COLOMBIA’S MIGRATORY EXPERIENCE: WHEN MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF A COUNTRY’S POPULATION IS LIVING ABROAD

Presented at the KNOMAD International Conference on Internal Migration and Urbanization held in Dhaka on April 30-May 1, 2014
General Information

- 46.5 million people
- 51.2% women and 48.8% men
- 87 ethnic groups and 3 groups of African Americans.

Population

- women
- men
• HDI for 2011: 0.710 (87th- 91th)
• Unemployment rate 10.4%
National survey of living standards

- 1.9% access to public services
- 32.4% families headed by a woman
  84.1% of those women don’t have a partner
- 32% population in rural areas
• GINI coefficient for land 0.87 (2011)
• Drug trafficking: 70,000 hectares of coca crops
• Inner conflict: 5 decades forcing 4 million people to leave
• Emigration: 4 million people living abroad
• Natural resource extraction
COLOMBIA’S MASS MIGRATION
WHEN? AND HOW?

- Not recent: 60’s
- Official response since 90’s
- From a village to another mostly to towns
- Also in massive events
CONSEQUENCES

• Strong uprooting change in the way of living

• Violence

• Loss of family, belongings, lands, jobs

• Psychological effects

• Live in slums in extreme conditions of overcrowding
- Burden for the local authorities
- Competition for the unqualified and unskilled jobs
- Some false victims
OFFICIAL RESPONSE

• 1. Fragmented and precarious
• 2. Programs, institutions and authorities to cope with displacement.
  • Alert system
  • Shelter, health and humanitarian assistance
  • New home or return to their homes
• 54,063 demands have been presented from 360,000 that were expected.

• 85% of the victims haven’t asked for restitution

• 70% of the demands are still being processed by public authorities

• Threats against land claimers: 66 have been murdered between January 2008 and March 2014
• 10 Ethnic groups living in Bogota

• huitoto, nasa, misak misak, yanacona, kamentzá, pastos, epearara siapiadara, wounaan, sirianos (tubu), pijaos y diosa dulima
COLOMBIAN EMIGRANTS

• More than 4 million people living abroad
• Consequence of the inner conflict
• Return
• Remittances more than 3.021 million dollars a year
CONCLUSION

- Colombia’s population is in constant movement
- Each day 50 families arrive to Bogota
- Country of 46 million people, 8 million living away
- Patchwork makes life in the cities complex
- A challenge for local authorities and for the whole society.