



Migration, Development and Evaluation: Where We Stand Today and Why

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Presentation Outline

- **Policymakers are increasingly interested in harnessing the benefits of migration for development.**
- **Growing number of migration interventions aim to have a direct impact on employment and development outcomes.**
- **But our understanding of these impacts is limited, because the “evaluation culture” in migration is weak.**
- **How can we build a stronger “evaluation culture” ?**



Policymakers increasingly interested in harnessing benefits of migration for development

- Remittances more important than official development aid.
- “Social remittances”, the skills, know-how, and networks that migrants contribute to their families and communities, have an important impact on development.
- Labour mobility can enhance employment outcomes.



More studies show how migration can benefit development.

Sending Country

Economic Benefits

- Increased individual migrant and household income
- Positive impact on business ownership
- Increased savings
- reduction of unemployment

Education Benefits

- Increased investment in education
- Can increase National Skills stock when technical knowledge is brought back

Health Benefits

- Remittances raise healthcare spending more than other sources of income
- Migration creates "Incentive effect that drives additional people into healthcare professions"

Receiving Country

Economic Benefits

- Innovation fostered by diversity
- Can promote economic growth and generate labour demand
- Net contribution to fiscal balance

Demographic Benefits

- Can partially relieve population imbalances
- Increased supply of labour



Fewer studies have focused on impact of multilateral assistance for migration and development

- UNDESA (2011) estimates multilateral assistance for international migration and development has reached USD 250 million.
- IOM alone has received USD 177 million for migration and development projects in the past 5 years.
- Many more projects have impact on development, but not designed as “migration and development” interventions.



Evaluation Key to Effective Migration Management

- **Global Commission on International Migration, 2005**: “It is hard to formulate and implement effective policy when it is not clear who the targets of that policy are, how many they are, where they are and what their problems are. **And it is simply bad practice not to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of policy**”.
- **GFMD Ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, data, research Vienna 2010**: “Governments from all regions need to improve their capacity to develop effective assessment mechanisms”



Monitoring and Evaluation: Important Definitions

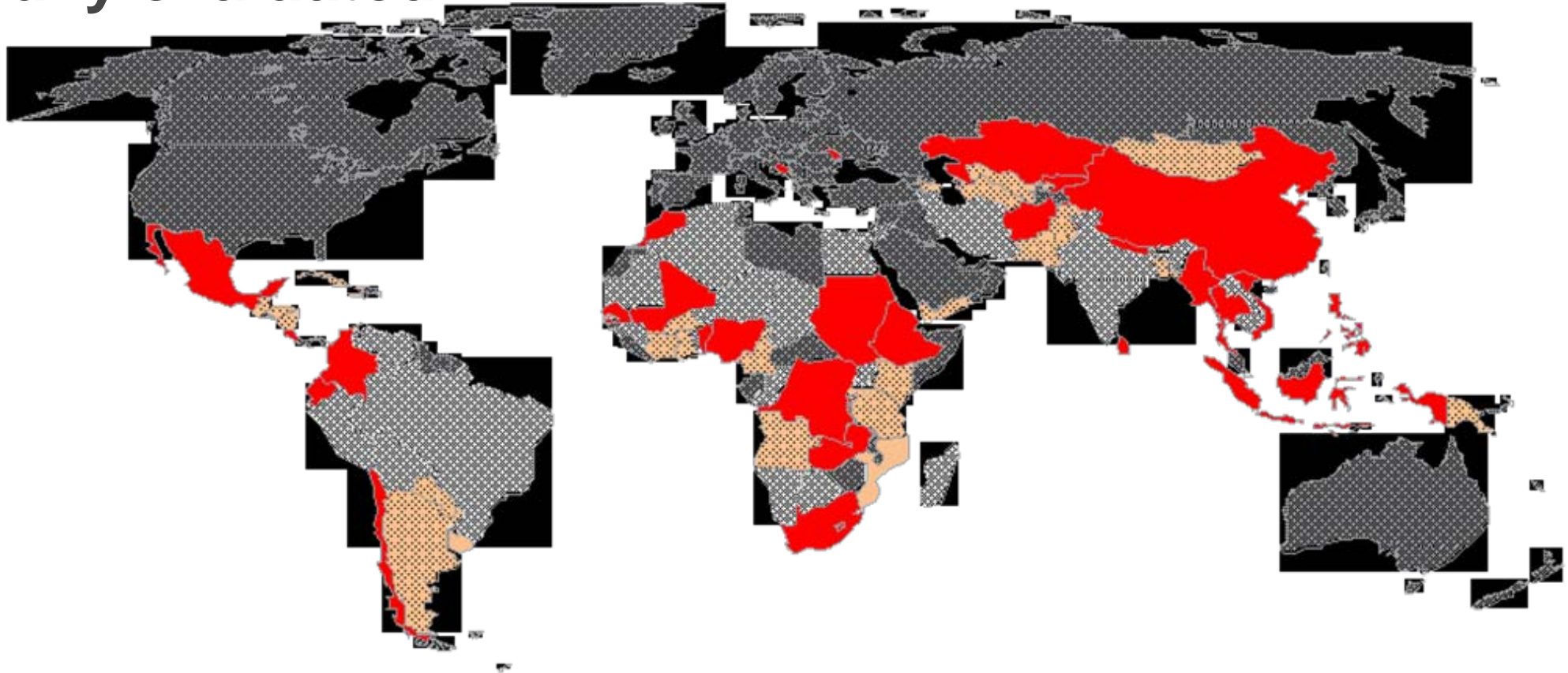
- **Monitoring** - a continuous process that tracks what is happening within a programme and uses the data collected to inform programme implementation
- **Evaluations** - periodic, objective assessments of a planned, ongoing, or completed project, programme, or policy
- **Impact Evaluations** - seek to answer cause-and-effect questions and the changes in outcome that are directly attributable to a programme or project



Relatively limited number of evaluations of migration interventions

- IOM review of **130 websites** of Development Agencies, and Labour, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Immigration ministries of **68 countries** found only **70 formal evaluations of migration policies, projects and programmes** are available (excluding situation reviews, donor reports, ex-ante reports, and all IOM evaluations) .
- Almost a third (28%) of these evaluated programmes deal with **labour migration management**.
- **Rigorous impact evaluations are extremely rare**; the exploratory review found **only 6 evaluations** with an experimental design.
- In the past five years **IOM evaluated 67 projects**.

Migration contribution to development targets not fully evaluated.



The above map shows where migration has been cited in development planning tools such as the PRSP's and the UNDAFs

LEGEND

-  Migration cited as cross-cutting issue
-  Migration cited as a single issue
-  Little or no mention of migration
-  Not available



Reasons for lack of an “evaluation culture”

- **Fear Factor.** Decision-makers and project managers may sometimes not be willing to confront “bad news” i.e. that a particular programme or project is not having the desired outcome.
- Impact evaluations may be considered to be a **costly investment**, requiring substantial financial resources and significant commitments of people’s time.
- There are also potential problems with the **timing** of impact evaluations. A rigorous evaluation could take 3 or 4 years to conduct whereas many Governments want information immediately.
- Impact evaluations require, especially the more rigorous ones, a level of **technical expertise** which isn’t found in-house in every Government.



Migration and Development Evaluations are even more challenging

- Investment in evaluation has not kept pace with **rapid growth of migration programmes and projects over the last decade.**
- Migration is a very **contentious and often politicised issue.**
- **Lack of Migration Data** – underlined in “**Migrants Count**” report.
- **Migration interventions not traditionally seen as tool to promote development** and hence not evaluated from that perspective.
- Migration has **not been mainstreamed** into development plans.



Closing the Evaluation Gap

- **It can be done !** Number of World Bank **impact evaluations** has risen, from **less than 50 active or completed evaluations** in 2004 to **approximately 300** in 2010.
- **But are migration programmes different – does it make sense to conduct an impact evaluation of smaller projects ?**
- **Migration example of New Zealand’s Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) policy suggests what can be achieved.**
- **Evaluation shows programme (RSE) met development objectives.**



Way Forward- Some Suggestions

- **Information on existing evaluations tends to be scattered. Many evaluation studies only available in local language or not published.**
- **Better sharing of existing evaluations could enhance knowledge base.**
- **To reduce costs and encourage inter-state cooperation between sending and receiving countries, GFMD States could identify common themes for evaluation and share costs.**
- **Be realistic ! Select most appropriate methodology and data for the context.**



Questions for discussion

- *What can be done to build a stronger evaluation culture ?*
- *What lessons can be learned from the development community and applied to migration ?*
- *How could States be encouraged to cooperate more closely to conduct “strategic” or “thematic evaluations” of programmes of common interest ?*



THANK YOU!

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