MIGRATION AND DIASPORA - KEY POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE CONTEXT OF CARIBBEAN MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- High emigration rates
- High rates of tertiary educated persons living abroad/in the Diaspora
- High levels of Remittances
- Short-term labour contracts – farms & hotels
- Return – voluntary and deported
Migrant Stocks as percentage of Population (2013)

Emigration of Tertiary-Educated in OECD Countries 2010/11 (emigration rate % of total)

- Bahamas: 20.5%
- Belize: 33.4%
- Jamaica: 48.1%
- Barbados: 66.2%
- Trinidad & Tobago: 68.2%
- Haiti: 75.1%
- Guyana: 93%

TERTIARY EDUCATED EMIGRANTS
Implications for development

- Loss & potential loss of HIGHLY SKILLED LABOURFORCE which are necessary for economic growth and social development eg. high emigration of nurses/teachers/police.

- Recommended that the source countries address this through immigration or encourage return of nationals with opportunities to contribute to development

- An educated Diaspora – provides the potential for strong development support to source countries
DIASPORA - direct and indirect effects

Transnational social networks have implications for:

- Knowledge transfer
- Investment
- Tourism
- Telecommunications
- Trade (goods & culture)
- Remittances
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Remittances (USD millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>1,128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>296</td>
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<td>St. Lucia</td>
<td>292</td>
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<td>St. Kitts and Nevis</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
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<td>Belize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>1,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remittances as % of GDP (2014)

- Dominican Republic: 7.7%
- Barbados: 2.4%
- Dominica: 4.5%
- Belize: 4.9%
- Antigua & Barbuda: 1.5%
- St. Lucia: 2.2%
- St. Kitts & Nevis: 5.7%
- Trinidad & Tobago: 0.6%
- Haiti: 28.3%
- St. Vincent & Grenadines: 4.1%
- Jamaica: 17.3%
- Grenada: 2.9%
- Guyana: 10.6%

REMITTANCES

- benefit nationally through GDP
- Source of foreign exchange - larger than FDI in many cases, eg. Jamaica, Guyana, Haiti
- contribute to developing the financing capacities of the financial system, particularly in banking sector
- support communities social welfare/education & health missions
- assist living standards & poverty reduction
- health and education support
- provide assistance at times of natural disasters
Caution –
- In the Caribbean, cost of money transfers are generally high, a number of remittances companies.

- Small developing economies tend to show remittance dependency and need to upgrade their human capital to insulate themselves from external turbulence.

Recommendations

- Policies to reduce cost of remittance transfers
- Increase incentives to integrate Remittance Recipients into Formal System for promoting economic growth & create incentives to invest in human resources
SHORT STAY LABOUR MIGRATION

Bi-lateral programmes with economic benefits to workers and their families

- There is the need for improved social protection in all the destination countries through adequate health insurance cover in host country and national insurance payments to source country.
INVOLUNTARY RETURN – DEPORTED MIGRANTS

Need for improved management

❖ Transparency of the reasons for deportation

❖ Health challenges and protecting the rights of the migrant

❖ Challenges of reintegration into the country of birth. There is inadequate/no assistance from some sending countries, and a general criminalization of deported persons.
Summary of recommendations

- Promote cooperation and partnerships to
  - improve opportunities for positive impact of human resource retention/return, and the
  - protection of labour migrants on bilateral programs

- Harmonize policies to reduce remittance transfer costs to
  - optimize benefits of remittances to migrant families
  - increase integration of remittances into the formal system to increase opportunities for sustaining economic and social projects