

FORGOTTEN FLOWS: MIGRATION, FOOD REMITTANCES AND FOOD SECURITY

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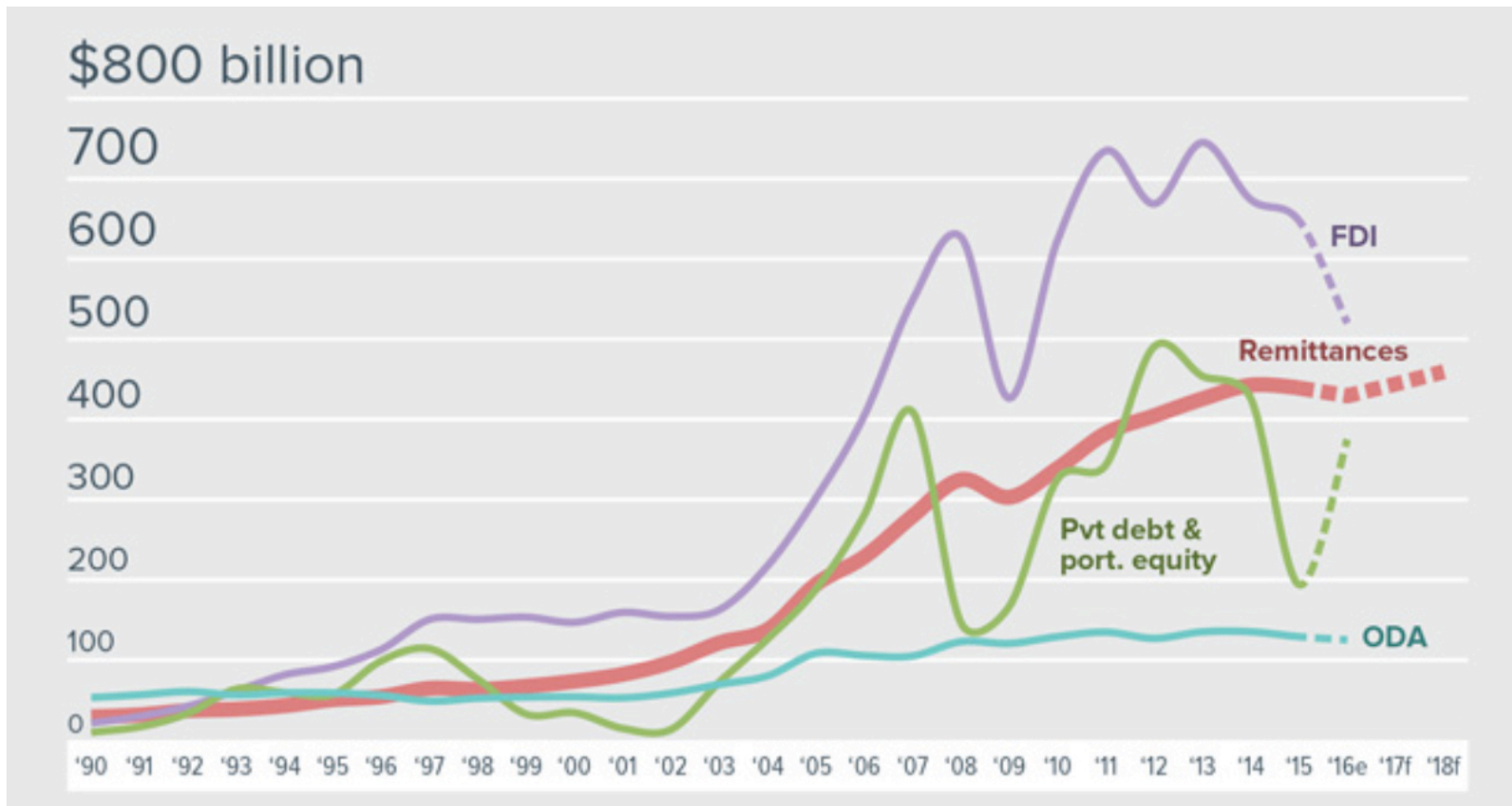
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Outline

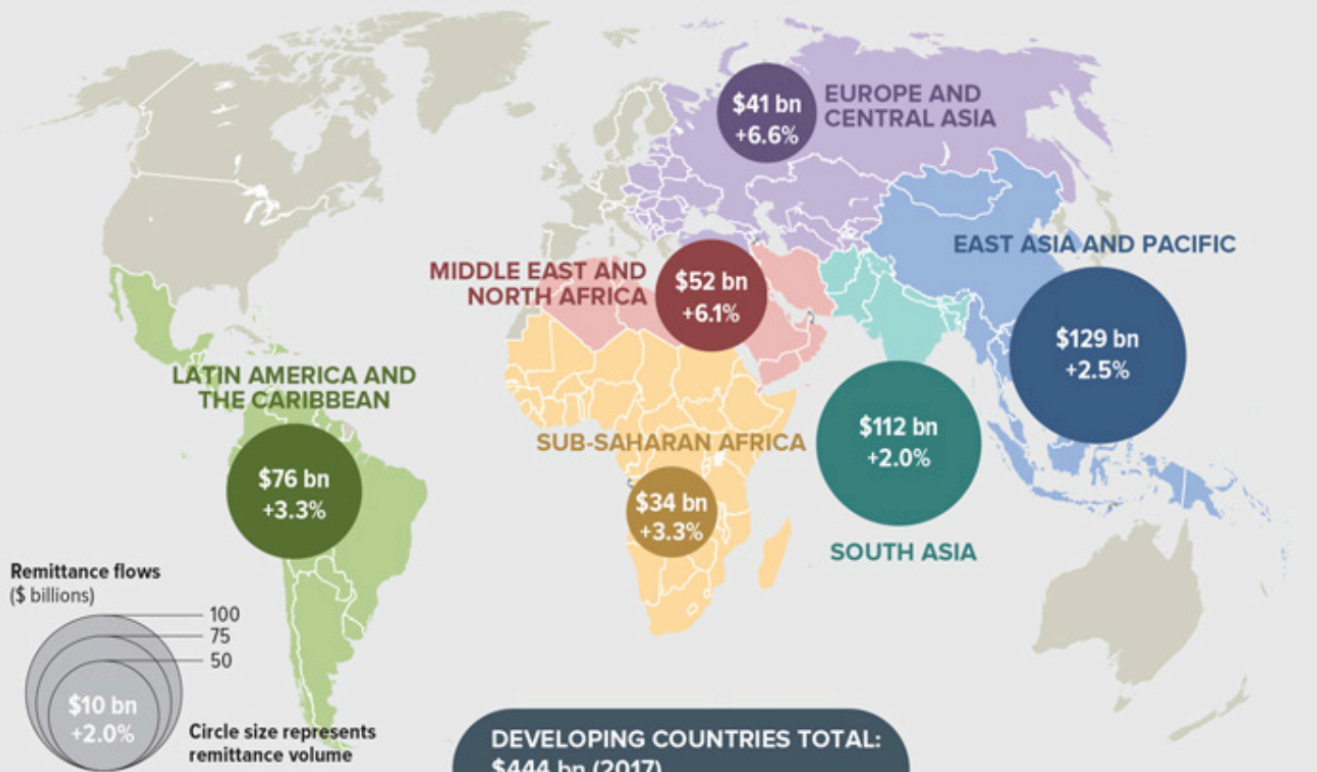
- Global Migration and Remittance Flows
- Impacts of Remittances on Food Security
- Forgotten Flows: Evidence for Food Remitting
- Implications and Conclusions



1. Global Migration and Remittance Flows



REMITTANCE FLOWS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PROJECTED-2017



Source: World Bank.

2. Impact of Remittances on Food Security

- Some attention has been paid to the impact of cash remitting on food security. Three main focus areas:
 - (1) Investment of cash remittances in rural agricultural production and food security impacts
 - (2) Use of cash remittances to purchase food rather than invest in agriculture by rural households.

Tacoli and Vorley (2015) suggest that a growing number of rural people in Africa buy more food than they sell and these 'net food buyers' are typically from low-income groups who depend on cash to access affordable food. WB study: 13%-30% in Kenya, 60%-82% in Senegal

- (3) Since urban residents are more often cash remittance senders than receivers, newer studies examine how the sending of remittances leads to greater urban food insecurity amongst migrants since less disposable income to spend on food.





3. Forgotten Flows: Food Remitting

- Recent global overviews of remitting practices and impacts define remittances to include both cash and goods flows. However, most studies by the WB and others fail to consider the volume and impacts of goods and food remitting, both domestically and internationally. No comparable data on remittances of goods (including foodstuffs)
- e.g. 2009 World Bank study of Canada-Caribbean remittance corridor devotes only two brief paragraphs to goods and food remitting in a 163-page report.

e.g. 2005 study of remitting From Canada to Jamaica (Simmons Al 2005). Respondent observes that “We have been shipping down barrels, many, many barrels. We send new stuff, used stuff, perishable items.....”

But completely ignored in the report which focuses entirely on cash remittances.



Views on Reasons for Neglect of Food Remittances

- Andersson Djurfeldt (2015): food remittances are ‘an essential but under-explored component of the complex web that characterises economic and social life across the Global South and yet, they are largely invisible mainly because they run within the family and outside market channels.’
- Petrou and Connell (2017): food transfers make ‘little formal economic sense which may account for their neglect in a field of study dominated by economists and economic theories of remitting behaviour’.

3. Forgotten Flows: Evidence for Food Remitting

Paper based on mining of food remittance data from multi-country studies in Africa. Typology of food remitting (based on spatial character of flows)

(1) Remittance Receiving Households in Migrant Sending Areas (mainly urban-rural flows, international and internal)

SAMP MARS SURVEY 2007-7

- 4,765 international migrant-sending households in five Southern African countries in 2005-6
- 28% of households receive food remittances, with a high of 60% in Mozambique and low of 8% in Lesotho.

SAMP MAPS SURVEY 2007-8

- 9,032 international and internal migrant-sending households in seven Southern African countries
- 36% of international and 19% of internal migrant-sending households receive goods (including food) remittances

(2) Rural Food Sending Households

Lund University Survey

- 3,388 rural farm households in 9 African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia)
- 84% were maize producers and 35% were maize remitters
The proportion of maize-remitting households varied from a high of 69% in Nigeria to a low of 22% in Tanzania.

Multiple Destinations

Maize Remittance Destinations

	% of remitting households
Neighbouring villages	47
Other rural areas	31
Towns in same district	35
Towns outside district	34
Capital city	23
Major urban centres	17

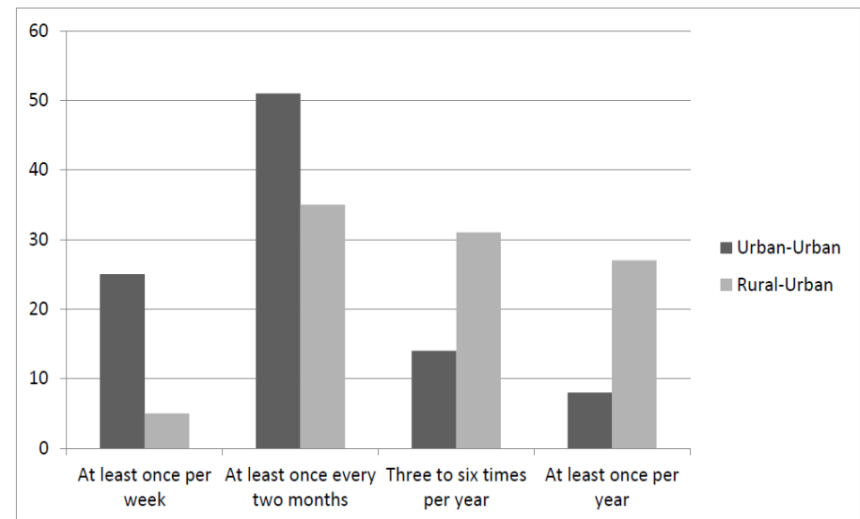
(3) Urban Food Receiving Households

AFSUN 2007-8

- 6,000 low-income households in 11 Southern African cities in 2007-8
- One-third received food remittances from either rural (41%) or other urban (48%) areas. Considerable variation from city to city.

Urban-Urban Remittances

- Varied from low of 12% in Windhoek to more than 80% in South African cities.



Frequency of Food Remittances

(4) Urban Food Sending Households

Wits University

- 487 migrant households in Johannesburg. Just over half of all migrants remitted money and another 21 per cent sent food (Vearey et al 2012).

SAMP 2012

- SAMP: 500 Zimbabwean migrants in SA – 82% remitted cash and 50% food (Crush and Tawodzera, 2017)

4. Conclusions

- 1. Because of transport costs, customs duties and related difficulties in moving foodstuffs across international boundaries, it is likely that levels of food remitting are higher among internal than international migrants and higher between contiguous than distant countries.
- 2. Food remitting by urban migrants may reduce food security. While rural-urban food remittances may lower the vulnerability of migrants to food insecurity, they do not eliminate it entirely. Of the one-third of low-income households in cities that received food remittances, only 16 per cent were actually food secure as measured by the Household Food Insecurity Access Prevalence (HFIAP) indicator (Frayne, 2010).
- 3. Rapid urbanization in Africa is leading to a situation of greater interaction and food remittances between cities and draws attention to the importance of urban-urban linkages as populations become more urbanized. The proportion of low-income urban households receiving food remittances was significantly lower in the three South African cities, because this country is far more urbanized and many urban households do not have strong links with rural areas.
- 4. Unlike rural-urban remittances, urban-urban food remittances are unlikely to involve the production of food so much as its purchase and transfer, perhaps by a migrant in one city to members of the same family living in another city.