



# Migrant integration in the South: What does it mean and how can we measure it?



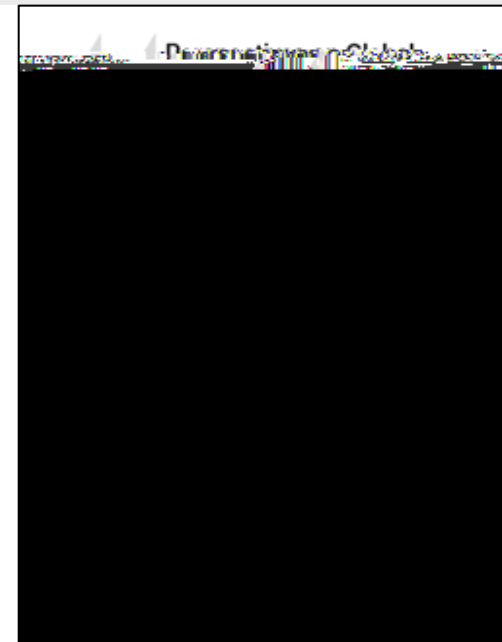
## *Effective Partnerships for Better Migration Management and Development*

### Ø Two main axes

- The governance of international migration
- The impact of emigration on origin countries' labour market

### Ø Two geographical focuses

- Central America
- West Africa



## Perspectives on Global Development 2011

Social cohesion

Ø Why should we care?

Ø What does it mean?

Ø How can we measure it?



- Increasingly restrictive migration policies in the North
- Demographic boom in Africa
- Environmental changes (global warming)
- Rapid economic growth in converging economies

- Scapegoating and violence against immigrants
- Cases of massive deportations
- Civil unrest and long term political instability

Measures of immigrant integration must be in place before it is too late



- The notion of “South” implies a diversity of situations
  - *Economic diversity*: very rich countries (petroleum exporters), but also very poor countries (financial constraint)
  - *Political diversity*: democracies vs. autocracies, political stability vs. civil unrest
- The notion of “integration” is affected by such diversity



- Mostly economic in nature
- Social costs of leaving
- Ties with the household back home (transnationality)
- Restrictive migration policies
  - High skilled rather than low skilled migrants (*high skilled integrate more easily*)
  - Temporary rather than permanent migrants
- Tendency to scapegoat migrants

But, migration in the South

- - Less stringent formalities
  - Neighbouring effect: common border, lower costs of transportation, language and cultural proximity
    - Ethnicity might play a more significant role than nationality

## Is integration less of an issue?

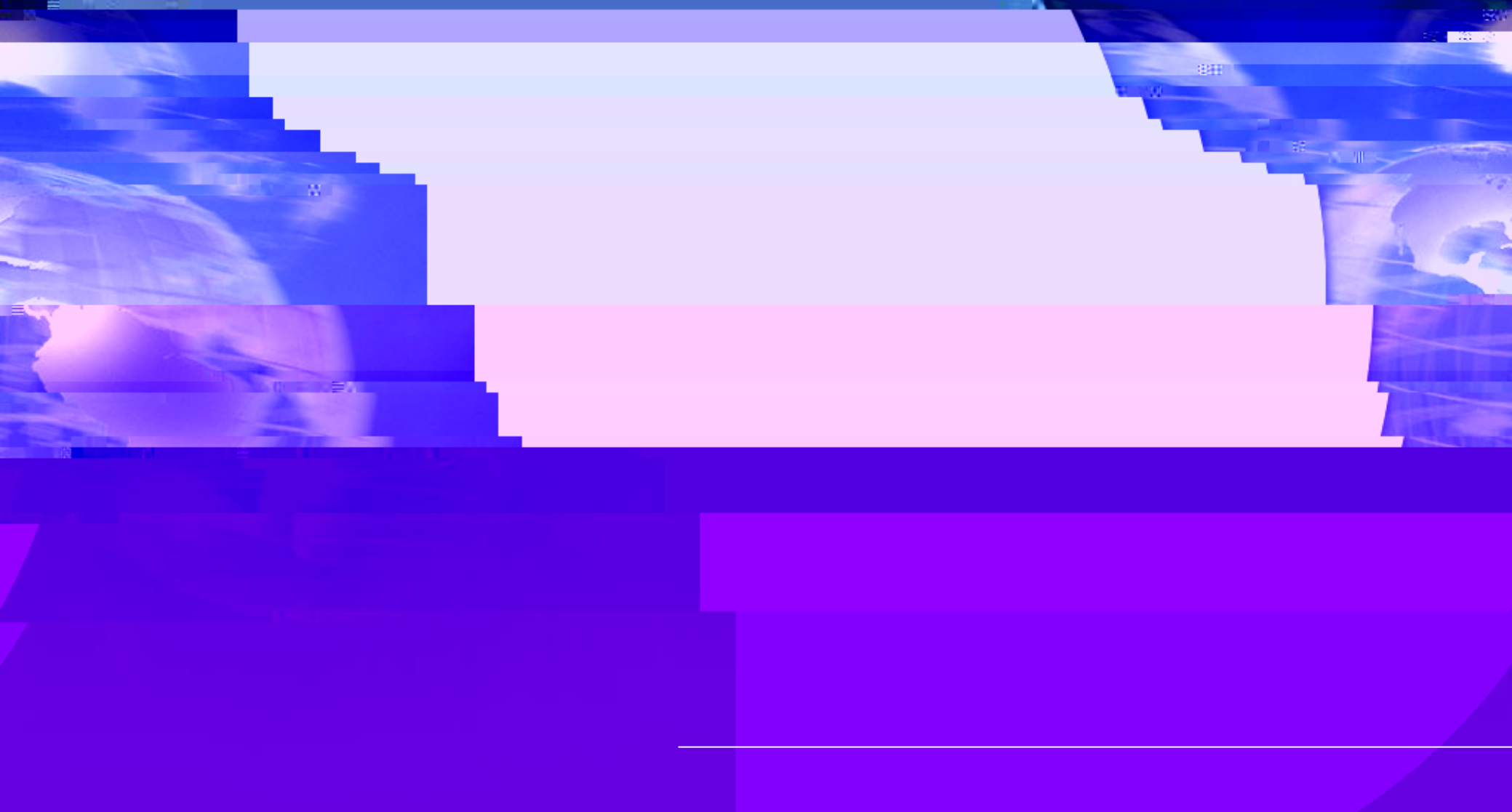
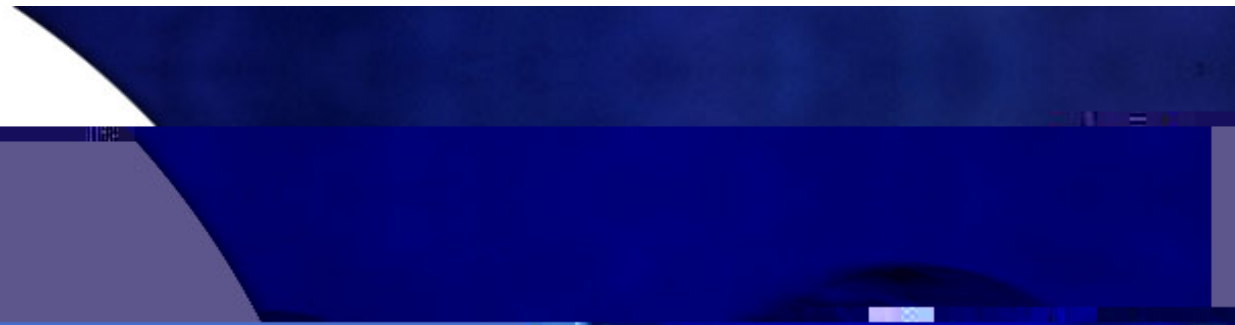
- - High levels of informality (labour market)
  - Child labour
  - Lack of social protection, civil rights, ~~90875~~ ca. 1.5

- - Lack of legal and administrative protection against hidden discrimination (wages, business operations, access to services or housing)
  - Official discrimination (*e.g.*, freedom to practice religion)
  - What about second generations (access to nationality, education, jobs...)?

Is integration in the South first of all a problem of discrimination?

- - Stranded migrants in transit countries
    - Subject to abuses and human rights violations
    - Unaccompanied children and women are the primary victims
  - Refugees (around 70% of refugees are located in the South)
    - Refugees have access to health and education risk of resentment from nationals
    - Organisation in camps formation of enclaves

Is it really



- - Legal framework benchmarking (e.g., Migration Integration Policy Index – MIPEX)
- - ***Socio economic indicators:*** employment, income level, social security, level of education, housing and segregation
  - ***Cultural:*** attitude towards basic rules and norms of the host country, frequency of contacts with host country and country of origin, choice of ~~of~~ <sup>and</sup>

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## So how should we measure integration in the South?

- - Perceptions of immigration, multiculturalism
  - Perceptions of belonging and trust
  - Interactions with non immigrants (trade, work colleagues, marriage)
- - Testing for discrimination, access to basic services and jobs
- - Living conditions (slums vs. decent living quarters)
- - Convergence of wages/income (formal and informal sectors) of first but also second generations
  - Look beyond conventional labour outcomes (type of work, sectors, benefits, level of safety, hours worked)

- *Objective:* test whether what is legal and regulatory (normative) reflects what occurs in reality (positive)
- Step 1: Interviews with policy makers, NGOs, HTAs and experts (Dec. 2010)
  - Workshop on “immigrant integration in Ghana”
  - Queries on laws, regulations and policies (but also perceptions of immigrant integration)
- Step 2: Field study (planned)
  - Immigrants and communities of immigrants
  - Putting into practice lessons learned on differences between integration in the South and in the North (subjective surveys)



