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40
YEARS

Proposal to Survey Remittance Behavior from the Perspective of Sudanese Working Abroad

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALIZATION DIVISION

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Structure

1. Context: opportunities and challenges
2. Research questions
3. Methodology
4. Questionnaire modules
5. Comments & feedback

Context: opportunities

- High importance of financing development:
 - Sustainable Development Goals
 - Fiscal Space, Financing Gap
 - Remittances are a vital source of finance...
 - But emphasis on innovative finance
 - Project: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen...

Context: challenges

- Structural:
 - Absence of national strategies & policies on remittances
 - Weak financial and institutional infrastructure
 - Lack of data on remittances
- Transitory (hopefully): slump in oil prices
 - Fiscal consequences for oil exporters
 - Volume of remittances for labor exporters

Research question

- How to increase the impact of Sudanese remittances?
- Possible levers based on determinants:
 - Number of emigrants = $f(\text{job opportunities @ home, intermediaries})$
 - Profile of emigrants (how much they make)
 - Economic situation in the recipient countries
 - Propensity to send = $f(\text{attachment, poverty level, cost of sending money...})$
 - What is done? Investment vs consumption*
- Windfall revenue (taxation) VS Return on investment



Research question

2/24/2015

Lebanon raises \$2bn in debt sale - FT.com

FINANCIAL TIMES

February 23, 2015 5:29 pm

Lebanon raises \$2bn in debt sale

Elaine Moore

Lebanon has raised the largest sum of new government debt in its history, borrowing more than \$2bn from markets in a heavily oversubscribed deal in spite of the growing threat posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, known as Isis, and war in neighbouring Syria.

Analysts attribute demand for its debt to the country's strong domestic banking sector, which is supported by a global diaspora four times larger than the population of Lebanon. The diaspora sends regular remittances back to the country and this funding means Lebanese banks have deposits roughly three times the size of the economy, allowing them to lend large sums to the state.

Methodology (i)

- Survey to collect data from Sudanese emigrants
 - Universe: Sudanese emigrants
 - Sampling method: Convenience
 - Sampling frame: Registered OSWA, Embassies?
 - Administration: Email
 - Sample: Based on sampling frame (1% r.r. -> huge!)
- Advantages
 - Cost
 - Groundbreaking (e.g. elasticity oil prices-poverty)

Methodology (ii)

- Disadvantages: Potential biases
 - Representativeness → Registration time
 - Email (significant?)
 - Profile, reason for leaving
 - Non-response → Short (5-10')
 - Huge sampling frame
 - Dishonesty → Disclaimer (ESCWA)
 - Online
 - Asking questions 'indirectly'

Questionnaire Modules

[Trade-off information–response rate]

- *Sociological*: age, education, family poverty...
- *Migration*: registration, means of transport, seasonal...
- *M/Investment*: agency, borrowed money...
- *Economic*: sector, income, bank account...
- *Remittance-sending*: costs, frequency, perceived risks, channel (formal vs informal)
- *Use*: Investment (taxi) VS Consumption for insurance/poverty alleviation VS Other consumption (e.g. imports)



Comments and Feedback

Thanks for your attention