Helpdesk Research Report: Mapping Research on Migration
Date: 21/11/08

**Query:** Please identify the key organisations working on migration and development. For the key organisations, please provide an overview of the current and (where possible) planned research activities being undertaken as well as an overview of their key outputs.

**Enquirer:** DFID Central Research Department (CRD)

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1. Overview

This query aimed to identify research organisations with long-term programmes on the links between migration and development. There are a large number of institutes working on the issue of migration in the UK, US, and particularly Europe. Most of their work focusses on national and European migration trends, and the integration, exclusion, and citizenship of migrants within host country contexts. These organisations have not been included in this report.

The following are the key themes/topics that are being researched by the named organisations that work in the broad area of ‘migration and development’:

**Drivers of migration**
- Environmental factors; and
- Security and conflict.

**Effects of migration**
- The impact of migration on social and cultural institutions;
- Intra-urban migration and local development;
- Coping strategies and mechanisms adopted by displaced individual and societies;
- The impact of labour migration on poor countries;
- The effect of transfers (human capital and money) on sending communities; and
- Globalisation and its implications for the conceptions of the ‘state’.

**Transnational linkages**
- How migrant networks affect aspirations in sending countries;
- How diaspora organisations support vital services in countries where effective state provided services are lacking; and
- Emerging forms of transnational political mobilisation and communication.
2. Research Organisations

Migration and Development

International Migration Institute (IMI), University of Oxford
http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/

Research Themes
1. To look at migration as an integral part of global transformation processes rather than a problem to be solved;
2. To relate current migration patterns with historical trends by analysing continuities and discontinuities;
3. To link micro-level understanding of migration to macro-level trends;
4. To look to the future by developing scenarios for migration trends, taking account of political, economic and demographic change.

Research programmes
IMI's research agenda addresses questions around three interrelated areas of enquiry: lives in transit, migration transitions, and migration and transformation. The most relevant of these is the Migration and Transformation strand. This analyses the interaction between migration and social, economic and political transformation at the national, regional and global levels and addresses, including:

- Root causes of migration: how can the occurrence of certain types of migration be explained from broader social and economic transformations?
- The effects of migration on social and economic development in societies and communities of origin: the general and specific factors that explain why migration has positive effects in some migrant-sending societies and less positive or negative effects in others.
- Impact of international migration on social structures: how international migration is affecting social and cultural institutions, for example pressures on families caused by separation and the need for new forms of intergenerational care.
- Impact of differential migration policies on opportunity structures: how notions of skilled and unskilled labour used in international migration policies affect the value placed on skills in domestic society.
- Transnational linkages, aspirations and changing conceptions of wellbeing: how migrant networks and communication affect perceptions of comparative well-being and aspirations, and change migration options.

Projects:

African Migrations Programme: This project aims to understand migration dynamics in Africa and integrate research from different regions of the continent by:

- bridging geographical divisions between sub-Saharan and North Africa; and
- bridging the linguistic and cultural divide between Anglophone, Francophone and Arabic academic traditions.

African Perspectives on Human Mobility: This programme aims to explore alternative conceptions of human mobility based on empirical research in Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Starting in January 2008, this three year programme will carry out a series of studies designed and conducted in partnership with African researchers, which will aim to generate new data, methodologies and conceptual frameworks.

Transnational Migrant Organisations: This project aims to identify the linkages of migrant organisations with their countries of origin by:

- Identifying the characteristics of cross border migrant organisations (CBMOs);
Analysing the diffusion of transnational migrant organisations (TRAMOs); 
Studying the contextual factors which influence the emergence of TRAMOs; and 
Addressing the consequences of the transnationalisation of migrant organisations for participation and incorporation of migrants in European national societies.

Selected publications:
  http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/working-paper-10-migration-aspirations-and-immobility
  http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/WP9%20Migration%20and%20development%20theory%20HdH.pdf

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Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), University of Georgetown
http://isim.georgetown.edu/

ISIM focuses on all aspects of international migration, including the causes of and potential responses to population movements, forced internal migration, comparative migration studies, the integration of immigrants into their host societies, and the effects of international migration on social, economic, demographic, foreign policy and national security concerns. ISIM is also looking at the linkages between migration/remittances/diaspora support and health, education and social services in developing countries, with a particular focus on fragile states without strong infrastructure to provide these services to their nationals. The Haiti project (below) is an example of this work.

Research Programmes
Migration and Development: This covers ISIM’s major programme areas:
- the interconnections between migration and development; and 
- governance (institutional and legal systems) of international migration at the national, regional and international level.

Research Projects
Collective Remittances and Social Service Provision in Haiti: This project looks at the role of diaspora organisations in supporting vital services in countries where effective state provided services are lacking. It will include field-based research to:
  (i) elaborate the nature and mechanisms of diaspora support for health and educational institutions; and
  (ii) make recommendations with respect to measures that may increase the effectiveness of diaspora remittances in social service provision.

Researchers will examine the extent to which the Haitian diaspora communities in Canada and the United States are directly funding health and education services through professional associations, home town associations, churches and other associative organisations. The project also explores the links between Haitian diaspora organisations in the United States and Canada and counterpart organisations in Haiti.

Further Information:
ISIM, 2008, ‘Annual Report: Programs on Migration and Development and Governance of International Migration’ (Please see attached: ISIM’)

Selected Publications:

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Institute for Migration and Development Research (IMDR), European Polytechnic Institute, Czech Republic http://www.vos.cz/imdr/index.html

Long-term research aims:
Relations between development and migration at the macro-scale:
- Theoretical approaches to the relations between migration and development;
- Analysis of human migration flows, relations between migration and development policies and its impact on host countries and countries of origin, the role of the Czech Republic;
- Comparative analysis on effects of human migration processes and development interventions;
- Environmental determinants of migration (environmental migration phenomenon); and
- Security factors of human migration processes (forced/voluntary migration) a creation of development capacities.

Relations between development and migration at the meso-and micro-scale:
- Theoretical approaches to the relations between migration and regional and local development;
- Analysis of migration streams with focus on selected regions in the Czech Republic; and
- The role of the public sector in relations between migration and regional and local development.

Short-term research priorities:
- The causes of migration, including the issue of asylum-seekers (focused on the Czech Republic);
- Environmental changes (including climatic) with focus on development capacities, security issues and adaptation mechanisms;
- Environmental factors of migration with a focus on particular regions (East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe);
- Relations between intra-urban migration and local development; and
- The efficiency of development assistance programmes and projects.

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http://www.ssrc.org/

The SSRC aims to strengthen international migration studies by developing transnational networks of scholars and pursuing more diverse international and comparative perspectives. The three major organisational vehicles for their work are thematically-focused working groups, outreach initiatives, and research fellowships. Currently, working groups are convened on: the relations between religion and immigration; the role of gender in migration processes; immigrant access to education; forced migration and human rights; transnational migration; the impact of immigration on race and ethnicity; and national membership and political participation. Details of SSRC’s current and planned research activities are below.

Research projects:

An Assessment of Research on Migration and Development: SSRC organised a recent conference bringing together the perspectives of migration and development studies scholars to focus on key issues for future research. Papers prepared for this conference will be posted on the SSRC website in coming weeks. The project also recruited an Editorial Committee that has prepared an Anthology on Migrant Remittances and Development, which is a collection of about 80 key research articles related to about 20 topics. This will also be posted on the website shortly.

Korean Migration and Development: SSRC have selected four projects to undertake research on the relation between migration and development in Korea. The research has been completed and, together with three additional related research articles, the fellows’ research reports will be submitted the Journal on Ethnic and Migration Studies for publication review as a special issue of the journal on "Korean Development and Migration". With an introduction by the editors, the collection of articles will provide a fairly comprehensive review of Korean internal and international migration and their relationships with Korean industrialisation, the development of overseas migrant communities, and transnational relations between overseas and national development.

Urbanisation, Migration, and Poverty in Vietnam: Building on a research training programme that investigated various aspects of rural-urban migration and poverty, the SSRC is arranging to publish the findings with Columbia University Press and the University of Hawaii in an edited volume titled Urbanization, Migration, and Poverty in a Vietnamese Metropolis: Ho Chi Minh City in Comparative Perspectives (the editor is Hy V. Long, University of Toronto). The SSRC is also building on this project examining urban health issues, in which migration remains a major component.

Internal and International Migration: The SSRC recently organised a conference of international scholars focusing on themes and regions to examine the relationship between internal and international migration in development processes within and connecting migrant sending and receiving areas. The essays have been edited and will be published in December 2008 by the IOM: DeWind J.,and Holdaway, J. (eds.), forthcoming 2009, ‘Migration and Development Within and Across Borders: Research and Policy Perspectives on Internal and International Migration’, International Organisation for Migration, Geneva

The SSRC are also currently exploring the organisation of projects that would build upon and extend this work in new areas, particularly as related to China/India and Africa/Latin America.

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**Diaspora Movements**

Center for Global Studies, George Mason University  
[http://cgs.gmu.edu/](http://cgs.gmu.edu/)

**Research Programme: Global Migration and Transnational Politics Project (GMTP):** This research programme aims to explore the relationships between globalisation, human mobility, and emerging forms of transnational political mobilisation and communication. The project takes as its starting point the observation that political dynamics around the globe have been transformed by globalisation, new patterns of human mobility, and the development of innovative transnational social networks. These new political processes are rooted in communities and networks that are not restricted by geographic location. The question of how politics has been transformed by new forms of participation by increasingly mobile, transnational populations however, has received little scholarly attention.

Project outputs include academic workshops, a conference aimed at policymakers and practitioners, and a series of briefing papers. The GMTP initiative will culminate in the publication of an edited volume surveying the state of the art in terms of work being conducted in this field and laying the groundwork for new research agendas.

**Selected Publications:**

- Harpviken, K., 2008, ‘From “Refugee Warriors” to “Returnee Warriors”: Militant Homecoming in Afghanistan and Beyond’, Center for Global Development  

**Forced Migration**

Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), University of Oxford  
[http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk)

The RSC is a leading multidisciplinary centre for research and teaching on the causes and consequences of forced migration. Its research aim is to carry out multidisciplinary research including policy-relevant work on the causes and consequences of forced migration with an emphasis on understanding the experiences of forced migration from the point of view of affected peoples.

The RSC’s work on migration and development issues focuses on incorporating analysis of the relationships between forced migration and development processes. While recognising that it can be difficult to draw a clear boundary between ‘forced’ and ‘voluntary’ migration, it is abundantly clear that more forced migration (particularly movement in the wake of violent conflict) has been largely overlooked in recent migration-development debates, which have tended to concentrate on classic labour migration settings. There is a strong case for more detailed conceptual and empirical research on the links between forced migration and processes of development in both sending and receiving areas/countries in the global South. For example,

- Complex processes of social change in countries and areas of origin can lead to conflict and displacement.
- National development efforts can involve forced resettlement.
- Arrivals of forced migrants can affect development processes in receiving areas/countries.
- Translocal / transnational connections maintained by displaced people may considerably affect the place / country of origin.
- Migration may be a key factor in post-conflict transitions.
Research areas:

**Forced Migration, Global Economy and Governance:** This includes looking at the political, economic and social contexts which are significant in precipitating forced migration, and in shaping responses by various actors. These include historical linkages (such as colonial or post-colonial relationships); demographic factors, inequality and poverty; societal structures and social relationships; ethnic and religious patterns; development strategies; trade and investment patterns; political forces and governance; and security issues.

Recently completed and ongoing projects under this strand include:

- **Conflict, violence and displacement in Southeast Asia:** Activities to date have focused on: Aceh during martial law; patterns of violence and conflict in the Southern Philippines and Southern Thailand; internal displacement in Burma; and the dynamics of conflict and displacement in Papua.
- **Environmental change, migration and development:** Investigating the role which the legal and normative frameworks of protection might play in mitigating the impacts of displacement on people forced to move because of environmental pressures induced by climate change, and in assisting strategies of adaptation and resilience for those at risk of displacement.
- **Mobile peoples, conservation and the politics of oil:** Exploring the adverse effects of global environmental governance on indigenous people, including forced relocation and livelihood disruption, and the role of indigenous people in sustaining biodiversity; also exploring the actions of oil companies, including forcing relocation, corporate responsibility codes and indigenous responses.
- **Range enclosure on the Tibetan Plateau of China:** Analysis of the impacts on pastoral livelihoods, marketing, livestock productivity and rangeland biodiversity (EC 6th Framework).
- **Migration and remittances in an insecure setting:** A multi-sited case study of the dynamics and effects of displacement and remittances in the Somali case (book project building on earlier ESRC postdoctoral fellowship).

For further information on projects, see: [http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/)

**The Experience and Management of Displacement:** This area primarily involves anthropological, psychosocial and sociological research on: the lived-reality of conflict induced displacement; transition to peace; children and adolescents in conflict situations; psychosocial impact and healing; the work of humanitarian agencies with conflict affected populations.

Recently completed and ongoing projects under this strand include:

- **Dispossession and forced migration in the Middle East: community cohesion in an impermanent landscape:** This study aims to examine, from an anthropological perspective, the way in which dispossession has come to be a defining feature of life in the Middle East in the 21st century. A focus on individual narratives of migration, integration and compromise strives to further understanding the coping strategies and mechanisms adopted by these societies and help explain the relationship between politics, forced migration and identity formation in the region.
- **Lives and livelihoods of undocumented migrants in Britain:** Explores remittances and transnational migration ties of undocumented migrants to various countries of origin including China, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Turkey, Ukraine.

For further information on projects, see: [http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/)

**Institutional and Normative Responses to Forced Migration:** This area primarily involves legal and political research on: laws and policies relating to refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons; the history, current workings and future of national, regional and international frameworks that govern forced migration.
international refugee regimes; and the ethical issues raised by responses to forced migration by states, NGOs and international organisations.

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**European Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations, (ERCOMER), University of Utrecht**
http://www.uu.nl/uupublish/onderzoek/onderzoekcentra/ercomer/24638main.html

The European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations exists to actively encourage, support and promote comparative research in the fields of international migration and ethnic relations within the European context.

**Research Programme:**
**Environmental change and forced migration:** This programme looks at various regions of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. A current project is:

- **Environmental Change and Forced Migration (EACH-FOR):** This project aims to produce detailed and aggregated ‘forced migration’ data and forecasts at sub-region or country level of forced migration scenarios, including environmental refugees; presentation of causes leading to forced migration, with focus on environmental concerns; and an online running “environment degradation caused migration” model for demonstration and policy purposes. The studied regions are: Europe and Russia, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Outputs include reports, articles, a website and a conference. An EACH-FOR web site has been launched recently: [www.each-for.eu](http://www.each-for.eu)

**Selected Publications:**

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**The Forced Migration Studies Programme (FMSP), University of the Witwatersrand**
http://migration.org.za/

The Forced Migration Studies Programme conducts research and teaching on migration, aid, and social transformation. The programme’s primary research is divided into a series of inter-related initiatives involving collaboration among staff, students, and partners outside of the University. The FMSP is also working to become a migration clearing house for information on the subject, working with the IOM on a number of different training initiatives, as well as a variety of other projects. They are also trying to foster national and regional dialogue around a number of migration and development issues.

**Research Projects:**
- Migration and urban governance incl. research in SA, Moz, DRC, Kenya, and possibly Zambia
- Unaccompanied minors and vulnerability (also regional)
- Migration and policing
Migration and Health (physical and mental). Possible comparative work in S.A. and Latin America
Work on domestic violence and youth
Civil society responses to migration and displacement in Southern Africa
Migration and Violence (this is a particular project focusing on urban violence in S.A. -- with the support of DFID in S.A.).
Migrant rights monitoring project (focusing on social protection and other rights based concerns)

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Centre for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS), The American University at Cairo, Egypt
http://www.aucegypt.edu/ResearchatAUC/rc/cmrs/Pages/default.aspx

The Middle East and Africa (MEA) is among the largest source, transit and destination regions for migrants and refugees in the world. In spite of its strategic position, however, the MEA remains one of the regions suffering the most acute deficit of accurate knowledge with regard to international migration. The CMRS aims to fill this gap. Its research programme includes a systematic and comparative inventory of the situation regarding migration and refugee movements across the MEA, as well as in-depth studies of emerging issues in the region.

Research Projects:

A Survey of Iraqi Refugees in Egypt: Conducting the first detailed statistical assessment of Iraqis in Egypt. The fieldwork took place in May and included 1004 Iraqi households in different areas in Greater Cairo and Alexandria.

Taking to the Sea - Unveiling Irregular Migration from Egypt to Europe: This research aims to provide an informative account of the process of Egyptian irregular migration to Europe through the Mediterranean, through a personalised lens. The research also aims to understand the reasons driving youth to irregular migration and to study the aftermath of migration in the villages, in terms of economic, social and cultural aspects. The outputs will include a series of 15 minute documentaries that will shadow the life/lives of particular individuals: one who wishes to travel from his village; and/or one who has successfully travelled to Europe and has returned to his village; or/and one who has attempted to travel to Europe but failed and was deported back to his village. In addition, the research team will produce a series of five articles, disseminated in varies local, regional and international outlets, as well as uploaded on the website. The articles aim to provide in-depth analysis of the narratives collected from the villages.

Remittances to conflict Zones - Darfurians in Cairo: This project aims to study the flow of remittances to and from the Darfuri community in Cairo. The research is expected to begin in Autumn 2008.

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Labour Mobility and Remittances

Center for Global Development (CGD)
www.cgdev.org

CGD’s Migration and Development initiative examines the effects of migration on migrants and their countries of origin. They argue that it is poor countries that bear the brunt of the impact of migration, and these processes remain poorly understood. CGD’s research programme aims to explore the following questions:

- How can creative immigration policies reconcile the irresistible forces of pressure for greater labour mobility with the strong objections voiced in many rich countries?
- Should rich country governments that welcome highly trained individuals compensate the poor countries that helped to educate them?
- How can rich-country policy encourage the formation of commercial and intellectual links between low-income country emigrants and their places of origin?

Selected Publications:
- Chand, S. and Clemens, M., 2008, ‘Skilled Emigration and Skill Creation: A Quasi Experiment’
  http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/123641
  http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/13202

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Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on Migration (CARIM)
http://www.carim.org/

CARIM aims to analyse and predict migration in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region. This includes Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Libya and Mauritania. Details of the most relevant research project are below.

Research Programme:
Migration, Transfers and Development in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries:
Evidence-based work on the diversity of transfers and their relation to development is still scarce. CARIM has commissioned three case studies in three countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. Each study will aim to identify the factors of success and failure in the management of migration-induced transfers and their link to development. Each case study will address: money transfers; human capital transfers; social capital building.

Selected Publications:
- Ben Saad, A., 2008, ‘Sub-Saharan Migrations in Algeria’, European University Institute
- Hourani, G. G. and Sensenig-Dabbous, E., 2007, 'Insecurity, Migration and Return: The Case of Lebanon following the Summer 2006 War', European University Institute
- Nassar, H., 2005, 'Migration, Transfer and Development In Egypt', European University Institute
  http://www.eui.eu/RSCAS/e-texts/CARIM-RR05_01_Nassar.pdf
OECD Development Centre
http://www.oecd.org/document/39/0,3343,en_2649_33935_36427431_1_1_1_1,00.html

Research Area:
The OECD Development Centre has undertaken substantive research on the linkages between migration and development. Their key publications – ‘Gaining from Migration’ and ‘Migration and Developing Countries’ – have identified ways in which migrant sending countries can better benefit from the emerging international mobility system. This perspective on migrant sending countries is somewhat unique, as most research in the field tends to focus on development impacts on the migrants themselves or within migrants’ countries of destination.

Based on this work, OECD are now in the process of exploring further which policy options migrant sending countries have adopted in order to maximise the development impact of migration. In particular, this work stream is looking into an improved governance of international migration as well as ways in which return migration can contribute to development.

The preliminary results of this work as well as the two publications cited above are linked below.

Publications:
  http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?K=5L4MJZ7DQVJG&sf1=Title&lang=EN&s4=SubVersionCode&st1=gaining%20from&sf3=SubjectCode&st4=not%20E5%20or%20P5&ds=gaining%20from%20All%20Subjects&m=1&dc=2&plang=en
  http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?K=5L4MJZ7DQVJG&sf1=Title&lang=EN&s4=SubVersionCode&st1=gaining%20from&sf3=SubjectCode&st4=not%20E5%20or%20P5&ds=gaining%20from%20All%20Subjects&m=1&dc=2&plang=en

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The Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford
http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/index.html

The migration and development theme at COMPAS encompasses several research programmes. Some projects explore issues around the question of how migration stimulates or inhibits development (brain drain or brain gain; remittances and return investment; knowledge transfer; migration dependency vs. the growth of pro-development institutions). Conversely, developmental processes also generate resources, contacts, knowledge and aspirations and, can also act as drivers behind many migratory flows. Engaging diasporas is also a recurring theme in several research projects.
**Current projects:**

*Emigration Dynamism and Social Transformation in Northeast China*: This project aims to examine three inter-related issues:

- Migration agents, who have been widely recognised as key facilitators but who have so far been subject to very limited conceptualisation;
- Exit controls by the state, which not only shape particular migration flows but also shed light on state-citizen relations in the era of globalisation; and
- Linkages between out-migration and dramatic social transformation in the region, particularly the privatisation of state-owned enterprises which has led to massive lay-offs and widened social inequality.

A central theoretical concern of the project is the relation between the modern nation-state which is fundamentally sedentarist and “fixed” in its administrative setup on the one hand, and the ever-increasing population mobility that has often been promoted by states themselves on the other. This project aims to deepen our understanding of labour flows in this broader institutional context and from the sending community’s point of view, provide new insights into the modern nation-state, and contribute to the policy debates on “migration management” and “sustainable global migration regimes”.

**Selected Publications:**


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**Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), University of Dhaka**

[www.rmmru.net](http://www.rmmru.net)

RMMRU is a research, training, and policy advocacy institution. Its primary focus is on migration, refugee, displacement, and governance issues.

**Research Projects:**

- Efficiency of Migrant Workers’ Remittance: The Bangladesh Case
- Mobility Patterns and HIV Vulnerability in Bangladesh
- Decent Work and International Labour Migration from Bangladesh
- Institutionalizing Diaspora Linkage: The Emigrant Bangladeshis in UK and USA
- Work Condition of Bangladeshi Factory Workers in the Middle Eastern Countries

**Selected Publications:**


**Other Organisations**

*MacArthur Foundation*

[http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLXJ8MQKrH/b.1494483/](http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLXJ8MQKrH/b.1494483/)

The MacArthur Foundation is a grant making organisation. Recent grants under its **Global Migration and Human Mobility** programme are included below.

**Funded Research Projects:**
- **African Diaspora Policy Centre** (Amsterdam, Netherlands): $325,000 in support of research on the institutional links between the African diaspora and governments in Nigeria and Ghana, and the contributions of these diaspora to development of their respective countries of origin (over two years). (2008)

- **El Colegio De La Frontera Norte, Centro de Estudios Fronterizos del Norte de Mexico** (Tijuana, Mexico): $120,000 in support of a survey of households in Oaxaca to examine the economic and social causes and consequences of migration. (2006)

- **Federal Ministry of Health** (Abuja, Nigeria): $242,000 to research the magnitude and impact of migration of health professionals (over two years). (2008)

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**Websites visited**


**About Helpdesk research reports:** Helpdesk reports are based on 2 days of desk-based research. They are designed to provide a brief overview of the key issues; and a summary of some of the best literature available. Experts are contacted during the course of the research, and those able to provide input within the short time-frame are acknowledged.

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