



# Access to Education: An Avenue for Empowering Children and Adolescents in the Context of Migration

Turning Migration and Equity Challenges into Opportunities

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# Outline

- I. Setting the Stage: The Right to Education in the Context of Migration
- II. Migration and Education in Countries of Destination: Experience from OECD Countries
- III. The Impact of Migration and Remittances on Education in Countries of Origin
- IV. Conclusion

# I. Setting the Stage:

## The Right to Education in the Context of Migration

# *All Children in the Context of Migration have the Right to Education*

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recognizes the right of every child to education on the basis of equal opportunity (article 28)

Children in the context of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination face multiple barriers to access education



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# *Education of children impacted by migration is critical to their social inclusion*

Education is the primary vehicle to empower children in the context of migration to reach their full development potential and participate fully in their communities

Education contributes to ensuring equal opportunities for migrants and their families, enabling their meaningful participation in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

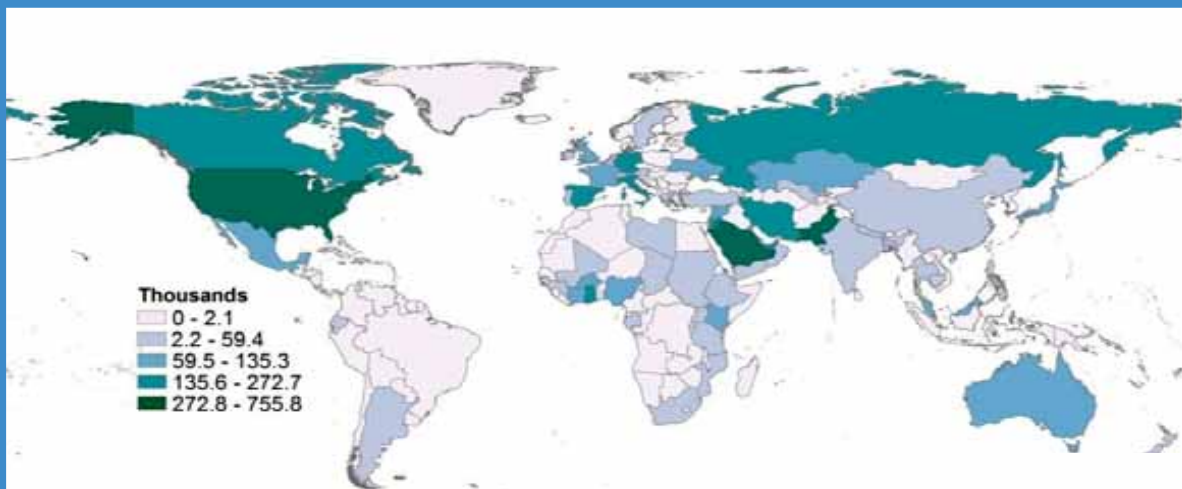


# II. Migration and Education in Countries of Destination:

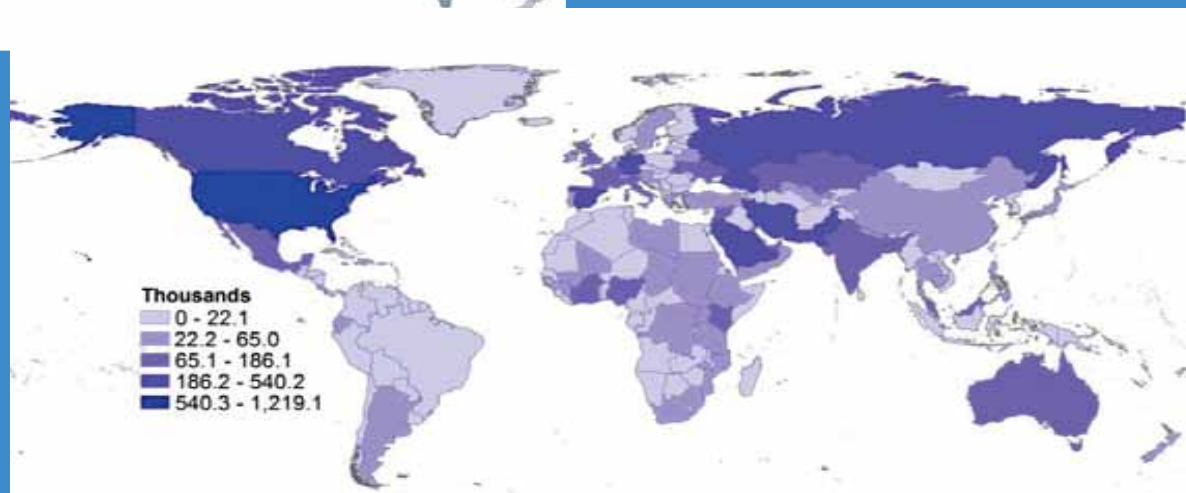
## Experience from OECD Countries

# 35 Million Migrants Are Under the Age of 20

International migrants  
between 5 and 9 years of age



International migrants  
between 10 and 14 years of  
age



Note: Includes foreign-born and foreign citizens. Foreign-born refers to persons born outside the country of enumeration. Foreign citizen refers to persons who do not have the citizenship of the country of enumeration. Scales are drawn using Jenks natural breaks to reflect the nature of the distributions.

# Students in OECD Countries with an Immigrant Background are Increasing...



Change in the percentage of students with an immigrant background between 2000 and 2009

2009 higher than 2000    2009 lower than 2000    No statistically significant difference

95% confidence level    +    -    0



# *... but they face multiple barriers in terms of school performance*

Language barriers

Cultural dissonance between home-country and host-country mores

School systems unprepared for cultural diversity and differences in socioeconomic status

Differences in pedagogical methods and contents

Socioeconomic and legal status





# III. The Impact of Migration and Remittances on Education in Countries of Origin

# *The impact of remittances on education is mixed and country-specific*

**Remittances can facilitate access to education** for children of migrant households, increasing child school attendance and literacy (evidence from Mexico, Philippines and Ecuador)



**Parental separation can hamper school performance** due to psychosocial effects of parental absence and increased household responsibilities (qualitative and small-scale studies in Mexico, Ecuador and Jamaica)



# *Social Protection can Complement and Enhance the Positive Impact of Remittances*

Policy interventions should address the basic vulnerabilities that prevent marginalized populations from accessing quality education through universal social policies and social investment



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# IV. Conclusion

# *Good Practices in Countries of Destination*

1. Ensure equitable resource allocation to schools
2. Language training for newly arrived immigrant children and mothers
3. Participation in early childhood education and care
4. Strengthening language teaching and diversity training for school personnel and teachers
5. Increase economic opportunities to parents such as on-the-job training and vocational courses



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# *Social Protection is Key in Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination*

Children in the context of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination should be included in social protection systems, regardless of status



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*Looking Forward:  
Access to Education, Migration and the  
Post-2015 Development Agenda*

- Maximizing the development impact of migration implies investing in young people.
- Policies should focus on ensuring good educational outcomes, beyond the issue of access.