



**ACP** OBSERVATORY ON MIGRATION  
OBSERVATOIRE ACP SUR LES MIGRATIONS  
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# *Diaspora Contributions and Social Remittances: A South-South migration perspective*

**The Learning Platform on Human Mobility's Course on:  
Fostering Economic Development  
and Migrant Entrepreneurship  
Brussels, Belgium – 3 December 2013**

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## The ACP Observatory on Migration

- **Objective:** To produce data on South-South ACP migration and enhance research capacity in ACP countries for the strengthening of the migration-development nexus
- **12 Pilot countries :**
  - West Africa: *Nigeria, Senegal*
  - East Africa: *Kenya, Tanzania*
  - Central Africa: *Cameroon, DRC*
  - Southern Africa: *Angola, Lesotho*
  - Pacific: *Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea*
  - Caribbean: *Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago*

# Overview of the presentation

- 1.** Realities of South-South migration
- 2.** Diaspora contributions in the South
- 3.** Social remittances in the South

# 1. Looking at the South:

Realities of South-South migration

## What is the South? ...and what is the North?

UN Human Development Report 2013

47 countries:  
Very high human  
development

North

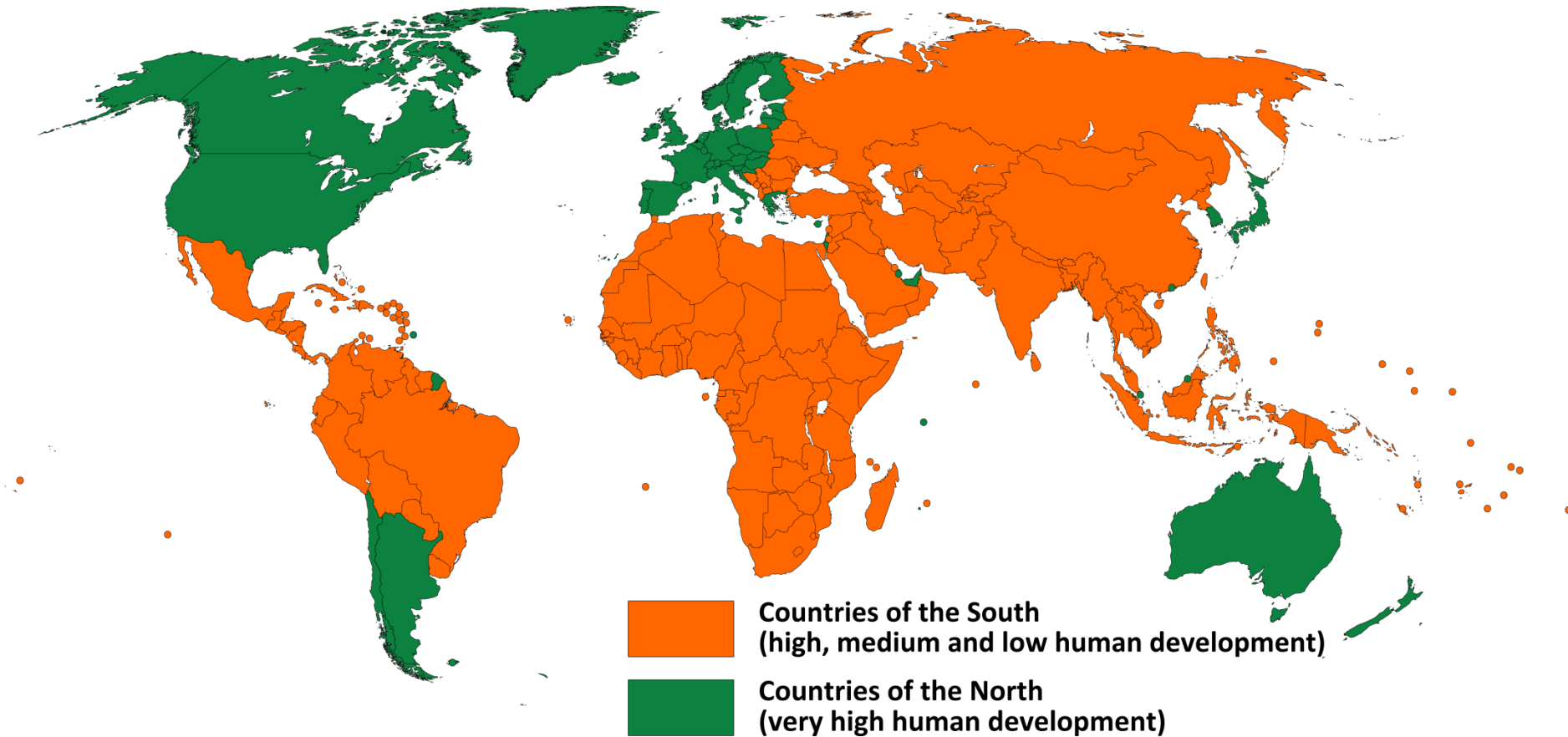
47 countries:  
High human  
development

47 countries:  
Medium human  
development

45 countries:  
Low human  
development

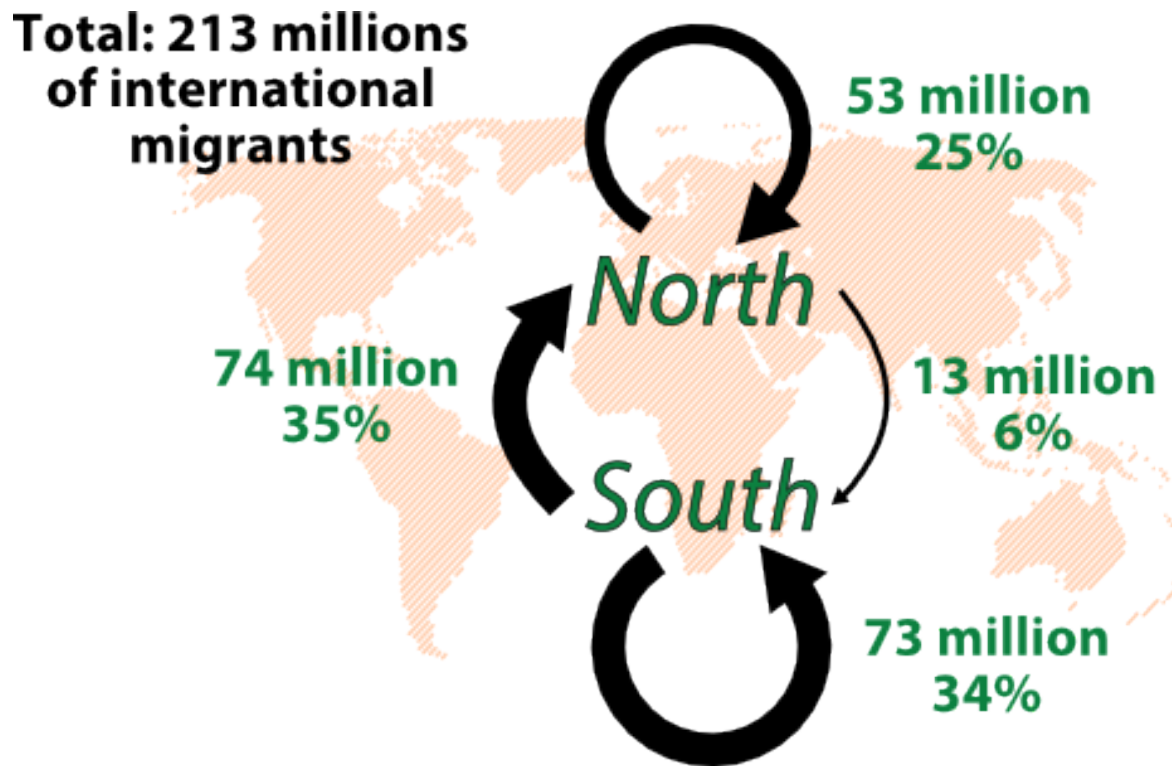
South

# 1. Looking at the South: Realities of South-South migration



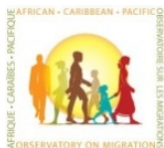
# 1. Looking at the South: Realities of South-South migration

## Half of migrants from the South stay in the South



## 2. South-South diasporas

# Diasporas - Definitions



## ACP Observatory Research Guide

**Diasporas:** People living outside their country of origin, irrespective of citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of their origin country and/or community.



IOM • OIM

## IOM Handbook – *Engaging Diasporas in Development*

**Diasporas:** Emigrants and their descendants, who live outside the country of their birth or ancestry, wither on a temporary or permanent basis, yet still maintain affective and material ties to their countries of origin.



# DIASPORAS CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Human resources** - contribute to economy and competitiveness of community where they live and may engage in development processes in community of origin. When they return, even temporarily, they bring experience leading to **skills circulation and knowledge transfer**
- **Social resources** – social networks, links, relationships, friends, colleagues, associations -- ability to influence society
- **Economic resources** – remittances contribute to **well-being of families and members of communities** in origin countries – also diaspora **trade and investment** – also play a prominent role in poverty reduction and improvements in areas such as health and education
- **Cultural resources** - transnational social networks, rich cultural background can facilitate integration, exchange, and can positively affect relationship between countries of origin and destination
- **Diasporas as bridges between communities of origin and destination** and possibilities for both

# SOUTH-SOUTH DIASPORAS

## Facts

- The overall focus of diaspora studies have been diaspora members residing in the North: **much less is known on diasporas in the South**
- There is limited government engagement with diasporas in the South – however interest is growing
- Diaspora associations in the South are frequent: this is an asset in terms of diaspora outreach

# SOUTH-SOUTH DIASPORAS

## Facts

- Contrary to general perception, South-South migration also includes **highly skilled migrants**: especially in some sub-regions (as Eastern Africa) and to some hubs (as South Africa)
- Highly skilled migrants in the South-South framework tend to **work within their skills range** more than in a South-North framework
- Returns are very frequent and interest of diaspora members in **temporary return and skills transfers programmes** → great potential to explore in terms of S-S cooperation

# SOUTH - SOUTH DIASPORAS

Recommendations to engage diasporas in the South

- ❖ **Dual citizenship and voting rights are important avenues for diaspora engagement**
  - inclusion of **dual citizenship** in the law provide an important link between the diasporas and their home country as it conveys a sense of belonging.
  - **voting rights** provide the diasporas with an opportunity to make their voices heard
- ❖ **Governments can facilitate existing diaspora engagement and contributions**
  - Diasporas associations are already engaged in communities of origin and destination, but may require support
  - Skills transfers are already happening, but can be further supported
  - Remittances are sent, but costs must be lowered

### 3. South-South remittances

- ✓ Money transfers is mainly informal, therefore not included in the statistics (87.4 per cent of money transfers in Lesotho are done through informal channels) - Formal transfer channels remain very costly
- ✓ 60% of migrants in the South send remittances vs. 46% of migrants in the North.
- ✓ Mobile phones (M-Pesa system pioneered in Kenya) technologies are more and more used in developing countries: this has increased the speed and transfer of internal remittances

### 3. Social Remittances

- ✓ *The flows of ideas, knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, identities and social capital transmitted through migrants to family, friends and beyond in the sending country communities” (Levitt)*
- ✓ Economic benefits –Ghanian migrant fisherman pass on knowledge of conservation and treatment of fish to local women in Senegal → better able to export to UK
- ✓ Health benefits - several harmful practices related to health have been changing thanks to migrants’ intangible transfers, such as the abandonment of the tradition of burying dead close to sources of water and the increased use of mosquito nets
- ✓ Music, language, gender quality, school attendance

# Conclusion: *The importance of looking at the South*

South-South migration offers great **untapped potentials** for fostering the migration-development nexus

Need for governments to understand and explore South-South dimensions of migration

International migration debates have started to take this issue into account and local governments also have a role to play



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# Thank you for your attention

# Questions? Comments?

## [www.acpmigration-obs.org](http://www.acpmigration-obs.org)

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*Une initiative du Secrétariat ACP, financée par l'Union européenne,*

*mise en œuvre par l'OIM et avec le soutien financier de l'OIM, du Fonds de l'OIM pour le développement, du UNFPA et de la Suisse*



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Développer les capacités en  
matière de gestion des migrations

