

## **Remittances from Europe towards Africa: Importance, determinants and use, a comparison between Senegal and Democratic Republic of Congo.**

From data collected among households in Dakar and Kinshasa regions in 2007 and 2008, this paper aims to underline the patterns of remittances from Europe based Senegalese and Congolese migrants.

The study is based on MAFE (Migration between Europe and Africa) survey data in Senegal and Democratic Republic of Congo. The aim of this survey was to produce comparable quantitative data about circulation and life migration histories of current and former migrants, and also about related households left behind in country of origin. The global project concerned 3 African countries (Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana) and 6 European countries (France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, United Kingdom, Netherlands) where data has been collected, on household and on individual level, the second with a biographic questionnaire.

This paper will focus on migrants from two origin countries, Senegal and Democratic Republic of Congo. For Senegalese migration, the survey was lead in 2008 by INED (Institut National d'études démographiques) in Paris, France, and IPDSR (Institut de Population, Développement et Santé de la Reproduction de l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop) in Dakar, Senegal. For Congolese migration, the survey was lead from July to August 2007 by DSPD (Département de Sciences de la Population et du Développement de l'Université de Kinshasa and ID-UCL (Institut de démographie de l'Université catholique de Louvain). Collection took place in origin countries' capital area, in Dakar and Kinshasa region, as well as in destination countries, Belgium for Congolese migrants, and France, Spain and Italy for Senegalese.

This paper will only use the household part of the survey, collected in a sample of about 1200 households in Dakar region, and 1000 households in Kinshasa. That part of survey has different modules retracing the household composition and its evolution along years, each member's socio-demographic characteristics and all migrants related to the households. The remittances module in particular shows the links between migrants and households through monetary and non monetary remittances during the twelve month before the survey, the use of remittances by receiving households, and decision making in remittances affectation.

Three main questions are asked through the paper. First, how important are the remittances from Europe based Senegalese and Congolese migrants? The survey provides data at individual level.

Secondly, what are the factors that influence the propensity to remit, on the migrant side? Do those determinants vary from an origin country to another? From a destination to another? Another linked question, what are the factors influencing the propensity to receive money or goods, on the household side? Are economic factors the strongest in both cases? The method will be modelisation of the decision to remit and the amount remitted using migrants and households' different characteristics.

And third, how is the money received used? Who decided of the use of remittances? Are there any economic investment made? Is there any better being noticed for receiving households when compared to others?

Through a comparative view, the paper will show similarity and particularity in Senegalese and Congolese migrants and receiving households' remittances behaviour. Most of Europe based migrants remitted during the year before the survey, and they are more likely to remit than others. Migrants' occupational status is a strong influencing factor among other economic and social characteristics. On the receiving household side, head of household's economic characteristics are also important. Non workers are likely to remit less when they are abroad and to receive more in origin country. Sending frequencies differs from a country to another. In Dakar, remittances occur regularly, monthly for a great part of the receiving households. In Kinshasa, they only occur when households are facing problems, and a part is used to pay for school and healthcare fees. Amounts remitted are low and mainly used for day to day expenses such as food, house rent and transport. No real investment behaviour appears. Comparing the two communities of migrants, common features in remittances behaviour are illustrated and particularity of each migratory system can be underlined.