

Rural-Urban Linkages, Mobility and Migration in Ethiopia:

*Cases studies of three rural and two urban
sites in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia and
SNNP Regions - Implications for Policy and
development Practice*

Prepared for Irish Aid –Ethiopia

Key Issues to be covered in this presentation

- **The Conceptual Framework**
- **The Research Areas & Instruments**
- **Empirical Findings**
- **-Policy Implications of Migration**

The BLA-conceptual framework

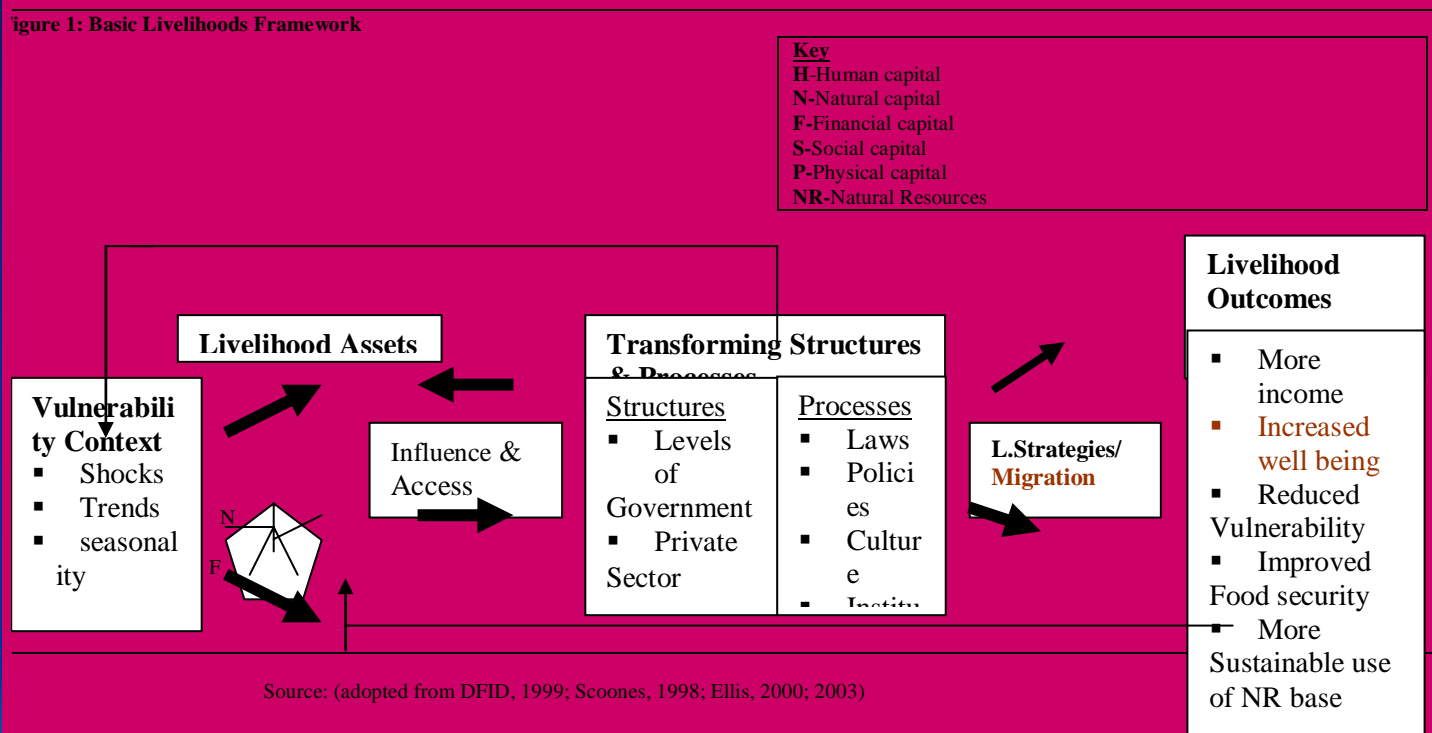
- **The Basic Livelihoods Approach - on the things people do and access resources in pursuit of a living.**
- **Connected to migration - involves a **human capital** , which includes the mobility of labour together with a person's experience, skills, education level, and health status.**

The BLA-conceptual framework

- The multiple types of migration - offer opportunities to reduce the vulnerability of households or create the capability to build a satisfactory living.
- Migration is a conduit to offset or cope with risk factors that threaten the level of resources or the conducive institutional and policy contexts that are relevant to individuals or households livelihood (DfID, 1999, Carney, 1998, Ellis, 2000).

The BLA-conceptual framework

Figure 1: Basic Livelihoods Framework



Existing Migration Studies in Ethiopia

- There were studies of migration done with specific concentration on the migration accounts of specific areas, regions and urban centres such as Addis Ababa, Nazareth, Harerge, Gonder and Shashemene in Ethiopia (Alula 1972, Bjerer 1985, Kloos 1982, Beyene 1985, Hadgu and Asmerom 1985). Most of these studies were influenced by 'dualism'- **Push – Pull factors not full account of the development dimension of migration.**

Existing Migration Studies...

- Various studies indicate that the urban population of Ethiopia is growing mainly due to migration to the city. (Solomon, 1993; CSA, 1999). For instance, migration to Addis Ababa accounts for over 54 percent of the yearly population growth of the city (Eshetu ,2005)

Existing Migration Studies...

- Indicate that there has been a pattern of population movement from north-to-south and from east to west nationally (Mc Cann, 1988).
- Rural to rural mobility across these regions has been dominated by subsistence farmers and it was having permanent, seasonal and cyclical natures.
- Mid 1960s- 1974: The growth of commercial farming and large scale plantation areas in locations like the Awash Valley, the Settit-Humera lowlands, the coffee growing areas of Keffa attracted the flocking of people from far away distances such as Gonder, Gojjam, Wollo and Shewa from mid 1960 through 1974.

Existing Migration Studies...

- The introduction of pass system during the Socialist Regime of Ethiopia (1978) reduced the movement of rural people to urban and other rural areas.
- There are strong indications that large number of urban migrants in Ethiopia have lived in at least one other town before moving on to the larger town. (Bjeren, 1985). In this respect, most of the urban born migrants were found to be female.

Existing Migration Studies

- The knowledge and understanding of migration and its relationships with poverty was not well appreciated (Solomon, 1993).
- Past strategies frequently label migration in its negative aspects and portrays it as a cause of urban poverty, HIV-AIDS transmission and crime expansion
- Migration is not well articulated but positive indirect indication in the new PASDEP (MoFED, 2006) for Rural-Urban Linkages.

The Intent of this study

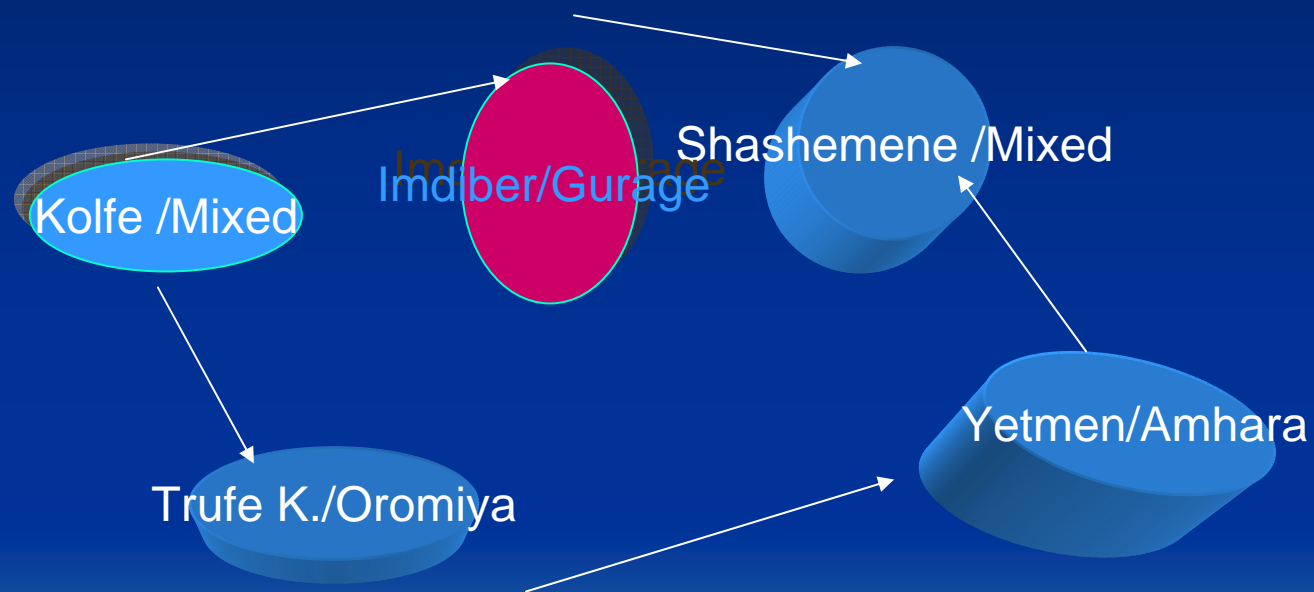
- What are the patterns and trends of migration in the research sites?
- Why migration is important for RL?
- What type of urban-rural linkages exist?
- What are the policy implications of urban-rural migration?

Scope and approaches to the study

- The primary qualitative data collected under the WeD Ethiopia Research Programme in the three rural research sites; namely, Indiber, Trufe Kecheme and Yetmen. And Two urban area-Addis Ababa and Shashemene
- The qualitative method involved focus group discussions, key informant interviews, case-studies.
- Resources and Needs Survey of 910 HHs.

The Research Sites

- Five Rural and Urban Sites



Preliminary Empirical Findings

- Rural Sites - Local People perceive that there have been less in-migration than out-migration across all the three rural sites. But Imndiber (Gurage) showed comparatively higher proportion of in-ward trends.

Reasons :

- Imndibir- Regular Annual holidays and festivals
- - Urban displacement- inf. occupation
- - Banning of contraband business
- - Ethnic-based violence mostly in some Oromia towns during the transition.

Pushing factors..... Out-Migration

.....

The trend of both short and long term **rural-urban migration** to both Kolfe, Addis Ababa and Kebele 08/09 , Shashemene has significantly increased over the past five years.

Pushing factors include;

- the diminishing of farmland in all their rural localities and the fragmentation of small land holding ,

Pushing factors..... Out-Migration

- b) The lack of rain, occurrence of recurrent drought, absence of effective extension system and the existence of limited investment in irrigation based agriculture have seriously threatened the productivity of cereal and cash crops,
- c) The presence of high level of population pressure on the scanty land, and d) the lack of off-farm employment opportunities and the imposition of heavy tax.

Preliminary Empirical Findings

- The **pulling factors** to Addis Ababa and Sashemene include;
- The increasing volume of construction work activities,
- The increasing demand for domestic workers,
- The better rate of payment for service work and
- The social support from the long term migrants..

Out-Migration

- Long term rural-urban migration ,(memenen, meseded) not desirable, involves smallest proportion of the total population-
- (HH-based FGDs)
- Long-term rural-rural migration- mostly involves women; caused by marriage
- Seasonal Migration (rural-urban ;rural-rural) is more common and involves almost a member of each household.
- Main Pushing Factors :
 - Food insecurity/ limited food prodn.
 - Debts from credit facilities- fertilizer and improved seeds.
 - Land tax liability
 - Need for additional income to buy ox, clothes
 - Crop failure and death of cattle

Who are involved in the migration?

- Migration streams (FGDs, Key informant Interviews):
- Long-term and Rural-Rural – by Women due to marriage.
- Long-term and Rural-Urban- mostly by young men and divorced/separated women.
- Short-term and rural-urban- mostly by adult and men bread winners
- Short-term and rural-rural- mostly by poor men and women adult

Preliminary Empirical Findings

The pulling factors from the three rural sites , higher rate of out-migration, include;

- Increased availability of jobs in the urban housing construction sector,
- Increased demand for domestic workers,
- Comparatively urban areas offer better rate of payment for service work, and
- The social support from the long term migrants makes it less risky.

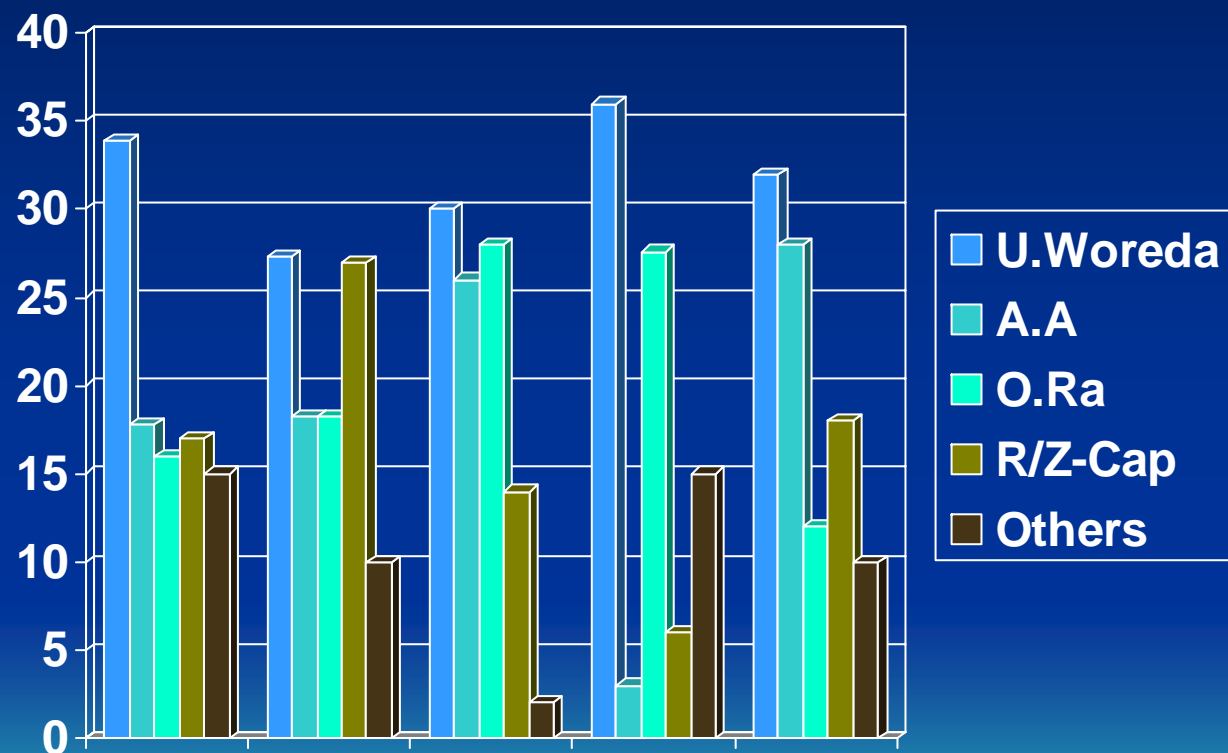
Preliminary Empirical Findings

- **The types of work mostly for male migrants in URBAN areas:**
- unskilled daily labourers work ;
- loading and unloading of goods,
- urban vegetable growing,
- weaving, black-smith,
- lottery selling
- begging
- **Female migrants in urban areas :**
- Daily labourers work, house-maids, nannies, bars, sex work, petty trading and begging.

Preliminary Empirical Findings

- Location where the rural respondents were absent?
- Urban areas , this Woreda- First choice for all the 5 sites.
- Addis Ababa- as a 2nd choice for 2/5 sites- Trufe Kecheme and Indiber(Proximity)
- Location of Interest to work
- 1st Choice for all the 3 rural sites- Woreda town

Locations Away from the village



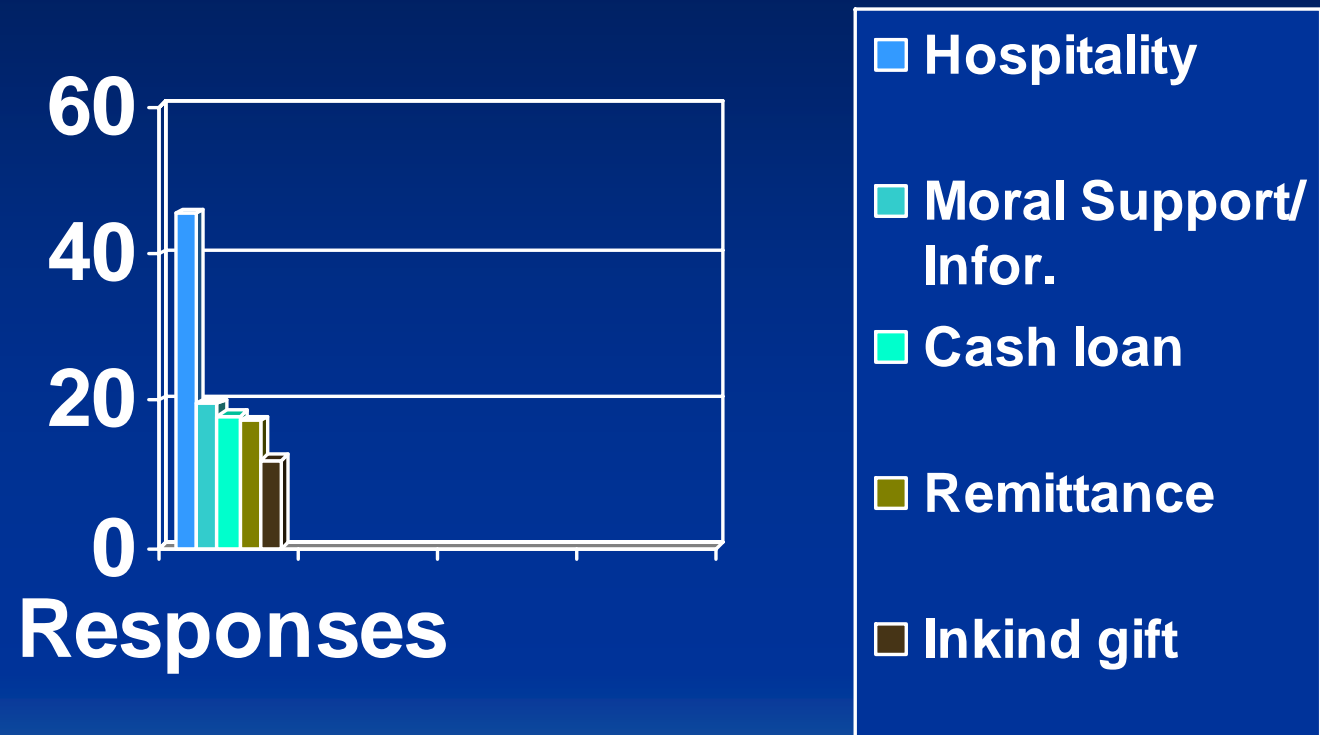
Preferred Rural-Urban Locations

- Trufe K= **Kuyra- Sahash** - A.Ababa
- Yetmen= Dejen- Bichena –D.Markos
- Haya Gasha= Imdiber- A.Ababa- Other towns
- So the intensity of the link is 1st to Woreda Town, Zonal /Sub-zonal Town, Regional/national capital

Reasons for W. town preference...

- Both in RANQ and FGDs....
- Social – Funeral, wedding , sick , baby born,
- Market- to sell rural products and buy farm and consumer goods
- Employment- to easily get self-employed or seasonally employed
- Administration- to attend court and other legal matters.
- Social Services- to attend schools and health facilities
- Religious festivals- to enjoy famous plimgrage

Support received from Urban

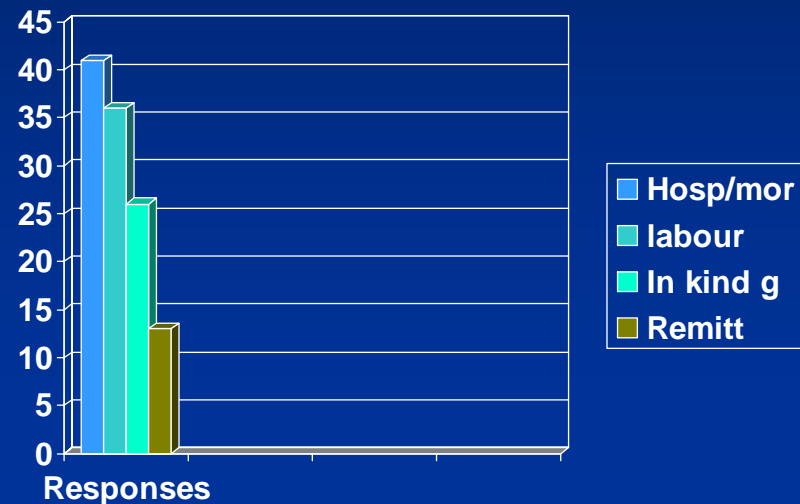


Rural-Urban Interface

- Type of support received by rural people from urban migrants are :
- Mostly security and hospitality (46 %) –
- Moral Support (25 %) – provision of information and advice to rural counter parts. (legal advice, education of children, market speculation selling of livestock, health services, house technology)
- Remittance and in-kind gifts (15 %)-
- The transfer of cash is estimated to be birr 300-1000 birr/ migrant/ year. Mostly in Imdiber site
-

Type of Support by Rural rendered to Urban Migrants

- Based on RANQ
- - Hospitality and moral support (41 %)
- -Free Labor (36 %)
- -In-kind Gifts (26 %)
- -Remittance (13.6%)



Urban-Rural Linkage

Some Observations on the dynamics:

- More social rather than pure economic reasons
- Cash remittance happens but little in its total money amount.
- Although little in amount, small cash injection helps household members (the elderly, the sick , ..) to cope with shock-seasonal food shortage; debt

Consequences of Migration

- Individual Level –
 - Positive in terms of securing more income for the migrant
 - Generates happiness and moral satisfaction for extending support
 - Negative for young female migrants and children due to violence
 - Mobility does not radically transform poor- No-break through in changing quality of life
- Household Level-
 - Coped with food stress, debt liability and tax payment
 - Increased asset base- livestock purchase, cloth-purchase
 - Gained new Information, Ideas and Knowledge –Imdibir
 - Threat to family bondage- for long-term migrants- Gurage Case

Consequences of Migration...

- Community level-
- No significant investment except a few cases of hotel construction, shop opening and grain mills installation in Imdiber, cash contribution for church in Yetmen and for school /road construction in Gamo.
- Increased pressure on urban infrastructure and services, rise of unemployment and increasing trend of prostitution and begging, particularly to major cities like Addis Ababa and regional towns.

Policy Implications

- Seasonal rural-urban Migration in search of temporary off-farm employment and self-employment has become a norm for most of the poor rural households- Which implies that the government shall consolidate livelihood diversification mechanisms-
- This includes the enhancement of the productive safety nets program, off-farm employment schemes, the promotion of market oriented agro-production, investment in small scale irrigation.

Policy Implications...

- Woreda towns appeared to be the most important locations to maximize the opportunities for rural livelihoods and benefit from social services. Thus, small towns need to be the focus of national/regional development and, hence, the decentralization of services needs to be further consolidated.

Policy Implications....

- Rural Land Ownership shall be guaranteed for rural households engaged in small trades/ non-farm activities as a side business to their living from farming / agriculture.
- Rural debt-ness has become an increasing pushing factor. The government shall revisit the delivery mechanism and the price for essential farm inputs, such as fertilizer and improved seeds.

Policy Implications.....

- Women tend to dominate long-term rural-rural as well as rural-urban migration stream due to causes related to marriage practices and their subordinate positions. Rural women empowerment program such as the enforcement of the revised family codes, the certification of property rights including rural land , affirmative action on girls education , etc. need to be effectively implemented to improve the wellbeing of rural women/ households.

Policy Implications...

- Employment Generation schemes that primarily targets the poor youth will have significant value in minimizing the social anomalies that have become rampant in the capital city and other secondary cities

Policy Implications.....

- New migrants in urban areas , particularly children and young women need to be protected from exploitations and abuse by brokers, traffickers and employers. This can include registration and training of brokers' cooperatives/ groups, setting of minimum standards for domestic work :wage, hours of work, age, etc

Thank you for your attention!

