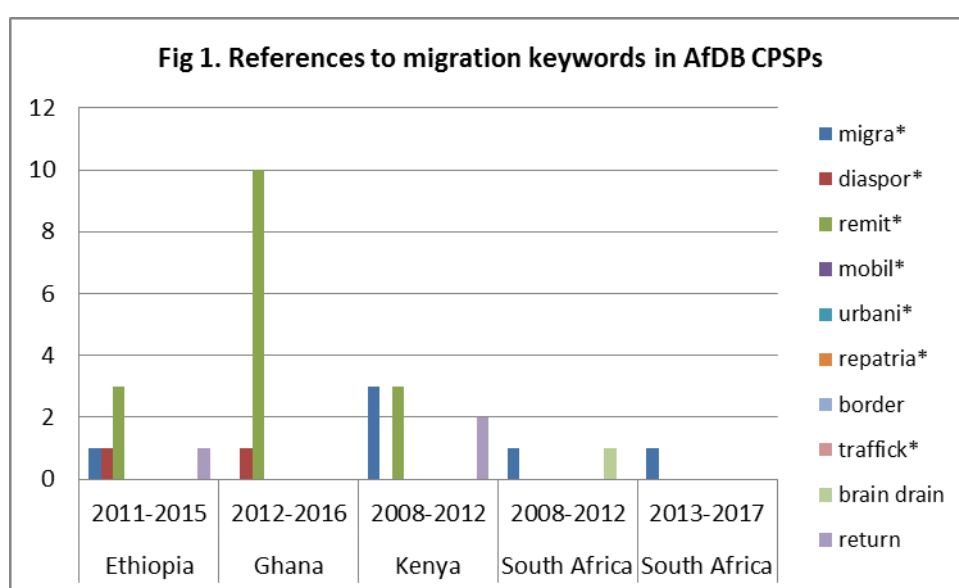




Policy Review: Attitudes toward Migration in African Development Bank Country Partnership Strategy Papers (CPSPs)

Overview: African Development Bank (AfDB) Country Partnership Strategy Papers are characterized by a paucity of discussion on migration and development issues (see Fig 1) and feature very little mention of internal and regional migration issues, which are the main focus of this review. While some country documents see the diaspora and remittances as potentially beneficial for development (for examples, see Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia profiles), internal migration is ignored in most plans – and where it is discussed, it is seen mainly as a scapegoat for problems with urban services (see Kenya’s profile). *Note to readers: refer to Factsheet 1 for an overview of the Migrating out of Poverty RPC’s review of development donor policies, including a profile of AfDB CPSPs.*



COUNTRY PROFILES

ETHIOPIA – Country Partnership Strategy Paper 2011-2015

Key migration areas: remittances, diaspora

The CPSP for Ethiopia notes the growing importance of international remittances, which increased by an average of 34 per cent per annum between 2004 and 2010, reaching a total of US\$2.2 billion in the latter year (p. 3). Along with increases in exports and foreign direct investment, the plan asserts that remittances have helped provide impetus for economic growth in recent years (pp. 2-3). Meanwhile, diaspora resources are envisioned as a possible non-traditional source of development finance (p. 11).

GHANA – Country Partnership Strategy Paper 2012-16

Key migration areas: remittances, diaspora

The CPSP explains that the country maintains good relations with its traditional trading partners and donors, especially the US and the UK, both of which are home to large Ghanaian diasporas (p. 4). The paper also acknowledges the vital role of

remittances in the Ghanaian economy, with international transfers accounting for the equivalent of 6.6 per cent of GDP in 2010 (p. 10). Finally, the CPSP argues that the Government of Ghana should do more to tap the development potential of remittances (p. 10), but fails to articulate specific policy options for how to achieve this development objective.

KENYA – Country Strategy Paper 2008-12

Key migration areas: remittances, environmental migration

Remittances are noted in the CPSP as having emerged as the most prominent form of foreign exchange, accounting for US\$1.3 billion, or the equivalent of about five per cent of GDP, in 2007 (pp. 3-4). The CPSP also notes that that flooding and droughts have had a crippling effect on rural livelihoods, which the paper claims has resulted in distress migration of rural dwellers to cities (p. 9). Elsewhere in the plan, this rural-urban migration is claimed to have contributed to poor sanitation in urban areas (p. 22).

SOUTH AFRICA – Country Strategy Papers (2008-12 & 2013-2017)

Key migration areas: brain drain, immigration

The only discussion around migration in South Africa's CPSP for the 2008-2012 period is on brain drain, which is seen as one of the biggest challenges the government is facing. The plan notes that high unemployment coexists with an oversupply of unskilled workers, but that the country also has a shortage of skilled workers in some important areas (p. 5). For example, there is a shortage in financial experts, which is affecting the government's capacity to manage programme spending and social service delivery and has to be dealt with urgently as it could become a serious problem for the long-term economic growth (p. 5). The CPSP for the 2013-2017 period, meanwhile, has almost no discussion of migration, except to mention that investment in a new regime of immigration governance is required as part of wider push to maintain South Africa's competitive advantage among emerging economies (p. xii).

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