

Migration as a Source of Resilience

February 15, 2024
9:30am ET



TODAY'S **Agenda**



Opening Remarks



Speaker Introductions



Technical Presentations



Audience Q&A



Closing Remarks



Laurie Ashley

**Climate Adaptation
and Resilience Advisor**
USAID, Center for Resilience

Poll



QUESTION 1

On a scale of 0-3, how important do you think migration is for resilience?

- 0** Not important
- 1** Slightly important
- 2** Somewhat important
- 3** Very important



Poll

QUESTION 2

Have you addressed migration
in your work?

YES

NO

KIND
OF

Please put any examples or resources in the chat



A Source of Resilience

Livelihood diversification

Risk management

Skills and education

Access to services

Incomes/Remittances

Safer and more productive migration



Meet Today's Panelists



Jeeyon Kim

Director of Food Security
Research | Mercy Corps



Jessica Wolff

Program Director | Stanford
University's Immigration
Policy Lab



Jeeyon Kim

**Director of
Food Security Research**
Mercy Corps

Harnessing the Potential of Migration





Global migration flows 2005-2010 by region
(Sander, Abel, and Bauer n.d.)

Defining our Terms

- ✓ Focus on **economic migration** (also referred to as labor mobility), defined as “the movement of persons from one state to another or within their own country of residences for the purposes of employment” (IOM, n.d)
- ✓ Economic migration is far more significant than other forms of migration in terms of numbers (e.g. forced displaced, irregular migration, human trafficking etc)
- ✓ **Climate change** and **demographic shifts** are some key trends that are likely to increase economic migration in the near future

An Incoherent Approach...

- ✓ At national and household level, research demonstrates that migration and remittances can lead to positive socioeconomic and development outcomes, and contribute to household resilience
- ✓ However, key foreign assistance often fails to recognize and harness the potential of economic migration
- ✓ Status quo approach is not only a missed opportunity, but may also perpetuate cycles of investments that are often ineffective in stemming migration

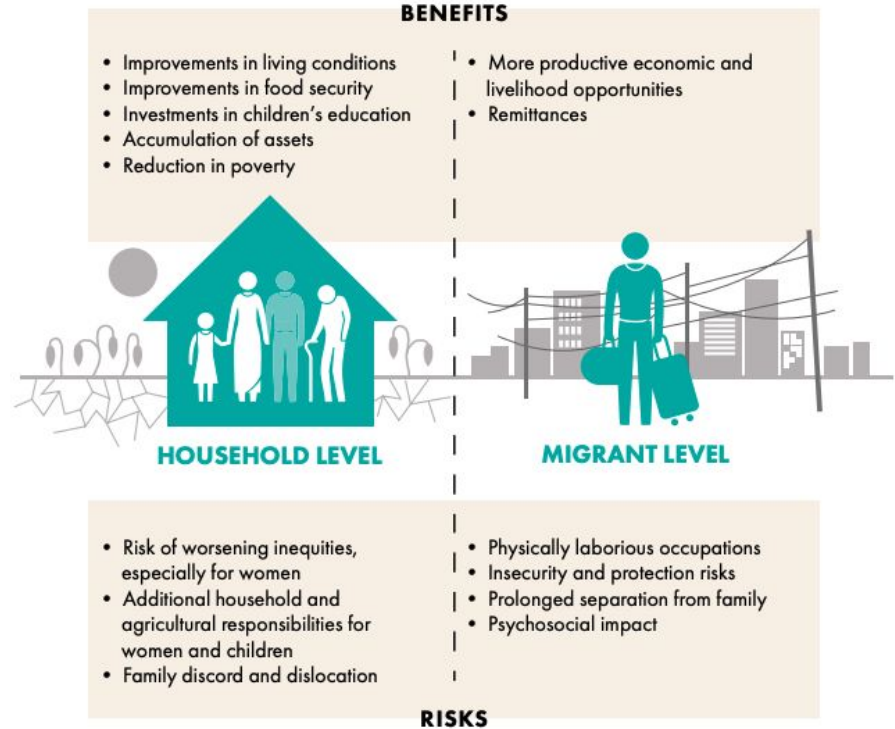


FIGURE 1: Benefits and risks of labor migration

Why does this bias persist?

1.

Economic migration remains politically sensitive in many donor countries

2.

Practitioners and institutions often operate with a flawed understanding of migration

3.

The key features of resilience programs and strategies are not conducive to support people on the move

What are the ways forward?

1.

Reconsider economic migration as a choice and an opportunity, which bring benefits *and* risks that must be proactively managed

2.

Integrate economic migration as a key component of resilience strategies and investments

3.

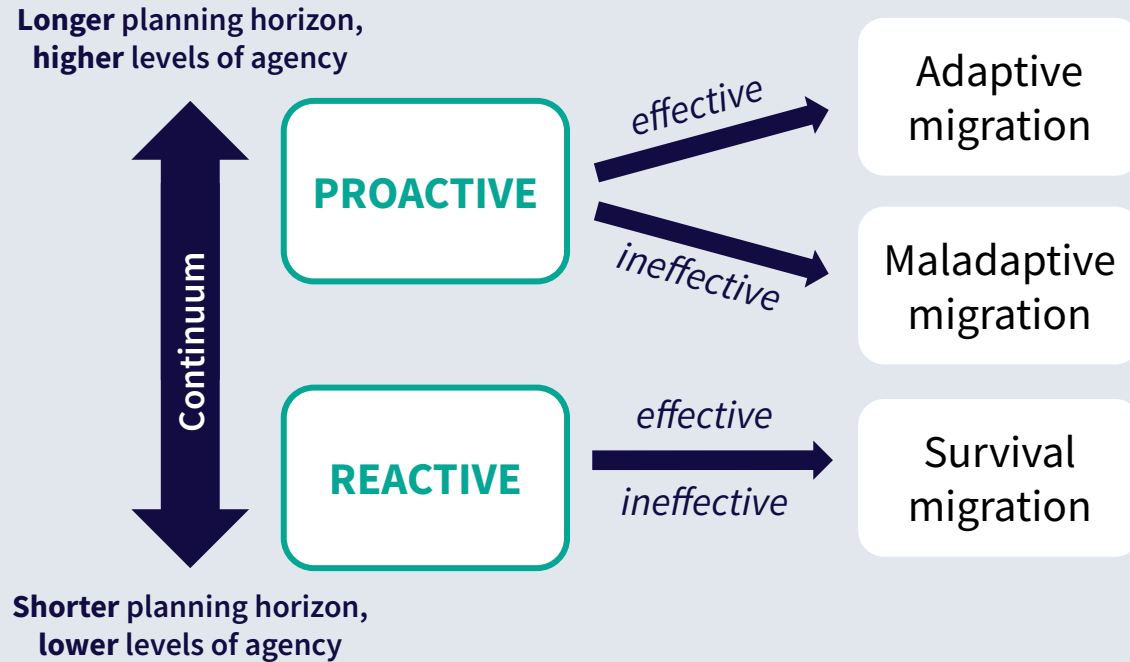
Pilot, test, and scale programs that support people on the move *and* those who stay behind



Jessica Wolff

Program Director
Immigration Policy Lab,
Stanford University

Migration as Resilience: Pathways Vary



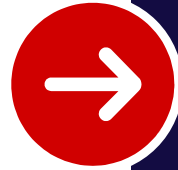
Case Study: Planning for Productive Migration in West Africa

- ✓ **Climate impacts on livelihoods:** unpredictable and decreasing rainfall is leading to decreasing agricultural outputs in Niger, where 80% of the population is dependent on agriculture as a livelihood
- ✓ **Policy environment:** ECOWAS has a “zone of free movement” - visa-free travel to live and work up to 90 days



L'exode – community research learnings

- ✓ Migration is a household livelihoods strategy to increase consumption and manage risk
- ✓ Migration is constrained by travel costs, networks, documentation, skills and knowledge of risks/opportunities in different destinations
- ✓ Migration benefits do not always reach the households back home



Program design & learning opportunity

- ✓ Facilitate **safe, legal, productive** migration to improve livelihoods and increase resilience for the entire household

Planning for Productive Migration Program Framework

TRAINING

Migration preparation training for the primary participant and a 2nd household member

Two household dialogues focused on household migration planning

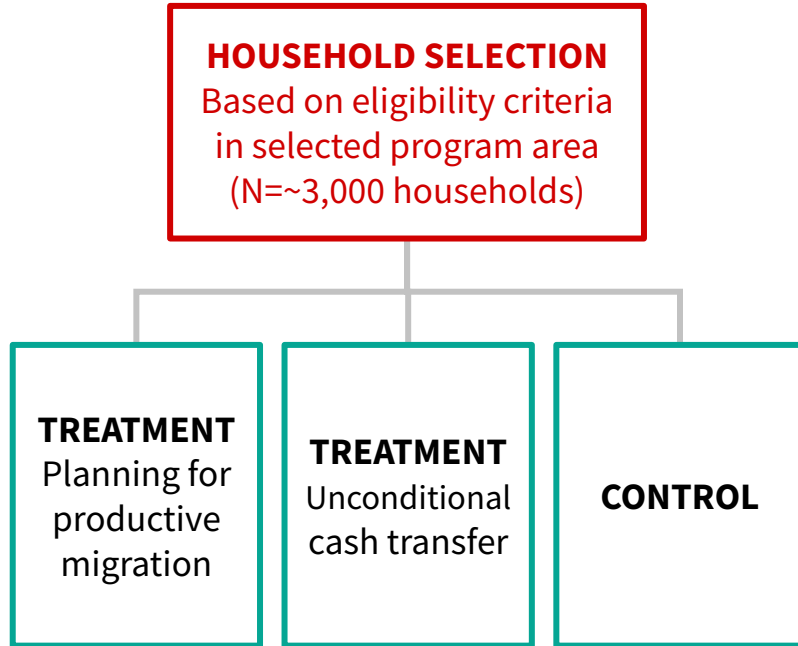
Support to acquire legal documents and required vaccines, including a national identification card and vaccination against Yellow Fever and Meningitis

Roundtrip bus ticket to chosen destination within ECOWAS

POST TRAINING

Risk mitigation and ongoing surveying and monitoring, including emergency hotline, providing mobile phone and credit, and establishing an External Advisory Committee (EAC) to advise on risk responses

Planning for Productive Migration Learning Framework



Data collection plan for all households

- Baseline survey
- Full length surveys at 6, 12, and 18 months
- Regular check-in calls every 3 months to monitor interim outcomes

Key outcomes (for participants and households)

- Rate & destination of migration
- Employment, income & consumption effects
- Psycho-social wellbeing & resilience
- Spillover effects (repeat or chain migration rates)

Panel Discussion and Q&A

Please use the Q&A feature to submit questions for our panelists