Tools for mainstreaming
- South Asian situation
- Some caveats
- Post-2015 Development Agenda and Migration

Key messages



- Migration and development nexus has become high on the global agenda with various calls for mainstreaming.
- There is still limited understanding of the interactions between migration and development.
- Migrant rights should be central to any mainstreaming strategy: mainstreaming migrants in development
- There are wide variations among South Asian countries in integrating migration issues in development
- There are a number of caveats to be considered in this discourse.

Development and Mainstreaming

- Definition of development: broader than simple economic growth – Sen - improving freedom, choices and capabilities of people: UNDP - Promoting human development.
- What is mainstreaming of migration? Whole of govt. approach; address it in all dev. policies
- Reasons for mainstreaming?
 - Policy coherence & coordination; maximise development benefits of migration
- What are the policies required?.

Global support for mainstreaming

- **Global Commission on International Migration:** Principles of Action II. Reinforcing economic and developmental impact
- The role that migrants play in promoting development and poverty reduction in countries of origin, as well as the contribution they make towards the prosperity of destination countries, should be recognized and reinforced. International migration should become an integral part of national, regional and global strategies for economic growth, in both the developing and developed world.
- **ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration (MFLM): Principle 15**
- The contribution of labour migration to employment, economic growth, development and the alleviation of poverty should be recognized and maximized for the benefit of both origin and destination countries.
- **Guideline 15.1.** integrating and mainstreaming labour migration in national employment, labour market and development policy.
- **UNDP Human Development Report 2009:** Core package component: Making mobility an integral part of national development strategies
- **Global Forum on Migration & Development (GFMD) 2012:** Factoring migration into development planning; 2013/14 Sweden.
- **Post-2015 Development Agenda consultations:** Migration as an enabler of development

South Asia: Key features

Population (mn) 2009	1,568
Surface area (Sq. km.)	5,140
Population growth rate - annual average % (2000-2009)	1.6
GNI per capita US \$ 2009	1,096
Labour force (million) 2008	606.6
Poverty headcount ratio 2004 %	30.8
Stock of emigrants 2010	26.7 million (1.6% of population)
Stock of immigrants	12.2 million (0.7% of population)
Emigration rate of tertiary educated – Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka- 29.7%; Afghanistan (23.3%), Pakistan (12.6%); Nepal (5.3%); Bangladesh (4.3%)
Inward remittance flows US\$ billion 2009	82.6 (4.8% of GDP in 2009)
Top 5 remittance recipients in 2010:	India (\$55.0 bn), Bangladesh (\$11.1 bn), Pakistan (\$9.4 bn), Sri Lanka (\$3.6 bn), Nepal (\$3.5 bn).
Top 5 remittance recipients in (percentage of GDP):2009	Nepal (22.9%), Bangladesh (11.8%), Sri Lanka (7.9%), Pakistan (6.0%), India (3.9%).

Source: All data from World Bank, Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011

Main features of South Asian labour migration

- Temporary labour migration on short-term contracts, especially to the Gulf.
- Recruitment and hiring processes dominated by private sector in both source and destination.
- Low skilled migration flows dominate.
- Major concentration of flows to the Gulf and ME countries
- High incidence of irregular migration and trafficking, especially within the subregion.
- High share of female migration only in Sri Lanka.
- Skilled migration flows to Australia, Canada, GCC states, Europe (UK) and the USA

Migration-development challenges

- Integrating migration in national planning, PRSPs and poverty alleviation programmes
- Coordination and coherence between development, trade, finance, employment and migration policies
- Optimum utilisation of remittances
- Return migration and reintegration; Using Human, financial and social capital of returnees.
- Promoting labour mobility and freer circulation within SAARC
- Addressing brain drain and human capital development
- Engaging the diaspora.

South Asia: Migration indicators

Country	Outflow of workers (annual) 2008-10 average	Immigrant Stock (000s) - 2010	Emigrant Stock (000s) - 2010	Remittances US\$ million - 2011	Remitt. as % of GDP - 2011
Bangladesh	574,519	1,085	5,380	12,068	11.0
India	700,076	5,436	11,358	63,011	4.2
Nepal	256,037	946	982	4,217	21.6
Pakistan	400,365	4,234	4,677	12,263	4.2
Sri Lanka	218,609	334	1847	5,193	7.2

Annual outflows of migrant workers

(officially reported)

Years	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
1990	103,814	139,861	83,020	115,520	42,625
1995	187,543	415,334	121,595	122,620	172,489
2000	222,686	243,182	35,543	110,136	182,188
2005	252,702	548,853	183,682	143,329	231,290
2008	875,055	848,601	249,051	431,842	236,574
2009	465,351	610,272	219,965	404,568	247,119
2010	383,150	641,356	299,094	364,685	266,445
2011	568,062	626,565	354,716		262,960
2012	607,798	747,401	384,665		

Updated from Wickramasekara 2011: Labour migration in South Asia, ILO.

Annual inflow of remittances (US\$ mn)

Year	Bangladesh	India	Nepal*	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
2000	1,968	12,883	111	1,075	1,166
2001	2,105	14,273	147	1,461	1,185
2002	2,858	15,736	678	3,554	1,309
2003	3,192	20,999	771	3,964	1,438
2004	3,584	18,750	823	3,945	1,590
2005	4,315	22,125	1,212	4,280	1,991
2006	5,428	28,334	1,453	5,121	2,185
2007	6,562	37,217	1,734	5,998	2,527
2008	8,941	49,977	2,727	7,039	2,947
2009	10,521	49,468	2,986	8,717	3,363
2010	10,850	54,035	3,469	9,690	4,155
2011	12,068	63,011	4,217	12,263	5,193
2012e	14,060	69,350	4,953	14,010	6,312
Share of GDP, 2011 (%)	11%	3%	22%	6%	9%



Diaspora estimates: South Asia

- Bangladesh – 1.2 million in industrial countries (Tasneem Siddiqui – 2004)
- India – 25 million (2012)
- Nepal ?
- Pakistan – 7 million
- Sri Lanka – 1.9 million stock of migrants

South Asia – migration & development priorities- subjective ranking

	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Remittances	X	X	X	X	X
Brain drain	X		X	X	X
Brain circulation		X			
Diaspora engagement	X	X		X	
Return		X			X
Migrant rights	X		X		X
Gender			X		X
Stakeholder Consultations	X		X		X

Tools for mainstreaming	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Dedicated Ministry	MEWOE	MOIA	DOFE MOLPT	MHRD/ MOP	MOEPW
National Labour Migration Policy			X (FEP 07)	X	X (2008)
Migration policy statement	X				X
National development policies and plans	X		X (10 th plan; TIP)		X
National employment policy	chk				X
PRSP	X (2013) 6 th Plan		X (2003)		X (2002)
Decent Work Country Programmes	X		X		X
Sectoral policies (e.g. employment, health, trade, environment, etc)					
Migration profiles & extended profiles – promoted by IOM					X
National Action Plan on M-D (GMG Handbook)					

Regional Platforms in Asia and mainstreaming

- The Colombo Process
 - More on governance and protection issues
 - Little development initiative
- The Abu Dhabi Dialogue
 - Main focus on recruitment issues: dominated by GCC interests
- SAARC: no initiatives as yet. Social Charter does not involve labour. Trafficking Protocol negative
- South Asian Migration Commission – on-going research



Country profiles: Sri Lanka

- Migration important for employment, remittances and poverty reduction
- 2003 PRSP: section on Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction into the Promotion of Overseas Employment
- Mahinda Chintana: emphasis on skilled safe migration
- National youth policy
- National Labour Migration Policy 2008.
- National Human Resource and Employment policy: 2012
- Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP):
- Remittances most important: Return and reintegration (mostly temp migration) and Diasporas (divisive and limited contributions).

Sri Lankan Diaspora distribution (Estimated).

Country	Estimated size of the Sri Lankan Diaspora
Canada	200,000- 300,000
United Kingdom (UK)	180,000
Germany	60,000
France	40,000- 50,000
Switzerland	47,000
Australia	40,000
USA	25,000
Netherlands	20,000
Italy	15,000

Source: Presentation by S. Kulasekara, IOM Colombo:

http://www.migration4development.org/sites/m4d.emakina-eu.net/files/MD_MAC_Shantha_0.ppt



Nepal

- Remittances 22 per cent of GDP
- 10 year plan and PRSP 2003 incorporated migration
- Current Interim Plan (2011-2013) separate chapter on foreign employment (Adhikary)
- Foreign employment policy 2012.
 - To mobilize remittances for human development and in the manufacturing sector.
 - Mainstreaming of foreign employment in local level projects
- DWCP Nepal
- Return migration and Diaspora – not much information

Pilot project Mainstreaming migration into National Development Strategies

- Use the GMG Handbook to pilot mainstreaming
- Supported by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- GMG Working Group on Migration Mainstreaming co-chaired by UNDP and IOM are involved in the practical application of the GMG handbook in four countries,
 - Bangladesh, Jamaica, Moldova and Tunisia

Contradictions in the M-D discourse-1

- Migration cannot address lack of development or long run problems of development.
- Increasing barriers to mobility in countries of destination (COD)
- Selective admission policies exacerbating brain drain and reduces poverty impact.
- Emphasis on temporary and circular migration programmes by countries of destination (COD) – not a sustainable solution
- South South migration dominant for South Asia.

Contradictions in the M-D discourse-2

- High remittance inflows do not guarantee development – Philippines example. Generating further inequalities
- How to address continuing abuse and exploitation of migrant workers in mainstreaming exercises
- Mainstreaming recommendation for COO; can it succeed without corresponding support and obligations of COD. GFMD 2012 raised the issue of reciprocity.
- Time horizon – what is the planning horizon for mainstreaming exercises? Migration is not a long run solution to development.
- While some messages re policy coherence, coordination among stakeholders, blind application is not warranted.

Integrating migration into the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) did not include migration factors,
- Post-2015 International development agenda consultations ongoing
- High Level Panel and the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- Suggested entry points for inserting migration into the Post-2015 Development Agenda
 - As a separate goal with indicators and targets: not much scope.
 - As a cross cutting issue (IOM-UN DESA) under other goals
 - As part of Population Dynamics – UNFPA promotes global consultations
 - As part of Global Partnerships (current MDG 8)
 - Cross cutting issue
- Goals, indicators to measure and monitor the concrete effects of migration on specific development outcomes to be developed