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The effects of migration on family members
remaining at home particularly the children
and the elderly

Structure of presentation

- Background
  - Definition of migration
  - Categories of migration
  - Statistics on migration
- Types of migration in Uganda
  - Domestic
  - International

Structure of presentation

- Causes of Migration
  - Push factors
  - Pull factors
- Impacts of migration on
  - Families
  - Children
  - Elderly
  - Government
- Role of Ugandan government on Migration
  - Policy and regulations
  - Programmes
  - Agreements with other countries

Background

- **Human migration** is the movement by people from one place to another with the intention of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location.
  - There is internal and international migration
  - Internal migration refers to movement within a country
  - International refers to movement across countries

Background

- In Uganda elders are those persons who are above 60 years
- Characteristics
  - Form about 1.3 million out of 34.5 million people
  - Unemployed (retired)
  - Dependent
  - Physical ailments and disabilities (frail)
  - Sickly
  - Malnourished
  - Mental retardation (memory loss reduced thinking)
  - Domestic responsibilities (care for orphans and vulnerable grand children

Background

- Elders require
  - Care and protection (Domestic assistance)
  - Medical Attention
  - Food and nutrition
  - Hygiene and sanitation
  - Recreation and entertainment
  - Company

Background

- In Uganda children are persons below 18 years
- Characteristics
  - Form about 57 percent of the national population of about 34 million people. About 1.5 million are orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)
  - Dependent
  - Need care, protection and nurturing
  - Need nutrition and food (stunted and malnourished)
  - Medical attention
  - Education support
  - Clothing and shelter

Causes of Domestic migration

- It is important to note that most of the migrants fall under the age bracket of 20 to 40 years majority of whom are energetic youth (18-30 years, Ugandan context)
- Push factors:
  - Search for employment
  - Better education and health services
  - Search for Livelihood and means of survival
  - Bad attitude towards agriculture
  - Insecurity (wars and harsh environment)
  - Peer pressure or peer group pressure
  - Negative cultural practices such Female Genital Mutilation, forced marriage, gender based violence, nomadic pastoralist

Causes of Domestic migration

Pull factors: (rural urban migration)

Concentration of development in urban centers

- Better services and infrastructure
- Better paying employment opportunities
- Market for some of their products
- Better standard of living and quality of life
- Linkage with relatives and friends who have settled in urban centers(extended families)

Causes of International Migration

Push factors

- Search for employment opportunities abroad
- Exposure to information on seemingly better living standards and cultures abroad
- Curiosity to embrace other foreign cultures
- Search for better and quality education services
- Desire for excessive and quick wealth creation, forcing persons to engage in illicit business such drug trafficking, prostitution, child labour, child pornography
- Desire to change citizenship as a way of having access to better goods and services
- Social, Political and economic instability
- Disease outbreak and epidemic e.g. Ebola, cholera, hepatitis etc

Causes of International Migration

Pull factors

- Availability of varieties of employment opportunities abroad
- Packaged information by different media on seemingly better living standards and cultures abroad
- Availability of better and quality education services
- Market and opportunities for illicit businesses such as drug trafficking, prostitution, child labour, child pornography
- Possibility to change citizenship as a way of having access to better goods and services
- Social, Political and economic stability
- Better social services such as education, medical, utilities and infrastructures

Impact of migration on children left behind

Negative impact, in a short run

- Inadequate parental care, protection and upbringing
- Poverty, in case of permanent migration and neglect
- Increased School dropout and illiteracy rates
- Inability to provide children's basic needs, resulting into abandonment and murder or dumping of children in pit latrines by mothers
- Child labour, prostitution, pornography
- Child headed families/households

Impact of migration on children left behind

Negative impact cont……….

- Malnutrition and stunted growth
- Poor health and increased mortality rate
- Decreased self esteem and reduced confidence
- Early marriages and pregnancies
- Exposure to Sexually transmitted Diseases
- Moral and cultural decays due to inadequate parental guidance
- Loss of family touch and roots

Impact of migration on children left behind

Positive impacts (Support from migrants)

- Improved standard of living of families/households
- Improved income and infrastructure development
- Improved service delivery and standard of education
- Increased school completion rate
- Improved health, sanitation, nutrition and feeding
- Opportunities for information sharing on positive cultural practices and ways of life

Impact of migration on elders left behind

- Poor feeding, malnutrition and starvation
- Poor health, hygiene and sanitation
- Inadequate care and protection
- Loneliness, stress, depression, weakness and helplessness
- Poor infrastructures (residences)
- Mental breakdown
- Loss of credibility and limited participation in community activities and decision making
- Loss of lives through suicide and poor health

Impact of migration on government

Negative:
- Loss of labour force
- Brain drain (professionals seeking better pay)
- Loss of credibility in case of asylum seekers and illicit business dealers

Positive
- Improved foreign earnings (300,367,200 USD-2013)through official export of labour alone
- Reduced unemployment
- Peace and stability

Government interventions and initiatives

Children: Government structures in place:-

- Ministry, Minister and department in Charge of children Affairs
- Parliamentary sessional Committee on Children Affairs
- Uganda Human Rights Commission
- National Council for children
- National Child protection Task Force
- Probation and Social Welfare Officers
- Child protection committees in sub-counties
- Child Helpline

Government interventions and initiatives

Children: Laws, Policies, regulations
- The National Constitution
- The Children's Act Cap. 59
- Migration Policy
- Child Labour Policy
- Human trafficking Policy
- Education Policies and Ordinances
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children policy
- Female Genital Mutilation Policy
- Gender Policy
- Youth Policy

Government interventions and initiatives

Children: Programmes
- OVC programme
- Universal primary and secondary education
- Youth Livelihood programme
- Youth Entrepreneurship Venture Capital Fund
- Adolescence and reproductive health
- Project for children and Youth
- Early Child development project
- Violence Against Children programme
- School and hospital feeding programme

Government interventions and initiatives

Elders: Structures in place

- Ministry, Minister and department for Older persons

- Parliamentary Sessional Committee on Older Persons

- National Council for Older Persons

Government interventions and initiatives

Elders: Laws, policies and Regulations

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
- The National Policy for Older Persons
- Older Persons' Act
- Social Assistance Grant Extension (SAGE)
- National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)

Government interventions and initiatives

Regulating migration and labour export

- Creation of department in charge of labour externalisation in the MGLSD
- Agreement with middle East countries
- Formal registration of companies to handle labour export (About 13 companies)
- This has resulted into externalisation of 42,015 raising USD 300,367,200 in 2013
- Creation of the department of Diaspora in MoFA to coordinate and link with Ugandans abroad. This helped to generate USD one billion in 2012 in terms of foreign exchange earning

Conclusion

Migration is fueled by both internal and external factors and the impacts can be both negative and positive. There is therefore need for government intervention and regulation to address it, in collaboration with other key players. The major challenge is how to capture information on private migrants and plan for relevant interventions

Asante Saana

Thank you for Your attention.