

## **Impact of Migration on Economic and Social Development: Review of Evidence and Emerging Issues\***

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### **I Introduction**

This paper reviews the literature on the development impact of migration and remittances on origin countries and on destination countries in the South. International migration has development implications for origin and destination countries in the South and in the North. Some 215 million people or three per cent of the world's population are believed to live outside their countries of birth (United Nations 2009). While the focus in the literature has been on South-North migration, the number of migrants between developing countries is estimated to be as large as the number of migrants moving from South to North (Ratha and Shaw 2007). Thus, the development implications of migration and need to manage in-migration are as relevant to the South as they are to the North. Although violent conflict, political persecution and trafficking are important causes for international mobility, more than nine out of 10 international migrants move for economic reasons. By and large, migration has positive economic impact on the migrant households, the sending country as well as the receiving country.

The paper is organized as follows. Section II provides a discussion of the development implications (both economic and social) of migration for origin countries. Section III discusses the available evidence on the impact of migration on destination countries in the South. Section IV concludes with a brief discussion of selected emerging migration issues such as environment and climate change, fertility and demographic patterns, democratic processes, and

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