



Ghana Country Programme

Briefing Note

December 2014

What is the Issue?

The UNDP's 2009 Human Development Report estimates that 740 million people migrate internally and another 90 million migrate within developing country regions, often to improve development prospects for themselves and their families and due to lack of alternatives. Migration can contribute to improving the economic and social well-being of migrants and their families. However, it can also expose migrants to new vulnerabilities, such as debt and limited access to services. Political authorities and origin and destination communities often do not have effective policies in place to adequately manage migration.

While many governments in the Global South and international donors have become aware of the importance of migration for poverty reduction, they lack substantive evidence and data that can help them to maximise the benefits of migration and minimise its potential harms.

What is the Programme?

The [Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme](#) Consortium is a seven year (2010-2017) multi-partner research programme with funds of £6.425m provided by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), which aims to generate policy relevant evidence on the nature and extent of internal and regional (South-South) migration.

The Consortium is led by the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex, with partners based in five regions: in South Asia, the Bangladesh-based Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) at the University of Dhaka; in Southeast Asia, the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore; in West Africa, the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana; in East Africa, the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) in Nairobi; and in Southern Africa, the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Each partner, under the guidance and support of the Consortium lead, is responsible for designing and conducting research projects that address the overall programme research questions. The projects consist of academic research, complemented by activities to ensure the communication of findings and influencing of migration policy and practice. For more information, please contact: [<migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk>](mailto:migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk) or visit [<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/>](http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/).

What the programme aims to achieve:

The research conducted by each partner is designed to address the following programme objectives:

- To understand why migration plays a significant role in poverty reduction in some places and contexts, but not in others
- To explore the transformational potential of migration on poverty
- To contribute to the generation of quality data on migration
- To have a strong policy focus
- To influence policy and practice through engagement with key stakeholders among policy makers, the media and civil society

Past and On-Going Activities in Ghana:

The Consortium partner in West Africa, the University of Ghana based Centre for Migration Studies (CMS), is implementing three research projects in Ghana:

1. Urbanisation, Rural-Urban Migration and Increasing Urban Poverty in Ghana

This study sought to provide a better understanding of how the migration of poor people into two urban informal settlements in Accra, impacts on poverty outcomes, access to services, and economic and social opportunities, in addition to examining the barriers migrants face in the urban informal sector. The study employed a mixed methods approach using quantitative as well as qualitative research tools. A key conclusion drawn from the findings is that urban slums are not only places of despair and misery but also places where migrants are optimistically making the most of their abilities and moving out of poverty.

The data generated from the study contributes to the database for evidence based policy-making for a number of national policies currently being developed or implemented such as the national urban and housing policies, the draft social protection policy, the migration national policy, the national climate change adaptation strategy, and the Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda.

A dissemination workshop was held with relevant government and civil society stakeholders in September 2013.

The following outputs produced from this study are available online:

'Can Rural-Urban Migration into Slums Reduce Poverty? Evidence from Ghana' (working paper):
<<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/documents/wp-13---awumbila-owusu-teye-2014-can-rural-urban-migration-into-slums-reduce-poverty-final.pdf>>

'Migrating out of Poverty? Evidence from Informal Settlements in Accra, Ghana' (policy brief):
<<http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/documents/cms-rp003-policy-brief-dec13.pdf>>

2. Migration Patterns and Characteristics of Migrant Households and Well Being in Ghana

This quantitative survey of 1,500 households was undertaken in five of Ghana's migrant source regions (the Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Brong Ahafo and the Volta). These regions were selected on the basis of data provided from the 2010 Ghana Population and Housing Census conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service, which indicated that these regions were the major source areas of internal migration in Ghana.

The data collected in this study will contribute to the evidence base for policy making on migration, rural and urban policies, poverty reduction strategies, and regional development planning authorities such as the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA). A research report is available on request and a working paper will be forthcoming in 2015.

3. Livelihood Strategies and Wellbeing of Migrants in Low-Paid and Insecure Occupations in Urban Ghana

This study aims to provide qualitative data that will offer insights into the experiences, livelihood strategies and wellbeing of migrant domestic and construction workers working in precarious conditions in Accra, Ghana. The choice of these two employment sectors is based on the fact that they provide common and important occupations for rural-to-urban migrants in the Ghanaian labour market and in the growing informal sector economy.

The project will feature various research uptake activities, directed at key stakeholders such as policymakers and government agencies. A working paper, policy briefs and facts sheets are scheduled for 2015. It is also expected that the study will make policy recommendations that can

support Ghana's ratification and subsequent implementation of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189).

Future Activities in Ghana:

CMS is also in the finalising three new research projects to be conducted over the period January 2015 to June 2016.

1. Migration to Cities in Ghana: An analysis of the counterfactual

There is little existing research that directly examines how rural-urban migrants in Ghana fare in the city relative to how they would have fared had they stayed in their origin areas. This proposed study will focus on rural-urban linkages with the main objective of establishing whether or not (and by how much) migrants and their households have actually gained in real income and welfare terms from their migration.

Members of migrants' families left behind at the origin and migrants themselves at destination will be interviewed to construct both social and economic counterfactuals of migration into cities in Ghana. A short screener survey questionnaire implemented in 2015 (two years after the initial household survey) will re-survey the households that were involved in the March 2013 quantitative household survey (see above) for the purpose of identifying households with recent migrants (i.e. since March 2013) and also recently returned migrants. To assess the impact of migration (or return) on households' wellbeing, a short questionnaire will be used to interview about 100 of the households with recent migrants and a control group of 40 non-migrant households. Using contacts to be provided by members of the migrant households at the origin, 100 of the recent migrants will be tracked from the second survey to their destinations - ideally to one or two locations, and will be interviewed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The interviews and questionnaire survey will aim to collect data on poverty/wellbeing outcomes and other social and economic outcomes, such as employment, education acquisition, age at first marriage, etc.

This study will provide novel panel or series data and an empirical assessment of the impact of rural-urban migration to cities on migrants' wellbeing. It will also provide data on the interconnections between rural and urban areas. The data produced will contribute to the Consortium's open access database.

2. The Migration Industry in Ghana

In Ghana, although there is a paucity of research about the migration industry, anecdotal data indicates a wide array of both formal and informal actors provide services that may both facilitate as well as constrain migration. The few studies undertaken have tended to focus on the industry that facilitates irregular migration out of Ghana. This research project will be an exploratory or scoping study, which will aim to identify the incidence, characteristics, functions, main actors and stakeholders of the migration industry in Ghana, and the extent to which recruitment agents are involved in the migration streams. Although it will provide general information on the migration industry in Ghana, it will focus on two sectors of the Ghanaian economy as case studies, the domestic work sector and the oil industry sector, as anecdotal information indicates that these are the two sectors are experiencing an increasing flow of low and semi-skilled migrants, both from the West African sub-region and within Ghana. The study will use a mixed methods approach, including an extensive desk study, key informant interviews, in-depth interviews with formal recruitment agencies, in-depth interviews with informal intermediaries and unskilled migrants in the domestic and oil and gas sectors.

3. Intra-family dynamics, with a special focus on gender and age

This project will focus on migration as a means of social transformation at the level of the household. It will examine intra-family dynamics, including the changing roles and relations

associated with migration and thus examine how migration affects life choices for youth in migrant communities; whether migration allows long term investment; how migration has changed gender norms and relations; and the re-integration of return migrants into the economic and social life of their families and communities. Finally, the study will seek to empirically examine the gendered patterns of earning, remitting and remittance use and management.

This primarily qualitative research project will draw respondents from the survey of 1,500 households conducted in 2013 (see above) for in-depth interviews with different household members. The research design will be replicated by all Migrating out of Poverty RPC partners that have completed a quantitative household survey. The findings will contribute to the programme objectives of providing original quality data on migration and influencing policy and practice through the dissemination and sharing of the findings.

Other relevant activities:

The 15th Annual Global Development Network Conference

CMS co-hosted The 15th Annual Global Development Network Conference, 'Structural Transformation in Africa and Beyond', 18-20 June 2014. The conference included a parallel session, 'Internal migration dynamics in Africa and Asia: Implications for poverty reduction and development' consisting of three papers based on research by partners from the Consortium. The first paper, 'Changing Perspectives of Internal Migration in Eastern Africa', examined spatial and temporal dynamics of internal migration in East Africa and their policy implications. The second paper, 'Can Rural-Urban Migration Contribute to Poverty Reduction? Evidence from Ghana', focused on the inter-connections between urbanisation, rural-urban migration and poverty outcomes in Ghana; while the third was on 'Migration in the Time of Crisis: Evidence on its Effectiveness from Indonesia'. For more information about the conference and to access the papers, please visit <http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/research/migrationandpoverty/internalmigrationdynamics>

Media Training Workshop for Ghanaian Journalists

CMS organised a three-day Media Training Workshop for journalists from across Ghana on 2-4 September, 2014, in Accra, Ghana. Originally devised as a West African training workshop, the Ghanaian ban on international conferences due to the Ebola outbreak led to the event being re-envisioned as a national training workshop for journalists from across Ghana. The core aims - to broaden and deepen journalists' understanding of migration and to enable them to appreciate its positive aspects, including its potential for economic development and poverty reduction – remained intact. The workshop also sought to strengthen the relationship between the media and the Consortium, to enhance the media's engagement and effectiveness in disseminating Consortium-related research across the West African sub-region. Photos and presentations from the event are available here: <https://storify.com/MigrationRPC/cmswanjom> At the end of the training a network of journalists, the Media Network on Migration in Ghana (MENOM, Ghana) was created to encourage better coverage of migration stories.