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Regional Integration and Migration Governance in the Global South

 Springer

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Preface

There are an estimated one billion migrants in the world today, and it is predicted that demographic pressure, environmental factors, and ongoing conflict will all cause further large-scale migration movements, making human mobility one of the defining features of our time. While most of the (political) attention focuses on South–North migration and its economic, social, and political impacts on OECD countries, migration flows within the Global South and the issues surrounding it remain much less understood. Migration between developing countries, nonetheless, forms the second-largest migrant flow and is expected to become increasingly important in the future (see e.g. Campos 2017). South–South migration therefore forms a vital yet underexplored source of socioeconomic development, poverty alleviation, and inequality reduction.

Although South–South and South–North migration streams are inextricably linked—particularly because of Northern immigration policies diverting migration flows to the South and Southern middle-income countries serving as transit countries for South–North migration—the two types of migration differ in important ways. South–South migration is known to be less selective and more short-distance, temporary, irregular, and undocumented. While in many regions of the Global South, migration primarily serves as a strategy to cope with local poverty, drought, or conflict, other regions are characterized by a so-called culture of migration in which migration serves as a rite of passage for adulthood or as part of the life trajectory of many individuals from rural communities. Addressing South–South migration as such requires the creation of distinct policies in line with comprehensive development strategies.

To date, few initiatives seem to address the specificity of human mobility between developing countries. Most regions in the South maintain porous borders and, if any, poorly implemented migration policies. The idea of managing South–South migration by developing a more full-fledged policy has, however, gained traction, also influenced by external actors such as the International Organization of Migration (IOM) or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Yet, more research on South–South migration is needed to better understand global

migration patterns, which is a prerequisite for developing sound policies to monitor these flows.

This book provides innovative contributions on relevant aspects of South–South migration and regional integration with a particular focus on (1) the reasons for migration from developing countries and its distribution across domestic, intraregional, and interregional corridors; (2) the socioeconomic effects of such movements on countries of origin, transit, and destination, as well as on migrants themselves, their families, and communities; and (3) the need, scope, and added value of the management of South–South migration flows, with specific attention to the role of international coordination by regional and international organizations.

Given the Global South’s diversity and complexity, the book does not have the ambition to provide an exhaustive analysis of South–South migration in all its aspects. It rather aims at discussing major issues by means of representative case studies by experts and renowned scholars in the field such that, while based on these case studies, the findings may be applicable beyond the specific region to which they refer, despite the diversity of local and regional contexts in the Global South.

The book consists of two parts: patterns, drivers, and implications on the one hand and governance on the other. The first part starts with a discussion of the migration patterns in the Horn of Africa, showing the diversity, complexity, and interrelatedness of migration flows in the South. The second and third chapters complete this discussion by considering two main drivers of migration flows in the South: labor and climate change. The fourth chapter then develops more in detail the impact of climate change on migration from the perspective of one essential resource, namely water.

In particular, when migration is sudden and disruptive, it can have destabilizing consequences for local communities. In the fifth chapter, this is dealt with by discussing the management of refugee flows, looking for strategies to control conflicts and establish a balanced relationship between locals and refugees. The final and concluding chapter of this part discusses what is at stake in considering migration from a “Southern” perspective by providing an extensive literature review of the links between migration and development in the Global South.

The second part, on the management patterns of migration in the Global South, starts with a review and discussion of the different stages of migration policy in South America, highlighting the role of regional organizations and identifying the distinctive perspectives on migration, relevant for other regions and periods as well. The second chapter continues with a review of migration policies in Asia, focusing on labor migration and pointing to the specificities of the institutional framework of the management of migration in the continent. The next two chapters on the Migration Partnership Agreements of the EU with West African countries assess the potential conflicts in policy priorities between developed and developing countries. Based on one specific application, the last chapter of the second part discusses how technologies can help fight exploitation of migrants and in this way contribute to safe, orderly, and regular migration.

Overall, the book aims at defining policy priorities regarding migration from a Global South perspective in view of the implementation of the recently concluded

Global Compact on Migration. It is in this perspective that the final chapter draws the main conclusions based on the findings and insights of the contributions in this book.

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Reference

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