
A Global Overview of Social Protection for International Migrants

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Outline

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Motivation and Background

- Joint research project by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and the World Bank linking migration to social protection frameworks or policies
- Aim of the research:
 - Investigate access to formal and informal social protection for migrants and
 - identify best practices of portability of social security benefits
 - assess the overall knowledge of migration and social protection in the north-north, north-south, and for the first time, in the south-south context
 - better understand the interactions between migration and social protection (formal and informal)

Methodology

- Case studies of social protection frameworks and practices in several high income countries and in countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) (Background studies)
- Survey of Malawian migrants to the UK and South Africa (IDS)
- Study of global migration data and portability of social security benefits including estimates of undocumented migrants (focus of this presentation)

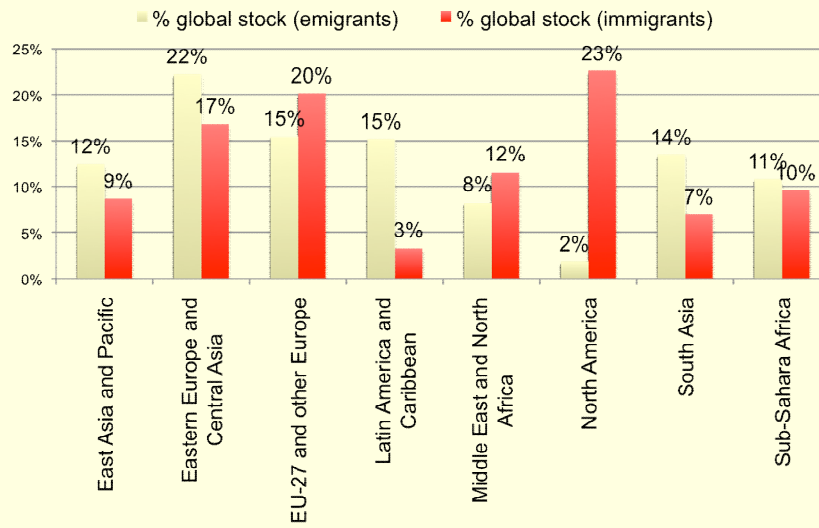
What does portability mean?

- Portability: the ability to preserve, maintain, and transfer vested social security rights or rights in the process of being vested, independent of nationality and country of residence
- If not granted:
 - Loss of contributions
 - Double contributions
 - Vesting losses (if migrant remains below minimum requirements)
 - Wage losses (if pension is based on final wage)
 - Back-loading losses (if pensions have increasing accrual rates)

Global data on migration stocks and bilateral social security agreements

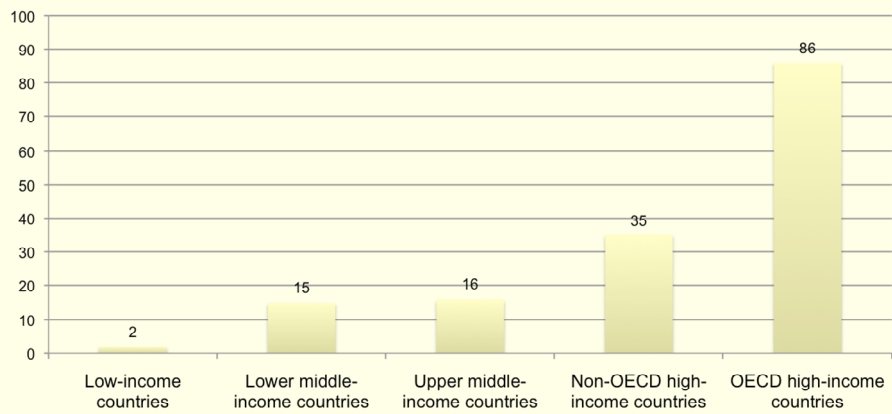
- Main data sources:
 - Migration DRC based on the 2000/01 Census round
 - ILO database on international agreements (NATLEX)
 - US Social Security Office
- Regimes of portability
 - I: Access to and portability of social security benefits
 - II: Access to social security benefits, no portability
 - III: No access to social security system
 - IV: Undocumented migrants (no access) (estimates are based on available information and assumptions)

Migration stocks emigrants versus immigrants



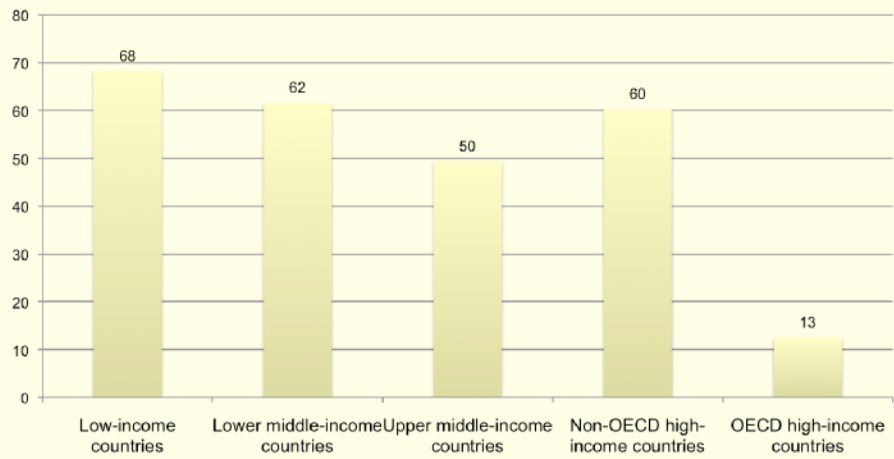
About 23% of migrants move under Regime I and most come from high-income countries

Percent of migrants in Regime I by group of origin



Most south-south migrants fall into Regime II

Percent of migrants in Regime II by group of origin



Within Regime II south-south migrants are worse of then south-north (and north-north) migrants

Global migrant stock estimates of Regime II migrants by origin and host income-group (2000)

Origin country income-group	Host country income-group			Total
	Low-income countries	Lower middle-income countries	OECD high-income countries	
Low-income countries	23,339,921	10,989,418	11,128,178	53,622,241
<i>% of migrants under Regime II</i>	82	66	78	68
Lower middle-income countries	4,817,600	27,815,316	29,162,504	76,487,150
<i>% of migrants under Regime II</i>	83	70	54	62
OECD high-income countries	1,147,634	2,689,451	22,410,626	28,917,970
<i>% of migrants under Regime II</i>	88	58	1	13

Source: Migration DRC (2007) and authors' calculations.

Some lower/middle-income countries have successfully managed to protect their emigrants via bilateral social security agreements

Estimates of emigrant stocks for top Regime-I-migrant sending countries, with developing countries in bold (2000)

Country of origin	Emigrants under Regime I	Total stock of emigrants	% under Regime I
United Kingdom	3,810,777	4,209,287	91%
Germany	3,465,076	4,084,740	85%
Italy	3,061,119	3,297,607	93%
Turkey	2,125,323	3,138,106	68%
Morocco	1,770,866	1,985,531	89%
Portugal	1,720,881	2,706,007	64%
Algeria	1,557,699	1,796,884	87%
France	1,505,967	2,161,306	70%
Puerto Rico	1,485,654	1,603,441	93%
Republic of Korea	1,274,802	1,495,010	85%

Source: Migration DRC (2007) and authors' calculations. Lower/Middle income countries in bold.

There are also regional efforts in lower/middle income countries though their impact is limited

Estimates of emigrant stocks under Regime I for MERCOSUR and		
Region of origin	MERCOSUR	CARICOM
Total emigrants from region	2,349,633	3,359,256
Intra-regional emigrants	766,596	97,001
Total Regime I emigrants from region	934,173	406,648
Intra-regional Regime I emigrants	642,599	60,931
<i>Intra-regional emigrants as % of total emigrants from region</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>Intra-regional Regime I emigrants as % of total Regime I emigrants from region</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Intra-regional Regime I emigrants as % of total emigrants from region</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>2%</i>

Source: Migration DRC (2007) and authors' calculations.

Migrants from the main sending countries cannot rely on portability of their benefits

Global migrant stock estimates for the top sending countries (2000)

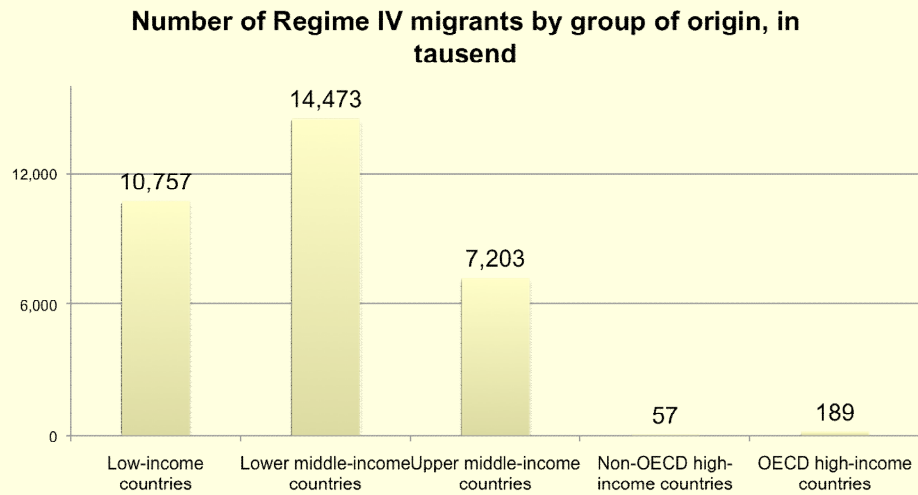
Origin country	Total stock	Regime I	under Regime I
Russian Federation	12,853,427	561	0%
Mexico	11,205,499	56,298	1%
India	9,540,868	8,345	0%
Bangladesh	7,190,041	0	0%
Ukraine	6,381,863	188,366	3%
China	6,347,615	56,898	1%
United Kingdom	4,209,287	3,804,695	90%
Germany	4,084,740	3,465,076	85%
Kazakhstan	3,890,528	0	0%
Pakistan	3,601,323	11,760	0%
Philippines	3,553,587	290,191	8%

Source: Migration DRC (2007) and authors' calculations.

Current portability models are not applicable to south-south migrants

- For example in SADC:
 - Of the almost 7 million SADC emigrants only 3.6 percent (concerning only 3 countries) fall into Regime I
 - Almost 4.5 million move within the SADC region where social security systems are poorly developed
 - Many SADC migrants move informally (the lower bound estimate is 38 percent)

South-south migrants have to rely on limited national provisions of social protection, limited because many migrate illegally...



... and limited because social security systems are poorly developed

- Most nationals are not covered by social security
- Social rights are often not part of the constitutions
- Migrants are discriminated because their status restricts access to social services
- Most available benefits are based on tax-financed social assistance programs
- Portability is beyond the scope and current best practices do not apply
- Some limited examples of portability for employer-based occupational benefits

Conclusion: The numbers show that social protection for migrants depends on origin and destination

- North-north migrants are in the best position
- South-north migrants may not enjoy portability but mostly have access to adequate social protection services
- South-south migrants are in most disadvantaged situation due to poorly developed social security systems and high illegal migration rates