

AFRICA'S YOUTH: JOBS OR MIGRATION?

2019 IBRAHIM FORUM

KEY FINDINGS

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Session 1 - Setting the picture right on African migrations

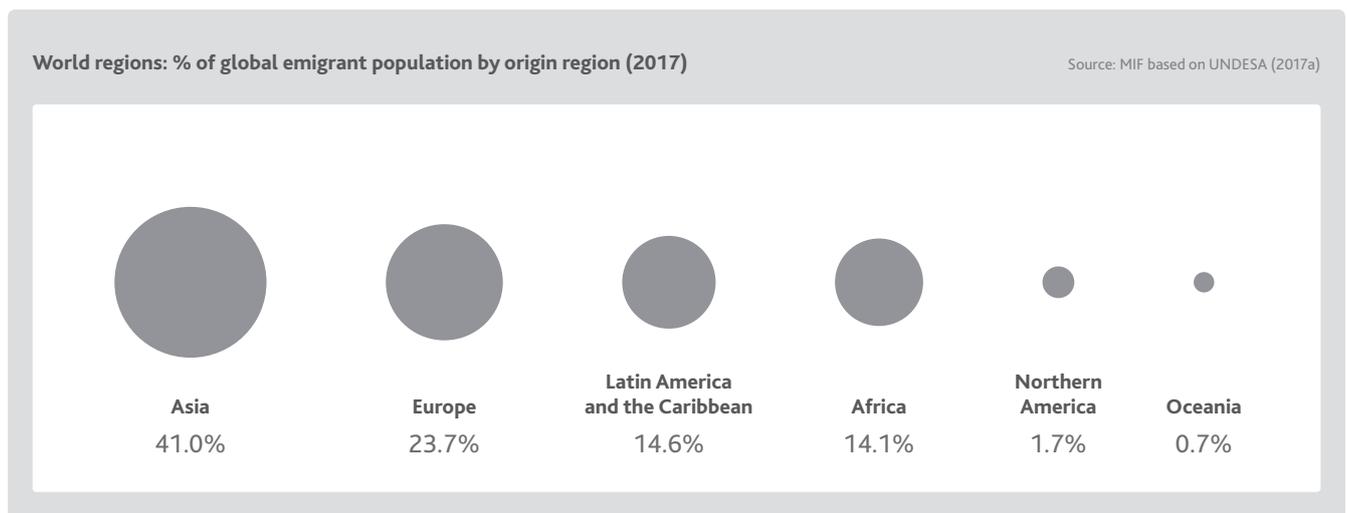
WHY THIS CHOICE OF TOPIC

The topic of African migrations triggers too many emotional reactions, mainly based on misperceptions that need to be corrected

- There are too many misperceptions, based on incomplete and partially presented data
- And bad data leads to bad policies, at least inefficient ones
- Hence the value of an open, documented debate, based on facts and realities

Some basic misconceptions:

- There is no "recent critical hike" in migration numbers
 - Migrations are part of human history and have shaped most nations
 - Since 1990, migrants worldwide increased only marginally: from 2.9% of the global population to 3.4% in 2017
- African migrants are not "overwhelming" the world nor Europe
 - The total number of African migrants in 2017 is 36.3 million
 - This is only about 14% of the global migrant population, much less than Asia's and Europe's shares (41% and 24%)
 - In 2017, the top ten migration flows from African countries represent less than the single migration flow from Mexico to the US only



- Africa is not "a continent of massive exodus"
 - Around 70% of sub-Saharan migrants stay within the continent
 - Africa even hosts a growing part of the global migrant population in 2017, receiving 67% more migrants than in 2000, mainly from the continent

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- Migration is about aspirations, not desperation: African migrants are not mostly “uneducated single men, looking for welfare coverage”
 - They are mostly young people, educated, looking for jobs. Almost half of them are women
 - Around 80% of African migrations are driven by the hope for better economic prospects
 - Only around 20% are refugees
 - In 2017 the total number of African refugees (≈ 7.4 million) was only slightly higher than the sole number of Syrian refugees (≈ 6.3 million)
 - Migrants are not “a burden on local services”
 - They are more often a valuable and sought-after resource. In many countries, migrants often constitute a key solution to labour shortages
 - High-skilled: In many high-income countries migrants constitute a large part of the health care workforce
 - Low-skilled: In South Africa, migrants from Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe fill the gaps in the construction sector
 - Migrants have a positive impact on the economy of the hosting country
 - Migrants spend approximately 85% of their incomes in the hosting country
 - The estimated contribution of migrants to national GDPs is estimated at 19% in Côte d’Ivoire, 13% in Rwanda, and 9% in South Africa

African migrations is first an African challenge that deserves an African-led debate including all stakeholders, starting with the young people

- The world is generally more positive than negative towards migration
 - In developed countries people generally consider migration a threat to national security, socio-economic welfare and cultural identity
 - Europe is the only region where more than half of the people want immigration levels to decrease
- Within the African continent, most of the people would like immigration levels to stay the same or even rise
 - At the global level, Rwanda is the third most welcoming country to migrants, despite having the second highest human density in Africa
- It is key to include young Africans in this discussion because they are the majority of the population
 - This is why we will have them first debating together the day before the Forum in the *Now Generation Forum*, before participating actively in the Saturday Forum

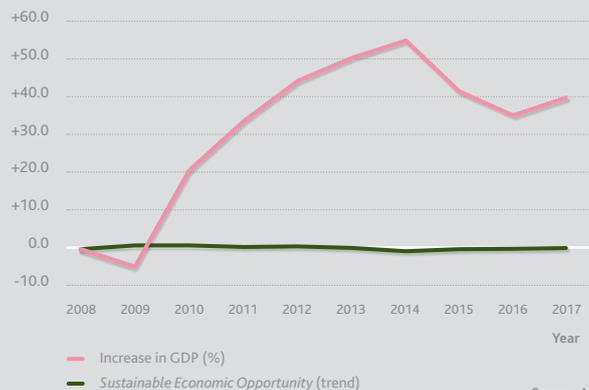
Session 2 - The African youth bulge confronted by a jobless growth

THE KEY ISSUE: 80% OF AFRICAN MIGRATIONS ARE DRIVEN BY THE SEARCH FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

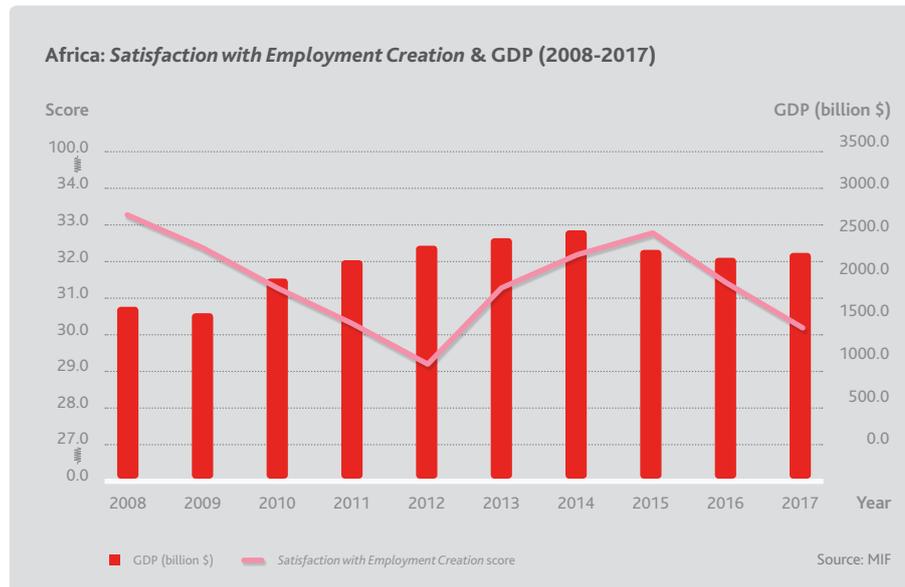
Africa's first challenge is the fact that its massive youth bulge is mostly devoid of prospects

- This has been a key concern for the Mo Ibrahim Foundation for a long time
 - It has been already highlighted it in the 2012 Dakar Forum on *African Youth: Fulfilling the potential*, then in the 2017 Marrakech Forum on *Africa at a tipping point*
 - This is one of the main findings of the 2018 *Ibrahim Index of African Governance*
 - This is why the *Now Generation Forum* has become a key part of the Ibrahim Governance Weekend
- A massive youth bulge
 - Around 60% of Africa's population is currently less than 25 years old
 - Between now and the end of the century, Africa's youth is expected to grow by more than 180%.
 - Meanwhile Europe's youth will shrink by 21% and Asia's by 28%
 - By 2100, Africa's youth population could be equivalent to twice Europe's entire population
- Mostly devoid of prospects

Africa: Sustainable Economic Opportunity average trend & percent increase in GDP (2008-2017)



- Deteriorating education outcomes
 - The match between education and the skills needed by businesses is worse in Africa than in other world regions
 - In many African countries, there is a weak link between higher education and employment, as unemployment rates for those with advanced level of education are often higher than for those with basic education
- Weak economic prospects: unemployment, informality... or migration and joining extremist groups?
 - Though important, the economic growth of the last decade has been mainly jobless
 - African youth consider unemployment by far the most important problem that their governments need to address
 - For example, in South Africa, the second largest GDP on the continent, 55% of young people are jobless
 - By 2030, 30 million youth are expected to enter the African labour market each year
 - In sub-Saharan Africa alone, while 18 million new jobs would be needed annually to absorb new entries in the labour market, only 3 million are currently being created



- Case study research on several violent extremist groups in Africa has shown that many members are young people in need of economic opportunities when they are recruited
 - For example, 53% of the surveyed former members of different extremist groups in Africa were between 17 and 26 years old when they joined
 - Employment was the most frequently cited need at the time of recruitment

The current and prospective features of the job market, in Africa and elsewhere

- Premature deindustrialisation:
 - Industry's shares of employment and value added to GDP have grown very slowly in African countries. For 25 countries, the GDP share of the manufacturing sector has even decreased between 2008 and 2017
- Africa's skills gap: Africa suffers from a severe skills gap – the Human Capital Index (HCI) from the World Bank measures the lost productivity of the future workforce as a consequence of neglected investment in human capital – in areas such as health and high-quality education
 - Only two African countries score above the global average (Seychelles and Mauritius) whereas the 5 worst performing countries are African: Chad, Liberia, Niger, Mali and South Sudan
- The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is going to deeply change the skills profile of jobs
 - By 2020, 2.6 million industrial robots could be in operation globally
 - Only about half of today's core jobs are expected to remain stable between now and 2022 due to the 4IR
 - However, the 4IR has a potential positive impact that should be harnessed, as many simple technologies can improve living standards and mitigate some migration drivers
- Agriculture and agribusiness are a real tangible opportunity for Africa
 - Currently, the farming sector accounts for up to 60% of African jobs and roughly a third of the continent's GDP
 - Agriculture is expected to remain the main pool of employment for youth in sub-Saharan Africa. But for a majority of youth, agriculture is still often seen as outdated, unprofitable and hard work
 - Many simple technologies could solve some of the main challenges currently faced by African farmers

Session 3 - The way forward: bolstering mobility, updating skills, sharing responsibilities

THE WAY UP (RATHER THAN OUT): WORKING ON MOBILITY

Change the current approach to migrations

- Migration is a key dynamic that has always taken place over the centuries and that has indeed shaped human history, built nations, contributed to wealth creation
- Debates about migration should rather be about MOBILITY

Better manage, and even strengthen mobility, both at geographical and professional levels

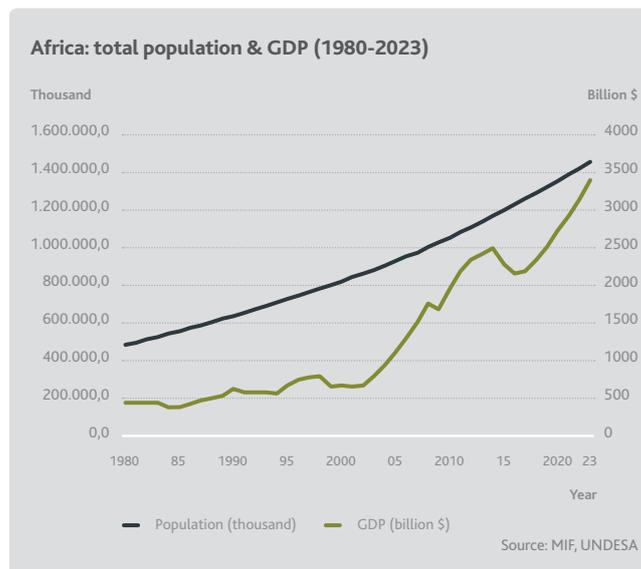
- Geographical mobility
 - Mobility is part of human history. If we try to prevent it, we will only foster more illegal and dangerous parallel routes
 - In 2016, migrant smugglers' income was estimated up to \$7 billion
 - This is just equivalent to the EU humanitarian aid in the same year
 - There is still a lot to be done to facilitate mobility within the continent
 - The new AfCFTA is a key step forward. But there are still countries that need to ratify the agreement to make it fully enforceable
 - ECOWAS is currently the only REC whose citizens can travel visa-free to all countries in the region
 - Only 11 African countries request no visa or just visa on arrival for all African citizens
 - African intracontinental transport network is still very insufficient
 - With around 204 km per 1,000 km², of which only ¼ are paved, Africa's road network lags far behind the world average (944 km per 1,000 km², more than ½ of which paved)
 - In 2018, only 5 African countries had direct flights connecting to 20 or more other African countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa
- Educational and professional mobility
 - Rwanda is the best scoring among low-income countries globally in the capacity to enable, grow and retain human talent
 - Only 22% of African students leaving to study abroad choose an African destination
 - China has become the second most popular destination for African students, after France
 - African post-secondary institutions amount to 1 per about 471 000 people, compared to 1 per 154 000 in the EU
 - For many businesses in Africa, it is often easier to employ a skilled non- African expatriate than a skilled African expatriate

Device strong public policies to ensure no one will be left behind

- Building welfare policies and safety networks for older generations and marginalised populations
- Bridging the digital divide
 - Both in terms of physical access to ICTs and in the resources and skills needed to use the technology effectively
 - About 66% of Africans are still offline
- Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics across the continent:
 - No African country has a complete birth registration system
 - 41% of sub-Saharan children under 5 have never been registered
 - Documentations is a key concern for migrants

... AND CONSIDER THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE?

- However impressive, economic growth in Africa will continue to run behind demographic growth, if nothing is done to curb the process



- In 2019, the whole continent's GDP is slightly smaller than that of the UK, for a total population nearly 20 times bigger
- Of the world's ten countries with the highest fertility rates, 9 are African
- Sub-Saharan Africa region's fertility rate doubles the world's rate