Migration and Development: The Case of Egypt

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I personally believe that human migration is inevitable. The human history was shaped by migration and migration will continue to shape human history in the future. All attempts to control migration will not succeed; people always find their ways. Increasing border control and restrictions will change the type of migrants and the nature of migration in favour of irregular migration and long-stay migrants. We are living in a globalized world – a small village – and the people in the south will not accept less than liberalizing human mobility. They will not accept trade liberalization without liberalizing human mobility.
Egypt ....
Egypt ....
Internal Migration and Development

- Internal migration is a long-standing phenomenon in Egypt.
- Despite the development efforts in rural Egypt and the expansion of government services and infrastructure, Cairo and other large cities still suffer continuous streams of migration.
- Large cities and metropolitans such as Cairo and Alexandria are made of internal migration.
Internal Migration and Development

- About one-third of Cairo residents were born outside the Capital.
- Internal migrants usually target urban agglomerations and join the informal sector of the economy.
- Internal migration to the capital is responsible about a growing belt of slum areas around Cairo.
Remittances, Aid, and Migration

- Egypt received 50 thousand Billion US$ from the United States in a form of development aid in the last 25 years.
- Also, Egyptians abroad remitted about 50 thousand Billion US$ to Egypt in the last three decades.
- Still, there is more than 3 million Egyptian migrants abroad. Many potential migrants are ready to depart and they are willing to pay up to 30 thousand Egyptian pounds for a work contract in any Arab Gulf Country, and up to 70 thousand Egyptian pounds for just a touristic visa to any Schengen state.
Egyptian Migration to Arab Countries

- **Temporary vs. Permanent Migration**

  Egypt is now experiencing what can be called “*the permanence of temporary migration*” (Farrag 1999: 55).

- Number of Egyptian temporary migrant labourers is about *two* million.

- With *one* million in Saudi Arabia

- Other receiving countries are Libya, Jordan, and Kuwait.

- Iraq was a major receiving country of unskilled Egyptian migrants.
Egyptian Migration to Europe

- The 1960s migration to the West
- Number of Egyptian migrants in Europe (Table).
- Egyptian networks in Europe
## Number of Egyptian migrants in Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Destination</th>
<th>Number in Thousands</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>326</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CAPMAS 2001  
Note: Circa 2000
Irregular Migration of Egyptians to Europe

- When and why *Irregular* and why to Europe, *not to Arab Gulf Countries*?
  - Unemployment
  - Competition in the Gulf
  - Geographical proximity
Attitudes of Egyptian Youth towards Migration to Europe

In late 2005 and in cooperation with the Italian Government and International Organization for Migration (IOM), The Emigration Sector of the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration carried out a field survey in eight Egyptian governorates. The survey gathered information about the level of awareness of potential migrants about irregular migration and migrants smuggling from Egypt.
Fieldwork
Fieldwork

- 1,552