

СЕКЦІЯ 6

ЕКОНОМІКА ПРИРОДОКОРИСТУВАННЯ ТА ОХОРОНИ НАВКОЛИШНЬОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА

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Barbora Janubová
Ing., PhD Student
Faculty of International relations,
University of Economics

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITY OF HAITI

ANNOTATION

The article deals with economic and environmental vulnerability of Haiti resulting in migration outflow. This paper identifies the main problems connected with migration from Haiti. We focus on both, internal and international migration, and their impacts on the economy of Haiti. We also observe an influence of environmental issues on migration flows. The unequal distribution and opportunities led to rural-urban migration and today Haiti is strongly urbanised country. The specific feature of international migration from Haiti is migration of skilled persons what lead to brain drain. The other impacts are the remittances and inequality on which we also focus in the paper.

Keywords: Haiti, internal migration, international migration, inequality, remittances, urbanization.

Introduction. Haiti belongs to the least developed countries and fragile states. Since 1990, Haiti has had over nineteen governments, with prime ministers averaging only about sixteen months in office. Thousands of Haitians migrate due to this political instability, economic reasons, and hazardous environment every year. In the case of Haiti, internal and international migration is important parts of Haitian economy. The remittances and internal financial transfers seem to be an additional income for households but also a source of higher inequality.

This paper identifies the main problems connected with migration from Haiti. We focus on both, internal and international migration, and their impacts on economy of Haiti. We also observe an influence of environmental issues on migration flows.

Paper starts with a brief overview of the current state of Haitian economy. Then, we focus on both cases, international and internal migration. Firstly, we devote rural-urban migration as an adaptation strategy on economic and environmental problem of Haiti. In the next part, we discuss international migration from Haiti. The last section is dedicated to impacts of migration on Haitian economy.

1 Current state of Haitian economy

Haiti, one of the least developed countries, faces challenges to fight poverty, generate faster growth and mitigate environmental impacts. Today, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 58.5% of the population living

under the national poverty line [17]. GDP reached 8,877 billion in 2015 and *economic growth continues to decelerate from 2.8% in fiscal year 2014, to 1.2% in 2015 and is expected to be around 0.8% in 2016, due to lower investments, uncertain political environment and a modest recovery of the agricultural sector after a severe drought* [18].

Haitian free market economy has tariff-free access to the United States for many of its exports. And, the US are the main trade partner for Haiti which exports Knit T- Shirts which represent 42.4% of the total exports of Haiti, followed by Knit Sweaters, which account for 17.7% [13]. On the second hand, the most recent imports are led by rice, followed by cotton fabrics, sugar, wheat, refined petroleum, and palm oil. Haitian economy is poorly diversified economy with low labour costs which are weak incentive for foreign investment. Next obstacle is hazardous environmental state on which we focus below.

2 Migration as an answer to economic and environmental problems

Many of Haitians leave their country due to hazardous environment and frequent disasters. Migration of both types, international and internal, represents important feature and growing determinant of Haitian economy.

2.1 Rural - urban migration

Rural-urban migration, a predominant internal movement in Haiti, led to an uncontrolled urbanization. When Haiti achieved independence in 1804, began the dysfunctional process of state formation resulted in a chaotic pattern of urbanisation. Tens of thousands of newcomers from rural areas settled on unclaimed land around the capital Port-au-Prince, especially on vulnerable parts of city. These poor peasants were forced to leave their communities because of the collapse of the agrarian economy and now belong to the most disadvantaged communities [3, p. 32.]. Especially, the capital is the most urbanized area in the country with the density of 75% (Figure 1).

The last few decades have witnessed that the urbanization process started to accelerate rapidly and today, Haiti is quite heavily urbanised with more than 59% of its population living in urban

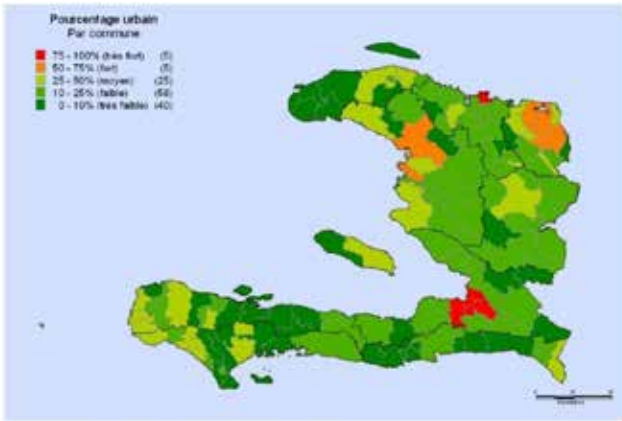


Fig. 1. Density of population in Haiti

Source: IHSI (Institut Haitien de statistique et d'informatique), 2016

areas [22]. In comparison, the urban rate reached just 16% in the 1960s. According to the United Nations the share of urban population will reach 60% by 2025 and will approach almost 80% by 2050 (Figure 1). Today, Haiti belongs to the less urbanized countries within the Latin American regions, but this gap will shrink in the future (Figure 2).

Due to climate changes, thousands of Haitians move from their homes. In the case of rural-urban migration, this shift is more than a transmission of population from one place to another – it also involves a transformation of lives and livelihoods. Today, 74,4% inhabitants in urban areas live in slums [1]. Although even more than 90% of Haitians lived in slums in 1990s (Table 1), that

indicates an inability of the Government of Haiti to provide the housing, infrastructure of basic services for newcomers in cities.

The problem of unequal distribution of population resulted in strong concentration of Haitians in capital. In Port au Prince lived 22,9% of total population in 2000 [1]. what represents almost 20% growth since 1950. The reasons of migration into capital may be economic and is result of the unbalanced economic activity in the country. *In Haiti, nearly 90 percent of total investments and formal jobs, 85 percent of fiscal revenue, and over 65 percent of the country's gross domestic product is concentrated in Port-au-Prince* [4, p. 3]. But the important consequence of this unplanned urbanization is a formation of many slums on unstable hillsides or at the bottom of drainage ravines and catchment zones.

It is need to be stressed that the quite most negatively affected and the most vulnerable part of population are displaced Haitians who lost their homes and were not able to leave camps since 2010 when camps were established after the earthquake in 2010 by government or international organizations and other foreign initiatives.

The earthquake in 2010 affected 3 million people and 2,3 million were displaced but most them were returned in 2010. But 73, 000 survivors [6]. have been living in camps for three years and others are still living there. The figure 5 shows the displacement of affected people of Haiti au Price and the above-mentioned return of majority of them.

On the other hand, many survivors were forced to leave camps because of private ownership of the

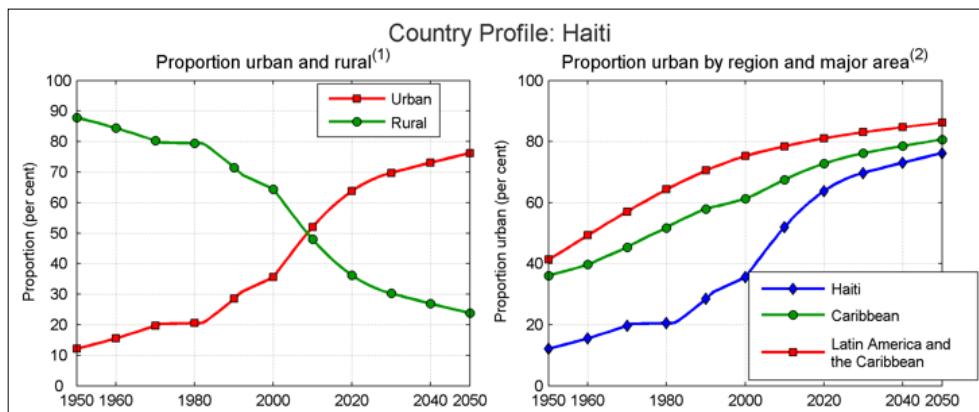


Fig. 2. Share of urban population (% of total) in Haiti, Caribbean and Latin America

United Nations, Population Divisions (2014)

Table 1

Summary of urban and environment indicators

	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2014
urban population (% of total)	28,5	35,6	44,1	47,4	50,5	52	57,4
population living in slums (% of total)	93,4	93,4	70,1	70,1	70,1	x	74,4
number of disasters*	1	2	8	7	3	5	2

Source: World Bank, CEPAL

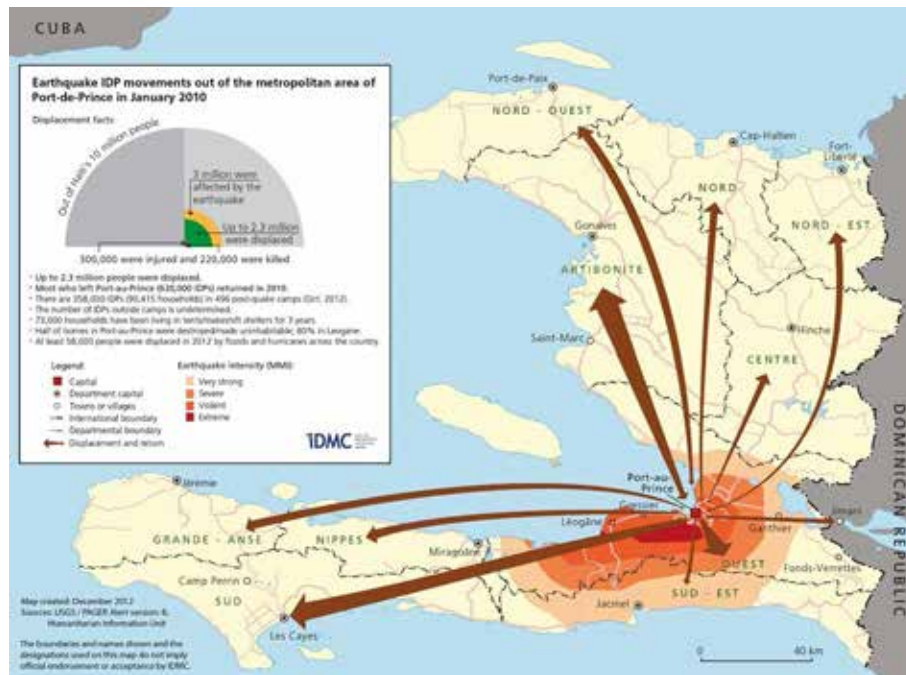


Fig. 3. Internally displaced people after earthquake in 2010

Source: IDMC, 2013

spontaneous engaged land. After earthquake in 2010, has begun undoubtedly one of the greatest humanitarian crises in the history of the Western Hemisphere. This disaster directly or indirectly affected almost one-third of the Haitian population and just the camps are places which contributes to deterioration of living conditions in urban areas how we mention below. In camps people endure inhumane conditions such as lack of food, water, sanitation facilities and security. Survivors live in fearful insecurity in camps, where kidnap, rape and robbery are constant threats. The housing conditions are more than insufficient and result in above-mentioned crimes. Especially, women and girls living in tents are the most vulnerable group of people and are at increased risk of gender based violence because during disasters, as well as conflicts, gender inequities increase and the systems, that usually protect them, fails. Therefore, women and girls become victims of *sex trafficking, forced labour, sexual coercion and maybe approached for sexual acts in exchange for assistance and protection* [2, p. 162]. In addition, *the cholera epidemic added greatly to the burden of the displaced population* [8].

Situation of Haitians has even worsened after several flood and storm disasters. The newest of them, hurricane Mathew, hit Haiti on 4 October, 2016 and destroyed more than *120,000 families' homes. Among the hundreds of thousands of people displaced, there are at least 175,500 staying in 224 temporary shelters* [6].

2.2 International migration

Haiti faces international migration for decades. Till 1960s, the Haitians migrate to the neighbouring countries, to Caribbean islands,

where they looked for work. Previously, the Haitian population did not migrate into developed countries such as the United States because of racial discrimination and segregation. The Haitian mass migration to the developed countries has four flows and began because of administration of François “Papa Doc” Duvalier, the Haitian president from 1957 to 1971. During his governance, many from the upper and middle classes began to flee the dictatorial regime of François Duvalier characterised by massacres, confiscation of property, and persecution of members of the educated class and communists. This first wave of international migration to developed countries brought Haitians to the US, to Europe (mostly France), to French speaking Canada, and to Francophone Africa [15; p. 58]. This period was also the period of brain drain. In addition, the U.S. immigration law in the 1960s facilitated Haitian migration because the U.S. government supported François Duvalier as opponent of communists.

The second wave of international migration from Haiti began in the 1980s, largely into the US, where migration rose rapidly again at the beginning of the 1990s [15; p. 59], during third mass wave of migration from Haiti into developed countries. However, the new U.S. Immigration Act approved in 1995 meant stronger requirements for family reunification. From this reason, legal migration became more complicated for Haitians. Till today, the United States, followed by Dominican Republic, Canada, France, and Bahamas, is an important destination for Haitian migrants (Table 2). In the last years, the migration flow into Brazil also has rapidly risen [7].

Table 2
Migrant stock by destination (2013)

Top 5 countries or areas of destination	Total
United States of America	663 860
Dominican Republic	258 814
Canada	73 966
France	73 100
Bahamas	40 491
Total	1 110 231

Source: UNICEF, p. 2

Since 1990s the international migrant stock has risen from 19 084 to 38 061 (Figure 4). The specific feature of international migration from Haiti is migration of skilled persons. Smaller countries tend to have higher rates of skilled emigration. Even, 75,1% of highly skilled persons born in Haiti lived outside that country [19, p. V.].

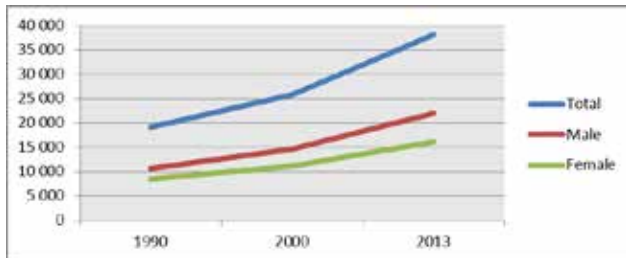


Fig. 4. International Migrant Stock

Source: UNICEF, p. 2

3. Impacts on Haitian's economy

The remittances, sent from abroad, constitutes important determinant of national economy of Haiti. The received remittances reached 2,195 billion [21], and equalled 24, 7% of GDP in 2015 [20], what represented the largest ratio in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Haiti belongs to the top 10 remittance-receiving countries. The remittance inflow has rapidly risen since 1980s. However, the remittance inflow as % of GDP has fallen after 2004 and has risen after earthquake in 2010 (Figure 5). In addition, remittance inflow is higher than ODA (Official Development Aid). Most of remittances are sent from the United States, Dominican Republic and France [14].

Importance of remittances is not only additional economic income for families of migrants but provide an additional source of income in communities of origin, and a lifeline in particular after natural disasters [11, p. 2]. Haiti does not fight only against social issue but also against climate poverty which is related to the impacts of climate change such as floods or landslides [11, p. 87].

In general, with migration also links the issue of inequality. Migration as adaptation, similar to general human mobility, requires certain means, thus potentially increasing inequality. On the second hand, the inequality has increased due to the financial transfers from abroad or urban areas. In addition, internal financial transfers seem to be lower than international remittances for households in Haiti [11, p. 3-6].

Conclusion. In the paper the author focuses on the main problems connected with migration from Haiti. We focus on both, internal and international migration, and their impacts on economy of Haiti. We also observe an influence of environmental issues on migration flows.

Haiti, as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, faces challenges to fight poverty, generate faster growth and mitigate environmental impacts. Haiti does not fight only against social issue but also against climate poverty which is related to the impacts of climate change such as floods or landslides. From above mentioned reasons, many of Haitians leave their country. Thus, migration of both types, international and internal, represents important feature and growing determinant of Haitian economy. The unequal distribution and opportunities led to rural-urban migration and today Haiti is strongly urbanised country. In addition, the most urban population is concentrated in the capital where live more than 20% of total population of the country. Port-au-Prince has become a vulnerable place to live in what proved the situation after the earthquake in 2010.

In the case of international migration, the Haitians migrated to neighbouring countries at first. The international migration to developed countries started since the 1960s and till today, the United States, followed by Dominican Republic, Canada, France, and Bahamas, is an important

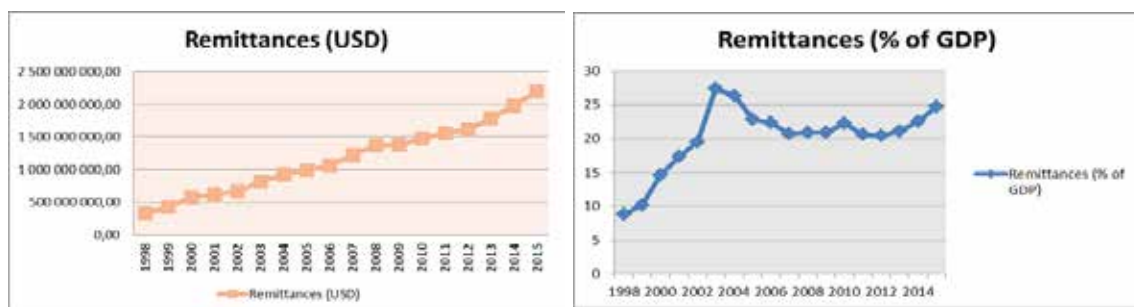


Fig. 5. The remittance inflow (in USD; and % of GDP)

Source: World Bank

destination for Haitian migrants. The specific feature of international migration from Haiti is migration of skilled persons. Even, 75,1% of highly skilled persons born in Haiti lived outside that country.

The remittances belong to the most important impacts of migration on economy of Haiti. They constitute important determinant of national economy of Haiti. The received remittances equalled 24, 7% of GDP in 2015 what is the largest ratio in the Latin American and Caribbean region. In addition, the remittance inflow has rapidly risen, especially after huge catastrophes such as the earthquake in 2010 or recent hurricane Mathew. Most of remittances are sent from the United States, Dominican Republic, and France. The remittances represent additional economic income for families of migrants and provide an additional source of income after natural disasters.

Finally, the second impact of migration is higher inequality. Migration, which requires certain means, potentially increase inequality. On the second hand, the inequality has increased due to the financial transfers from abroad or urban areas. In addition, internal financial transfers seem to be lower than international remittances for households in Haiti.

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