Negative Brief: African Worker Training

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

***Resolved: The European Union should substantially reform its immigration policy.***

Case Summary: Plan sets up worker job skill training programs in Africa and has the trained workers immigrate to the EU to fill “labor shortages” in the European economy.

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Negative: African Worker Training

EXTRA-TOPICALITY

1. Training isn’t immigration

What “extra-topicality” means

It means that although some of the Affirmative plan fits the resolution, some of it goes beyond or outside the resolution. The simple test is: Could we do this mandate without affirming the resolution? If so, then that part of the plan is Extra-Topical and should be dropped from the round. The Affirmative has no right to advocate for policies unrelated to the resolution because it’s abusive to the Negative team. We have to prepare for the resolution itself, plus all other topics, if you allow Affirmatives to put extra-topical mandates into the debate round. It’s abusive to expect Negatives to drop their entire lives to brief out all possible cases involving everything outside the resolution.

Violation: Training programs are not immigration policies

It’s an easy test: Could the European Union fund job training programs in Africa without affirming that we should reform immigration policy? Of course we could. Job training in Africa is a foreign aid program. Whether or not they are allowed to immigrate is an immigration policy.

Consequences: Drop training from the round

Since we shouldn’t have to debate things outside the resolution, all references to EU-funded job training should be dropped from the Plan and from the round. The Affirmative plan should be judged only on the part of it that is topical, without implementing any of the extra-topical training.

Impact: Plan failure and Negative ballot

Without the training, the African immigrants will just be more surplus unskilled labor in the EU. Or, maybe they won’t immigrate at all. In any case, the plan will fail

INHERENCY

1. Status Quo already improving worker skills

Link: European businesses say the policy solution THEY want is better education

**Analysis: European businesses advocate “train European workers better”**

Dr. Giorgio Brunello and Patricia Wruuck 2019. (Brunello – PhD; Professor of Economics at University of Padova. Wruuck - Economist in the Economics Dept of the European Investment Bank) May 2019 “Skill Shortages and Skill Mismatch in Europe: A Review of the Literature” <http://ftp.iza.org/dp12346.pdf> (brackets added)

The concerns that firms express about the limited availability of skills as a factor limiting corporate investment are reflected in their views about public policy priorities. When asked about the areas where the public sector should focus in the next three years, 24 percent of the respondents to the EIBIS [European Investment Bank Group Survey on Investment and Investment Finance] survey in 2017 chose professional training and higher education as a policy priority. By country, this share tends to be higher where concerns about skills are more pronounced (see Figure 11).

Solution: Status Quo is doing it with the “New Skills Agenda.” It is successfully raising EU citizens’ skills today to fill jobs

Terence Hogarth 2019 (with the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies Directorate-General for Internal Policies) Sept 2019 “Skills for the labour market: EU policies for VET and upskilling” <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2019/638431/IPOL_BRI(2019)638431_EN.pdf>

Of particular note within the New Skills Agenda is the Council Recommendation on the Upskilling Pathway. It is designed to assist the estimated 61 million people with low skills so that they can improve their literacy, numeracy and digital skills and/or increase their level of educational attainment to the upper secondary level (i.e. at levels 3 or 4 of the European Qualifications Framework). The Upskilling Pathway is built on the concept of providing: (1) a skills assessment to identify existing skills and upskilling needs; (2) a tailor-made offer of learning and mentoring, to enable them to update skills and fill important deficits; and (3) the opportunity to have their acquired knowledge and skills validated and recognised towards a qualification or access to employment. Early evidence from the Upskilling Pathway’s roll-out suggests that these types of programme have the capacity to raise skill levels, though to date the focus appears to have been on unemployed adults. A stronger focus, however, on supporting low skilled workers in employment who represent a significant share of the target group for the Upskilling Pathway is becoming evident. Evidence points to continuing progress being made in upskilling the workforce over the past few decades. For instance, the percentage of EU workers employed in relatively high skill occupations (such as managers, professionals and associate professionals) has increased: from 32 per cent in 1995 to 43 per cent in 2018. And the percentage of people with tertiary level qualifications has nearly doubled over the same period from 16 to 30 per cent. Nearly three quarters of the population are now qualified to at a level equivalent to completing upper secondary education.

2. New immigration policies in place at EU member level. Just give them time to work

EU member nations have introduced their own new skilled labor policies that will work, they just need some time

Metka Hercog & Anja Wiesbrock 2016. (Hercog - research associate at the Department for Cultural Studies and European ethnology, University of Basel. Wiesbrock - University Lecturer in European Law at Maastricht University ) January 2016, Highly Skilled Migration to the European Union and the United States <https://oxford.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190211394.001.0001/acprof-9780190211394-chapter-11>

 Each EU country has recently introduced immigration policies that target skilled migrants. The analysis finds that these new policies are more favorable than they use to be toward high-skilled workers on eligibility criteria, special provision for young migrants, validity of permits and access to permanent residence, family migration options, employment rights, and social security provisions. The results also indicate that now, in many aspects, these countries are more favorable to high-skilled migrants than the United States. However, these policies are still works in progress, and as a result, the United States continues to be more attractive to high-skilled immigrants, and a more popular destination.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. “Skilled worker shortage” exaggerated #1: Low pay is the problem

A lot of the problem is low pay, not absence of workers. Oddly enough, employers with higher wages don’t report shortages!

Dr. Giorgio Brunello and Patricia Wruuck 2019. (Brunello – PhD; Professor of Economics at the University of Padova. Wruuck - Economist in the Economics Department of the European Investment Bank) May 2019 “Skill Shortages and Skill Mismatch in Europe: A Review of the Literature” <http://ftp.iza.org/dp12346.pdf>

At the firm level, reported shortages and problems to fill vacancies could be due to the wage and working conditions being offered, workforce characteristics, or the effectiveness of the recruitment process, rather than to the lack of suitable candidates among job seekers. Establishments offering a higher average wage relative to the average wage for the same occupational group in a given area have been found to report fewer shortages (Haskel and Martin, 2001; Directorate General for Internal Policies, European Parliament, 2015). In addition, Monti and Pellizzari, 2016, have shown that the occupations where hiring was declared to be the most difficult in Italy in 2012 were not the ones where wages increased the most during the period 2012-15.

European studies that factor out uncompetitive wage offers find “much lower” rate of labor “shortages”

Dr. Giorgio Brunello and Patricia Wruuck 2019. (Brunello – PhD; Professor of Economics at University of Padova. Wruuck - Economist in the Economics Dept of European Investment Bank) May 2019 “Skill Shortages and Skill Mismatch in Europe: A Review of the Literature” <http://ftp.iza.org/dp12346.pdf> (brackets added)

In a series of studies, CEDEFOP [European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training], 2015, 2018, has attempted to separate “genuine” shortages, defined as recruitment bottlenecks that occur when firms offer competitive starting salaries to potential recruits, from reported shortages that originate from wage offers below competitive levels. Drawing on the Eurobarometer Flash Survey 304, these studies show that while 47 percent of interviewed firms report difficulties in recruiting graduates with suitable skills, the total proportion of employers facing genuine shortages is much lower at 34 percent (see McGuiness et al, 2017).

Not all supposed European “worker shortages” are genuine. If they were, wages would be going up a lot faster

Dr. Giorgio Brunello and Patricia Wruuck 2019. (Brunello – PhD; Professor of Economics at University of Padova. Wruuck - Economist in the Economics Dept of European Investment Bank) May 2019 “Skill Shortages and Skill Mismatch in Europe: A Review of the Literature” <http://ftp.iza.org/dp12346.pdf> (brackets added)

5. After the 2008 recession, labour shortages have increased in many European countries, yet real earnings growth has remained subdued, with the exception of Eastern Europe. This casts some doubts that all the declared shortages are genuine; 6. In the long run, the adoption of new technologies creates the demand for new skills that are not immediately available in the labour market, giving rise to skill shortages until the broad education system (including employer training) is able to meet the new skill requirements.

2. “Skilled worker shortage” exaggerated #2: Multiple other factors besides “lack of skills” are the problem

Genuine skill shortages aren’t as bad as it seems: The real problem is that firms aren’t attracting the available workers due to other factors, in addition to low wages

European Center for the Development of Vocational Training 2015 (an agency of the European Union) Skill shortages and gaps in European enterprises (no month of publication was given, only the year 2015) <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/3071_en.pdf>

The inability of firms to attract the ‘right’ workers and fill their vacancies may arise for many reasons other than genuine shortages of skill: unattractive wages, poor and precarious working conditions, lack of career prospects, geographic and other administrative barriers, such as lack of international recognition of qualifications. The key lesson to be drawn from this report is that many dynamic, internationally oriented EU companies, in specific economic sectors and in some Member States, face a genuine shortage of applicants with the right skills. This is concerning, given the evidence of lagging productivity and innovation in the EU relative to its major competitors in the global market. However, the share of EU firms faced with genuine skill shortages is smaller than one would believe solely on the basis of employer surveys. The evidence clearly shows that many EU firms face recruitment difficulties for reasons other than a generalised lack of skills in the European labour force.

3. “Skilled worker shortage” exaggerated #3: Employers confusing “skills” for “experience”

Employers complaining about “lack of skills” are confusing lack of work experience for lack of skill

**Analysis: There are plenty of workers who have the skills and would develop further on the job if only employers would hire them. But European firms look at someone and say “he has no experience” and then report that he is unskilled, which is not the same thing.**

European Center for the Development of Vocational Training 2015 (an agency of the European Union) Skill shortages and gaps in European enterprises (no month of publication was given, only the year 2015) <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/3071_en.pdf>

According to the talent shortage surveys, the reason most commonly cited by employers for struggling to fill their jobs is lack of technical competences (hard skills). The lack of available candidates, lack of work experience and soft skills follow in importance. Skilled trades positions tend to be the most difficult jobs to fill, followed by engineers and technicians, which emphasises that recurrent skill shortages reported by employers are often a reflection of deficits in vocational skills (ManpowerGroup, 2014) (10). Too often employers also confuse skill shortage with a general lack of work experience or of work readiness on the part of young labour market entrants. Work readiness covers the set of desirable attitudes and behaviours for the workplace (Hettich and Landrum, 2014) but such skills are often better acquired in work-based learning (such as apprenticeships), rather than in a school-based environment (Handel, 2005).

4. No worries about “unskilled” worker shortages

Unskilled workers in the EU will be replaced by technology and automation. Decrease in those jobs is expected

Marianne Thyssen 2018 (Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility at the EU) Employment and Social Developments in Europe Annual Review, June 2018 <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=19719&langId=en>

Forecasting future developments is more complex, although certain trends can already be discerned. Digitalisation changes the way production is organized and enables the automation of tasks. Innovative technologies increase productivity, create new jobs, facilitate inclusiveness on the labour market, and allow for better work-life balance. However, these new opportunities are seized particularly by the high-skilled. Concerns over the loss of low-skill jobs persist. Moreover, digitalisation also leads to an increase in non-standard work, affecting working conditions and job quality. If these developments persist, some degree of replacement of low-skilled labour by automation as well as a decrease in standard (full-time, open-ended) employment can be expected.

EU jobs involving “routine tasks” may gradually disappear and be replaced by machines and technology

European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion 2018. (agency of the EU government) Employment and Social Developments in Europe Annual Review, June 2018 <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=19719&langId=en>

There are growing concerns about future technologies facilitating substitution of routine jobs as well as of some currently non-routine tasks. The combination of digital sensors and algorithmic control of machines is expected to expand further the range of tasks machines can perform. As a result, the effect on employment in the future may be different from what has been experienced so far. Today’s routine tasks, characterised by repetition and standardisation, may gradually disappear as machines are introduced to do them. ( 148) A similar fate may befall tasks which, though not routine by today's standards, may become so in the near future as technology makes them routine.

EU manufacturing jobs are being replaced by robots

European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion 2018. (agency of the EU government) Employment and Social Developments in Europe Annual Review, June 2018 <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=19719&langId=en>

Job losses due to robots have mainly occurred in manufacturing, where, according to available data, 85% of the operational stock of industrial robots is used. Chart 2.16 shows, for a selected number of countries, a positive correlation (+0.58) in manufacturing between the robot intensity (number of robots/number of workers) and total factor productivity (value added per hour worked).

SOLVENCY

1. More study needed

Most research on African migration is too limited. We can’t develop good policy without better understanding of it

Dr. Franzisca Zanker 2019 (Senior research fellow at the Arnold-Bergstraesser Institute, Germany; PhD in Political Science from Eberhard-Karls University, ) 8 May 2019 “Managing or restricting movement? Diverging approaches of African and European migration governance” COMPARATIVE MIGRATION STUDIES <https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9>

When it comes to migration governance in and with African countries, research tends to be geographically and thematically limited, focusing only on one region or type of migration category, e.g. forced versus ‘voluntary’ (usually labour) migration (e.g. Brachet, [2010](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#ref-CR4); Rwamatwara, [2005](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#ref-CR28)). Moreover, whilst the literature on migration patterns in Africa repeatedly highlights the fact that most African migration is inner-African, this is not reflected in the literature on the topic, which largely focuses on ‘South-North’ migration (Flahaux & De Haas, [2016](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#ref-CR17)). Thus, a research gap exists in considering migration governance between Europe and Africa and especially within Africa. Understanding the rhetoric and practices of migration patterns of both continents is fundamental to improve their relationship and future cooperation.

Widespread agreement that we don’t have enough data on Africa/Europe migration

Dr. Franzisca Zanker 2019 (Senior research fellow at the Arnold-Bergstraesser Institute, Germany; PhD in Political Science from Eberhard-Karls University, ) 8 May 2019 “Managing or restricting movement? Diverging approaches of African and European migration governance” COMPARATIVE MIGRATION STUDIES <https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9>

Before considering the two approaches of easing and controlling migration in more detail, a few more general remarks on the understanding of migration. One policy area which everyone seems to agree on is the lack of reliable data and the need to build up better information and data on migration, including so-called migration observatories (e.g. B3, see Additional file [1](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#MOESM1) for all the document codes).

2. No significant economic benefit to the EU

Research finds no consistent evidence of economic benefit to European economies from migrant workers

Margo Hoftijzer and Dr. Lucas Gortazar 2018 (Hoftijzer - Senior Economist in the Education Global Practice of the World Bank. Gortazar - PhD in economics; consultant for the Education Global Practice at the World Bank) May 2018 “Skills and Europe’s Labor Market How Technological Change and Other Drivers of Skill Demand and Supply are shaping Europe’s Labor market” <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/115971529687983521/EU-GU-Skills-and-Labor-Markets-final-5-29-2018.pdf>

In all EU countries, flexible forms of employment like temporary contracts are more prevalent among workers with lower levels of education. While temporary employment is preferred by some due to the flexibility it offers, it tends to lower the skills of the workforce population and risks exacerbating inequalities between regions and population groups (e.g. between workers with different ages, education levels and skills). Lastly, the effect of migration on labor market outcomes is complex, and a review of available research found no consistent pattern of the impacts of migrants on the local economies they work in. A broad conclusion from available evidence would be that, overall, the identified impact of migrant labor on the economy and job outcomes as a whole is relatively small, and can be either positive or negative.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Brain drain

Link: AFF plan wants more migration from Africa to Europe

It’s in their mandates

Link: Increased migration from poor countries = brain drain (the smarter, professional types are likely to migrate)

**[Note: This article is referring in context specifically to migration from Africa to Europe, as you can tell by the title of the article]**

Dr. Franzisca Zanker 2019 (Senior research fellow at the Arnold-Bergstraesser Institute, Germany; PhD in Political Science from Eberhard-Karls University, ) 8 May 2019 “Managing or restricting movement? Diverging approaches of African and European migration governance” COMPARATIVE MIGRATION STUDIES <https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9>

On the former, migration has become increasingly accepted as a ‘tool’ for development. Resulting from this is for example the importance of remittances, especially in Africa (Lavenex & Kunz, [2008](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#ref-CR21); Van Criekinge, [2016](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#ref-CR29)). Thus, policies in this direction will seek to ease mobility (and lower transaction costs of remittances). Yet, a positive migration-development nexus is by no means widely accepted in practice. The relationship between migration and development is circular and highly complex, incorporating both positive and negative impacts (e.g. Clemens, [2014](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#ref-CR9)). Out-migration may lead to more remittances, but also brain-drain of professionals.

Link: Brain drain from Africa harms Africa 2 ways: 1) lose talented people; 2) increased cost of education spending to replace them

Prof. Brij Maharaj 2013 (prof. of geography at Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) The African Brain Drain: Causes, Costs, and Consequences, Oct 2013 <https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-81-322-1047-4_7>

The trend is for such professionals from developing countries to fill the gaps in the labour market in developed countries. Africa has not been immune to these trends and losing skilled migrants has serious implications for development. The aim of this chapter is to present an overview of the African brain drain in terms of causes, costs, and consequences. More specifically, the chapter reviews the scale and extent of the problem, analyses the factors influencing the African brain drain, briefly examines the impact of remittances, and considers policy options to stem the tide. This has two major impacts on African economies: losing the most talented and skilled personel and increased expenditure on education and training to compensate for those who have left.

Link: Attracting skilled migrants from poor countries drains away talent needed for their economic development. Impact: Poverty in Africa

Keith Nuthall 2008 (journalist) GLOBAL: 'Blue card' could intensify brain drain 6 July 2008 UNIVERSITY WORLD NEWS <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20080703153638415#:~:text=Serious%20concerns%20have%20been%20raised,fuel%20the%20African%20brain%20drain.&text=Under%20proposals%20prepared%20by%20the,immigration%20procedures%20for%20skilled%20migrants>. (brackets in original)

There was general agreement at the parliamentary hearing that Europe fared poorly in attracting highly trained immigrants compared with the US, Canada and Australia. But Portuguese socialist MEP Armando França asked whether "attracting highly skilled workers from non-EU states does not undermine solidarity" with developing countries. França said pro-actively seeking to poach home-grown talent from Africa and elsewhere "seems paradoxical when we see that the [European] union has policies to support less developed countries". "I have major doubts about this proposal", França declared, and asked whether the EU should rather concentrate on forging cooperation agreements with non-EU countries with skilled migrants sought by European universities and companies. And Africa is the major concern. An analysis written by the secretariat for the parliamentary committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs, which staged the hearing, focused on Europe's neighbours to the south. The analysis paper voiced concerns that a blue card scheme would exacerbate the problem of brain drain from the African continent. It noted the United Nations Development Programme had reported that outward migration cost African countries more than EUR2.5 billion (US$4 billion) through the employment of 150,000 expatriate professionals annually. The parliamentary paper continued: "Coupled with the loss of trained professionals due to HIV-AIDS, brain drain erodes the valuable human capital critically needed for economic growth and human development in Africa."

Impact: Massive social costs to African countries.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Feldman 2012 (U.S. Army Reserve, is an Africa analyst and the Africa team leader with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth) Nov/Dec 2012 MILITARY REVIEW <https://community.apan.org/cfs-file/__key/docpreview-s/00-00-03-09-44/2012_2D00_12_2D00_01-Africas-Brain-Drain_2D00_Its-Impacts-on-Security-and-Stability-_2800_Feldman_2900_.pdf>

AFRICA IS BLEEDING. Much of its lifeblood, composed of well-educated individuals who could help tackle its toughest problems, is flowing away. This hemorrhaging of engineers, doctors, teachers, nurses, businesspersons, scientists, and others with extensive training constitutes Africa’s brain drain. In a continent where relatively few attend elementary school, let alone college, these individuals on whom society has often spent a disproportionate amount of its resources to educate are taking their precious skills elsewhere. The impact has been enormous. Many hospitals and health centers cannot function because the African doctors and nurses have gone to Europe or America. Schools often lack qualified teachers. The list of projects and programs deferred because capable individuals are not available seems endless.

2. Remittances

**“Remittances” are money sent by immigrants living in Europe (now making more money) back home to their poor relatives in Africa. It sounds like a good thing, but it turns into a bad thing. The poor relatives in Africa develop a “welfare” mentality, and sit back and wait for the free money to arrive and make no effort to better themselves or their country. In addition, governments in poor countries don’t have to try very hard to improve their nation, since their people are being supported by “free” money from elsewhere.**

Link: Viewing migration as a tool for development, leading to more migration from Africa, leads to higher remittances sent back to Africa

Dr. Franzisca Zanker 2019 (Senior research fellow at the Arnold-Bergstraesser Institute, Germany; PhD in Political Science from Eberhard-Karls University, ) 8 May 2019 “Managing or restricting movement? Diverging approaches of African and European migration governance” COMPARATIVE MIGRATION STUDIES <https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9>

On the former, migration has become increasingly accepted as a ‘tool’ for development. Resulting from this is for example the importance of remittances, especially in Africa (Lavenex & Kunz, [2008](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#ref-CR21); Van Criekinge, [2016](https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-019-0115-9#ref-CR29)). Thus, policies in this direction will seek to ease mobility (and lower transaction costs of remittances).

Impact: Remittances = laziness, dependency, and unemployment

Amela Trokić 2011. (Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree. She is also an IPMA certified Project Manager with extensive international work experience in Bosnia, Canada and Turkey. Originally a native of Bosnia) The Negative Long Term Effects of Remittance Inflow in Bosnia and Herzegovina <http://www.analyticalmk.com/files/2012/02/Amela%20Troki_.pdf> (article is undated and was probably written in 2012, but contains references to material published in 2011 and none later, so we can only be sure it was written as of 2011)

From a social aspect, remittances can cause those receiving them to become psychologically dependent on them, and therefore cause them to feel less obliged to work. Although remittances are meant to act as a reserve or provide supplementary financial aid to a household income or as a potential investment in entrepreneurial ventures, as previously mentioned remittances have been mostly used for consumption purposes. In this way, not only are they not contributing to greater job creation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but in some ways they are worsening the situation. The recipients of remittances become more or less reliant on these payments and, expecting them to arrive on a regular basis, do not bother to look for a job or even to invest the money in ventures within Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is evident from the rising unemployment rate, nearing 44 percent in 2011 according to the CIA World Factbook.

Impact: Poor countries receiving remittances get stuck in a lower-growth economy

[Ralph Chami, Ekkehard Ernst, Connel Fullenkamp, and Anne Oeking](https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2018/09/is-there-a-remittance-trap-chami.htm#author) 2018 (**RALPH CHAMI** is an assistant director in the IMF’s Institute for Capacity Development. **EKKEHARD ERNST** is chief of the macroeconomic policy and jobs unit at the International Labour Organization. **CONNEL FULLENKAMP** is professor of the practice of economics at Duke University. **ANNE OEKING** is an economist in the IMF’s Asia and Pacific Department.) Is There a Remittance Trap? Sept 2018 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2018/09/is-there-a-remittance-trap-chami.htm>

Consumption spending is a driver of short-term economic growth, which in turn should also lead to longer-term growth as industries expand to meet the increased demand. But research that digs deeper into the remittance-growth nexus increasingly suggests that remittances change economies in ways that reduce growth and increase dependence on these funds from abroad. In other words, there is increasing evidence of a remittance trap that causes economies to get stuck on a lower-growth, higher-emigration treadmill.

Impact: Bosnia study finds long term effects of remittances = overall negative effect on the economy, higher unemployment

Amela Trokić 2011. (Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree. She is also an IPMA certified Project Manager with extensive international work experience in Bosnia, Canada and Turkey. Originally a native of Bosnia) The Negative Long Term Effects of Remittance Inflow in Bosnia and Herzegovina <http://www.analyticalmk.com/files/2012/02/Amela%20Troki_.pdf> (article is undated and was probably written in 2012, but contains references to material published in 2011 and none later, so we can only be sure it was written as of 2011) (Notes: 1) “Dutch Disease” refers to an event in the Netherlands where large natural gas deposits were discovered offshore in 1959. It created a sudden revenue boom, but ended up causing harm because they drove up the exchange rate value of the currency and harmed other sectors of the economy. It proves that a sudden influx of free money is not necessarily a good thing. 2) “Bosnia & Herzegovina” is the full name of one country, not two countries. It is sometimes shorthand to refer to it as simply “Bosnia.”)

Unfortunately, Bosnia and Herzegovina is already showing signs of this and is very likely to suffer from the “Dutch disease” – when “the inflow of remittances causes a real appreciation, or postpones depreciation, of the exchange rate, restricting export performance and hence possibly limiting output and employment”. Such negative long term economic effects, some of which can already be seen such as Bosnia and Herzegovina’s limited exports and high unemployment, are only one portion of the overall negative effects that remittance inflows into Bosnia and Herzegovina have on the country.

Impact: Bosnia Study finds remittances cause: brain drain, slower economic growth, more government corruption, lazy reliance on “free aid”

Amela Trokić 2011. (Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree. She is also an IPMA certified Project Manager with extensive international work experience in Bosnia, Canada and Turkey. Originally a native of Bosnia) The Negative Long Term Effects of Remittance Inflow in Bosnia and Herzegovina <http://www.analyticalmk.com/files/2012/02/Amela%20Troki_.pdf> (article is undated and was probably written in 2012, but contains references to material published in 2011 and none later, so we can only be sure it was written as of 2011)

The effects of these remittance inflows have often been considered positive, although much analysis and data is lacking most notably due to the country’s poor post-war bureaucratic system. Regardless, many citizens left in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been depending and living with aid from remittance inflows causing many to argue that remittances drastically helped boost the war torn (Bosnian war) economy because of this. However, upon further analysis of not only the economic situation of Bosnia and Herzegovina but the social one, one comes to see the detrimental patterns that have formed. Not only have remittance inflows slowed economic growth and productivity by helping reinforce an already corrupt government reliant on such inflows, but also by forming a nation reliant on “free aid”, unwilling to better the situation in their home country but rather search for ways to migrate elsewhere.

Impact: Long term loss of economic development in poor countries

Prof. Soma Rani Sutradhar 2020 (assistant professor, Department of Economics, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Bangladesh) 31 Jan 2020 “The impact of remittances on economic growth in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka” [International Journal of Economic Policy Studies](https://link.springer.com/journal/42495) <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42495-020-00034-1>

Remittances provide a way of poverty reduction and economic development when immigrants send remittances to the home country. On the other hand, this type of migration to abroad could damage the development process when the home country loses highly educated and skilled workers which is called brain drain. Thus, losses of human capital may affect economic growth negatively as reflected in the neoclassical growth theory.

Impact: Remittances create a disincentive to work, leading to economic damage

[Ralph Chami, Ekkehard Ernst, Connel Fullenkamp, and Anne Oeking](https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2018/09/is-there-a-remittance-trap-chami.htm#author) 2018 (**RALPH CHAMI** is an assistant director in the IMF’s Institute for Capacity Development. **EKKEHARD ERNST** is chief of the macroeconomic policy and jobs unit at the International Labour Organization. **CONNEL FULLENKAMP** is professor of the practice of economics at Duke University. **ANNE OEKING** is an economist in the IMF’s Asia and Pacific Department.) Is There a Remittance Trap? Sept 2018 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2018/09/is-there-a-remittance-trap-chami.htm>

The effect of remittances on work incentives makes this problem worse, by increasing the so-called reservation wage—that is, the lowest wage at which a worker would be willing to accept a particular type of job. As remittances increase, workers drop out of the labor force, and the resulting increase in wages puts more upward pressure on prices, further reducing the competitiveness of exports. Resources then flow away from industries producing tradable products that face international competition toward those that serve the domestic market. The result: a decline in the number of better-paid, high-skill jobs, which are typical in the traded sector, and an increase in low-skill, poorly paid jobs in the nontraded sector. This shift in the labor market encourages higher- skilled workers to emigrate in search of better-paying jobs. Meanwhile, the cost of living for most families rises along with domestic prices, and the loss in competitiveness means that more products must be imported, hurting economic growth. This in turn increases the incentive for family members to emigrate so that they can send money home to help relatives shoulder the burden of the higher cost of living. To make matters worse, remittances are often spent on real estate, causing home prices to rise and in some cases stoking property bubbles. This provides a motive to emigrate for young people seeking to earn enough to buy a home. The result of all this is a vicious circle of emigration, economic stagnation, rising cost of living, and more emigration.

Impact: Remittances fuel and incentivize government corruption in the receiving country. Example: Bosnia

Amela Trokić 2011. (Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree. She is also an IPMA certified Project Manager with extensive international work experience in Bosnia, Canada and Turkey. Originally a native of Bosnia) The Negative Long Term Effects of Remittance Inflow in Bosnia and Herzegovina <http://www.analyticalmk.com/files/2012/02/Amela%20Troki_.pdf> (article is undated and was probably written in 2012, but contains references to material published in 2011 and none later, so we can only be sure it was written as of 2011)

However, corrupt government in Bosnia and Herzegovina prefers remittances to keep the educated population in the country. In fact, if the educated population leaves they are more likely to find financial success outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina and send remittances to their family left in the country and as a bonus the corrupt government is left with a less educated and often older population which is much easier to manipulate. Furthermore, many politicians openly state how they rather have Diaspora who sends money into the country as oppose to the displaced Bosnian population returning. This critical political environment only heightens the negative long term effects of remittances and further initiates the brain drain occurring in Bosnia and Herzegovina

3. Family breakdowns

Link: AFF encourages or eases migration from Africa to Europe

That’s one of the goals of their plan.

Individuals who go abroad to work cause strain and harm to their families

Adediran Daniel Ikuomola 2015 (postdoctoral fellow at the School of Social and Government Studies North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa) 20 Sept 2015 “Unintended Consequences of Remittance: Nigerian Migrants and Intra-Household Conflicts” <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244015605353>

According to the [Human Rights Watch (2007)](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244015605353), reported increase in cases of child neglect in developing countries has been attributed and blamed on the decision by women to migrate overseas. Similarly, the absence of motherly attention through migration exposes children and male companions (husbands and fathers) to a lot of vices capable of breaking down family values and bond. A situation which might hamper proper upbringing of children, left in the hands of single parents with too much responsibilities to enforce shared morally correct behaviors. Although a number of studies have revealed the effect of migration on the family and household ([Emmett, 2001](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244015605353); [Thomas, 1987](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244015605353)), especially its impact on women, children, and the aged, this study through the narratives of female migrants in marital union prior to their journey abroad shows that husbands left behind are also affected, notwithstanding male figure at home controlling and disbursing remittances to other members of the family.

Nigerian immigrant in Belgium says: “We were much happier and united” before he migrated to Europe

Adediran Daniel Ikuomola 2015 (postdoctoral fellow at the School of Social and Government Studies North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa) 20 Sept 2015 “Unintended Consequences of Remittance: Nigerian Migrants and Intra-Household Conflicts” (ellipses in original) <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244015605353>

As described above, financial misfortune was capable of creating unhealthy rivalry among migrants’ relatives. It is often not uncommon for family members in sub-Saharan Africa to accuse one another directly or indirectly for misfortune, ill health, and failures ([Fisiy, 1998](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244015605353); [Schnoebelen, 2009](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244015605353)). Russel, a Nigerian migrant from Belgium, noted that there was much unity and love in his family prior to his leaving the country: “. . . We were much happier and united in poverty than it is now, with all the money from abroad”:  
. . . In 2008, I made necessary arrangement for my nieces to join me abroad, so as to reduce the burden on me. I never knew this was going to disunite my siblings. Barely a year, the younger niece was sending money and other material things to his dad (my brother), unlike the other. This became a source of envy for my sister (a widow). She felt her own daughter was being witch hunted, by my brother and other relatives. A time came I was informed she (my sister) had packed out of the family house to a rented apartment. They were accusing one another of witch-hunting themselves. To avoid being dragged into the quarrel I did not visit home for two years. In 2012, my sister became hypertensive and within six months she had stroke. Today she is still bed ridden. The family is tearing apart. I always tell people that we were much better, happier and united in poverty than it is now with the wealth and luxury. (Russel, Interview, 2013)

4. Subverting human rights in Africa

Link: AFF wants to encourage more migration from Africa to Europe

It’s in their plan.

Impact: Migrants from Africa get radicalized in Europe and then undermine democracy/human rights with their influence back in Africa

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Feldman 2012 (U.S. Army Reserve, is an Africa analyst and the Africa team leader with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He has published numerous articles on terrorism, the environment, and health in Africa and serves as a subject matter expert on these topics for various Department of Defense activities) Nov/Dec 2012 MILITARY REVIEW <https://community.apan.org/cfs-file/__key/docpreview-s/00-00-03-09-44/2012_2D00_12_2D00_01-Africas-Brain-Drain_2D00_Its-Impacts-on-Security-and-Stability-_2800_Feldman_2900_.pdf>

Some individuals who left nations that oppressed them for what the Western world would consider extremist religious views found the freedom of Europe and America the perfect place to incubate their radical and sometimes violent beliefs. Free to associate with like-minded individuals and use social media without restrictions, they advocate movements such as the introduction of sharia or attacks on Western-backed governments in their native lands. Ironically, they use the freedom they now enjoy in Europe and America to undermine the possible transition to more democratic and tolerant nations in Africa. Egypt is an excellent example of this situation. Although Mubarak was removed, his regime was replaced by the Muslim Brotherhood, a group that might be less tolerant of the Coptic Christians present in the predominantly Muslim nation.

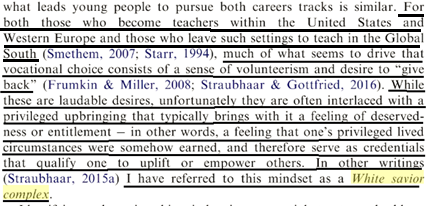
5. White Savior Complex

**This is about both the Affirmative’s mindset and the results of their policy. Both are, unintentionally we are sure, condescending towards people of color in Africa, and tainted with unconscious racism that they don’t realize they have. The Affirmative’s mindset is: We know what’s best for Africans, so we are going to go down there, “teach” them how to become better, and impose this solution for their own good.**

**Did you notice that nobody in the Affirmative team’s evidence said that this plan is what Africans want for themselves? It’s going to be imposed upon them by European policy makers and American debaters without even consulting the poor in Africa to see if they want it.  
  
In this Disadvantage, we’ll show that in fact Africans DON’T want it, and that imposing it on them is a subtle form of racism and a manifestation of what experts call the “White Savior Complex.” And we’ll show you why it’s harmful to Africa to impose this upon them. First…**

Definition: White Savior Complex occurs when Europeans and Americans think they must “teach” poor countries and uplift them

Dr. Rolf Straubhaar 2017 (PhD; education policy scholar trained in anthropology) "Acknowledging and interrogating the place of race and privilege in comparative and international education" Annual Review of Comparative and International Education <https://books.google.com/books?id=C3jBDQAAQBAJ&pg=PA73&lpg=PA73&dq=%22white+savior+complex%22+%2B+%22peace+corps%22&source=bl&ots=YvwA2jYQfH&sig=ylG8XigeLiJJl3j3UGav5mr9adA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjT9b3crMfbAhVH2VMKHVaSBGE4FBDoAQg6MAM#v=onepage&q=%22white%20savior%20complex%22%20%2B%20%22peace%20corps%22&f=false>



Link: Plan is opposite of what Africans want. They view migration as a problem and the solution is to improve land and agriculture-based opportunities within Africa

Interpress Service News Agency 2017. “Africa: Drought and Jobless, Hopeless Youth, Fertile Grounds for Extremism” 19 June 2017 <http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/06/africa-drought-jobless-hopeless-youth-fertile-grounds-extremism/> (ellipses in original)

Ignoring the plight of jobless young people in sub-Saharan Africa is a recipe for political instability and global insecurity, warned a high-level symposium of Africa’s interior, environment and foreign affairs ministers in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The high-level symposium, which was held ahead of this year’s [World Day to Combat Desertification](http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/WDCD/Pages/default.aspx) ([WDCD](http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/WDCD/Pages/default.aspx)) marked on June 17, stressed that Africa’s heavy reliance on the natural resource base for livelihoods is a challenge, and its mismanagement increases household risks and amplifies the vulnerability of millions of people. This was the first time high-ranking officials drawn from Africa’s foreign affairs, environment and interior ministries met jointly to find solutions to Africa’s growing challenge of rural youth unemployment that is driving distress migration and radicalisation of disillusioned young men. Participating ministers called for support to create land-based jobs in the rural areas to ward off the temptation for the most disillusioned to take up alternative but dangerous sources of income.

**END QUOTE. THEY GO ON LATER IN THE SAME ARTICLE TO REPORT QUOTE:**

According to Monique Barbut, [UNCCD](http://www.unccd.int/) Executive Secretary, more than 375 million young people will enter Africa’s job market over the next 15 years, of whom 200 million be living in the rural areas. They called for the identification of sites where tenure or access to land rights can be secured and provided to vulnerable at-risk-groups.The high-ranking officials also called for partnerships to create 2 million secure land-based jobs through rehabilitation of 10 million hectares of degraded land.As well, they called for investment in rural infrastructure, rehabilitation tools and skills development and prioritisation of job creation in unstable and insecure areas. “Millions of rural young people face an uncertain future due to the lack of decent rural jobs and continuous loss of livelihoods due to land degradation and falling yields…Frustrations will boil over with more migration and more conflict over a shrivelling resource base.”

Link: It’s a false ideology that Africa needs to be saved and cannot save itself. It’s a form of racism

*Hyoyoung Minna Kim 2017. (Former Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa who resigned upon realizing the detrimental aspects of her work) 23 Aug 2017* Open Letter from a Peace Corp Volunteer <http://www.cihablog.com/open-letter-peace-corp-volunteer/>

This itch to serve abroad is anticipated, given the messages about communities already flooded with foreign aid, like Africa: primitive, diseased, and impoverished. As a result, on varying levels of consciousness, many US citizens believe (subconsciously or consciously) that Africa and other “developing” communities around the world 1) need to be saved and 2) cannot save itself. In other words, there is a ubiquitous ideology that members of “developing” communities are fundamentally inferior and are inherently incapable of “achieving” what “developed” communities have – also regarded as a form of racism.

Impact: Problems in poor countries get worse. White Savior Complex sets back locally-driven solutions to problems in poor countries

Andrew Hernandez 2015 (public anthropologist and teacher and is completing his PhD in cultural anthropology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and he adjuncts at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Baruch College) 18 Oct 2015 " 4 Ways Humanitarian Work Abroad Reinforces the Oppression It Should Be Fighting" <https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/10/humanitarianism-oppression/>

Indeed, reflecting centuries of political, cultural, and narrative imperialism, white saviors tend to swoop in and reproduce supremacist discourses, rather than working with and providing a platform for marginalized groups to articulate real grievances and produce their own narratives. Not surprisingly, many in these communities accuse NGOs and their spokespersons of exploitation, suggesting that they’re more interested in improving their images than they are about actually helping impoverished groups around the world. This is bad news. Because even well-intentioned white saviors thus prevent community-driven collaboration that more effectively addresses local issues.

Impact: Blocks Real Solutions. In addition to being wrong for its own sake, this "White Savior Complex" undermines Africans making progress toward their own solutions

Prof. Kathryn Mathers 2014 (visiting assistant professor in the Department of International Comparative Studies at Duke University) Op-Ed: Why Won’t White Savior Complex Go Away?23 July 2014 <http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/07/22/why-wont-white-savior-complex-go-away>

One of the most intrinsic characteristics of the white savior complex is its ability to ingrain and spread the notion that Westerners are the solution to African problems. This requires portraying the latter as helpless and endlessly recirculating images only of abandonment and violence, or innocence and primitivism. Another trait of the white savior complex is that unlike the imperial, top-down "white man's burden," it takes place in a virtual space shared by the savior and the people being saved and in a world in which the goals, personalities, and projects of white saviors can be immediately beamed out, commented on, "liked," or retweeted into the worlds of Africans themselves. This can undermine the work of Africans in their own communities. Africans are, after all, actively mobilizing new technologies and social media to shape their own worlds and engage directly with the ways that others represent them. So why, even in these shared spaces, do narratives in which Africans are just the backdrop to American saviors' stories still persist?

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