

Global Migration: Challenges and Opportunities

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Overview.

- Global numbers: migrants (voluntary); refugees (forced out of their countries); IDPs (displaced within a country)
- From developing to developed countries (Mexico to US); Syria to Europe (Sweden, Germany, etc.); SS Africa to Europe (Italy, and onwards); North Africa (Libya, Tunisia, etc.) to Europe (France, Italy, etc.)
- From developing to neighboring developing countries (Syria to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt); Horn of Africa;
- Challenges: Socio-Cultural including, language, religion, legal systems, traditional practices, (the other); Political (both sending and receiving countries) ; Economic systems (role of trust, transparency,) Governance : liberal democracies, capitalism and democracy.

Historical Backdrop

- Big Bang and Earth formation 13.8 billion years ago.
- About 2 million years ago first upright humans.
- About 60,000 years ago humans (one genus more than one species) migrated out of Africa and began colonising the world.
- About 30,000 years ago the single species *Homo Sapiens* remained
- About 15 to 20,000 years humans arrived in North America across the Bering Strait. Different groups to Canada, Chile, etc.
- About 500 years ago (1492) rediscovery of Americas
- Waves of migration from Europe and elsewhere, slave trade, etc.
- Global migration is central to our success as a species. Not a problem to be solved but a process we can better manage !

Assets approach

**A bundle of belongings
isn't the only thing a refugee
brings to his new country.**



Einstein was a refugee.



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Global Migration (IOM 2015), UNHCR (2016)

- Total number of international migrants (IM) in 2015 =250 M (47 M in US, 12 M in Germany, 11.9 M in Russia)
- IM is 88%, 76%, 73.6 % in UAE, Qatar and Kuwait respectively
- As percentage of global population IM has remained constant at around 3% of global population
- Forced migration (IDPs , Refugees, asylum seekers) was highest ever in 2016. Refugees =22.5 M mostly in neighboring (developing) countries. IDPs = 40 M . UNHCR (2016)
- South-south IM=90.2 M; South North IM=85.3.

Root causes and origins

- Root causes of migration : economics and security.
- Driven by: Poverty, Famine, Armed conflict, Social strife, Ethnic cleansing/Genocide, Political turmoil, Deportations, Economic hardship. End of cold war increasing intra-state wars. Foreign/trade policy (NAFTA, Iraq)
- Increasing global inequality: In 1900 : ratio of wealth of 5 richest countries to 5 to 10 poorest was 9:1. Today it about 100:1.
- Facilitated by globalisation: information flows, cheaper transport, remittances.
- Some Hot zones : Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras) , Middle East: especially Syria, Asia (Rohingya) etc.
- Regions of Origin: Asia and Europe: 106M and 61M; followed by LAC:38M and Africa 36M
- Countries of Origin : India born IM =17M while Mexico born IM =13 M (2107). Russia, China, Bangladesh, Syria, Pakistan, Ukraine (6 to 11 M per country);

Inequality (Reward Work not Wealth , Oxfam 2018)

- Last year saw the biggest increase in billionaires in history, one more every two days. This huge increase could have ended global extreme poverty seven times over. 82% of all wealth created in the last year went to the top 1%, and nothing went to the bottom 50%.
- Dangerous, poorly paid work for the many is supporting extreme wealth for the few. Women are in the worst work, and almost all the super-rich are men. Governments must create a more equal society by prioritizing ordinary workers and small-scale food producers instead of the rich and powerful.

Refugee Irony

Open letter to Israeli PM Netanyahu from a group of Holocaust survivors on plans to deport 34,000 African migrants to **Rwanda** and **Uganda**

“We who know what it is to be a refugee, what it is to be without a home and a state that will protect us from violence and suffering, cannot understand how a Jewish government is capable of deporting refugees and asylum-seekers to a journey of suffering, pain and death.”

Economist, Feb 3rd -9th, 2018.

Positive Impacts of Migrants (OECD (2017) G20 Report

- Add human capital (knowledge, skills, talents, cultural diversity)
- Half the increase in labour force in US and 70% in Europe in past decade; (critical to countries with demographic transition)
- In most countries they pay more in tax and social contributions than they receive in individual benefits.
- Labour Market Integration is key (positive and negative impacts depend on a range of factors : (market segmentation, education/skill factors, backward and forward linkages etc.)
- Some return to their countries of origin as investors and entrepreneurs
- Remittances USD 444B (2017 projected) larger than ODA (just over 100B and more stable than FDI (500 to 800) (World Bank 2017).

Negative Impacts.

- Political concerns : rise of nationalism, populism, ultra right politics, Brexit, Trumpit, etc.
- Economic impacts (negative) for both immigrant and HC if labour market is inelastic or very small
- Social integration, multiculturalism, etc. can be difficult if resident groups feel they are losing ground.
- In ultra conservative or under exposed populations extreme fear of the “other” leading to racial or cultural discrimination and violence
- Without proper educational and transitional facilities: language, culture , ideology etc. of migrant can prevent social inclusion

Migration and Development

- IM and IDP can affect poverty, economic growth, human development and environment.
- Diaspora potential: remittances, hometown associations, distance teaching, joint professional associations, etc.
- Diaspora Challenges: Unorganised, Unrealistic expectations, Attitudes, locals unwelcoming.
- Orderly management (sound policies and effective governance) is needed for translating development potential of migration to both sending and receiving

Sweden (country experience)

- Historically one of the most welcoming countries. By Nov, 2015 Sweden's willingness to accept large numbers of migrants was decreasing due to local resentment, riots etc. Large numbers of asylum seekers were being smuggled in by compatriots and exploited.
- First generation immigrants in Sweden constitute 60 % of economic welfare recipients in 2016, 73 % of all unemployed and 53 % of those serving long prison sentences
- Higher number of immigrants in crime statistics but socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment, poverty, exclusion, language, and other skills explain most of difference in crime rates between immigrants and natives
- Viral falsehoods have circulated in recent years that tie immigrants and refugees to an alleged surge in rapes and crime in Sweden. Nevertheless a significant number of sexual crimes have been attributed to foreigners.
- Positive migrant contributions to economic growth and the demographic transition appear dwarfed.

Canada's refugee experience (www.cbc.ca . Dan Hiebert, UBC, April 2017)

- three decades of census data shows refugees, on average, cost the country no more in the long term than someone born here.
- 40K Syrian refugees vetted (UN, Can Imm, Can Security) and arrived in Canada in less than 18 months. No terrorist activity to date.
- Really tough times at the beginning, high levels of poverty, high levels of social assistance, as much subsidized housing as they can find.
- After those investments in the beginning years, you find a steady improvement in their economic fortunes over time, [and] refugees end up with the same income distribution at the household level as other Canadians and also with the same level of home ownership.“
- Barriers include: language, trauma of refugee experience, lack of social network

USA numbers (origin, types, crimes)

- In 2014, America welcomed 1.3 million new immigrants. Up from 1.2 million in 2013. India sent 147,500. China (131,800) Mexico (130,000) Canada (41,200) and the Philippines (40,500). (Source: "U.S. Immigrant Population and Share Over Time," Migration Policy Institute.)
- In 2015, there were 43.3 million immigrants living in the United States. That's 13.5 percent of the total population. Of those, 69,920 were refugees. There were 26,124 who were granted asylum. 75% of the immigrants were legal.
- Census data (1980 to 2010) analysis show that among men (18 to 49) immigrants were ½ to 1/5 times as likely to be incarcerated as US born. (www.nytimes.com/2017/01/26.)
- Sanctuary policies in US either have no effect on crime or sanctuary cities have lower crime rates and stronger economies than comparable non-sanctuary cities. (Wikipedia)

USA (<http://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2016/1/27/the-effects-of-immigration-on-the-united-states-economy>)

- While some policymakers have blamed immigration for slowing U.S. wage growth since the 1970s, most academic research finds little long run effect on Americans' wages.
- The available evidence suggests that immigration leads to more innovation, a better educated workforce, greater occupational specialization, better matching of skills with jobs, and higher overall economic productivity.
- Immigration also has a net positive effect on combined federal, state, and local budgets. But not all taxpayers benefit equally. In regions with large populations of less educated, low-income immigrants, native-born residents bear significant net costs due to immigrants' use of public services, especially education.

USA: Holding to our Values (Admiral Stavridis, Time, Sept; 2016)

- On the Statue of Liberty, carved in granite, it says, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” We can best live up to that promise with an intelligent plan centered on international cooperation, interagency integration and private-public cooperation. Idealism needs a good plan, and migration today is a powerful global crisis drifting without one.
- EU and US can collaborate more in controlling flows, caring humanely, judging refugees fairly. Surveillance technology Information Management Interagency

Syrian Crisis : the Scale.

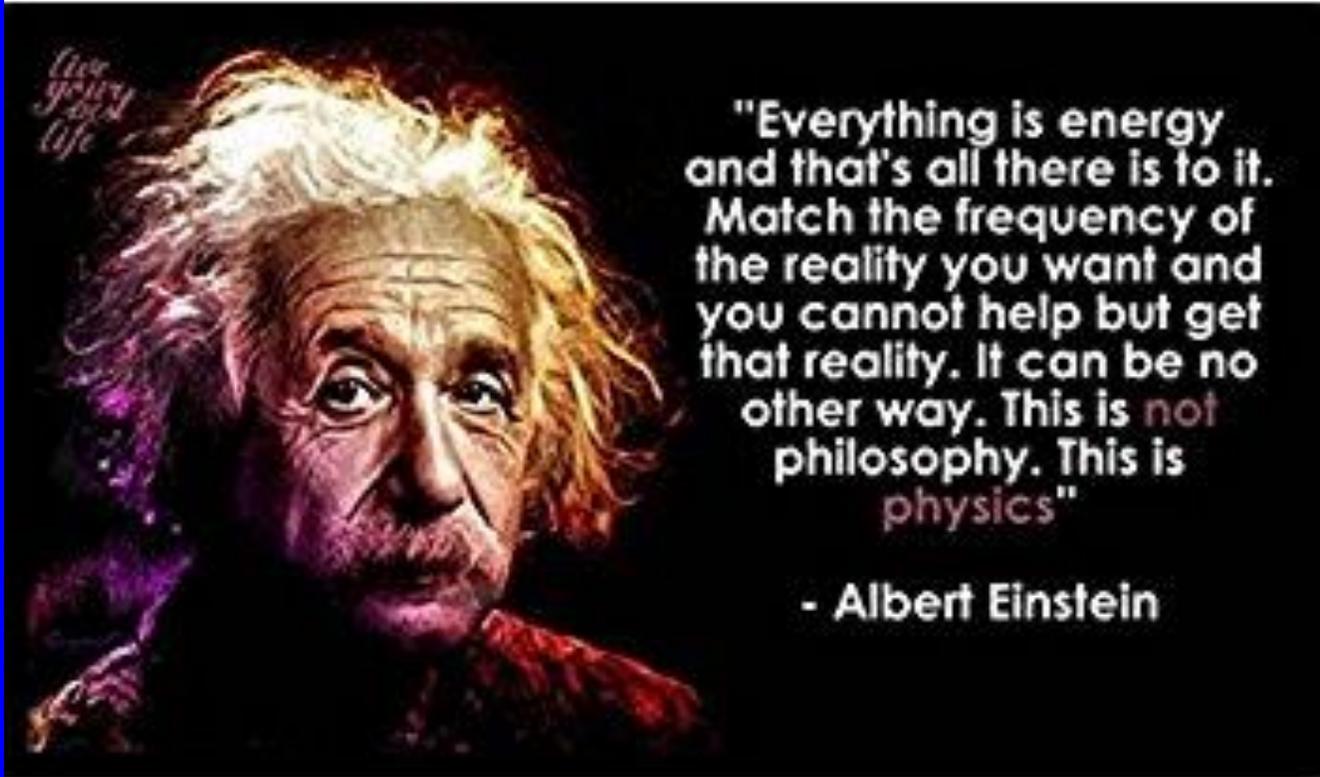
- War about to enter its 8th year. About 465,000 Syrians killed.
- More than half of the pre war population (22M) displaced: about 5.5M refugees and 6.5 M IDPs.
- Refugees : Turkey 3.2 M; Lebanon 1M; Jordan 650 K; Iraq 250K; Egypt 120K. Less than 10% of total refugees live in camps.
- Russia has become the power broker
- US engagement piecemeal (overt and covert)
- War continues with massive humanitarian crisis.
- Note: At same time 20M people in Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria and Somalia are facing famine in 2018. Worst since WW2.

Pathways to Resilience for Syrian refugees living in camps in Kurdistan, Iraq.

- Study requested by UN due to cost of camps year after year
- Most of the refugees are Kurds and are welcomed by authorities sometimes more so than non Kurdish Iraqi IDPs.
- Approach assess livelihoods of both nearby host community and refugees in camps (assets, activities, basic services etc.)
- Minimum livelihoods line (MLL) average of HC and refugees households. (refugees were better off than HC in some basic services and foods)
- Resilience lines as 1.3; 1.5 or 2 times MLL to be negotiated
- Scenarios: costing for business as usual, for integration, who pays for what?

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey: Jobs Makes the Difference.

- Impacts: competition for jobs, Lowered wages, rising house rents, challenge to public services, (health, education, water, security,)
- International support to refugees leading to HC resentment
- Elements of a possible UN joint program:
 - Food/cash for work; 3x6, graduation schemes etc.(UNDP, WFP, UNHCR, NGOs, etc.)
 - Policy Issues: Work permits, residence permits, business permits etc.



"Everything is energy and that's all there is to it. Match the frequency of the reality you want and you cannot help but get that reality. It can be no other way. This is not philosophy. This is physics"

- Albert Einstein

Waking Up!

- Since last 30,000 years ago we were fashioned into the same species : biologically we are about 99.9% identical !
- Now through science and spirituality (non duality) we know we share the same consciousness/awareness although most of us still think we are our bodies and separate selves (Imaginary Egos!),
- Yes, we are different in skin color, culture, language, wealth and politics!
- So what should drive our vision of humanity and how should we manage our affairs?
- Role of Emergent Diplomacy working with secular spirituality and Gentle Action.

Nobel Prize Winner Rabindranath Tagore, Gitanjali

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high,
where knowledge is free.

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls.

Where words come out from the depth of truth,
where tireless striving stretches its arms toward perfection.

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
into the dreary desert sand of dead habit.

Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever widening thought and action.

In to that heaven of freedom, my father,
LET MY COUNTRY AWAKE!”

Conclusions

- We already have UDHR and international conventions on refugees, IDPs, stateless persons, and some countries with progressive migration policies. Others need more work.
- At the Global Level we need to re-boot the human spirit
- At local level use local solutions that fit the local realities
- And link the two! (global and local)
- But beware of uncertainties, feedback loops, self organisation, emergence of the adjacent possible and manage from the emerging future. It's a highly complex