

Gender and Remittances:

An overview of UN-INSTRAW's research methodology and conceptual framework

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Crossing Borders: Gender, Remittances and Development

Feminization of Migration: Characterized by the growing numbers of women who are migrating independently and who become primary breadwinners of their households

Crossing Borders (2004) a conceptual framework which explored the linkages between gender, migration and development from the perspective of the sending, receipt and utilization of remittances.

Crossing Borders: Gender, Remittances and Development

Two Units of Analysis:

Households- Reveal the significance of understanding the relationships within household units.

Transnational Social Networks - These networks indicate that the migration of people do not imply a break with their communities of origin.

Background: UN-INSTRAW, Remittances and Gender

UN-INSTRAW initiates a series of case studies on (Dominican Republic, Colombia, Philippines, Southern Africa, Guatemala, etc.)

- Key results of these initial studies:
 - Gender-differentiated patterns of sending, receipt and utilization of remittances:
 1. Sending: sex of the sender affects the volume (less overall but a greater proportion of salary), frequency (more frequent and more able to respond to emergency situations), and sustainability over time (greater)
 2. Receipt: women are privileged as recipients of remittances
 3. Utilization: not as many gender differences at a household level
 - Deficiencies in quantitative data – either incomplete or non-existent

Background: UN-INSTRAW, Remittances and Gender

- 2004-2007: Applied research complemented by literature review led to the following questions:
 - Reorient the migration-development debate and questioning the centrality of remittances, in particular the “remittances for development” paradigm and its progressive reductionism
 - Re-think what it means to apply a gender perspective
 - Re-defining “development”: from an economistic definition to a rights-based approach
- Results:
 - Not abandoning the issue of remittances, but understanding them as one of many axes of both analysis and intervention
 - Opening new areas of work: global care chains, rights of migrant women
 - Crossing Borders II

Remittances for Development

Remittances flows viewed as primarily monetary flows risks biasing the analysis towards economic perspectives of development and forgetting the role of social factors and non-monetized economic spheres

GENDER RESPONSIVE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Sustainable livelihoods**
- **Social capital**
- **Gender-responsiveness**

Remittances for Development

Inteventions to maximize the impact of remittances

- Improving remittance transfer mechanisms
- Mobilization of transnational communities

Co-development- encouraging the implementation of practical initiatives derived from the articulation of migration policies with the aim of cooperation in the development of countries of origin.

Crossing Borders II

- Axes to re-orient the debate:
 1. Gender as a central analytical category
 2. Migrant persons as protagonistic subjects
 3. Human development and human rights perspectives
 4. Transnational perspective

- Identification of “strategic scenarios”:
 1. Impact of remittances in the country of origin
 2. Rights of migrant persons in the destination country
 3. Transnational: global care chains and co-development

Axes to re-orient the debate

1. Gender as a central analytical category:
 - Affects the whole migratory process (decision to migrate, insertion in the destination country, etc.)
 - Women and men as heterogeneous groups (affected by race, class, etc.)
 - Mutable: gender/power relations are re-negotiated as households change
 - “De-feminized” analysis: looking at the role(s) of men and masculinities
2. Migrant persons as protagonistic subjects
3. Human development and human rights perspectives:
 - Economic growth is not in itself development, but one of several means to development
 - Development understood as the capacity to enjoy the full range of human rights
4. Transnational perspective
 - Spaces between origin and destination
 - Impact in the destination country
 - Impact in the country of origin – not just local but macro and institutional

Gender and Remittances Methodology

2007- 2009 UNDP-INSTRAW Project

‘Gender and Remittances: Building Gender-Responsive Local Development’

Objective: To enhance gender-responsive local development by identifying and promoting options in the utilization of remittances for sustainable livelihoods and the building of social capital in poor rural and semi-urban communities.

Gender and Remittances Methodology

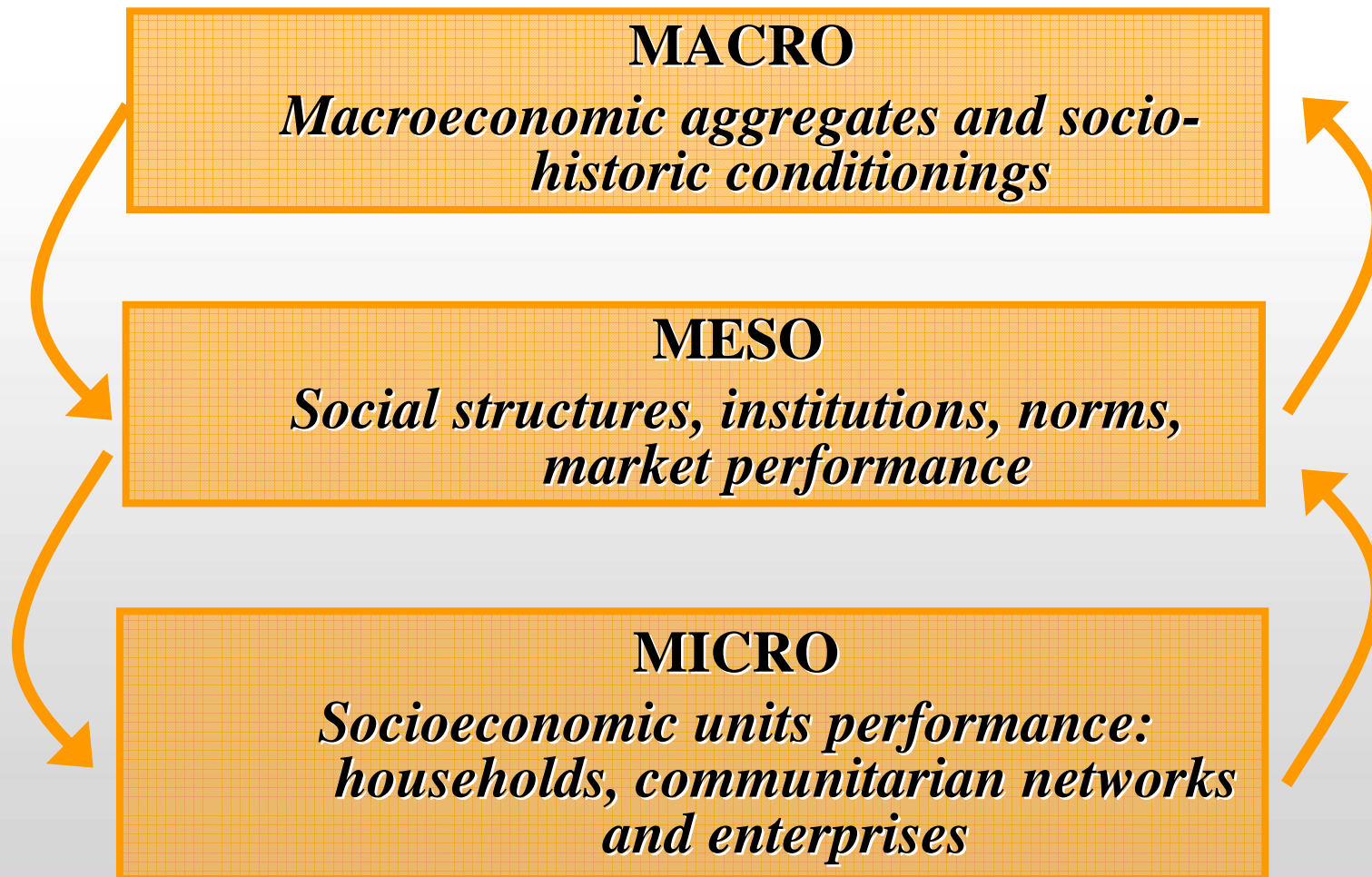
1. To increase awareness and improve access by women-headed, remittance-recipient households to productive resources while augmenting their assets and strengthening their capacities;
2. To provide relevant information and support to local and national governments to identify and formulate policies that will optimize the utilization of remittances for sustainable livelihoods and building social capital;
3. To enhance the capacities of key stakeholders to integrate gender into policies, programmes, projects, and other initiatives linking remittances with sustainable livelihoods and building social capital.

Project Phases

Phase 1 will involve the background study; capacity diagnostics and assessments at the community level; the creation of a policy dialogue among relevant stakeholders; and the mobilization of resources for the second phase.

Phase 2 will involve the development and implementation of pilot projects in each of the Project countries, which link demand-based capacities and identified catalytic policies in regard to migration, remittance flows, and co-development.

Levels of Analysis



Research Methodology

Desk Review including a mapping of actors

Data Collection - Qualitative and Quantitative

- Survey
- Interviews and Life Histories
- Focus Group Discussions

Philippines Project

Lemery, Batangas

- 402 Households in 23 Barangays were interviewed
- 3 FGDs in 3 Barangays (26 males and 33 females)
- 15 Key informant interviews
- 4 Life Stories

Vicenza, Italy

- 2 FGDs (7 males and 8 females)
- 5 Life Stories

Who Manages Remittances?

| Remittance Managers | Frequency | % |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Male spouse | 60 | 18.5 |
| Female spouse | 25 | 7.7 |
| Son | 12 | 3.7 |
| Daughter | 39 | 12.0 |
| Father | 29 | 5.2 |
| Mother | 88 | 27.1 |
| Brother | 13 | 4.0 |
| Sister | 37 | 11.4 |
| Mother-in-law | 2 | .6 |
| Aunt | 4 | 1.2 |
| Nephew | 2 | .6 |
| Both parents | 21 | 6.5 |
| Daughter-in-law | 2 | .6 |
| Sister-in-law | 3 | .9 |
| Total | 325 | 100.0 |

Project Findings

- Almost all the senders work as household domestic workers and 78.2% are females who have been working in Italy from 3-7 years.
- 9 out of 10 households received an average amount of P12,500 (USD\$250) per month
- 69.5% of the households are completely remittance dependent
- 99.8% spent on food, clothing, rent, and household utility payments
- 9 out of 10 households were not utilizing any type of financial services
- Almost all said no one in the household planned to set up a business using remittances

How Remittances Are Spent

| Item | # | % |
|---|-----|------|
| Current Household Expenses | 401 | 99.8 |
| Education of household members | 218 | 54.2 |
| Purchase of furniture and electronics | 108 | 26.9 |
| Purchase/Construction/Improvement of house | 80 | 19.9 |
| Celebrate an important event in the household (marriage, birthday, religious celebrations, etc) | 79 | 19.7 |
| Purchase of Vehicle for Personal Use | 43 | 10.7 |
| Non-migration related debt repayment | 21 | 5.2 |
| Kinship Responsibilities (marriage, death, birth, illness) | 20 | 5 |
| Debt Repayment in relation to migration | 19 | 4.7 |
| Payments made to caretakers of migrant children | 4 | 1 |

Recommendations

- Increase accessibility of remittance senders and receivers to savings and investments opportunities especially those from local financial institutions;
- Set up more local MFIs that encourage and train recipients to engage in microenterprise and entrepreneurship
- Local government can provide rewards and benefits, such as tax incentives, to local women entrepreneurs and their supporters.
- Strengthening links among local financial intermediaries, civil society sector and LGUs.

Current Status of Project

Steering Committee Meeting: August 2009

Policy Dialogue: September 2009

THANK YOU!

Migration and Remittances:
Building Gender Responsive Local Development

For more information please visit us at:

www.un-instraw.org

For information on this project:

www.un-instraw.org/en/grd/general/remittances-and-development.html

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