



Workshop on Measuring Remittances Sent to and from Refugees and IDPs

February 12, 2016

World Bank Main Complex, Room MC C1-100, 1818 H St NW, Washington, DC 20006

Concept Note and Agenda

Background

Nearly 60 million persons were forcibly displaced worldwide due to conflict and persecution at the end of 2014 - the highest number since World War II. Many of them remain displaced for a long period of time. Personal transfers sent to refugees and IDPs can contribute to livelihoods in protracted situations and increase self-reliance. Existing evidence suggests that they can be an important source of income, sent from the diaspora in third countries or from families and friends left behind. They can also play an important role in helping set up economic activities in protracted situations. At the same time, refugees and IDPs also send remittances, to refugees and IDPs in other places or to family and friends back home during times of conflict and peace. As their main reason for moving was not economic, their remittance behavior and the challenges they face might differ from economic migrants and might change over time. Policy frameworks can limit or promote refugee and IDP access to remittances.

However, there is a lack of knowledge on remittances sent to and from refugees and IDPs. Research has mainly explored remittances in the context of economic migration. The current evidence is focused on refugees and concentrated around a few case studies. There is also a scarcity of quantitative research. A better understanding of remittances in forced displacement situations can help policy makers maximize their positive impacts and minimize the risks.

Objectives

The workshop aims to bring together leading researchers and practitioners in this field to define key research gaps from a policy perspective, identify solutions for methodological challenges and develop ideas how to improve the evidence base.

Key Questions

- What are key questions on remittances and forced displacement from a humanitarian and development policy perspective? What do we know and what do we not know on remittances and forced displacement?
- What are key methodological difficulties when measuring remittances sent to/from refugees and IDPs? Which methods are successful in which settings? What can we learn from migration research?
- How can we improve the quantity and quality of the evidence base?



Format

- Workshop with presentations and discussions
- In advance of the workshop, the participants will be requested to describe the related work they are doing, filling in a template provided

Draft agenda

| Friday, February 12, 2016 | |
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| 8.30 | Registration and Breakfast |
| 9.00 | <p>Welcoming Remarks and Introduction (workshop objectives and agenda)</p> <p>Dilip Ratha, Lead Economist, DECIG World Bank and Head of KNOMAD Ana Maria Ibáñez, Vice-Chair of KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration and Professor and Dean of the School of Economics at Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia</p> <p>Tour de table</p> |
| 9.30 | <p>1. What do we know about remittances and forced displacement? Moderator: Alex Aleinikoff, Chair of KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration</p> <p>Questions: What do we know, what do we not know based on existing research? What issues has research focused on? What are open questions from a policy perspective? What are differences between forced displacement and migration? What are differences between refugees and IDPs?</p> <p>KNOMAD literature overview on remittances sent to and from refugees and IDPs – Carlos Vargas-Silva, Oxford University</p> <p>Discussants: Paul Spiegel, UNHCR and Xavier Devictor, World Bank – What are open questions from a policy perspective?</p> |
| 10.30 | Coffee break |
| 10.45 | <p>2. What can we learn from migration research on how to measure remittances? Moderator: Ana Maria Ibáñez, KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration and Universidad de los Andes</p> <p>Questions: What questions do policy and research look at? What are methodological challenges when measuring remittances through surveys? And what are solutions for these challenges? What other data sources are used besides household surveys?</p> <p>Key issues in policy and research – Dilip Ratha, World Bank Methodological and conceptual issues: The example of Migration Household Surveys in Africa – Sonia Plaza, World Bank</p> |
| 11.30 | <p>3. What is different for refugees and IDPs? – Case Studies Moderator: Kirsten Schuettler, World Bank</p> <p>Questions: What are specific methodological challenges when measuring remittances sent to and from refugees and IDPs and factors that influence them? What are possible solutions? How to identify refugees/IDPs in existing datasets?</p> |

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| | <p>Remittances to Liberian refugee camp in Ghana – Micah Trapp, University of Memphis Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya – Harun Onder, World Bank Transfers sent to and from Colombian IDPs – Andres Moya, Universidad de los Andes</p> |
| 12.45 | Lunch (Executive Dining room, World Bank Cafeteria) |
| 14.15 | <p>3. What is different for refugees and IDPs? – Case Studies (continued)</p> <p>Remittances sent to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon – Paolo Verme, World Bank Remittances to Syria – Roger Dean, Norwegian Refugee Council (via video) Remittance services for Syrian refugees and low-income Jordanians in Jordan – Lotte Nordhus, GIZ / Mayada El Zoghbi, CGAP World Bank</p> <p>Discussant: Patricia Weiss-Fagen, Georgetown University</p> |
| 15.30 | Coffee break |
| 15.45 | <p>4. Brainstorming: How can we improve the evidence base? Moderator: Susan Martin, Georgetown University</p> <p>Questions: Which existing data sets could be exploited? How could further data be collected? How can we increase the quality of the data collected? How can we obtain longitudinal data?</p> <p>Improve measurement at the macro-level in countries with high flows of refugees – (tbc) Use available household surveys (like Living Standards Measurement Study surveys) – Diane Steele, World Bank Exploit data from price comparison websites – Charles Gillig, RemitRight / Lotte Nordhus, Geldtransfair, GIZ / Marco Nicoli and Alana Kimlin Fook, Remittances Prices Worldwide, World Bank Obtain data from remittance service providers – Sebastian Plubins, Ria Exploit synergies with work on cash transfer and financial inclusion of refugees/IDPs – Kevin Savage, World Vision International</p> |
| 17.30-18.00 | <p>Conclusions and recommendations for next steps</p> <p>Tour de Table Ana Maria Ibáñez, Vice-Chair of KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration and Professor and Dean of the School of Economics at Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia Kirsten Schuettler, Focal Point of KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration and Development</p> |
| 19.00 | Dinner |