

Conclusion

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15 Conclusion

Maty Konte and Linguère Mously Mbaye

Over the last decades, both migration and remittance flows have not only shown an ever-going increase but have also revealed to be a potential source of development in Africa. Even though their implications are formally recognized in some SDGs, migration and remittances may indirectly affect many other SDG targets as well. There is a need to research and inform their cross-cutting nature, as they should strongly be considered for policymaking and monitoring towards the accomplishment of SDGs. In an attempt to close this gap, the chapters in this book have addressed some of the developmental opportunities, as well as challenges, related to migration and remittances in Africa. More precisely, the contributors have explored issues on the relationship between migration, through remittances, and topics such as innovation, economic transformation, trade, household welfare, youth employment, education and knowledge, corruption and political violence, gender equality, and women's empowerment as well as issues related to the management of migration flows. Moreover, the contributions have shed light on the primary threats that mitigate the achievements of SDGs in achieving responsive migration policies and positive individual welfare outcomes. Authors of the chapters have contributed to the existing literature and thoroughly discuss the link between their findings and the SDGs.

Summary of key findings

Part I investigates the relationship between migration, remittances, and the African economic transformation through three chapters. In Chapter 2, Vanoire investigates the conceptual and empirical linkages between migration and trade. Through this chapter, the author motivates that facilitating intra-continental migration could greatly support businesses to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills contributing to the innovation of products and processes, technological upgrading, and productivity through diversification. Moreover, this chapter provides insights on how easing migration and circularity may stimulate the development of business and scientific networks among migrants and non-migrants. Lastly, the author also shows how export and import flows could be supported by the private sector, for which the

development can be facilitated by migrant resources, such as social, human, and financial capital. Mbaye and Tani, in Chapter 3, explore the relationship between innovation and short-term labour mobility in Africa. The authors provide empirical evidence that short-term mobility, proxied by tourist arrivals per capita, is associated with higher innovation activity in Africa, through the exchange and formation of productive knowledge. Their findings support the idea that in addition to other factors such as R&D, foreign direct investments, and trade, short-term mobility can also be an effective channel for economic development. Nevertheless, the authors show that this relationship can be mitigated by the quality of governance, which can be both an obstacle to mobility and innovation.

In Chapter 4, Oucho explores the multifaceted dynamics of internal migration patterns and flows of youth, examining the motivations, policy, and operational contexts as well as the lived experiences of youth migrating in search for employment, entrepreneurship, and other economic opportunities in Kenya. The chapter outlines the potential avenues that county and national governmental bodies can pursue policies that support and generate adequate opportunities for decent employment for internally migrating youth towards inclusive economic growth and achieve SDG Goal 11 in order to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, sustainable, and resilient to large flows of youth migration. The chapter also concludes with a robust discussion of the potential limitations that government could face while managing youth internal migration flows, highlighting policy implementation gaps that stem from a lack of understanding of youth migration profiles. Chapter 5 examines the effects of remittance costs on welfare in sub-Saharan African (SSA) region, which is recognized as being one of the most expensive corridors across the globe, exceeding international averages and SDG-determined targets for remittance costs. The findings in this chapter provide evidence of a negative effect of cost of remittance transactions on household consumption level. The results add support to the United Nations-led initiative to sustainably reduce the cost of sending remittances as a means of engendering positive welfare outcomes for SSA countries which experience high levels of economic growth stagnation, poverty, and other multidimensional deprivations.

Part II explores the relationship between migration, remittances, and education and knowledge in Africa through three chapters. Chapter 6, by Cebotari, uses longitudinal data to investigate the effect of migration and remittances on child development in Ghana. The findings show that children whose parents migrated either internally or internationally, and receive both monetary and in-kind remittances, are more likely to experience higher levels of school enjoyment and educational outcomes. As advanced by the chapter, remittances are crucial for migration to have a positive impact on education, since the findings revealed that the absence of remittances may negatively impact the education of children, and more particularly for girls. In addition to this implication, the school enjoyment of girls is more negatively affected in case parents migrate internally and send in-kind remittances, as well as their

educational outcomes when no remittances are received. Mueller, in Chapter 7, examines how diaspora members involved in a Dutch diaspora programme transferred knowledge in countries of origin. Through case examples based on Sierra Leone and Somaliland, the author demonstrated that two types of knowledge transfer – formal trainings and closely working together with diaspora experts – contribute to capacity building as well as to the introduction of new procedures in the host institutions.

In Chapter 8, Setrana and Arhin-Sam investigate the impact of skilled return migrants on Ghana's development. The authors employed secondary sources including administrative reports from public and private bodies as well as collected primary data based on qualitative evidence from 15 return migrants. This chapter shows that these returnees can be a source of development by transferring skills and knowledge, which can subsequently create employment in origin countries. However, the chapter also points the importance of policies facilitating the inclusion of capital brought by the returnees for Africa's development. The findings encourage governments and private stakeholders to broaden their focus towards the potential benefits of social remittances by supporting safe and responsible migration back to their home countries from the diaspora. Developing countries can stand to benefit from the subsequent 'brain gain' when migration policies create an enabling environment for returning migrants to contribute to the physical and intellectual economy of the country.

In Chapter 9 Fourmy examines the relationship between mobile money and the welfare and education of internal remittance recipient households in Kenya. The introduction of mobile money in Kenya in 2007 influenced, not provided, a cheaper means of transmitting internal remittances, but it also made it faster and safer to transfer money to recipient households. Using an instrumented household fixed effects model on a household-level panel data survey, Fourmy finds evidence that mobile money has a direct positive effect of mobile on the welfare of recipient households through the maximization of receipts driven by the growth in count, regularity, and value of remittance receipts within the country. Mobile money also has an indirect impact on the welfare of remittance receipts' household welfare through a higher allocation of expenditures towards education in the long run

Part III consists of three chapters that explore the implication of migration and remittances with regard to corruption and conflict and vice versa. In Chapter 10, Konte and Ndubuisi explore empirically the relationship between remittances and corruption using the Afrobarometer surveys for 36 African countries. On the one hand, the findings show that remittance-receiving individuals living in countries with higher level of remittances are more likely to pay bribes to access public goods and services than non-receivers and respondents from countries with lower level of remittances. However, this positive effect of remittances on corruption tends to be lessened in the presence of higher control of corruption at the national level. On the other hand, individuals living in countries with a higher number of migrants residing in

OECD countries are less likely to pay bribe. Therefore, this finding suggests that social remittances, such as anti-corruption attitudes, may be shared with the ones staying in countries of origin, consequently having a negative impact on the level of corruption.

In Chapter 11, Merkle, Alberola, Reinold, and Siegel analyse both how corruption plays a role in the home country in shaping the migration path and how it continues to be important throughout the journey. The authors found that corruption comes into play whenever legal options for migration are limited and is constant throughout all stages of the migration process of several migrant groups. In addition to this finding, the chapter shows that women, and especially those who are travelling alone, are vulnerable to atypical forms of corruption compared to men, such as sexual extortion. Furthermore, the chapter reveals that women are not only participants in corrupt exchanges but are also commodified as the means of exchange for groups of migrants when crossing borders.

Ouedraogo and Soureouema, in Chapter 12, investigate the relationship between remittances and electoral violence in Africa. The empirical analysis uses the individual-level Afrobarometer surveys covering 30 African countries as well as supplementary data on precipitation and rainfall, employing an instrumental variable approach to address issues of endogeneity within the empirical analysis. The authors present robust evidence that financial remittances have a strong negative effect on electoral violence across the African region. Contrary to several claims that suggest that remittances increase the incidence and intensity of local electoral conflicts, the findings convincingly demonstrate that by economically supporting families within receiving countries, remittances promote peace through support of democratic institutions and improvements in human development.

Part IV on the challenges in the management of migration flows in Africa contains two chapters. Chapter 13, by Oucho, provides foresights on the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) to address irregular migration in the Eastern African region.

The author argue that GCM should be used to guide the implementation of processes and procedures with regard to migration flows, and although some processes and procedures may already be in place in some countries, this framework should still be considered to strengthen them. Furthermore, the chapter advances that different stakeholders should be involved in the formulation of policies and strategies, in order to understand migration dynamics through better knowledge and data sharing. In Chapter 14, Mourji, Ricard, and Doumbia give a detailed description of migration issues in Morocco, a country that is experiencing transformation in the migration process, going from a departure country, to a transit country and now becoming a destination country. Their findings show that sub-Saharan African migrants face difficulties in terms of integration in the Moroccan job market. They also face a risk of being 'professionally' downgraded. These issues can be explained by various factors, including the length of residence, level of education, being

female, speaking darija (the local language), being from a francophone country, being integrated in the Moroccan society, or having the status of refugee.

Relevance of key findings to SDGs

Through this book, findings of several chapters can be related to SDG 1, ‘No poverty’. While Chapter 13 is directly related to Target 10.7 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration, this chapter is also indirectly related to Targets 1.1 and 1.2, which aim to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce poverty according to national definitions. In fact, through the implementation of processes and procedures with regard to migration flows, this can subsequently increase the impact of migration on poverty reduction for both host countries and migrants themselves (Hagen-Zanker et al., 2017). Furthermore, the improvement of regular channels addressed through the chapter facilitates migrants to be legally recognized in destination countries. Therefore, this implication points to Target 1.4, which seeks to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, basic social services, ownership and control of various forms of property as well as appropriate new technologies that enhance access to economic opportunities.

Target 1.5 aims to decrease the exposure of the poor and vulnerable to extreme events, such as economic, social, and environmental shocks. As advanced by the literature, remittances can be viewed as an informal insurance, which act as a safety net to households in event of negative shocks (Lucas & Stark, 1985; Yang, 2011). However, the effectiveness of this insurance mechanism may be disrupted by remitting channels that are costly, by hindering the volume of remittance funds and subsequently their impact on welfare, as exposed in Chapter 5. The results of Chapter 5 also demonstrate how the disproportionately high cost of remittances in resource-limited sub-Saharan African countries has a negative impact on household consumption per capita of receiving countries as one of the welfare indicators. This has a direct implication on SDG 1 through Targets 1.1 and 1.2 which relate to reduction of national poverty. As the cost of remittances are increasingly reduced by innovative internet-based technologies, this chapter and Chapter 9 support Target 1.4 which seeks to enhance access to economic rights through new cost-reducing technology such as mobile money and financial services such as alternative transfer mechanisms from banks and higher degrees of competition between remittance service providers.

In addition to supporting Target 10.C, aiming to reduce by 2030, ‘to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent’, the issue addressed in Chapter 5 may impede the impact not only of remittances on the achievement of Target 1.5, but also of SDG 2, ‘Zero hunger’, through Target 2.1, which intends to end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all-year round. Target 3.4 of SDG 3, ‘Good health

and well-being', seeks to promote mental health and well-being for all at all ages. In Chapter 11, the authors stress the importance of achieving Target 10.7, as irregular migrants may face challenges in their journey that impact negatively their health. More precisely, this chapter shows that experiences with corruption and consequences of non-payment in irregular channels have serious consequences for the short-, medium-, and long-term physical and mental health of male and female migrants. In the same vein, the issue of irregular migration addressed in Chapters 11 and 13, which limits the access to basic services such as health coverage for migrants using these channels, is linked to Target 3.8 that seeks to achieve universal health coverage access to quality essential health-care services.

This book has devoted a central focus on SDG 4, 'Quality of education', in Part III, which explores the relationship of migration with education and knowledge in Africa. First, the findings in Chapter 6 about the positive effect of remittances on educational outcomes can be linked to Target 4.1, which aims to ensure children have access to equitable and quality education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. Moreover, the results exposed in the chapter provide more evidence that point to gender differences, for which girls tend to be more negatively affected. These issues posit challenges in complying with Target 4.5, which seeks to eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education. Chapter 9 also offers direct evidence towards the importance of achieving Target 4.1. Through the increased efficiency of mobile money use in transmitting internal remittances (via enhanced maximization of receipts), recipient households are able to allocate greater expenses towards education in the long run. If this investment is turned into quality education, the use of mobile money in remittance transfers would thus contribute to Target 4.1.

Second, the findings in Chapter 7 related to knowledge transfer from diaspora members through formal trainings in higher education institutions point to Target 4.C, which promotes the supply of qualified teachers, such as through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries. Based on the assumption that diaspora skill sets are well aligned with country of origin development needs, and skill transfer programmes are well executed, this can be linked to the objective of Target 4.7, which ensures that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development. Third, the findings exposed in Chapter 8 with regard to the contribution of returnees can be associated with Target 4.4, which encourages the increase of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, subsequently improving employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship in origin countries.

Chapter 11 also provides several implications regarding the vulnerability of women employing irregular channels, which can be linked to SDG 5, 'Gender equality'. As documented by this chapter, women are exposed to sexual extortion, in addition to more typical forms of corruption that are experienced by men. Furthermore, women from highly patriarchal societies

are found to travel with little financial resources and are therefore often more vulnerable to sextortion and abuse. These issues can be recognized as harmful for the accomplishment of Target 5.1, which aims to eradicate all forms of discrimination against all women and girls. These practices can also have indirect implications for other SDGs, such as SDGs 2, 3, and 6 on 'clean water and sanitation'. For instance, the authors report female migrants in prisons having to engage in sexual acts for food, health services, and water. In addition, the chapter reveals that women are also commodified as the means of exchange for groups of migrants when crossing borders. Thus, this finding provides insights on Target 5.2, which seeks to end all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, such as trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. These vulnerabilities faced by women through irregular channels emphasize even more the importance of the Target 10.7 that encourages the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people.

This book has provided some lessons for people who are interested in SDGs 8, 'Decent work and economic growth', and 9, 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure', which have been addressed directly or indirectly through different chapters. The linkages between migration and trade in Chapter 2 can be directly linked to Target 8.2, which aims to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation. Findings in Chapter 4 are directly linked with the achievement of Target 8.6 which supports the substantial reduction of unemployed youth. By better understanding the internal migration of youth, governments can better craft coherent policies that support youth-based employment initiatives (towards decent jobs and entrepreneurship) which can leverage the drive and talent of incoming young people. By streamlining youth-centric issues into national labour and migration policies, countries can reduce youth employment driven by internal migration.

Moreover, the findings in Chapter 2 related to the development of business and scientific networks can be linked to several targets included in SDG 9, 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure'. For instance, this mechanism complies with Target 9.3, which promotes the increased access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services. In addition, this finding can be associated with Target 9.4, which seeks to upgrade infrastructure and industries to make them sustainable, through resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally technologies and processes. Through Targets 9.3 and 9.4, migration can be linked to Target 9.A, which aims to facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development through enhanced financial, technological, and technical support to African countries. Furthermore, findings in Chapter 3 can also support the achievement of targets included in SDG 9, such as Target 9.A.

Because innovation is greatly stimulated by the transfer of skills, knowledge, and technology, Chapters 7 and 8 in Part III also provide implications regarding SDG 9. For instance, the skills and knowledge transferred by

diaspora members and returnees can be regarded as a strong source of innovation in African countries. Additionally, Chapter 8 shows that skilled migrants may have the ability to generate employment at return, which contributes to the wellbeing of the returnees themselves and the country's youth, as well as generating income through taxes for the country's economy. Therefore, these findings can be associated with several SDG 8 targets, such as 8.3, 8.5, and 8.6, which commonly aim to increase productivity and reduce unemployment through job creation. Based on the insights related to SDGs 8 and 9, these add support to the importance of facilitating mobility through safe, orderly, regular, and responsible migration through better migration policies, as stated in Target 10.7. Findings in Chapter 6 in Part III can also be linked to SDG 9, and more particularly to Target 9.C, which promotes the access to information and communications technology. In fact, the author argues that besides remittances, parents who migrated engage with new media environments and technologies of communication to keep an active parenting, foster intimate ties, and help with childcare. Consequently, the achievement of Target 9.C would allow parent migrant to stay engaged in the decision-making of children, such as decisions related to schooling, which relates indirectly to SDG 4.

SDG Goal 10 focuses on the reduction of inequality within and among countries with Target 10.7 focusing specifically on the importance of facilitating and ensuring safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people. The evidence generated in Chapter 3 directly supports the direct achievement of this target as short-term movements of migrants carry technological innovations which enhance economic growth. The author contends that the advancement of free movement of people across the continent, through the erosion of border-based barriers, can facilitate knowledge exchanges that foster innovation. The short-term labour mobility also has a positive indirect impact on poverty reduction (Goal 1) through economic growth, ensures quality education (Goal 4), promotes productive employment and decent work (Goal 8), and promotes peace, justice, and strong institutions (Goal 16). Chapter 9 offers indirect support for the accomplishment of Target 10.C which, as mentioned before, supports the reduction to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminates remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%. While the improved efficiency of mobile money has had a positive, direct impact on recipient households' welfare, international remittance channels are still expensive and slow in processing transfers. The author contends that it is not only cost that determines the efficiency of transfer—international remittance systems must also improve on speed and ease of use in order to achieve Target 10.C.

SDG 11, 'Sustainable cities and communities', seeks to make cities and human developments inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by addressing issues of housing, transport, urbanization, regional development, and the environment. Based on the insights of Chapter 4, the results support the importance of achieving SDG Targets 11.1 and 11.3 where governments are encouraged to provide adequate and safe dwelling spaces as many rural youth

migrate to urban spaces where they live in sub-par housing facilities, often in slums, and suffer from exorbitant pricing rates of basic housing services such as water and sanitation. Achieving Targets 11.1 and 11.3 would shift the motives for youth to leave the country to secure a better social environment. Targets 11.6 and 11.B support the attention towards the environmental landscape of urban areas towards which many Kenyan youth internally migrate in search for promising economic opportunities. The chapter highlights how young people suffer from degraded air and water quality as urban cities buckle under the pressure of an increased population without the adequate waste and chemical management systems along their life-cycle. This has a negative impact on both the environmental sustainability of cities and the health of city youth dwellers. Clearly, the need for adequate city planning by Kenyan national and sub-national bodies is key in order to achieve SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

As advanced by the literature, institutional quality does play an important role not only in driving migration but also in determining the effects of remittances in Africa (Adams & Klobodu, 2016; Chitambara, 2019). Therefore, several chapters in this book have provided insights related to SDG 16, 'Peace and justice strong institutions', which promotes peace, justice, and strong institutions. Among this SDG, Target 16.5 seeks to reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. Findings exposed in Chapter 10 relate to the positive impact of financial remittances on corruption could thus be harmful for the accomplishment of that target. On the contrary, social remittances by migrants residing in OECD countries support positively the accomplishment of Target 16.5. Through this social remittances channel, Chapter 10 also provides evidence that diaspora members can contribute positively to the enhancement of institutions, such as illustrated in the case example in Somaliland. In addition to the ones exposed in Chapter 12 concerning the reduced electoral violence, these findings thus provide insights for Targets 16.1 and 16.4, which aim to reduce all forms of violence and illicit financial and arms flows.

Chapter 11 on vulnerabilities of irregular migrants can also be associated with different targets included in SDG 16. For instance, the authors reinforce that corruption becomes relevant whenever legal options for migration are limited, and that corruption is constant throughout all stages of the migration process for many migrants, which stress even more the importance of Target 16.5. Targets 16.1 and 16.2, for which the latter refers to eradicating the abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence, can also be associated with this chapter. Moreover, this chapter can be associated with Target 16.6, which promotes the development of effective, accountable, and transparent institutions. In fact, the authors in this chapter illustrate that the distinction between state and non-state actors asking for payments is blurred in many transit countries. Additionally, the chapter reports that experiences with corruption and severe violence incurred by state and non-state actors may also explain why many migrants are scared of authorities upon arrival in Europe.

Chapter 13 provides some guidance on the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, connecting some aspects of SDG 16, in order to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, as motivated in Target 10.7. For instance, the author encourages the involvement of different stakeholders in order to understand migration dynamics and, consequently, engage in appropriate policies to address irregular migration. In addition to support Target 16.6, this implication can be linked to Target 16.7, which seeks to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

Along with this need to involve different actors at different levels to address irregular migration, the guidance provided in Chapter 13 can be associated with many targets in SDG 17, 'Partnerships to achieve the goal', which calls for partnerships in order to achieve the sustainable goals. This chapter invites Eastern African countries to create an efficient system of taking stock of the knowledge and data on irregular migration from a variety of sources and services providers, including community-based information, which reveals to be rich given that they are source and host locations for some of the irregular migrants. This points to Targets 17.16 and 17.17, which promote multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, strategic, technology, and financial resources. Along with these targets, the author encourages practices that report human trafficking or migrant smuggling, which help to monitor and evaluate how well a country addresses irregular migration.

In this book, several chapters provide evidence on remittances as a source of development, and especially when they are facilitated through efficient channels as encouraged by Target 10.C, as demonstrated in Chapter 8. Therefore, remittances should be strongly considered in Target 17.3, which promotes the use of additional financial resources from multiple sources. For instance, findings in Chapters 8 and 9 imply that achieving this target through an increase in remittances could help to attaining SDGs 16 and 4, respectively. However, Chapter 10 recalls that anti-corruption policies related to Target 16.5 should be considered for the success of Target 17.3.

Besides remittances, Chapter 2 advances that migrant resources, including social, human, and financial capital, can support development within the private sector through both investment and philanthropy, which is not only linked to Target 17.3 but also indirectly to Target 17.11, which aims to increase the exports of developing countries. In Chapters 7 and 8, the authors stress the importance of the existence of an environment facilitating the contribution of diaspora members and returnees to the development in the countries of origin. This contribution can be facilitated to the achievement of Targets 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, and 17.9, which commonly aim to promote investment, to encourage regional and international cooperation facilitating science, knowledge and technology sharing, and to enhance the international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building.

Through these chapters, and their relevance to SDGs, it can be further advanced that migrants may face challenges and barriers throughout each step of their journey, which may subsequently impede the impact of migration on development in Africa. Therefore, certain SDGs and SDG targets reveal to be crucial to tackle these challenges and barriers. As mentioned earlier, Target 10.7 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration can be recognized as a central element for facilitating the positive impact of migration on development in Africa. Through the accomplishment of this target, vulnerable people willing to migrate would not be constrained to transit through irregular channels. As a consequence, the implementation planned and well-managed migration policies could be beneficial towards the achievement of several SDG targets that were negatively affected by irregular migration, such as SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. Furthermore, facilitating migration, as well as return migration, could facilitate even more the transfer of knowledge and skills as motivated by some chapters, which could consequently stimulate the impact of migration on SDGs 4, 8, 9, and 16. The latter, SDG 16, also revealed to be important in determining not only migration itself but also the impact of migration and remittances in origin countries. As argued multiple times across this book, the achievement of SDG 16 remains central for remittances to have a positive impact in origin countries. Afterwards, Target 17.3 should be promoted along with Target 10.C, in order to maximize the welfare impact of remittances, as well as the accomplishment of SDGs in Africa.

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