

The economic and social effects of remittances and return migration in conflict-affected areas : the case of Burundi

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS

“The Economic and Social Effects of Remittances
and Return Migration in Conflict-Affected Areas:
The Case of Burundi”

by **Sonja Fransen**

1. One of the greatest limitations for remittances to contribute to development in Burundi is their limited access for those who need them the most.
2. Poorer households that do receive remittances in Burundi use these to enhance living conditions and establish food security, which shows that remittances are mostly used to sustain households after conflict.
3. The sustainability of return migration is best measured at the household and community levels simultaneously, using a multidimensional approach that incorporates both objective and subjective indicators.
4. The return of refugees, and especially second-generation returnees, in Burundi has affected the living conditions and subjective wealth of all households in communities of high return.
5. In a conflict-affected country, such as Burundi, migration may not have the anticipated development-boosting effect that is argued by policy and academic literature on migration and development.
6. In unstable settings in which investment opportunities are limited, households may allocate part of their remittances to their social capital rather than to more tangible investments such as education or business.
7. Migration affects not only the economic aspects of societies but also social ties between members of society.
8. Remittances cannot replace official state and international aid initiatives on development and poverty alleviation programmes, as is sometimes suggested by ‘co-development’ initiatives in which migrants are seen as a way to channel development aid.