

Developmental Effects of Return

Michael Collyer

Return migrations:

- Post-conflict return of refugees
- Voluntary return of (legal) economic migrants
- Return of failed asylum seekers and irregular migrants

Sustainable return

- For UK government:
 - Zero re-emigration or desire to re-emigrate no greater than non-migrants
- For individual migrant:
 - Individual socio-economic status/fear of persecution no worse than for non-migrants
- For country of origin:
 - Aggregate socio-economic conditions and levels of violence no worse than before

Influences on sustainability

- Profile of returnees?
 - Type of migrant, years abroad, experience abroad, legal status.
- Return assistance?
 - Return grants, training, employment reinsertion
- Return context?
 - Re-insertion assistance, political/economic environment
- Public policy in host country?

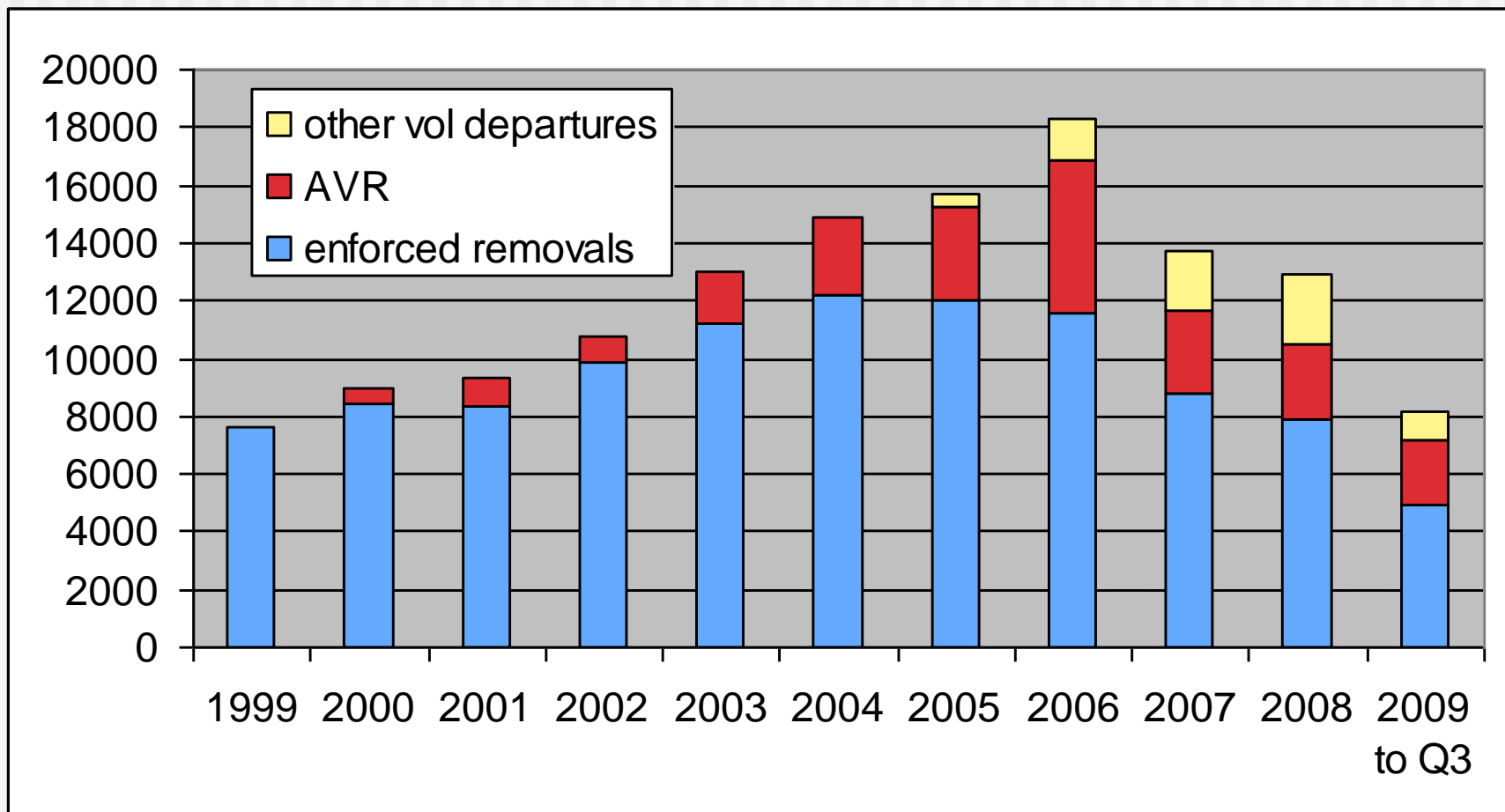
Assisted Voluntary Return

- VARRP: Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme
 - 2003 £815/returnee (Clery et al 2005)
 - 2003 Immigration Service removal £12,760/removal
- AVRIM: Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants
- RAP: Return to Afghanistan Programme

Table 12 (p24) Asylum applications Jan 2007 – Feb 2008, number refused and subsequently removed

| | Applicants | Refused | Removed | % |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Oakington | 411 | 408 | 394 | 97 |
| Detained fast track | 1,025 | 1,001 | 977 | 98 |
| Third country unit | 1,955 | 1,741 | 1,166 | 67 |
| All others | 22,138 | 10,719 | 918 | 8.6 |

Return of asylum seekers from UK



Sri Lanka case study

- Methodology:
 - 48 individuals interviewed Jan - Oct 2008
 - Random sample (10%) in all accessible areas of country
- Sample:
 - Returned June '04 - Jul '07
 - 45 men/3 women
 - 44 businesses established

Successes

- Employment of others
 - 8 businesses employed others
- Wealth generation
 - 4 businesses generated profit for owners
 - 5 more owners 'hopeful' about businesses
- Factors of success
 - Political contacts
 - Previous business experience
 - Experience in UK

Failures

- 20 businesses closed
 - Migration – often security related
 - Security
- 20 businesses still running but currently at/below subsistence levels
 - Intimidation/corruption
 - Business sense

Failures: Security difficulties

“For a while business was OK, it’s a small amount to start a business, you know, 4 lakhs (£2,000), I really needed more like 2.5 million (£12,000) and income was very little. I just took 10% margin whereas before I took 25%, the shop was taking maybe 1 to 1.4 lakhs a month (£500-£700) and I had 10% of that, it wasn’t enough.[...] Over time, 3 or 4 of my big customers were killed, no one knows who by and I just got scared.” (52 year old Muslim man. Ran spare parts business for 2 years after return)

Failures: intimidation/corruption

“People are always coming and asking for money; always ‘money, money, money’ thinking that you’re rich. I closed the shop because of it.” (Tamil man 43 years old, marble and granite business)

“The police could come and say ‘Hey, you have one phone for me. Give me this phone.’ If I said I had no money they laughed and said ‘London people, you’re rich!’” (31 year old Tamil man, communications store)

Success: explanations

“yes everyone is very failure, [one friend] bought a shop in xxxxx town that is very expensive and now he is doing three wheeler, (he is riding three wheeler!), so, like, so many cases because they don't have a knowledge of Sri Lanka. You need a knowledge and you need to find the environment and you need to research the customer needs and what are the category of customer in this area. Many people are thinking 'I know the paint' or 'I know this experience' so I am going to feed the customer, you have to search customer needs, then customer categories. [...] that is their only failing, most of the time.”

45 year old, male with successful business

AVR as development

- Conditions of return?
 - Tendency is towards restriction
- Security monitoring?
 - 2008 Returns Directive suggests not
- Business development?
 - Pilot post-return training
 - Other initiatives?

Discussion

- How can research best support the policy process in the field of return?
- What are the barriers to this that you have experienced:
 - From the policy perspective?
 - From the research perspective?