Research Report

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Forum: *General Assembly Third Committee*
Issue: *Effects of mass migration between MEDCs and LEDCs*

Position: *Deputy Chair*

Introduction

There has always been migration, and there always will be. Migration, in fact, is included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), in article 13, which states that "everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state" and that "everyone has the right to leave any country, including their own..."[1] However, since the start of the 21st century, the number of migrants has grown exponentially, from 173 million in 2000 to 244 million in 2015.[2] The causes for this mass migration range from political instability, to economic disparity, and even include environmental disasters. In short, migrants leave and displace themselves for the chance of a better life in another region. Inherently, this creates a trend of people going from less developed areas to more developed areas (from LEDCs to MEDCs). Migration, of this sort, or even from MEDCs to other MEDCs, can be beneficial to all parties involved. There are many economic and social benefits of migration, such as boosting the economy, population renewal and the creation of multi-ethnic and culturally diverse societies. Be that as it may, these positive consequences can only come to fruition if handled properly by all relevant parties (i.e. countries of emigration and of immigration). If migration is inadequately managed by theses states, it can lead to greater disparity between countries, be it economic or social, "brain drain" in LEDCs, and rises in fundamentalism and tension between cultural groups. Especially when migration occurs between LEDCs and MEDCs, the less economically developed countries are at a greater disadvantage. Migration is a reality that has existed for years upon years. The trouble we face today is how to regulate migrations so that all parties may benefit from them.

Definition of Key Terms

Brain Drain:
Loss of skilled and educated individuals, who leave the country of origin with the intention of settling elsewhere.

Emigration:
Action of leaving one country with the intention of settling in a new country.

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[1] *"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights | United Nations." UN News Center. United Nations, n.d. Web. 06 July 2016.* http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/
[2] *United Nations. Economic and Social Affair - Population Division. Population Facts. Unpopulation.org. United Nations, Dec. 2015. Web. 6 July 2016.* http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20154.pdf

Immigration:
Action of entering a new country, where one does not hold citizenship, to settle there.

LEDCs:
Least/less economically developed countries. Determined by 3 specific criterion, by the Committee for Development of the United Nations: (1) the gross national income (GNI) per capita, (2) the human asset index (HAI), and the economic vulnerability index (EVI). For a country to be considered an LEDC, the GNI must be of under 750 $ per capita. Migrants usually leave these areas. [3] Examples of LEDCs will be included later in this document.

MEDCs:
Most/more economically developed countries. Usually first-world countries and are the destination of the migrants. Examples of MEDCs will be included later in this document.

Migration:
Movement of people, be it internal or external, to establish a new permanent residence.

Migrant:
Person who moves out of original country of residence. There are many different types of migrants, though displacements from LEDCs to MEDCs are mostly economic migrants.

Net Migration:
The amount of people coming into the country to settle there minus the amount of people leaving the country with intentions to settle elsewhere. Does not include travellers.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948 and describes the basic human rights to which every human being is entitled. It is still the international moral and judicial standard, and most human right activists depend upon the declaration as it was set up in 1948.

General Overview

"Migrants" is an umbrella term used to designate a vast category of people. Be that as it may, a portrait of migrants can be drawn. To begin, as of 2015, there are 244

[3] *CDP | Least Developed Country Information. (n.d.). Retrieved July 07, 2016, from* http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/ldc_info.shtml

million international migrants, and that is a 41% increase of migrants from the beginning of the millennium.[4] Then, migrations usually occur between countries located on the same continent, in the case of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. This type of migration can be qualified as LEDC to LEDC migration, going from a least developed nation, to a less developed one. However, migrants settling in North America, Europe and Oceania are majorly born on another continent. This is qualified as migration from a LEDC to a MEDC. In fact, two thirds of all international migrants live in high-income countries. Annually, high-income countries will receive 41 million migrants emanating from low-income countries. [5] As well, 72 % of migrants are within working age (between 20 and 64). Indeed, the median age of migrants is of 39 years. Further, only 12% of migrants are elderly. The remaining migrants are children and teenagers, who will, conceivably, be within working age in a decade or so. To continue, the gender distribution of migrants is almost equal, men representing 51.2 % of all migrants.[6] This overall average is maintained in almost all regions of the world except Asia, where men represent 10 % more migrants then women. To finish this portrait, these migrants originate mostly from Asia, most specifically the south. Of the top 20 countries with the most migrants, 11 are Asian states, such as India (1st), Bangladesh (5th) and Pakistan (6th). Migrants originating from this region displace themselves for work and labour-related reasons, occupying low- and medium-skilled jobs. [7] Migrants come from all walks of life. However data and statistics have determined trends in international migration that paint a certain portrait of migrants in the last year.

Now, to focus on a specific type of migration, and its effects: migrations from LEDCs to MEDCs. To begin, migrations from low- to high-income countries are due to certain push and pull factors, such as unemployment, poverty, social discrimination and barren land in LEDCs and job opportunities, economic and political safety, greater wealth and fertile land in MEDCs. The effects of these diasporas are very tangible in both the short- and long-term.

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[4] *United Nations. Economic and Social Affair - Population Division. Population Facts. Unpopulation.org. United Nations, Dec. 2015. Web. 6 July 2016.* http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20154.pdf

[5] *United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, Key Findings and Advance Tables. Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP.241.* https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key_findings_wpp_2015.pdf

[6] *Migration Report 2015. New York: United Nations, Dec. 2015. PDF.* http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015_Hig

[7] *Thimothy, Rakkee, S. K. Sasikumar, Padmini Ratnayake, and Alvin P. Ang. Labour Migration Structures and Financing in Asia. Bangkok: ILO, 2015. International Labour Organization. United Nations, 18 Feb. 2016. Web. 10 July 2016.* http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_452666/lang--en/index.htm

To begin, consequences on the MEDCs are mostly economic. Migrants occupy jobs that are less desirable to the native population of the receiving country, such as those in the hospitality industry. Further MEDCs gain skilled labour as migrants arrive. These two benefits stimulate the economy; as the more people have jobs, the more the population's buying power increases and as such, more people contribute to the economy by buying objects, goods and services, thereby creating a need for new jobs, and so on. Yet, this is only an effect when migrants contribute more to their local economy then to sending remittances to their country of origin. Alternatively, migrants also contribute to taxes and social security in their country of adoption. Socially, MEDCs also benefit from migrants. Firstly, they create multi-ethnic societies than can fuel cultural exchanges between different societal groups. Secondly, migrants revitalize the aging populations of most MEDCs who are currently facing a low or even a negative population renewal rate. In 2000, the predicted growth rate for 2015 in Europe was -0.37 %. However, it was actually 0.08 %, a small but uncontested growth[8]. Migrations into MEDCs, who have an ageing population and close to no population growth, are very beneficial to those states. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "positive net migration contributed to 42 per cent of the total population growth in North America and 32 per cent in Oceania." In fact, as predicted in 2000, the population in Europe would be decreasing significantly, with a change in number of citizens of +5 000 in 2010 to -10 000 in 2015, if not for a positive net migration. However, because of the migration, the decline is much less drastic from +5 000 in 2010 to -2 500 in 2015.[9] Positive net migration cannot reverse population ageing and decrease in MEDCs, however it can slow down this trend.

Oppositely, migration towards high-income countries also has negative side effects. Migrants are more likely to lose their jobs in the event of an economic recession, as well as more likely to work longer hours, and in worse conditions then domestic workers. There are effectively the most vulnerable members of a society, and even more so for women and children migrants, who are often victims of human trafficking, and abuse at the hands of employers. Suffice to say, they are not treated in the same manner as native workers. Further, unemployed migrants create pressure on existing infrastructures such as

[8] *United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, Key Findings and Advance Tables. Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP.241.* https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key_findings_wpp_2015.pdf
[9] *United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, Key Findings and Advance Tables. Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP.241.*

social welfare, also known in some countries as the dole. Migrants as a whole create a strain on MEDCs' infrastructures, like health care and education. These social frameworks are already at full capacity in some regions and arriving migrants push them "over the edge". States cannot support all the stress on these social benefits, without investing more money into them, which is already difficult for many governments. As such, the services provided decrease in quality and may stop altogether. Ultimately, the largest social side effect of mass migration on high-income countries is that it creates tension within communities. While it is true that migration can create understanding between societal groups, it can also spawn tension within societies. Discrimination and racial/ethnic hostility are rampant in MEDCs. For example, the United States of America are rife with anti-Hispanic sentiment, exemplified by Donald Trump. Yet, the number one country of origin for immigrants entering the U.S.A. is Mexico, at 14 %. [10]

Then, in low-income countries, the benefits usually are the exact opposite as the consequences in high-income countries. Positively, when people leave their country of origin, they effectively lighten the pressure put onto infrastructures, such as health services. As well, as more people migrants leave, the less stress is put on the country's resources, like water, and energy, which are at a shortage in many LEDC countries, like Sudan and Lesotho. As well, many LEDCs that experience mass emigration, like India, are overpopulated states. When inhabitants leave, they help ease this type of crisis. The fewer citizens that the state needs to take care of, the better for the region and its inhabitants. The largest positive side effect, however, are the remittances, effectively money, that migrants send home from their new country of inhabitance. In 2015, remittances to developing countries peaked at 440 billion dollars, and globally, remittances were of 586 billion dollars. [11] This money is directly injected into the local economy of the low-income country, with India, China, Philippines, Mexico and Nigeria (being the largest recipients of remittances in the past year). According to World Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, Kaushik Basu, a low-income country like Tajikistan has "managed to nearly double its consumption by using remittances money"[11]. Further, remittances feed and

[10] *"Immigration Statistics Fast Facts." CNN. Cable News Network, 24 Aug. 2015. Web. 14 July 2016.* http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/06/us/immigration-statistics-fast-facts/

[11] *"Remittances Growth to Slow Sharply in 2015, as Europe and Russia Stay Weak; Pick up Expected next Year." World Bank. IBRD - IDA, 13 Apr. 2015. Web. 14 July 2016.* http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/04/13/remittances-growth-to-slow-sharply-in-2015-as-europe-and-russia-stay-weak-pick-up-expected-next-year

support family left behind, help the development of the country of origin by generating a stable source of income and bringing so-called social remittances (new ideas) to the forefront, for social development. Remittances greatly affect LEDCs' economy, but at the same time, the money being sent away is not contributing to the country of immigration's economy, thereby making one state suffer for the benefit of another. Some high-income states, like the United Arab Emirates, are looking for ways to benefit from remittances, or at least reclaim some of the lost income. The U.A.E, specifically, are considering taxing the money sent home by migrants.[12] Moreover, the cost of sending remittances for migrants is quite high, at about 10 % of the amount of the remittance, which does not benefit any party, as it does not provide more money to be injected in the MEDC, and sending less money towards LEDCs has obvious consequences (less buying power, less economic support and development).

For all the positive consequences, there are negative ones as well. On the forefront is the loss of a viable workforce due to the mass migration. LEDCs lose many skilled workers to migration. As seen above, most migrant are within working age, and by leaving their country of origin they deprive the LEDC of a viable workforce which slows down economic development in that area. As well, LEDCs experience "brain drain", where experienced and skilled workers leave the country of origin. This further slows down economic development as without trained individuals, and the resources they bring, there are no innovations. Remittances are not enough to counter this effect.[13] As well, LEDCs spend money on educating and training these individuals who then leave for MEDCs; funds that the high-income countries could have provided, but low-income countries lost. Then, further on the topic of remittances, negatively, not all family receive remittances, which can create social divides within the community, as inequalities deepen.

In conclusion, many positive benefits for MEDCs are the answer to negative consequences for LEDCs, and vice-versa. To create a neutral environment for migration, one must find ways to reconcile the two. As a reminder, negative consequences for high-income countries are a greater strain on infrastructures, discrimination against migrants, often leading to violence and abuse towards these vulnerable members of

[12] *Dajani, Haneen. "UAE Looks at Levying Fee for Remittances | The National." The National. Abu Dhabi Media, 22 Dec. 2015. Web. 14 July 2016. http://www.thenational.ae/uae/uae-looks-at-levying-fee-for-remittances*

[13] *di Giovanni, Julian; Levchenko, Andrei A.; Ortega, Francesc (2015-02-01). "A Global View of Cross-Border Migration". Journal of the European Economic Association 13 (1): 168–202.*

society, and the loss of money to remittances. In low-income countries the trials faced are brain drain, the loss of skilled manual workers, further than just the trained professionals, and that remittances create social divides and do not provide enough economic stimulation to counter the effects of all working-age migrants leaving the country. Most importantly however are the negative effects on the migrants themselves: the discrimination, the xenophobia, the cost of being of migrant (socially and economically), and the fact that whatever money they do make can no be all sent towards their families back in the country of origin, because transaction costs are so high. The migrants are truly those who are the most effected.

Major Parties Involved

LEDC: Complete Official List can be found here

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/ldc/ldc_list.pdf

Some LEDCs on the list since 1971:

Afghanistan, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Rwanda...

This is the official list provided by the UN. However, other countries that have low income or are in development can also be considered LEDCs. LEDCs will want to stimulate their personal economy and "block" brain drain. Some will want to find ways to stop migration by promoting their resources and reinforcing their infrastructures, while other countries, like the Philippines, will promote it with governmental programs.

Countries with the largest number of emigrants as of 2015

- India (16 million)
- Mexico (12 million)
- Russian Federation (11 million)
- China (10 million)
- Bangladesh (7 million)
- Pakistan & Ukraine (6 million)
- Philippines & Syrian Arab Republic & Afghanistan (5.5 million)

MEDC:

There is no official list, but most first-world countries can be assumed to be MEDCs. MEDCs will typically want anything that best benefits them economically. They want to gain a skilled workforce, however, xenophobia in many of these countries, like the U.S.A

and the U.K., will hinder cultural exchange. They are looking for ways to benefit economically, without losing too much money from remittances, and also socially. Since migration mostly benefits MEDCs positively, they will look towards, mostly, pushing migrations of *skilled* workers.

Countries with the largest number of immigrants as of 2015:

- United States of America (47 million)
- Germany & Russian Federation (12 million)
- Saudi Arabia (10 million)
- United Kingdom (9 million)
- United Arab Emirates & Canada & France (8 million)
- Australia (7 million)
- Spain & Italy (6 million)

Timeline of Events

July 1st 1949	*First Convention concerning migration for employment* (n. 97)[14]
December 13th 1985	*Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who Are Not Nationals of the Country in which They Live*
December 18th 1990	*International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.* Baseline for many work-related immigration legislature.
September 13th 1994	*International Conference on Population and Development* (ICPD) in Cairo. *Programme of Action* created then implemented the first complete agenda for international migration. To this day is the most comprehensive text on migration to date. [15]

[14] *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. 18 Dec. 1990. United Nations Resolution.* http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cmw.pdf

[15] "Contributions and Recommendations of the International System." *United Nations Population Fund*. Ed. Irena Omelaniuk.

2000	Migration reaches 173 million people in displacement
2015	Migration peaks at 244 million migrants in that year.
September 20th 2016	United Nations *Summit for Refugees and Migrants*

Previous Attempts to solve the issue

Creation of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in 1999.

They examine ways to overcome problems in migration, as well as recommending actions to either regions, states or UN councils. The current rapporteur is François Crépeau.

Many Different United Nations Resolutions as seen above

For example, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990/2003) was supposed to be applied in all member states, however only 48 have take action while 132 have not.[16] A complete list of resolutions taken by the UN regarding migrants can be found here: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/resolutions/index.shtml

Solving Brain Drain

Many countries are facing the phenomenon of brain drain. In the recent past, even developed countries were facing this problem, such as Canada in the 1990's. Back then, about 25 percent of recently graduated doctors, educated in Canada, left the country, and 5 percent of all recently graduated university students left. Canada was losing educated workers at a rate of 2 to 1 to the United States, where 2 people would emigrate and only 1 would immigrate from the U.S.A into the other North American state. This brain drain was

International Organization for Migration, 2014. Web. 21 July 2016. http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/CEB%20Pub.%20International%20Migration%20and%20Development.pdf

[16] "*International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.*" *Office of the High Commissioner. United Nations Human Rights Council, 13 July 2016. Web. 21 July 2016.* http://indicators.ohchr.org/

slowed and almost reversed due to governmental programs aimed to promote highly qualified jobs, such as engineers, researchers and doctors. Most notably is the Canadian Research Chair program that provides up to 10 million dollars (CAD) to up to 24 researchers, "bringing" into the country top scientists, and creating 2000 positions. Programs such as these promote immigration to combat emigration and help certain economic sectors, reversing some effects of remittances. [17]

Solving Remittances

As seen above, the United Arab Emirates are imposing a tax on remittances sent by non-nationals. Alternatively, the World Bank are working on lowering the cost of transferring remittances to countries of origin, through projects like Project Greenback 2.0, which works with migrants communities, money transfer operators, banks, and local authorities in cities where remittances are high, like Torino, Italy. They try to lower the transfer cost from 10 % to 5 %, and even as low as 3 % for lowest income migrants, as well as providing a more transparent network. [18]

Possible Solutions

Possible solutions include working with sovereign states and NGO's to solve specific issues as not all migration is universally affected by the same problems.
For example:

- Finding ways to incorporate migrants into society through cultural exchange programs in schools, and within the community.
- Programs to create jobs and/or attract investors in low-income countries to convince migrants to stay in their country of origin.
- Attracting skilled workers back into a country with government programs.
- Setting up ways to create a stable life for migrants in their new country.

Useful Sources

International Organization of Migration Website and Glossary

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17 *Allen, Kate. "How Canada Reversed the 'brain Drain' | Toronto Star." The Star. Toronto Star Newspapers, 22 Nov. 2015. Web. 21 July 2016.* https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2015/11/22/the-great-gets.html

18 *"Project Greenback 2.0." Remittances Prices Worldwide. The World Bank, 2015. Web. 21 July 2016.* https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/en/project-greenback-20-remittance-champion-cities-infographic

http://www.iom.int/ & http://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms#Migrant

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Condensed Version

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/international-migration-convention/

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https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/

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