



Enhancing the Role of Return Migration in Fostering Development

By

**Dr. Michel Sho-Sawyer
Office of Diaspora Affairs
Office of the President
Sierra Leone, West Africa**



Return Migration

1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 13(2), which states: “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”.



Return Flows

1. Sierra Leone is a country established through the return migration of ex-slaves
2. Return and reintegration of post conflict Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees



Human capital loss to Human capital gain

- Economic migrants escape from extreme poverty
- The main reason for their departure has been to improve their living conditions



Fostering Return Migration

1. Cooperation between host and country of origin on managed return and reintegration.
2. Unbiased Information on the conditions in the country of origin.
3. Basic skills training in host country.
4. Incentives for return and reintegration



Financial Contributions of Returnees

- Contribution of saved remittances in country of origin.
- Financial and other resources of returning migrants.
- Increase in development assistance to reduce poverty in countries of origin.
- Reduction in economic reasons for emigration.



Return Migration and Increase in Development

- End of conflicts has facilitated return migration for Internally Displaced Persons and refugees.
- Returnees from overseas bring new skills and resources for economic development
- All returnees should be accorded reintegration assistance.



Assisted Voluntary return and Reintegration

- Voluntary return and reintegration of denied asylum seekers, transport, reception and reintegration.
- The quantum of reintegration assistance should be in accordance to local socio-economic situation.
- Provision for well informed decisions to return
- Reduces socio-economic pressure from new arrivals.



AVR and Development

- Includes return and reintegration of vulnerable groups.
- Can support development in the country of origin
- For migrants-Most dignified method of return.
- For host government- Most cost effective/
- For origin governments- can contribute to development.
- Needs to be coordinated between the host and origin governments.



Return of Qualified Nationals

1. Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals
2. Virtual Return of skills-tele net working
3. Permanent Return of skilled manpower.
4. Senior Executive Scheme – stabilize existing manpower.



Recommendations

1. All return processing should respect human rights
2. All returnees voluntary or forced should be assisted with reintegration assistance .
3. assistance should include assistance with medical assistance
4. Returns should be coordinated with the host and country of origin.
5. Host countries should support PRSPs and Peace building Funds
6. Establish databases of migrants in the host countries.
7. Assist in Border Management and Control.



- **END OF PRESENTATION**