

*Levels and Trends of International Migration in  
North Africa*

*By:*

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# **Levels and Trends of International Migration in North Africa**

**By**

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## **I. Introduction**

International migration has always been considered a demographic and socio-economic phenomenon, which is affected by both internal and external factors. The most important among these factors is the needs of labor markets. Bordering of Northern African to the wealthy countries of the European Union (EU) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has occurred as a response to the increasing demand on labor in these countries. Large flows of Northern African migrants to Europe can be also explained by the geographical proximity of two regions. Established migration channels, such as between France and the Maghreb countries, have existed for several decades. This pattern has continued until today (IOM, 2005).

Over 8 million migrants originating from North-African countries are currently believed to live abroad, among which 4.7 million in Europe and 2.4 million in Arab oil countries. At the same time, North Africa observed significant intra-regional labor migration, in particular to oil-producing Libya. Over the last decade, North Africa migration system described as migration transition system. The most important feature of this transition is, increasing immigration from sub-Saharan countries to North Africa countries, as a transit zone, for those who willing to migrate to Europe.

### **1.2. Study Objectives**

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In view of the previous introduction the study will have the following objectives:

1. Reviewing the historical and current pattern of migration from North Africa region.
2. Discussing the phenomenon of increasing feminization of labor migrations and its appearance among North African migrants.
3. Discussing of some economic aspects of migration in the North Africa region such as remittance, and Brain Drain.
4. Discussing the current and future streams of illegal migrations and trafficking in the region.

### **1.3. Data sources**

Due to the shortage of available and updated data to perform migration studies in general and more specific in North Africa region, the study will depend on the most available data from different sources, such as:

1. Mediterranean Migration report 2005
2. United Nations database
3. Statistics Yearbooks of International Monetary Fund (IMF)
4. In addition to some tables and figures from the previously published scientific studies and reports of International Labor Organization (ILO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM)

### **1.3. Methodology**

The study will mainly depend on the descriptive approach in its discussion and analysis. It also will support by the calculation of some percentage distribution, and percentage of change and figures to clarify the phenomena and outcomes.

## **II. Migration in North Africa**

## **2.1. Historical Review of Migration in North Africa**

The historical expansion of migration from North Africa to Europe is closely connected with the colonial ties between Europe and the countries of this region. Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, lead the migration flows from North Africa to Europe (Safir, 1999). The end of the WW II was a landmark in the history of Maghrebian Migration to Europe. By the end of the War, the total number of Maghrebians in France increased to more than 40 thousands. Post-war reconstruction works and the out-migration from Southern Europe in the 1950s and 1960s (King, 2000) created a growing demand on foreign labor, which stimulated migration streams from Maghreb to France for almost three decades (1945-1975). By the mid-seventies of last century, the estimated number of Maghrebians in France was 1.1 million. However, mid-seventies is regarded as the official end of Maghreb migration to Europe. Due to the economic depression in Europe that followed the 1973 rise in oil prices, the demand for foreign labor decreased and new restrictions on immigration were introduced. These new regulation stimulated the illegal migration. We can look to the illegal migration as a reaction of closing doors in front of North Africa immigrants.

During this time, the views of Maghreb countries toward international migration were liberal and encouraging. Maghreb countries motivate migration for two reasons: reducing unemployment rate, and increasing monetary flows from labor remittances.

## **2.2. Current Review of Migration in North Africa**

Since 1990, EU states reinforced their external border controls and constricted their visa policies (Fargues 2004). However, North African migration to Europe showed a change in terms of destination countries. Spain and Italy have emerged as new major destination countries for Moroccans, Tunisian (mainly to Italy), Algerian (mainly to Spain) and Egyptian (mainly to Italy). Also Portugal hosts an increased flow of undocumented migrant workers (Peixoto 2002).

After 1995, an unexpected resumption of labor migration occurred not only from the Maghreb but also from Egypt to southern Europe (Fargues 2004). The remarkable growth in

export-oriented agriculture, construction and tourism in southern Europe has generated an increasing demand for seasonal, flexible and low-skill labor, in the relatively large informal sectors of these countries (Fargues 2004, Schneider and Enste, 2002). It is also associated with an increasing proportion of Maghrebian labor migrants to Southern Europe from women who work as domestic workers or in agriculture and small industries (Salih 2001). From 1990, another trend of highly educated migrants from the Maghreb countries to Canada and USA is observed.

### **2.3. Recent Profile of North Africa Migrants**

Table 1 shows that, on a total of 7.7 million, approximately 4.6 and 2.3 million North African migrant were believed to live in Europe and Arab countries, respectively. Morocco has the largest emigrant population of all countries involved with 3.1 million expatriates, followed by Egypt (2.7 million), Algeria (1.1 million) and Tunisia (840,000). Data of receiving countries lead to substantially lower estimates by about 40% for Morocco, 24% for Algeria, 48% for Tunisia and 59% for Egypt. In the case of the Maghreb countries, this seems to primarily reflect the fact that many receiving countries do not include persons who acquire their nationality as well as second generation in these estimates. Under-registration related to undocumented migration seems to play an additional role in enlarging this job, particularly in the case of Egypt,

At the country level, Moroccans comprise the largest migrant nationality among Maghrebians and North Africans in Europe in general, and specifically, in France. The total number of Moroccan residing abroad is 3.1 million, represents about 10% of the current population. The total number of Moroccans in Europe is about 2.6 million (in 2004) comprising about 85% of Moroccans residing abroad and 56% of Northern African migrants in Europe (Table 1). Most of Moroccans are concentrated in France (46.5%), Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, Spain, and Italy respectively. Algerians rank second after Moroccans in Europe with about one million migrants, constitute about 92% of Algerians residing abroad and 21% of Northern African migrants in Europe. Their traditional destination is France (more than 90%). Tunisian migrants in Europe comprise 83% of Tunisians residing abroad and 15% of Northern

African migrants in Europe. France is the traditional destination of Tunisian migrants in Europe (75%), followed by Italy (15%) as the second destination country of Tunisian migrants.

Egypt has seen a widespread migration flow directed to GCC countries and other Mashreq Arab countries. Egyptian migrants in Arab countries about 1.9 million (in 2000), represents about 70% of Egyptians residing abroad (Table 1). Egyptian migrants in Europe comprise only 12% of Egyptians residing abroad and 8% of Northern African migrants in Europe. Italy is the preferred destination for Egyptian migrants in Europe (28%), followed by Greece and Netherlands (18% 12% respectively).

Country of Origin	Years	Region of residence				
		Europe	Arab countries	Northern America continent <sup>(1)</sup>	Other regions <sup>(2)</sup>	Total
Algeria	1995	991.796	66.398	13.933	119	1.072.246
Egypt	2000	326.000	1.912.729	428.000	70.000	2.736.729
Morocco	2004	2.616.871	282.772	178.914	10.533	3.089.090
Tunisia	2003	701.660	38.816	22.800	79.928	843.204
<b>Total</b>		4.636.327	2.300.715	643.647	160.580	7.741.269

**Sources:** Calculated from tabulated data of “Mediterranean Migration-2005 Report”.

(1): includes United States of America and Canada.

(2): includes Asia, Africa, and Australia.

Egyptians comprise the largest migrant nationality among Northern African in USA. The total number of Egyptians in USA is 318 thousands, represents about 12% of Egyptians residing abroad, and 50% of Northern African migrants in Northern America continent.

## **2.1. Characteristics of North Africa Migrants**

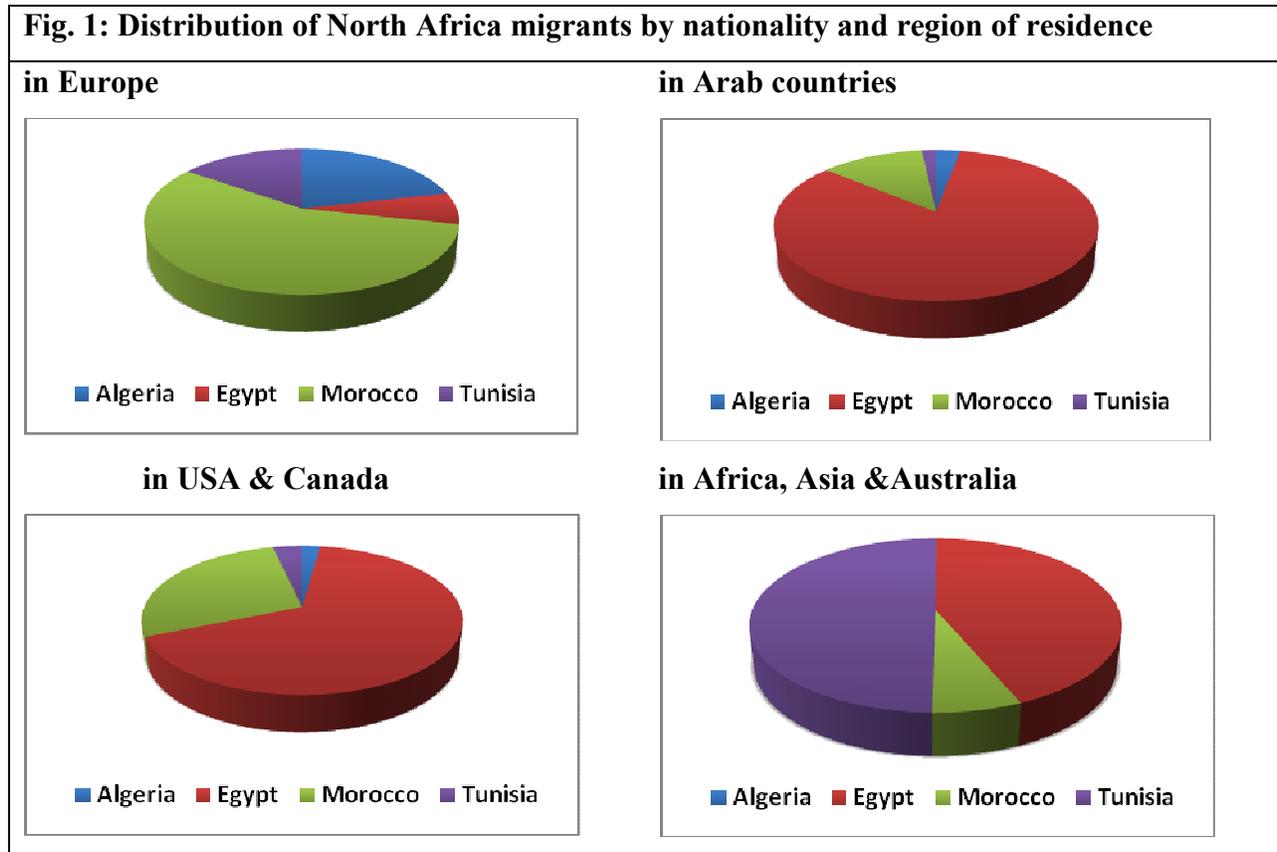
Traditionally, North African migration to Europe has generally been characterized by the migration of unskilled and semi-skilled workers from rural areas who obtained manual jobs in industry or agriculture, and usually works in informal service sectors. Recently, migration has become more selective for education, more urban and more female (Salih 2001; Labdelaoui 2005). These changes reflect a veritable change in migration selectivity in the destination countries, general processes of urbanization in the both destinations and source countries, and the improvements in literacy and educational achievement in the source countries. However, increase of demand on migration among North Africans, high unemployment among university graduates, and the lack of career opportunities and job satisfaction contributed to selectivity of skilled and higher educated among out-migrants in one hand, and raising the problem of a harmful brain drain in the other hand.

Migration from Egypt to the Gulf has traditionally comprised a relatively high proportion of professionals, which is confirmed by empirical evidence that in Egypt international migrants were better educated than non-migrants on average (Schoorl *et al.* 2000). High-skilled migration from Egypt outside beyond Arab world has traditionally been focused on the US, Canada and Australia. Highly skilled emigration from students and professionals from the Maghreb was traditionally focused on France, but after 1990 there has been a significant increase of highly-skilled migration to the US and Canada.

The extensive data analysis identified a striking pattern in which Europe attracts the lower educated while the US and Canada succeed in attracting the higher skilled North Africans (Fargues *et al.* 2005).

A final change in the characteristics of Maghrebian migrants is increasing feminization of labor migration. Many factors played important roles in this increase. More general trends of women's liberation related to their radically improved education and high female unemployment rates played as push factors in the places of origin. While the increasing demand for domestic laborers, nannies, cleaners and other jobs in the informal service sector of Europe played as pull factors in the places of destination. Simultaneously, the share of dependent male migrants has

been increased due to increasingly common marriage migration (Fadloulah *et al.* 2000; Hammouda 2005; Labdelaoui 2005; de Haas 2003).



### III. Females Among North African Migrants

Although the global history of migration suggested that the mainstreams of international migrants were male, some recent assessments show that this does not describe the global migration during the last half of the 20th century. In some countries, more than half of migrants are female (ILO, 2007). The female proportion is higher in countries that long have been open to immigration, including the United States, Canada, and Australia. They are more likely to be migrating spouses. In countries that permit only temporary migration, the proportion of men may

be higher, particularly if admission is limited to certain types of occupations typically dominated by men, such as miners.

Female migrations are more extensive from South-to-South, than migrations from South-to-North. Two million Asian migrant women work in countries neighboring their own. The same applies to African women migrants, except in a few regions like Maghreb countries where traditionally most migration involves sea crossings. Most migrant women from Sub-Saharan Africa only move within the borders of their region. The last decades appeared a new trend with very large number of women migrating from South-to-South over a long distance. The Gulf States represent one of the principal destinations for Asian women, since 1995. The figure for Asian women migrating to the Middle East each year estimated as 800,000. One millions Indonesian, Filipino and Sri Lankan women work in Saudi Arabia. However, women migrating from South- to-North are increasing in numbers, women being more in demand in almost all the social occupations.

Many factors are affecting the international migration of women. These factors are classified as individual, familial and societal factors:

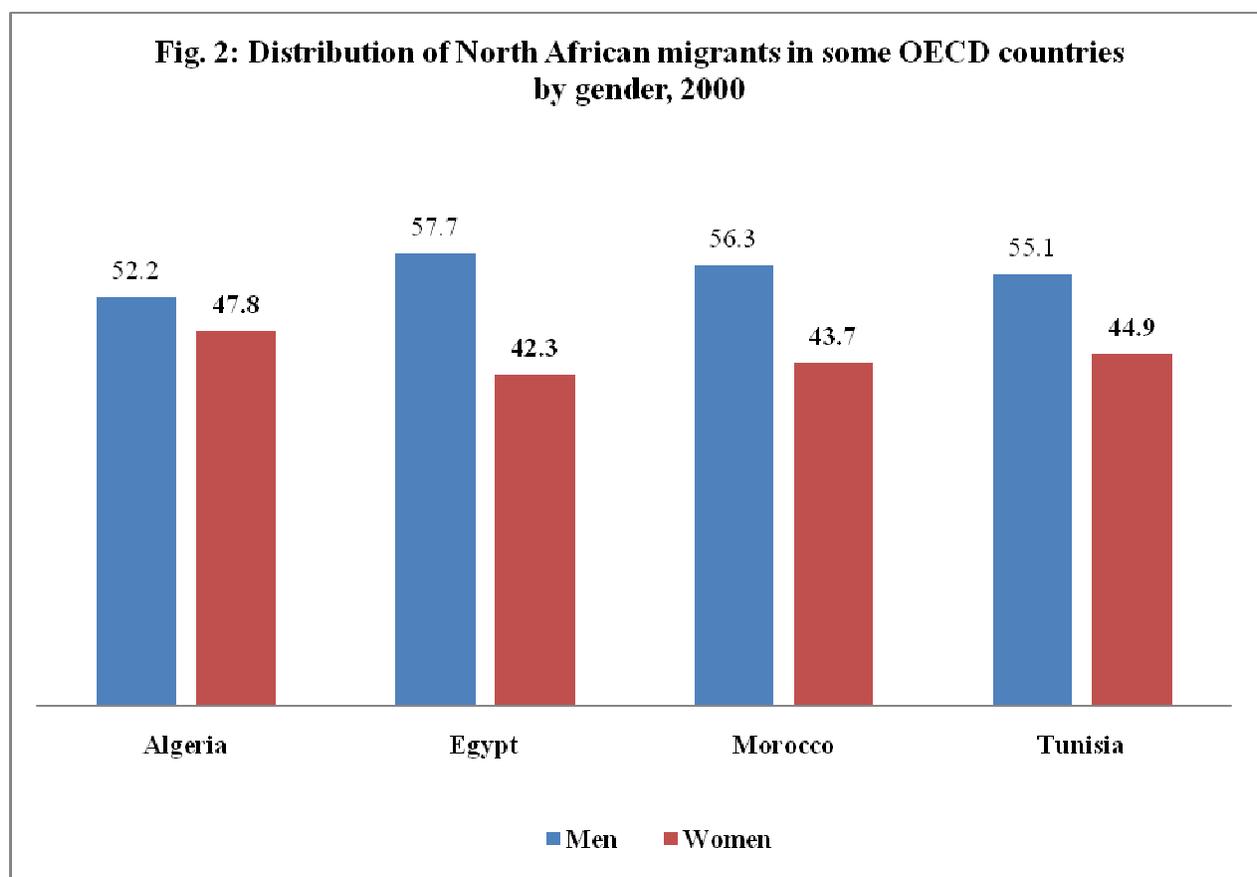
Individual factors include age, birth order, race/ethnicity, urban/rural origins, marital status, reproductive status (with or without children), role in the family (wife, daughter, mother), position in family (authoritative or subordinate), educational status, occupational skills, labor force experience, and class position. Family factors include size, age/sex composition, life-cycle stage, structure (nuclear, extended, etc.), parent-ship status (single parent or both parents), and class standing. Societal factors include the norms and cultural values and its view toward the woman's migration, these factors determine the ability of women to migrate and where, how, and with whom can migrate (Martin, 2003).

Data of the proportion of female among migrants from North Africa countries is very rare. Data of table 2 represents the most available source in this regard. It shows that, in general, about 45% of migrants from the countries of North Africa to OECD countries are female. The highest

percent of female emigrants observed among Algerians (47.8%) followed by Tunisians (44.9%) then Moroccans (43.7%) and lastly among Egyptians, where female emigrants represents about 42.3%).

Country	Men	Women	# of migrants
Algeria	52.2	47.8	1.364.674
Egypt	57.7	42.3	337.405
Morocco	56.3	43.7	1.604.702
Tunisia	55.1	44.9	443.710

Source: UN/POP/EGM/2006/11.P. 10.



Much of the available data unclassified by age and other socio-economic variables, so that little light on the impact of the growing feminization of migration can be deduced.

In general, most of female migration is legal: The main reasons of moving are work or family ties, with legal "permission" from sending and destination countries, or they arrive as refugees (Martin, 2001).

#### **IV. Some Aspects of Labor Migration in North Africa**

##### **4.1. Remittance**

Remitted money and goods by migrants to their home country is one of the most important aspects of migration. Such flows of wealth are important to both migrants' families and the economy of sending countries (Caldwell 1969). Remittance is defined as money transmitted from one place to another. Remittance can also be sent in-kind. However, Remittance term usually refer to cash transfers.

The historical review to the development of the workers' remittances indicates that, total remittances increased from less than \$2 billion in 1970 to \$75 billion in 1994. Remittance data are generally under-reported. The most available data of workers' remittances during the period 1995-2000 represents in tables 3. And 4 indicate that:

- Global workers' remittances increased from \$74.6 Billion in 1994 to \$103.1 billion in 2000. While the development of remittances was yearly-irregular, but the general pattern indicate to an increase of 3.5% annually during the period 1995-2000.
- Developing countries has an increasing share of workers' remittances during the period 1995-2000. Their share shifted from \$49.7 billion represents 58.5% of total remittances in 1995 to \$65.9 billion represents 63.9% of total remittances in 2000. Middle East share

of global remittances dropped from about 7.2% of total remittances in 1995 to about 5.9% in 2000.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total remittances (\$ billions)</b>	<b>Share of the most recipient regions (% of total remittances)</b>				
		<b>Asia</b>	<b>Latin America and Caribbean</b>	<b>Middle East</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Africa</b>
<b>1995</b>	85.06	23.0	15.1	7.2	7.0	6.3
<b>1996</b>	88.27	26.0	14.4	7.1	7.5	6.3
<b>1997</b>	103.19	28.9	13.1	6.8	7.2	6.1
<b>1998</b>	99.81	23.0	15.1	6.5	9.2	6.4
<b>1999</b>	103.58	26.3	16.1	6.3	7.9	5.8
<b>2000</b>	103.10	24.7	18.2	5.9	8.6	6.4

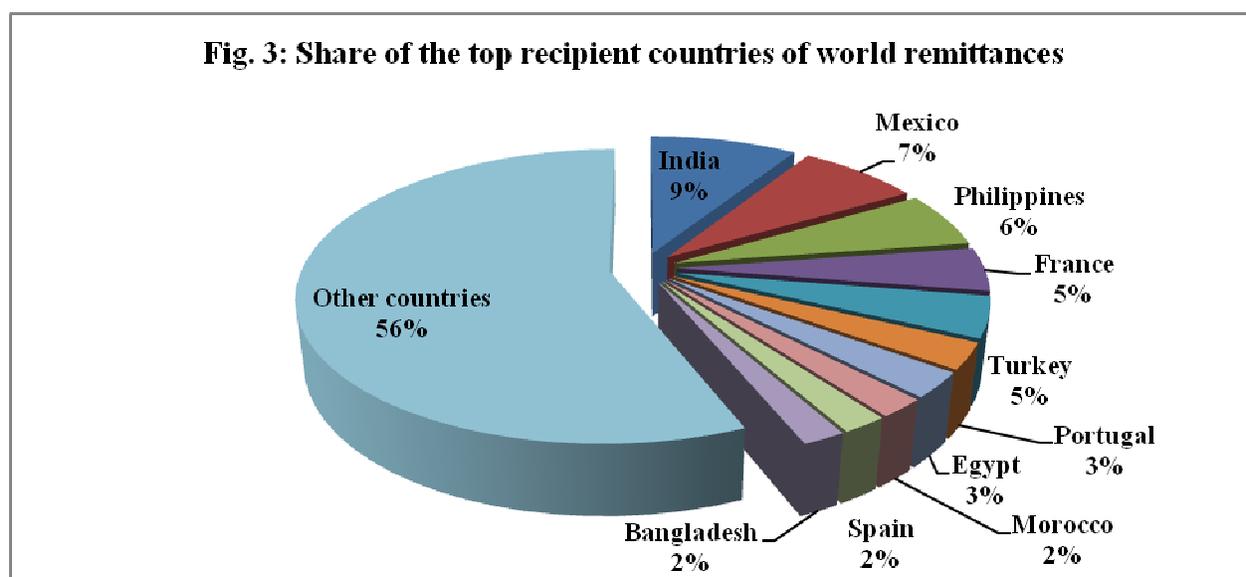
Source: IMF Balance of payments Statistics Yearbook 2001.

- Saudi Arabia and USA are the highest paid countries of remittances. India, Mexico and Philippines are the highest three recipient countries of remittances in the world. Egypt and Morocco are among the highest ten receiving countries of migrant remittances worldwide.

The size and frequency of remittance flows are determined by several factors. Some are related to migrant characteristics and their conditions, such as wage rates, educational levels, years since out-migration, whether or not accompanied by dependents, and household income level. The other factors are related to the economics and political conditions such as size of migrant workers, economic activity in the host and in the sending country, exchange rates, political risk, facilities for transferring funds, and relative interest rate between labor sending and receiving countries.

<b>Table 4: Ranking of top paid and recipient countries of global remittances, 2000</b>			
<b>Paid countries</b>		<b>Recipient countries</b>	
<b>Countries</b>	<b>Amount (\$ billions)</b>	<b>Countries</b>	<b>Amount (\$ billions)</b>
<b>USA</b>	24.2	<b>India</b>	9.1
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	15.4	<b>Mexico</b>	7.5
<b>Switzerland</b>	5.7	<b>Philippines</b>	6.1
<b>Germany</b>	4.0	<b>France</b>	4.8
<b>Israel</b>	3.0	<b>Turkey</b>	4.5
<b>Luxembourg</b>	2.1	<b>Portugal</b>	2.9
<b>Japan</b>	1.7	<b>Egypt</b>	2.8
<b>Kuwait</b>	1.6	<b>Morocco</b>	2.1
<b>Oman</b>	1.4	<b>Spain</b>	2.0
		<b>Bangladesh</b>	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.1</b>		<b>43.7</b>

Source: IMF Balance of payments Statistics Yearbook 2001.



Remitted funds are important for the economy of the Maghreb country at the macro level as well as at the micro level (Safir, 1999). For the last two decades or more, migrants' remittances to North Africa have constituted the highest ratio to GDP of any region in the world: in 2002, they were 3.1% of GDP, compared with 1.6% for Latin America or 0.6% for sub-Saharan Africa (United Nations, 2004a).

Remittances and tourism represents the major source of foreign currency in Morocco. Remittances to Morocco mainly come from France, where 48.6% of foreign currency flow is remitted from. Another 40.3% of remittances come from other European countries (Mainly, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium/Luxembourg, United Kingdom, and Germany). A low percents of remitted money come from Arab Gulf countries and the United States of America, they represents about 4.6% and 4.2% of total Moroccan remittances respectively (Zohry, 2005).

Remittances flow of Algerian and Tunisian migrants are follow the same shape of Morocco but with a low amounts. The total amount of funds remitted by Algerian migrants abroad was \$1 billion in 2000. Most of this amount was remitted from France. Remittances made by Tunisian migrants abroad are the lowest among the Maghreb countries. The Tunisian migrants' remittances are about \$0.75 billion per annum (IMF, 1990-2003). Tourism and remittances constitute increasing sources of foreign currency for the Tunisian economy. Remittances are among Egypt's largest sources of foreign currency. The total remitted money by Egyptians abroad was \$2.8 billion in 2001 (CBE, 2003). According to the International Monetary Fund data, Egypt ranked seventh among receiving countries of remittances. Remittances from Egyptian migrants in Europe comprise only 15% of the total remittances by Egyptians abroad (\$425 million). The correlation between number of migrants and the percentage share of remittances is not clear in the European case. The percentage contribution of Egyptians to the total amount remitted from countries such as Italy, Greece, and Netherlands which are the main destinations of Egyptian migrants in Europe, is less than in countries with fewer number of Egyptians such as Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It is also important to indicate that unrecorded remitted money by Egyptians abroad represents about 33% of total funds remitted to

Egypt. This percentage depends on the extent of foreign exchange controls in the economies. The more open the economy, the greater the incentive to use formal remittance channels.

#### **4.2. Brain Drain.**

Over the last two decades, the migration of highly skilled professionals from North Africa has become of great concern. Although the rare data is available in this regard, but there are some evidences explain the strength of phenomena of brain drain from North Africa. In just one scientific institution in France there are over 1600 researchers from the Maghreb, of which nearly half are Moroccan (Mghari, 2004).

The merely review of the size of brain drain from North Africa is insufficient to explain to what extent that Northern Africa countries are suffer from brain drain. The picture becomes more obvious when the size of brain drain related to the equivalent residents. Data of tables 5 shows that:

- In general, North African brain drain to OECD countries represents about 8.4% of all highly educated residents in the working age groups. The reading of this percentages means, in front of each 1000 highly educated resident in the working ages, there are another 84 are lost due to emigration.
- Although Egypt has the highest absolute number in brain drain to OECD countries (about 150 thousands) but Maghreb Countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria respectively) are the most influenced by the phenomenon of brain drain.
- Burden of brain drain in Morocco is the highest. Morocco brain drain represents about 20.4% of residents with comparable educational/skills levels. We can read this percent in other way by saying almost 17% of Moroccan highly educated persons are usually migrating to OECD countries. This percentage may shift to more than 20% if we include highly educated migrants to other countries rather than OECD.

- High-pay-rates is not the only reason behind the exodus of professionals from North Africa, but this is a phenomenon reflects the general labor market and social conditions. Disability of economic and business sectors in achieving higher development and investment rates and creating new job opportunities, acting as the most influence reason behind increasing brain drain in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia. The Political and social instability plays a significant role in increasing brain drain in Algeria.
- Migration of tertiary educated persons from North Africa region is the biggest brain drain stream among Arab regions. It represents about 52% of the Arab brain drain to OECD countries (Hassan, 2008).

Country	Migrants to OECD (Thousands)		% of brain drain to total migrants	Highly educated residents in working-ages (Thousands)	% of brain drain to highly educated residents
	Highly educated (brain drain)	Total			
<b>Algeria</b>	85.5	607.8	14.1	822	10.4
<b>Egypt</b>	149.4	253.9	58.9	3131	4.8
<b>Morocco</b>	141.2	1095.2	12.9	691	20.4
<b>Tunisia</b>	39.4	264.1	14.9	274	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>415.5</b>	<b>2221</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>4918</b>	<b>8.4</b>

**Source:** Hassan, K. (2008) in the Regional Report of Arab Labor Migration 2008, Population Policies and Migration Department, League of Arab States (LAS).

Brain drain patterns in North Africa are largely shaped by the sub-region's geographic proximity and historic ties with Europe. The dominant brain drain flow is from the three

French-speaking countries Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to France or Belgium, but also increasingly Italy. Some movements to North America also take place. Highly skilled Egyptians favor southern Europe and the UK as well as North American destinations (IMO, World Migration Report, 2003). The biggest migratory flows from Africa to the United States are from Egypt.

- European countries are the favored destination for highly educated migrants from Maghreb countries. Approximately 57% of brain drain streams from Maghreb countries are directed to Europe. Morocco is the highest- among North Africa region- in sending of highly educated migrants to Europe, where 44.9% of North Africa brain drain to Europe are Moroccans.
- America is the second preferred destination for highly educated migrants from North Africa region. Approximately 39% of the North Africa brain drain is directed to America. America is the main destination for Egyptian brain drain, where about 62% of North Africa highly skilled migrants who directed to America are Egyptians.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Destination regions</b>			<b>Total</b>
	<b>America <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Asia &amp; Oceania <sup>(2)</sup></b>	
<b>Algeria</b>	22.1	77.2	0.7	85537
<b>Egypt</b>	67.1	20.9	12.0	149432
<b>Morocco</b>	24.8	74.7	0.5	141168
<b>Tunisia</b>	17.8	81.7	0.5	39350

**Source:** Hassan, K. (2008) in the Regional Report of Arab Labor Migration 2008, Population Policies and Migration Department, League of Arab States (LAS).

(1): Includes US, Canada, and Mexico.

(2): Oceania indicates to Australia and New Zealand.

- Low percentage of North Africa brain drains are directed to Asia and Oceania (only 4%). Egypt is the leading country in the region in sending highly skilled migrants to this region, where 92% of North Africa highly skilled migrants who directed to Asia and Oceania are Egyptians.

## **V. Illegal Migrations and Transit Migration in North Africa.**

### **5.1. Illegal Migration**

Illegal migration is motivated by the willing among individuals in developing countries to move to a developed country, settle down and work in the host country in order to improve their living standards and socio-economic conditions and escape poverty in their countries of origin. In the face of the tightened policy adopted by the European community, especially after the Schengen agreement in 1990, illegal migration increased and illegal migration networks grew. Due to the secret nature of these movements, accurate numbers of individuals involved are difficult to estimate. The main two routs of illegal migration from North Africa to South Europe are: from Morocco to Spain (estimated as 14,000 to 21,000 person yearly, and the authorities in Spain caught yearly around 7,000 undocumented migrants in the late 1990's); and from Tunisia and Libya to the nearby Italian coasts and islands across the Mediterranean (it has some 80.000 migrants per year, landing in Sicily and nearby islands, and Malta) (International Center for Migration Policy Development ICMPD, 2004a). Although the governments of sending countries set measures to stop illegal migration, they cannot eradicate it completely. Also, the governments of host countries in Europe cannot stop the movements of illegal migration.

### **5.2. Transit Migration**

For simple geographical reasons, the countries of proximity to the Northern Mediterranean have been either source countries or, more recently, increasingly countries of transit illegal migration. North African countries have become a gateway to Europe and they used as transit route by desperate migrants from sub-Saharan Africa in particular. The number of sub-Saharan

migrants in Libya is estimated at around 2 million in year 2001, and the number of migrants who enter the Maghreb countries is estimated at around 63,000 to 80,000 yearly through the 1990's.

Egypt is thought to possess some 2.7 million emigrants (around 4% of current population), of which one third is permanent migration (Martin, 2005). It has also an estimated three million unrecognized Sudanese refugees (IOM, 2003b: 20) plus numerous other nationalities, such as Somali (Al-Sharmani, 2004) and Palestinian (El Abed, 2003) – all predominantly located in Cairo. The total number of refugees could be as high as 5 million (Martin, 2005), making Egypt clearly a country of net immigration.

Due to the undocumented character of this migration, there are no reliable estimates about the numbers of sub-Saharan migrants living in North-African countries, although it seems certain that their communities are increasing. Alioua (2005) estimates the number of sub-Saharan migrants and refugees living in Morocco at several tens of thousands. According to Libyan authorities, each year between 75,000 and 100,000 foreign nationals enter the country. Libyan local authorities estimate the number of legal foreign workers at 600,000, while illegal immigrants are estimated to number between 750,000 and 1.2 million (Bredeloup and Pliez 2005). Another source claims that Libya houses 2 to 2.5 million immigrants (including 200,000 Moroccans, 60,000 Tunisians and 20,000 to 30,000 Algerians and 1 to 1.5 million sub-Saharan Africans), representing 25 to 30 percent of its total population (Boubakri 2004).

The major transit migration routes, as identified through empirical research by ICMPD, for Africa. The main arrival areas are the Canary Islands, the Gibraltar Strait and the Sicily islands. Most illegal migrants departing from Libya (80%) and Algeria (20%) (ICMPD, 2004a). ICMPD estimates that 100-120.000 irregular migrants cross the Mediterranean every year, of which 35.000 are of sub-Saharan origin, 30.000 from other countries of origin (e.g. Asia) and 55.000 from the South or East Mediterranean (ICMPD, 2004a). Additionally, there is an estimate of lives lost in the Mediterranean crossings (based on detected corpses on the Spanish coastline) of some 2.000 persons per year.

The restriction of migration leads to the increase of smuggling industry. Most of the undocumented migrants are helped to cross borders by human smugglers as the smuggling became an industry with enormous profit. Their annual income is estimated around 3-4 million dollars in Europe only. It exceeded 10 billion dollars per year worldwide.

Therefore, the migration process and policies have entered a vicious circle. Poverty, unemployment, globalization of media, wars and conflicts have increased migration pressure along with closure of borders which leads to the irregular/undocumented migration and the stimulation of the industry of smuggler.

## **VI. Policy Recommendations**

In view of the previous discussion, the following policy recommendations are worth considered.

- Creating mechanisms that allow the adoption of new and creative visions, approaches and instruments to humanize migration and maximize its benefits.
- Increasing dialogue advocacy, cooperation, and partnership to management of migration in a way that serves the need for development in both sending and receiving countries and to contribute in the cooperation for development.
- Supporting research and study efforts in order to reach a better understanding of the migration process, impact and opportunities, and building information databases that supply documented and up-to-date data necessary for better migration management and policies.
- Providing capacity building support for governmental and NGO's bodies that deal with migration issue in the sending countries for better management of migration and utilization of its benefits and opportunities.

- Priority should be given to the migration issue in the United Nations, International Organizations, World Bank and other international and regional institutions agendas'. Moreover, the pressing need for establishing efficient and specialized mechanisms/bodies dealing with international migration.
- Ensuring the respect of international migration conventions and protocols including those protecting the rights of migrants, when adopting and implementing migration policies.

### **Strategies to Link Migration and Development:**

Building an efficient migration management, regional and international strategies linking migration and development should be introduced.

As much as the causes and effects of migration are complex, the linkages between migration and development are not as simple as they may appear. Large cross-border movements can be a response to the ever-increasing gaps in living standards and income between countries; this often means a loss of human capital where it is most needed for development. At the same time, emigration from North Africa can help to alleviate imbalances, including population pressures; furthermore, the mobilization of human and financial resources abroad can become an additional force of origin country development.

- Cooperation between countries of destination, transit and origin is required to fully appreciate and develop the positive benefits of migration and reduce potential divergences of interest from all countries involved.
- Recognizing common migration interests, governments are increasingly negotiating strategies supporting both the sustainable development of sending countries and the labor needs of receiving countries – while giving due regard to migrants' rights. These kinds of negotiated arrangements are based on integrated policy approaches that link migration to

development cooperation, trade and investment, as well as demographic and social development at the regional, national and international levels (IOM, 2000).

- Meaningful management of labor-related migration and remittances to harness their targeted contribution to development efforts could have a potentially enormous positive impact on North Africa countries at national, community and family levels. The present problem, however, is that the linkages between brain drain, labor migration and remittances and their impact on development are only fragmentarily understood and favored by governments in many of the continent's countries.
- Undoubtedly, brain drain has deprived North Africa countries of many of the well-educated and skilled nationals they invested in for years. Brain drain problems cannot simply be solved by replacing emigrants with younger generations. Instead, it is necessary to develop innovative forms of emigrant return and contribution as well as strategies for better sharing of knowledge, skills and experience with non-migrants in view of national development priorities. Definitive return of skilled migrants does not appear to be viable as long as socio-economic and political conditions in the origin countries continue to deteriorate.
- Plans to reverse the brain drain are highly encouraging. This can be done by building critical human resources for North Africa's development and to develop strategies for utilizing the transfer know-how and skills of North Africans in the Diaspora for the development of their origin. It aims top building partnerships between host countries and countries of origin that promote positive effects of migration for both and limiting the negative effects of the brain drain.
- Creating and updating databases of skilled migrants to identify their qualifications, competences, geographic location and areas of possible interventions.

- Enabling effective partnership between various actors such as skilled migrants, policymakers, local authorities, business, civil society, and trade unions.
- Developing appropriate migration policies, mainstreaming skilled migration into development policies, and strengthening regional and multinational cooperation.

Although the policies of releasing the developmental potential of migration is limited, governments and development agencies can play a role in increasing the positive impact of migration on development in sending countries through the following ways:

- Firstly, they can try to reduce the transaction costs of remittances.
- Secondly, remittances can be encouraged through exempting remittances from taxation.
- Furthermore, the governments of both receiving and sending countries can provide direct and indirect support to the numerous self-help organizations that migrants have established with the aim of promoting development or establishing development projects in sending countries.

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