

Research Agenda

Until now the focus in Ethiopia and globally has mostly been on migrants, but little is known about the impact of migration on migrant households. This research project examines how economic, social and cultural transformations impact generational and gendered relationships among migrant households. Analysing the political economy of migration in Ethiopia, the project traces how social and cultural changes have affected migration, and how migration, in turn, affects the outcome of such changes within the household. Moreover, the project will examine how different members of the household are affected by resource changes resulting from migration and examine the extent to which this is linked to the bargaining power of women within the household. We build evidence to understand the nuances of social relations in migrant families and analyse the responsibilities and freedoms migration involves for migrants and for those staying behind. This more detailed analysis of how gender and generation intersect helps us unpack what factors motivate the migration of particular social categories and helps us reveal the immediate and long-term impact of migration and the shifts to which it may lead.

Main Research Questions

- How does migration affect the concept of a household?
- How do migration, changing gender relations, and changing subject positions intersect?
- What gendered patterns of remitting and remittance use can we observe among households in migrant communities? Is there a difference between households involved in internal, international, and both internal and international migration?
- What long term investment plans do households have and are they linked to remittances?
- How does migration affect the life choices in migrant families?

Objectives

The objective of this project is to get a better understanding of the relationship between migration, gender, generation and poverty. Focusing on the impact of migration, the project will explore differences between migration that is less expensive and easier to access and migration that involves more money, paperwork or journeys with many hurdles.

Potential Contributions of this Research Project

This research will identify ways in which UKAID can strengthen and promote safe migration while maximizing the benefits for migrants and their communities to stimulate sustainable development in Africa. The findings of this research will also highlight changing gender dynamics in rural Ethiopia and show how changes affect different age groups. The findings will be valuable to development and migration policy and practice for the Government of Ethiopia and other national and regional organizations working on migration, gender, youth and development issues in the region.