

Migration and Development: Current thinking

Two views on migration

- Migration as a problem:
 - consequence of development failure
 - unwelcome consequence of globalisation or development
- Migration as an opportunity
 - Positive impact on well-being
 - Direct and indirect benefits for migrants and communities
 - Benefits and costs not evenly distributed



ASYLUM SEEKERS EAT OUR DONKEYS



PINING: Surviving donkeys

**Police hunt rustlers
after 9 are snatched**

An alternative view

“Migration makes a substantial contribution to economic growth, helps fill gaps in the labour market, including key public services such as health and education, and increases investment, innovation and entrepreneurship in the UK.”

'Making Migration Work for Britain' , p5

Or ...

“Countries and international organisations increasingly perceive migration as a phenomenon whose positive impacts in development terms can be substantial, provided that appropriate policies are in place.”

EU COM (2005) 390, p2

Or ...

“The role that migrants play in promoting development and poverty reduction in countries of origin, as well as the contribution they make towards the prosperity of destination countries, should be recognized and reinforced. International migration should become an integral part of national, regional and global strategies for economic growth, in both the developing and developed world.”

Global Commission on International Migration, 2005, p4)

Managing Global Migration

- A strategy to build stronger international alliances to manage migration (FCO/Home Office, June 2007)
 - Recognises 15-20% migrant contribution to UK growth
 - Recognises increased investment, innovation & entrepreneurship in UK resulting from migration
 - Recognises migration connects Britain to globalised economy
 - But no mention of consequences of migration for sending countries

Some key questions

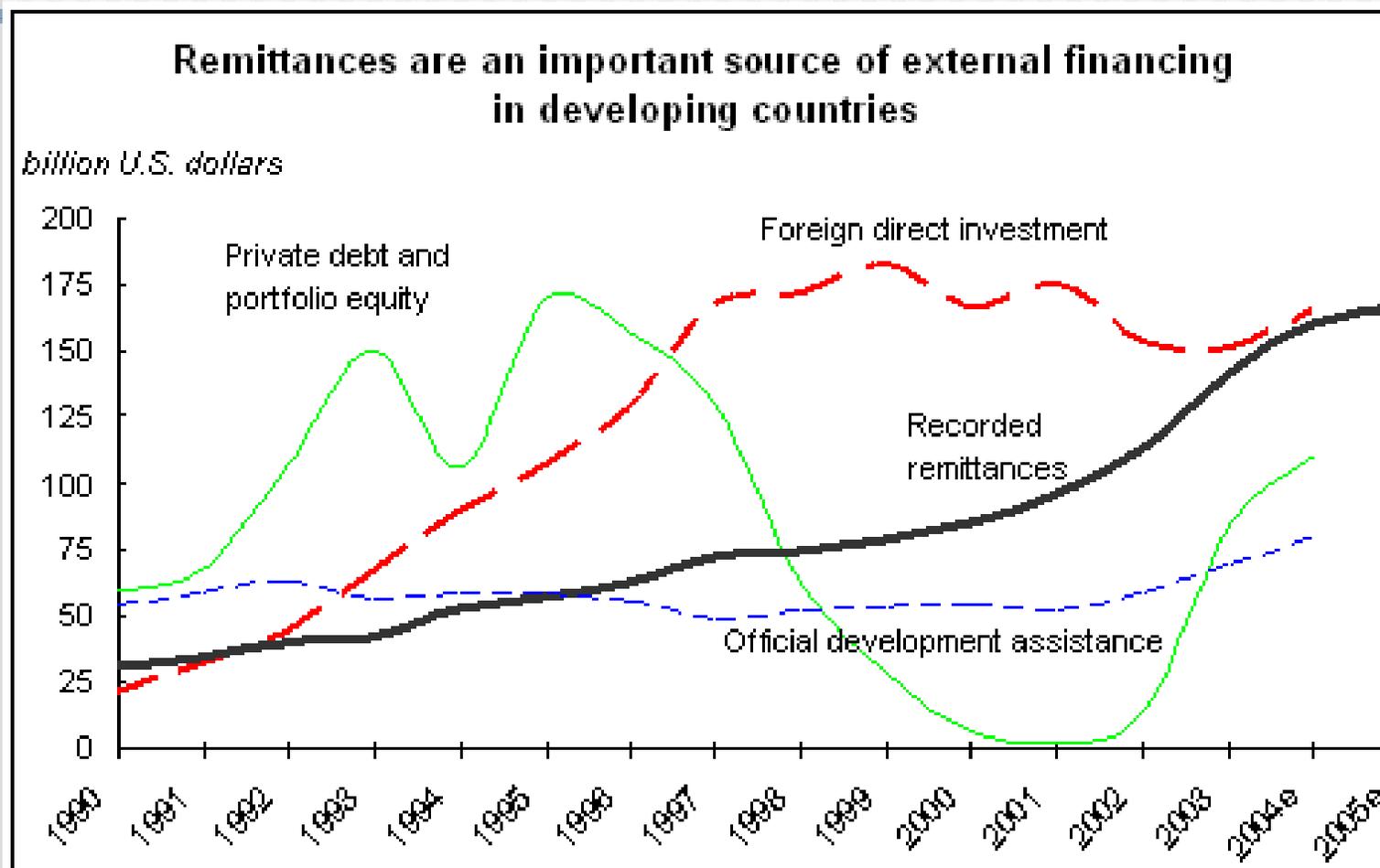
- How to maximise the benefits of migration whilst minimising the risks and costs?
- How to ensure a coherent approach to migration?
- What options are practical and politically-feasible?

Some key answers ..

- (Poor countries should ...) develop policies to manage migration at the national level
- Promote legal migration, including low-skill, where there is labour market need
- Support positive diaspora activity
- Promote low-cost and secure mechanisms for sending money, and for investment of remittances in poor communities
- Facilitate circulation of highly-skilled migrants
- Promote migrants' access to rights and entitlements

Based on DFID Policy Paper, *Moving out of Poverty*

Global Remittances in Context



Source: Global Economic Prospects (2006)

Remittances

- Transfer itself
 - The key role of the banking sector?
- Those who remit
 - What influences remittance behaviour?
- When remittances arrive
 - What influences the use of remittances?
- It's not just money!
 - Financial, human and social capital transfers

Brain drain or brain circulation?

- UK policy of recruiting skilled people potentially problematic for developing countries
- Failure of 'ethical recruitment' policy in health service
- US a much bigger 'draw' than UK in global recruitment
- African calls for 'compensation' for recruitment of skilled workers

- Skilled migration a symptom, not a cause of problems in sending countries
- Legitimate aspirations of skilled people to move
- Skills training and professional labour markets increasingly global
- Dynamic impacts of movement on training, labour market, demand in source countries
- Potential for bilateral/ multi-lateral agreements?

Migrants' Rights

- International
 - Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families
 - Convention on the Rights of Children
 - Dual citizenship, voting rights

- In the South
 - Citizenship issues - does moving inside a country limit access to rights?
 - Value of ID cards?
 - Other aspects of a 'rights-based approach'

Where next?

- Is a focus on 'rights' helpful when looked at from outside the development policy field?
- Are there points of leverage for migration policy where UK's development goals are consistent with UK's domestic/strategic interests?
- To what extent would including migration & development concerns promote a more mature public debate about international migration?

Where next?

- Are there points of leverage for migration policy where UK's development goals are consistent with UK's domestic/strategic interests?
 - *Need for public awareness first*
 - *Need to ensure balance of interests between UK and other countries*
 - *Aid is not only development tool*
 - *Incongruence between short and long-term goals*
 - *Benefits/costs of migration are not only economic*
 - *Need for better integration of migrants who are in UK*

Where next?

- Is a focus on 'rights' helpful when looked at from outside the development policy field?
 - *Public perception is key if Migrant Rights Convention were to be signed -as would allow migrants who lose their jobs to stay, get benefits, etc.*
 - *Value of looking at cost of implementing Convention - balance against existing costs, e.g. of deportation*
 - *What about UK migrants in other countries*
 - *Some countries that ratified Convention have become destinations (e.g. Morocco, Mexico) - their perception has changed*

Where next?

- To what extent would including migration & development concerns promote a more mature public debate about international migration?
 - *Agree public debate not mature - people hold contradictory opinions*
 - *Existing confusion about different types of migrants - refugees, etc.; invisibility of some migrants, e.g. Australians*
 - *Migration and development would not improve debate because public concerned about their own interests*
 - *Possible strategy to reduce amount of discussion of migration in general*
 - *Are there examples of other more 'welcoming' countries in Europe or elsewhere?*



Development Research Centre on

Migration, Globalisation & Poverty