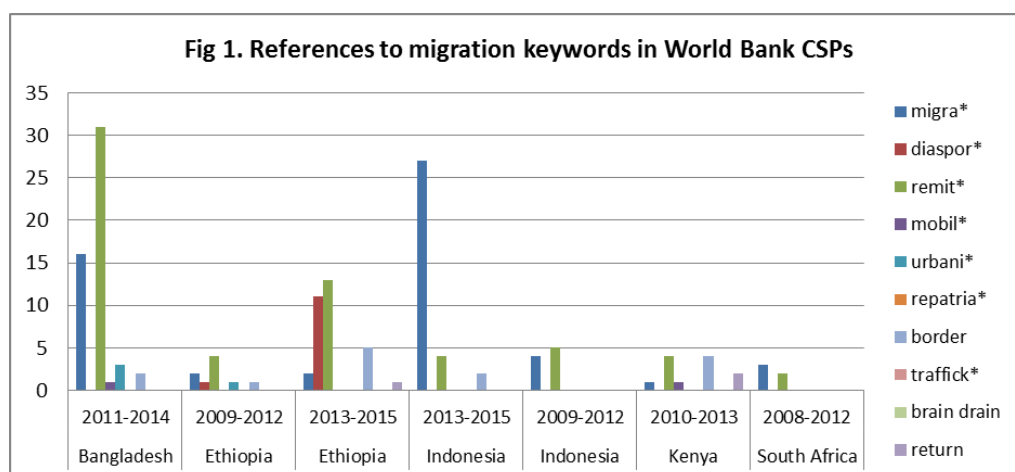




## Policy Review: Attitudes toward Migration in World Bank Country Strategy Papers (CSPs)

**Overview:** The importance of remittances for national economies is observed in a number of these documents (see profiles for Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Kenya, in particular), while rural-urban migration is typically characterized as exacerbating problems in urban areas such as overcrowding, inequality and crime (see Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Africa). Other issues such as refugees (Kenya and Ethiopia) and services for labour migrants (Indonesia) are also discussed. *Note to readers: refer to Factsheet 1 for an overview of the Migrating of Poverty RPC's review of development donor policies, including a profile of World Bank CSPs.*



### COUNTRY PROFILES

#### BANGLADESH – Country Strategy Paper (2011-2014)

*Key migration areas: remittances, labour migration, rural-urban migration*

Bangladesh's CSP repeatedly hails the important impact that international remittances from labour migration have had on the country's economy, with this flow helping it to weather the effects of the global financial crisis (p. 3). However, the CSP also points out that the country's heavy reliance on these funds could backfire if shocks occur in key destination countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which together absorb around 50 per cent of Bangladesh's labour migrants (pp. 11-12). The CSP's discussion on internal migration is limited, with the main point centred on the need for better planned urbanisation, with the rural-urban migration of workers to jobs in the garment export industry seen as 'overwhelming the capacity of existing urban infrastructure and institutions' in Dhaka and Chittagong (p. 23).

#### ETHIOPIA – Country Strategy Papers (2009-2012 & 2013-2015)

*Key migration areas: remittances, diaspora, cross-border conflict, rural-urban migration*

The CSP for the 2009-2012 period contains relatively limited discussion of migration. It notes that international remittances have played a key role in the country's recent economic boom (p. 5), and that the World Bank will look for ways to seek diaspora investment in development projects (p. 27). By contrast, rural-urban migration is viewed through a much more negative lens, as it is identified as one factor that has contributed to increased inequality in the context of on-going urbanisation (p. 8). Similarly, the CSP for 2013-2015 contains discussion on two initiatives to enhance engagement with the Ethiopian diaspora, particularly in the areas of health and

education (p. 38). It also notes that the country's dependence on international remittances could be negatively affected by the on-going financial crisis in Europe (p. 4), while efforts to allow remittances to be sent via post offices (p. 38) and to create an enhanced regulatory framework for remittances (p. 48) are also discussed. Elsewhere the document notes that cross-border conflict has resulted in people fleeing into Ethiopia in large numbers (p. 55).

### **INDONESIA – Country Strategy Papers (2009-2012 & 2013-2015)**

*Key migration areas: female labour migration, remittances*

The Indonesian CSP for the 2009-2012 period contains very little mention of migration issues, although there is some discussion of making international remittances easier to send for migrant women and undocumented migrants (p. 27) and the acknowledgement of the rapidly increasing trend of female labour migration (p. 6). The CSP for the 2013-2015 period picks up on this latter theme in much greater detail, discussing the ways in which the Indonesian government is providing support for these female migrants, for example through the development of financial services (p. 67) and through the provision of training in financial literacy (p. 117).

### **KENYA – Country Strategy Paper (2010-2013)**

*Key migration areas: rural-urban migration, remittances, cross-border migration*

Kenya's CSP notes that there was widespread erosion of rural livelihoods in the 1980s and 1990s, due to lack of access to land, the onset of HIV/AIDS, and other factors, leading many households to migrate into urban slums, or to diversify into non-farm employment (p. 4). This shift has led to mixed outcomes, with, for example, more livelihood opportunities for women being created, even as levels of crime and violence in cities have increased (p. 4). The paper also notes that Kenya has become a major destination for refugees, hosting an estimated 350,000 refugees from Somalia and a further 50,000 from Ethiopia and Sudan (p. 2). Finally, the CSP forecasts that overseas remittances are likely to grow in the coming years (p. 10).

### **SOUTH AFRICA – Country Strategy Paper (2008-2012)**

*Key migration areas: urban migration, remittances*

South Africa's CSP, while not containing much discussion of migration issues, does assert that a 'massive migration' to the country's cities is to blame for one-quarter of the urban population continuing to live in substandard, informal dwellings; the paper also claims – without citing any evidence – that this urban migration is 'the source of unemployment, poverty, crime and HIV and AIDS infections' (pp. 3-4). Elsewhere, the CSP notes that overseas remittances grew substantially between 2000 and 2006 – although these funds are equivalent to just 0.2 per cent of GDP (p. 98), a much smaller proportion than in most other Sub-Saharan African countries.

#### **For more information please contact:**

Migrating out of Poverty RPC

Arts B, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN, United Kingdom

email: [Migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:Migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk)

web: <http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/>

twitter: @migrationrpc

This document is an output from the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium, which is funded by the UK Department for International Development. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID.

