Youth Migration and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Empowering the Rural Youth
By Charlotte Min-Harris

Introduction

Sangaré, a poor young farmer from a village in southern Mali, leaves his wife and three children to find stable employment in the capital city of Bamako. What he finds is an unrewarding reality that leads him from small job to small job, only earning about US 22 cents per day. These jobs range from selling sunglasses, to shining shoes, to driving a rickshaw. Unfortunately, his income has not proved enough to provide for his family, as his aunt has since adopted his daughter, and his children cannot attend school. The inability to find stable employment in Bamako has forced Sangaré to consider emigrating abroad, leaving his family behind.

He blames the decline in his village as the reason for his migration to Bamako. "The fields don't produce any more. The fruits rot because we don't have the means to turn them into other products (for example, juice), or to take them into town. After the rainy season, we have nothing to do but rub shoulders with poverty every day" (IRIN 2007). To Sangaré, keeping his children fed is more important than providing for their education.

Stories such as Sangaré's are becoming proliferated as more rural young men and women in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) migrate to cities to escape poverty. These vulnerable youth are unprepared for the risks that await them in ill-equipped cities; many turn to violent acts of theft, robbery, and trafficking when basic needs cannot be met. Others, like Sangaré, are forced to consider emigrating from Africa, a choice made by 70 percent of young migrants (IRIN 2007). These situations spotlight the need for human rights protection to safeguard young SSA migrants who may face social marginalization and the disintegration of their family structure.

Investing in the rural youth—for education, for jobs, and for health care—is imperative if national governments seek to reduce poverty and diminish urban drift. Policies and programs must recognize youth and decision-makers need to engage youth in poverty reduction strategies. With this framework, youth can improve their rural livelihoods through self-sustaining employment prospects, education, health care, and social life.

The Extent of Poverty

There is likely no other place in the world where poverty is more evident than in SSA. According to the World Bank (2009):

- Approximately one person in two subsists on less than US $1.25 per day, with approximately 70 percent living in rural areas;
- Thirty-two of the forty-eight poorest countries are located in SSA, which is plagued by conflicts, dysfunctional governments, and clinical diseases such as HIV/AIDS;

- Food security and livelihood for the rural poor are at risk as almost all SSA agriculture is rain-fed and has become highly vulnerable to weather shocks.

The declining standard of living is further constrained by SSA's lack of available social services, particularly those in education and healthcare. The average gross primary school enrollment rate has not improved, and health services are falling behind increased demand. This is cause for concern, as SSA has the highest population growth rate in the world and is challenged to develop productive human capital from a population that lacks sustained education and life expectancy. Due to persistently high fertility rates, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, life expectancy is eroding and affecting the demographic structure of family households, as well as the quality and quantity of the labor force. Without productive human capital, SSA cannot complete a demographic transition to improve socio-economic development in the region.

The progress to provide adequate basic health care and education among youth are hampered by rapid population growth. In urban areas, this is reflected by higher levels of unemployment among young people than among other members of the labor force. In rural areas, youth experiences higher levels of unemployment and underemployment due to fewer opportunities for labor productivity and rural incomes. Most rural employment is in small-scale agriculture, where the traditional role of youth consists of unpaid farm work, rather than functioning as farmers in their own right. This is typically due to customary rules of land use, which limit access to land for rural youth. Even in countries with formal agricultural sectors, such as Kenya, Saõ Tomé, and Principe, rural unemployment is rising. In Kenya, for example, rural youth unemployment has reached over thirty-three percent (Economic Report on Africa 2005). This collective effect has a direct impact on the ability for youth to break their cycle of poverty.

Poverty's Effect on Rural Youth

The rural youth are most affected by poverty. This group, which represents over half of the world's youth population, is among the most disadvantaged groups as they often have limited access to educational programs that address their specific situations and needs. This results in high dropout rates at an early age. Curriculum is often geared more toward academic accomplishments and to urban-focused studies than to learning useful skills that enhance rural livelihoods. The resulting low enrollment rates, coupled with low completion rates, have contributed to the difficult transition into quality employment. As a compounding factor, education can be cost prohibitive and sometimes viewed as unnecessary in an agricultural society that is dependent upon farm working. Therefore, most rural youth remain poor—three out of every four live on less than US $2 per day—lacking the resources and skills to be competitive (World Bank 2009).

Young women are at a particular disadvantage. Rural young women in SSA need special attention as gender disparities continue to impede young girls' acquisition of decent education and employable skills. These constraints are accentuated by the pressures of early marriage and child rearing, which lead to a cycle of limited choices. Most females are married before the age of twenty-four, with parenthood occurring even earlier (World Bank 2009).With school enrollment and dropout rates higher for young girls, the impact of cultural norms and role models restrict young women's options to early motherhood and unpaid domestic work. As most rural SSA societies do

not value young unmarried women who are not attending school, inevitably, there are no other opportunities.

The consequences of the high population growth and lack of education and job opportunities in rural areas lead disadvantaged youth to urban drift. Rural young sub-Saharan Africans put their lives at risk by moving to the city for greater employment opportunities and a smooth transition into adulthood. The education they receive in rural areas tends to promote an urban orientation that it adds to the belief that opportunities are better in urban centers.

Rural Exodus—The Lure of Migration

Migration is not only a coping mechanism to escape poverty, it is an opportunity for rural young people to feel a sense of pride, self-respect, and be viewed as leaders within their family and their broader community. Young people view migration as an avenue to improve their status, learn new skills, and transit into adulthood. As a consequence, migration continues to serve as the means to improve rural livelihoods.

Youth are an integral component of the migrant population, both in terms of volume, and the effects they have on both their points of origin and destination. Estimates are that 15 percent (approximately 26 million) of the migrant population are youth (Touray 2006). Rural youth are particularly disadvantaged; with inadequately developed education and skills, many find limited employment opportunities in the cities. Most face a future of low-wage employment, unemployment, underemployment, poverty, drugs, and crime. The arrival of rural migrants worsens the situation by expanding the pool of young urban job seekers, which reduces the pressure on employers to offer competitive incomes and work standards to their workers.

Urban areas are becoming extremely overcrowded and overburdened, putting pressure on insufficient infrastructures, schools, health facilities, sanitation and water systems. This escalating urbanization has created a new context of poverty in which urban centers are overtaxed and unprepared to absorb increasing youth unemployment. In absolute numbers, youth unemployment becomes more prevalent in urban areas than rural areas.

The situation is worse for young women—many who have migrated to escape forced and early marriage—as they face particular barriers to the labor market, much of which are attributable to cultural attitudes of men. They may find work in domestic settings and in small businesses. More commonly, many girls are exploited because they are young, easily manipulated, unaware of their rights, and afraid to expose their negligent employers. In the worst of situations, they work fifteen hours a day, are beaten, badly fed, poorly paid, and become sex slaves to pay for their basic needs. The prostitution, in which these unsuspecting girls engage, complicates the fight against HIV/AIDS.

With the rising incidence of poverty, crime, prostitution, violence, and exploitation, SSA's migrating youth are in an age fraught with potential threats exacerbated by ill-prepared and rapid urbanization. As a consequence, many rural migrants are no better off in the city than they were in their village. By fleeing their traditional culture, the rural youth have become human rights victims with no parental protection or legal rights. Life in the city has resulted in marginalization and social exclusion.

To reduce the rate and negative consequences of rapid urbanization, policy efforts that empower and integrate rural youth into agricultural-based activities are necessary. If governments were to commit to this investment, the desire to migrate would diminish. Rural youth could evolve into agents of change with the capacity to improve their living standards, which is considered essential to promote sustainable rural livelihoods.

Looking Ahead

Government Interventions to Promote Rural Livelihoods

Young people are integral to reducing extreme poverty and hunger in developing areas, such as SSA. They can act as ambassadors of rural development and provide innovative ideas when crafting development policies. Young people are looking forward to the opportunity to be actively involved in the efforts to lift their communities out of poverty by creating the foundations for economic growth and productivity. In this context, policymakers, as development specialists, must promote an earnest paradigm shift in the way they shape poverty reduction efforts and fully engage and empower young people to diminish the cycle of poverty in rural livelihoods. These efforts should include four areas of focus: (1) promoting youth's capabilities to stay on the land through agricultural/environmental education and national service; (2) incorporating gender analysis with a focus on marginalized young women; (3) expanding resources and programs for social services, primarily in education and health care; and (4) engaging youth perspectives when evaluating progress achieved in addressing poverty issues, especially in the preparation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. To be sustainable, these efforts need to be embraced at all levels of government.

At the international level, youth unemployment is recognized as an urgent issue. This urgency is evidenced by the United Nations Millennium Development Goal Target 16, "develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth" (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa 2005). National governments need to accord a change by incorporating youth within their domestic strategies.

The national governments in Africa, particularly SSA, need to provide rural youth with a means to stay in their communities. This can be accomplished by incorporating the youth into national development strategies that promote improved rural living standards in conjunction with national strategies that diminish the current rate of rural-urban migration. The integration of rural youth into agriculture and other rural-based economic activities will increase the level of labor productivity and deter an exodus from their communities. For example, rural youth can generate increased agricultural production through an investment in innovative, eco-friendly planting practices, and post-harvest methods, a technology that is widely unrecognized. This type of infrastructure support, incentive, and land reform will help young people in rural areas fuel economic growth.

Youth Involvement and Rural Development

As customary rules of land use limit access to land for the rural youth, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), an Ethiopian organization, promotes reversing this cultural norm and, instead, embraces the paradigm shift to empower rural young people through improved labor productivity.

REST's mission is to fight food insecurity, reverse environmental degradation, and reduce youth unemployment. REST developed a program that established soil and water conservation structures on hillside land and then distributed the land to landless youth, which comprised about 25 percent of the population. The organization had three objectives to empower landless youth: (1) to support landless youths in income generating activities through seedling plantation and beekeeping; (2) to contribute to ending soil and land degradation through environmental conservation and natural resource management; and (3) to decrease migration to urban areas.

The results of this project were encouraging. The whole community constructed the water and soil structures, while the youth created their own bylaws for the long-term management of the project. They received land ownership certificates, thus motivating them to develop the land and improve its sustainability. The youth were able to support their families while remaining in their communities, thus, providing them with a sense of dignity and self-respect. Most importantly, the young people did not resort to urban migration as a survival strategy.

Despite these encouraging benefits, the project did face a number of challenges, such as an increasing demand for limited amounts of land, a growing number of landless youths, and severe droughts. This project, however, remains an inspiration and model for others. The lessons learned were valuable—the need to build capacity of youth groups, the importance of building partnerships with local groups and NGOs, and targeting the youth with interventions to decrease rural-urban migration (Utviklingsfondet Development Fund 2009).

The REST program supports the argument that agricultural development is one of the most promising sectors for rural youth employment and the optimal means to keep them in their communities. At the local level, governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector can follow REST's example by engaging young people in building rural infrastructure, which provides unemployed youth with valuable, practical skills that could be transferred to other employment situations. At the same time, the general community could benefit through improved access to food production, water, and markets to sell their goods—all of which would combat the shackles of poverty.

Engaging youth in poverty reduction policies should embrace a holistic approach to directly tackle the causes and consequences of poverty, including the sectors of demography, economy, education, and health care. A sustainable solution aimed at improving rural youth unemployment and underemployment, especially in the context of SSA's booming population growth, is imperative to reduce urban migration and its consequential marginalization. In the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, governments need to take affirmative action to enhance the well being of their citizens, especially the youth.

Conclusion

As the world's poorest continent, rural Africa is home to some of the most disadvantaged and marginalized youth in the world. Therefore, the increasing trend of young people migrating from their rural villages to urban centers as a survival strategy is of great concern. Many who arrive in the city lose hope of finding employment, are exploited, and find themselves in tragic situations.

Governments' recognition of this trend is crucial as the youth represent the legacy of the past and the successes or failures of the future. Rural youth need the means to stay in their communities with the opportunity to improve their livelihoods. As agriculture is one of the most promising sectors for rural youth employment, African governments (especially those in SSA) must prioritize investments and programs in irrigation, water resource management, and improved agricultural practices in order to expand young rural farmers' capabilities to produce food and conserve the land's natural resources while providing them with the skills and abilities to increase their rural incomes.

Pro-agricultural rural youth programs that elevate economic and employment opportunities are only one part of the solution. Governments need to escalate youth migration policies, which include raising female literacy, that promote social development to the top of their policy agendas. By mainstreaming this as part of a development strategy, rural youth will acquire the tools to make empowered choices that affect change in their lives, thus, discounting the value of migration. These policies should holistically provide the young with leadership skills for the benefit of their communities, access to adequate education, and knowledge and promotion of disease prevention.

This approach will provide governments with the opportunity to diminish youth migration and marginalization, as well as to reduce poverty. The resulting policies would create a cycle of pro-poor growth that improves human capital and socio-economic development in sub-Saharan Africa. Without the above policy recommendations , SSA cannot effectively address the challenges posed by an increasing youth population and rural-urban migration.

Annotations

Ad Hoc Working Group for Youth and the MDGs. 2005. "Youth and the Millennium Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation." Available online: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/youthmdgs.pdf.

> Annotation: This report reflects research collaboration among an international team of young leaders from non-governmental organizations, called the Ad Hoc Working Group on Youth. The report contains recommendations from more than one hundred countries on how national and international institutions can successfully engage young people in efforts to achieve each Millennium Development Goal (MDG). The report was presented to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005 to wide applause. In reference to achieving the first MDG goal of eradicating poverty and hunger, the report recommends: (1) more disaggregated data on youth living in poverty; (2) youth engagement in poverty reduction strategies; (3) a commitment to address the diverse needs of urban and rural youth; and (4) youth leadership roles in combating corruption. To achieve sustainability, the report highlights much work is still needed among all stakeholders to actively engage youth for full achievement of the MDGs.

Adepoju, Aderanti. 2000. "Issues and Recent Trends in International Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa." *International Social Science Journal* 52 (165): 383-394.

Annotation: In this article, the author focuses on the underlying factors of migration, described as "the pull of opportunity and the push of abject poverty." Sub-Saharan Africa's (SSA) increasing growth in labor and population, coupled with a flat economy, has led to further poverty and unemployment in the region. To escape these consequences, the author discusses how Africans are migrating from rural to urban areas, and, for some, emigrating from SSA due to drought, famine, internal conflict, and economic instability. The challenge is that data on international migration in SSA are inconsistent and fragmented. Therefore, as the author points out, it is difficult to understand migration movements without accurate tracking data and surveys. If governments had this information, they could formulate economic recovery policies and programs to increase employment and equality while reducing poverty.

_____. 2004. "Changing Configurations of Migration in Africa." *Migration Information Source*. Available online: http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/print.cfm?ID=251.

Annotation: The author provides an overview of several trends that will continue to provide African policymakers with the difficult task of addressing migration complexities. The paper addresses the following trends: (1) feminization of migration; (2) diversification of migration destinations; (3) transformation of labor flows into commercial migration; (4) brain drain from the region; (5) human trafficking, especially of women and children; (6) spreading of AIDS; and (7) the role of regional economic organizations in fostering free flows of labor. The author offers no concrete solutions. However, he argues that protocols cannot address the free movement of people unless key stakeholders eliminate political and endemic conflicts. Without this effort, sustainable development and security cannot effectively address Africa's migration challenges.

_____. 2007. "Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Background Paper Commissioned by the Nordic Africa Institute for the Swedish Government White Paper on Africa." Available online: http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/08/88/66/730473a9.pdf.

Annotation: This paper, for the Swedish Government, helps to illuminate new migration trends for Sweden's development policy on Africa. The migration trends highlighted in this paper include complex patterns involving internal, cross-border, intra- and interregional mobility, as well as emigration from Africa. These movement patterns can be further dissected by South-South migration, South-North migration, rural-rural migration, and rural-urban migration. The author also addresses the increasing feminization of migration and its effect on the families left behind. The author provides a thorough overview of these different migration patterns, causes and effects, role of remittances and diaspora, trafficking trends, and expected development trends. This report concludes by highlighting the challenges of balancing the aging populations in the North with the increasing population growth in sub-Saharan Africa; this complexity will create overwhelmingly difficult challenges for shaping development policies going forward.

_____. 2008. "Migration and Social Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa." UNRISD Working Document. Available online:

http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/ab82a6805797760f80256b4f005da1ab/ac96a6e2d6c0ff9cc125751200354ddb/$FILE/draft_adepoju.pdf.

Annotation: Through his research, the author argues that increasing population growth is at the root of international migration due to its linkages with unemployment and labor force growth. The large numbers of youth have added to the growing pool of unemployed and underemployed workers. The author stresses that governments play a critical role in designing appropriate employment opportunities so youth can contribute economically, socially, and politically, thus offsetting the growing incidence of irregular migration, trafficking, drug abuse and violence. Also, the author indicates government must invest in raising female illiteracy due to its impact on the health and nutritional status of families. The paper concludes by arguing that the responsibility for fighting poverty should be borne by the government in partnership with communities and families at the grassroots level. The author argues that the path to ending poverty is through improved education and access to employment.

Cross, Catherine, Derik Gelderblom, Niel Roux and Jonathan Mafukidze (eds.). 2006. Views on Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa: Proceedings of an African Migration Alliance Workshop. Cape Town: HSRC Press.

Annotation: This book is a collection of papers from that workshop that addresses a broad range of migration aspects, including data issues, child trafficking, and xenophobia. However, most of the papers address migration flows between countries and regions within Africa. The authors collectively acknowledge the trend that an increasing number of Africans are migrating from rural to urban centers. However, the authors argue that African countries have not yet prioritized migration at the top of their policy agendas. Therefore, these scholars support promoting and disseminating better research data, increasing capacity building efforts, mobilizing government resources, and sharing expertise in the field in an effort to work toward guidelines that can better shape African migration policies.

Black, Richard, Savina Ammassari, Shannon Mouillesseaux and Radha Rajkotia. 2004. "Migration and Pro-Poor Policy in West Africa." Working Paper C8. Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty. (November). Available online: http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/working_papers/WP-C8.pdf.

Annotation: Based on the findings of a survey conducted by the Sussex Centre for Migration Research on migration and pro-poor policy in Africa, the authors argue that migration is a significant livelihood strategy for poor people. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in some West African countries acknowledge this migration, especially those in Cape Verde, Mali and Niger. However, the authors suggest that future regional and policy frameworks on migration, poverty, and development need to address key gaps in order to build capacity at the local level. Some of these policy gaps include issues of internal rural-rural migration, rural-urban migration, child trafficking, and "reverse migration transition," where people move from countries of immigration to countries of emigration, such as Europe and North America. By addressing these

gaps, the authors conclude, increased attention to strengthening interactions between rural and urban areas may be a precondition to peace and development in the region.

Ansell, Nicola and Lorraine Young. 2004. "Enabling Households to Support Successful Migration of AIDS Orphans in Southern Africa." *AIDS Care* 16 (1): 3-10.

Annotation: Based on the authors' focus group research about migration implications of AIDS-affected children, the authors indicate migrations are complex and can take many forms. The research was conducted in the urban and rural communities of Lesotho and Malawi, where experiences of children were referenced with first-hand quotes. The article indicates that, in the short term, most children felt ill-treated in their new families. But, over time, the orphans were able to integrate into their new family systems. Also, migration patterns varied. Some children migrated alone, some with other siblings, or with a surviving parent. Sometimes, a child will return to live with parents after migrating to the home of an extended family member. As most southern African orphans are cared for by extended families, the authors conclude that policies need to address sustainable and economic community programs that enable households to provide suitable care for these migrating children.

Awumbila, Mariama and Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf. 2008. "Gendered Poverty, Migration and Livelihood Strategies of Female Porters in Accra, Ghana." *Norwegian Journal of Geography* 62 (3): 171-179.

Annotation: In this paper, the authors study the experiences of young migrating rural women who work as head load porters in the urban centers of Ghana. Through a study of quantitative and qualitative data of male and female porters, the authors examine the migrants' experiences and survival strategies used to overcome poverty, risk, and vulnerability. The authors also included two case studies describing migration patterns and employment experiences of young migrants. One finding from the study indicates that migration, as a livelihood strategy, might provide young women with employment opportunities. Unfortunately, these opportunities may be at lower wages, in less valued positions, and in vulnerable health and predatory situations. Therefore, to understand migration and poverty reduction among youth, the authors conclude that strategies must include gender-related determinants.

Black, Richard, Dominc Kniveton, Ronald Skeldon, Daniel Coppard, Akira Murata and Kerstin Schmidt-Verkerk. 2008. "Demographics and Climate Change: Future Trends and Their Policy Implications for Migration." Working Paper T27. Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty. (June). Available online: http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/working_papers/WP-T27.pdf.

Annotation: The purpose of this working paper is to explore the relationship between demographic trends and climate change on migration patterns in developing countries through 2050. As the research was funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), credible support was provided for exploration into the causal relationships of migration and potential policy implications. Through secondary research, the authors extensively discussed

medium-term demographic and climate trends, the linkage between the two contexts, and case studies of Bangladesh, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Sudan. The authors conclude that policy implications that predict migration consequences of climate change over the next fifty years would be difficult. However, as the changes will particularly affect the world's poorer populations, the authors contend that developmental policies need to: (1) incorporate climate change; (2) support "environmental migrants"; and (3) support more research into understanding the causes of climate change-related migration and the number of people affected.

Bryceson, Deborah Fahy, Annabel Bradbury and Trevor Bradbury. 2008. "Roads to Poverty Reduction? Exploring Rural Roads' Impact on Mobility in Africa and Asia." *Development Policy Review* 26 (4): 459-482.

Annotation: The purpose of this paper is to supplement the broad-based research addressing youth employment. From the authors' secondary research, the context of youth employment in Africa is examined, especially from a gender perspective. The paper cites that the lack of employment for young women has increased feminization of poverty, especially in the form of prostitution as a survival strategy. However, it is difficult to accurately access women's economic activities since official data is scarce. Therefore, the authors argue that the gender perspective needs to be incorporated into all employment promotion programs and macroeconomic policy frameworks in Africa. The authors conclude that young African women should be empowered to participate and have access to productive job opportunities to benefit equally with male youth.

Buve, Anne, Kizito Bishikwabo-Nsarhaza and Gladys Mutangadura. 2002. "The Spread and Effect of HIV-1 Infection in Sub-Saharan Africa." *The Lancelot* 359: 2011-2017.

Annotation: As Africa is the continent most affected by the HIV-1 epidemic, the authors explore three areas: (1) epidemiology of HIV-1 infection; (2) spread of the virus in a socioeconomic and cultural framework; (3) demographic effect of the spread of HIV-1 and the consequences for economic development. A majority of the research is drawn from the authors' dissertations as well as from primary research from international organizations working on HIV/AIDS. In reference to migration, the authors cite that the rapid growth of urban areas and continued migration of young, unmarried adults from conservative rural environments to more sexually promiscuous urban centers have fueled the spread of HIV-1. Their findings support the authors' argument that this epidemic will not reduce poverty and could jeopardize the young unless economic development focuses on reconstructing social services, especially within the education and health sectors.

Cassiman, Ann. 2008. "Home and Away: Mental Geographies of Young Migrant Workers and their Belonging to the Family House in Northern Ghana." *Housing, Theory & Society* 25 (1): 14-30.

Annotation: In this paper, the author focuses on seasonal and permanent migration patterns of the Kasena people in Ghana. A growing number of young men and women migrate from north to south due to harsh economic and environmental conditions. However, to address the tie

between culture and the rural home, the author examines the lives of the people that remain behind. Through field research conducted in the rural areas of the Upper East Region of Ghana, the author learned that the home's interior arrangement is adjusted to uphold status within the village. If the migrant returns, the rural home is again re-worked to reflect the migrant's journey; this includes the addition of new rooms and modern materials. The author concludes that despite the Kasena people's need to migrate, they value their rural culture and do not achieve balance unless their home maintains a link to their ancestral customs.

Collinson, Mark A., Stephen M. Tollman, Kathleen Kahn, Samuel J. Clark and Michel Garenne. 2006. "Highly Prevalent Circular Migration: Households, Mobility and Economic Status in Rural South Africa." In Africa on the Move. Edited by M. Tienda, Sally Findley, Stephen Tollman and Eleanor Preston-Whyte. Johannesburg, South Africa: Wits University Press.

Annotation: This book analyzes the patterns of internal, regional, and international migration in Africa, with comparisons to patterns in Latin America and Asia. This chapter provides a closer look at circular migration patterns in South Africa during 1992-2004. Using data from surveys conducted in a historically disadvantaged rural community in South Africa, the authors focused on circular migration as a household strategy. The findings include: (1) higher young female than male migration patterns; and (2) females were more likely to send remittance income to their rural families. Regarding those left at home, families were able to climb out of poverty if migration was engaged. For those families living in extreme poverty, the authors argue that policies need to bring services closer to their remote home villages to improve livelihoods and feasible migration opportunities.

Economic Commission for Africa. 2007. Economic Report on Africa: Meeting the Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty in Africa. United Nations Publications.

Annotation: In this 2005 report, the sixth in an annual series, the authors provide a detailed analysis of Africa's economic performance from the previous year. It also projects the medium term prospects for Africa's struggles with poverty reduction and unemployment. The book provides critical value as it contains contributions from several prominent experts in the field of African economics. Seven chapters discuss economic trends, challenges for decent employment, transitioning from rural poverty, youth unemployment, globalization, and the role of the private sector. Therefore, it is a useful reference for decision-makers and academic researchers. As the report notes, Africa has the highest incidence of poverty in the world. Consequently, understanding the challenges of unemployment and its affect on hunger, nutrition, and livelihoods are key issues toward Africa's development.

Erulkar, Annabel, Tekle-Ab Mekbib, Negussie Simie and Tsehai Gulema. 2006. "Migration and Vulnerability among Adolescents in Slum Areas of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia." *Journal of Youth Studies* 9 (3): 361-374.

Annotation: The authors acknowledge that most research about rural-urban migration state that youth are the most likely migrants. However, the authors take this research a step further by

exploring patterns of youth migration and the role migration has in transitioning them to adulthood. Drawn from a population-based survey of over one thousand adolescents aged 10-19 in the slum areas of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the authors determine that migration was commonly correlated with employment opportunities. With Ethiopia having one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, female migration is often connected to escaping early marriage. Therefore, migrant girls are especially vulnerable without the protection of parents and legal rights. The authors argue that young migrants, especially girls, are "falling through the cracks" of policies and programs; more focus is needed to develop programs that provide special attention to youth and their transition into adulthood.

Ezra, Markos Ezra and Gebre-Egziabher Kiros. 2001. "Rural Out-Migration in the Drought Prone Areas of Ethiopia: A Multilevel Analysis." *International Migration Review* 35 (3): 749-771.

Annotation: Through primary research, the authors explore the factors of youth migration during the period of 1984-1994. The authors analyze the variables based on the effects at the individual, household, and community levels. Although this is a historical analysis, the authors discuss the relevance of the empirical results to contemporary migration literature relative to developing countries. Some of the findings include: (1) females are more mobile than males; (2) females tend to migrate for marriage more often than males; and (3) migration is a function of individual, household, and community characteristics. The study also found that most youth migration was rural-rural. On the contrary, current literature indicates migration trends are following more rural-urban patterns. However, this study incorporated the 1984 famine, which played an important role in migration patterns of that time.

Faurès, Jean-Marc and Guido Santini. 2008. Water and the Rural Poor: Interventions For Improving Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization. Available online: http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/i0132e/i0132e00.htm.

Annotation: The development of this report was a joint effort between International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization to examine the linkage between water and rural poverty in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The authors hoped to contribute to poverty reduction strategies by studying investment impacts in the agricultural water sector. They strongly contend that agriculture is the most viable path to poverty reduction in rural areas. The report outlines supporting research of this position and provides decision-makers with approaches to match different infrastructure investments with intervention opportunities in thirteen major "livelihood zones" within SSA. The authors also note that climate change will have a direct impact on small-scale rural farmers, which further supports investment in water management. However, to have the greatest impact on rural livelihoods, the authors argue that investments need to be supported by policies that promote education, access to farm products, and credit.

Gyimah, Stephen Obeng. 2009. "Polygynous Marital Structure and Child Survivorship in Sub-Saharan Africa: Some Empirical Evidence from Ghana." *Social Science & Medicine* 68 (2): 334-342.

Annotation: This paper explores the question of whether child survival differences exist between monogamous and polygynous families in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). As research is limited on the subject, the author attempts to examine the linkage between polygyny and child survival using pooled quantitative data from the 1998 and 2003 Ghana Demographic and Health Surveys. This study examines the outcomes of this data and assesses whether the linkage is uniform over an entire childhood period. The author concludes that in models where age was not factored, children in polygynous families were found to be at a higher risk of death than in monogamous households. When models factored in age, older children experienced more harmful survival disadvantages. Although this paper does not intend to provide the final answer, the author indicates that the findings should provide a solid foundation for further study.

Handley, Geoff, Kate Higgins, Bhavna Sharma, Kate Bird and Diana Cammack. 2009. "Poverty and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Overview of Key Issues." Overseas Development Institute Working Paper 299. Available online: http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/odi-publications/working-papers/299-poverty-reduction-sub-saharan-africa.pdf.

Annotation: This report seeks to address the current debates on why sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world and what approaches can be taken to provide sustainable and broad-based economic growth. To this end, the authors utilize two country case studies, Nigeria and Tanzania, to highlight the principal drivers of poverty and associated poverty reduction policy options. It is important to note that the authors acknowledge that SSA is a complex and multidimensional region. Therefore, when exploring poverty and poverty-reduction policies, a one-size-fits-all approach is not effective and regional analysis needs to be supported by country-level and district-level analysis. They conclude that poverty reduction policies need a holistic approach to directly tackle the causes and consequences of poverty, which includes a strong focus on economic growth. They also maintain that governments play a role, at debatable levels of involvement, in enabling and complementing measures that support these policies.

Hanson, Stephanie. 2007. "Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa." Council on Foreign Relations. (October 1). Available online: http://www.cfr.org/publication/14327/urbanization_in_subsaharan_africa.html.

Annotation: This article addresses the debate over whether rural or urban populations are receiving the most attention from governments and aid organizations. The author addresses a viewpoint called "urban bias," whereby urban groups are perceived as receiving preferential economic treatment and as being better off than rural groups. However, the author's research indicates the opposite; a majority of urban dwellers live in slums without access to decent public services, medical facilities, and employment opportunities. In addition, the author contends, that the trend of rural-urban migration reflects the booming population growth. Therefore, a rural-only focus by most nongovernmental and bi-lateral organizations is too limiting. The author argues that data collection needs to include both city and rural level numbers as part of any representative analysis. Otherwise, without current and unbiased data, it will be a challenge for policy makers to address the nuances of either urban or rural poverty issues.

Heine, Britta and Lorenz Petersen. 2008. "Adaption and Cooperation." *Forced Migration Review* (31): 48-50.

Annotation: Through their work with the Climate Protection Program in Germany, the authors address the view that climate change affects the most vulnerable in developing countries, where weather and climate conditions affect livelihoods. It is for this reason that the article focuses on the need for long-term climate change adaption policies, programs, and investments to prepare for climatic changes. The authors outline three steps for every adaption strategy: (1) to understand the anticipated climate impacts on vulnerable societies; (2) to compare climate impacts to create adaption measures; and (3) to determine a sequence for governance. The article also discusses the need for disaster risk management measures as part of any long-term adaption strategy. The article concludes with case studies of adaption programs in Mozambique and Indonesia.

IRIN. 2007. "Mali: Rural Youth Rarely Find Fortunes in the City." (October 12). Available online: http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=74772.

Annotation: This article tells the story of a poor young farmer, from a village in southern Mali, who migrates to the city in search of employment. However, once he arrives, his life is no better because jobs are scarce; he has to pay for food that was once obtained from the land. The article tells another story of young girls who face worse conditions as they escape poverty in search of dowry money. Once arriving in the city, most girls are sexually exploited, beaten, and manipulated. The article concludes with a quote from the director-general of the Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment, "We have to give rural youth the means to stay in their communities. Otherwise, we will not be able to stop the rural exodus." Through these stories, the article provides compelling reasons to promote policies that curb the rural to urban migration pattern in West Africa.

_____. 2007. "Youth in Crisis: Coming of Age in the 21st Century." *IRIN In-Depth*. (February) http://www.irinnews.org/pdf/in-depth/Youth-in-crisis-IRIN-In-Depth.pdf.

Annotation: IRIN is the humanitarian news and analysis service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The focus of this article is on youth and their challenges, which include: crisis, unemployment, war, migration, HIV/AIDS, and violence. This report is helpful to the reader seeking further country-specific information about these challenges. In fact, eighteen countries are profiled addressing issues ranging from child forced marriages to youth sex to child soldiers. All of these threats are exacerbated by rapid urbanization and population growth. The report concludes by informing the reader that "by 2030, 60 percent of the world population will live in cities and as many as 60 percent of urban residents will be under 18." With this startling trend, the report notes that helping young people will be one of the biggest challenges of our century.

Mbara, T.C., D.F. Bryceson and D. Maunder. 2003. "Livelihoods, Daily Mobility and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Transport Reviews* 23 (2): 177-96.

Annotation: The research for this paper was funded by the UK Department for International Development to conduct first-hand fieldwork targeting economically variant household samples in Uganda and Zimbabwe. The focus is to explore the mobility and accessibility needs of the poor as compared to higher income groups. These two countries were chosen due to prominent differences in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), where Uganda is low, but rising, and Zimbabwe is high, but falling. And, because both countries are land-locked, comparisons could be made about their means of transport. Through their study and findings, the authors conclude that mobility contributes to livelihood capability, rural-urban migration, and restrictions based on income level—the poor being dependent on walking for transport. Therefore, in order to promote well-being, the paper suggests future policies should focus on promoting mobility and livelihoods within the transport corridors with effective zoning, local tax base funding, improved access, and affordable public transport.

Mbirimtengerenji, Noel Dzimnenani. 2007. "Is HIV/AIDS Epidemic Outcome of Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa?" *Croatian Medical Journal* 48 (5): 605-617.

Annotation: This article explores how HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is an outcome of poverty with sexual trade, migration, polygamy, and early marriages as predictors of that outcome. Regarding these interrelated predictors, the author indicates that sexual trade is the main predictor. Migration only exacerbates the prevalence of HIV. Polygamy is a cultural practice that increases the pandemic. And, poverty forces most young girls to have early marriages, which puts them at further risk. Therefore, the author acknowledges that there are no simple answers to the poverty problem. But, he supports a multi-sectoral approach that recognizes the association of poverty and HIV/AIDS in finding a solution through capacity building policies and programs. The author conducted extensive research to reach these conclusions and notes that if the pandemic was not reversed, the region will not be successful in reaching the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015.

Middlebrook, Peter J. 2003. Fighting Hunger & Poverty in Ethiopia: Ethiopia's Experience in Implementing Employment Generation Schemes (EGS), as the Cornerstone of the National Policy for Disaster Prevention and Management (NPDPM). Doctoral Thesis. University of Durham. Available online: www.drylands-group.org/noop/file.php?id=785.

Annotation: The purpose of the author's research is to measure the implementation of the EGS programs against the objectives set by Ethiopia's NPDPM to reduce poverty levels through supporting rural livelihoods. This is a vital assessment as more than 50 percent of Ethiopia's population lives on or below the poverty line. From the author's primary research, it was determined that the overall efficiency and effectiveness of EGS was low. Although the capacities for implementation were positive, these only occurred when the government allocated sufficient grassroots resources, which was seldom. The research made it clear that Ethiopia needed to properly contextualize poverty by addressing the poor's needs. The author recommended a decentralized, demand-driven approach to policymaking that would provide a means to poverty reduction through local training, capacity building, and pro-poor growth programming.

Modo, I.V.O. 2001. "Migrant Culture and Changing Face of Family Structure in Lesotho." *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 32 (3): 443-452.

Annotation: Through random household sampling of two villages in the Roma Valley, the author explores the changing family dynamics as a result of migrating men. This dynamic has left more than 50 percent of Lesotho households headed by women. The author indicates that this outcome has not resulted in a healthy family structure as Lesotho women are not given the right to inherit property nor are they given adult status. Therefore, female-headed households account for 34 percent of all poor households. And, with the prevalence of migrants entering South Africa, a permissive culture has permeated Lesotho. The situation is further complicated when illegitimate children are born and may not be recognized as citizens of Lesotho. The author concludes that Lesotho is attempting to create a balance in the family structure. However, this will take time as Africa grapples with larger economic issues plaguing the continent.

Mutume, Gumisai. 2006. "African Migration: From Tensions to Solutions." *Africa Renewal, United Nations* 19 (4): 15-17.

Annotation: The author addresses the complex issues of migration as it relates to the phenomenon of "globalization," whereby information, commodities, and money flow freely between national boundaries. However, this does not mean that migrants have the same ability. The author notes that policymakers are grappling with this disparity, as globalization has not led to the creation of sustainable job opportunities, especially in rural sub-Saharan Africa. With the increase in international migration, the author argues that development policies should provide benefits to both industrial and developing nations to spur economic growth. By doing so, migrants will be able to send remittances home and work their way out of poverty. The paper concludes by noting that migration can be positive for migrants, for their destination, and for the homes they leave behind.

Nicol, Alan and Nanki Kaur. 2008. "Climate Change: Getting Adaption Right." *Overseas Development Institute* Opinion 116.

Annotation: The authors argue that creating adaption strategies to cope with climate change impacts, especially in developing countries, are needed. Otherwise, progress on the Millennium Development Goals will be undermined, and the ability for the vulnerable to adapt will be at risk. Through primary research, the authors draw on experiences in Bangladesh and Ethiopia to recommend five key steps to successful adaption of climate change strategies: (1) assessment of climate change science at national, local and regional levels; (2) knowledge sharing among development institutions; (3) adaption strategies based on good development practices; (4) clear implementation strategies; and (5) supportive investment to promote better decision-making and capacity building. The authors acknowledge that adaption strategies are complex. However, they argue that substantial investments to improve shared knowledge of climate risk and its impact on the vulnerable are needed to reinforce national policies.

Nowosad, Orest. 1998. "A Human Rights Based Approach to Development: Strategies and Challenges." Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Available online: http://www.nhri.net/pdf/African4thNhri/Novosad%20Development.pdf.

Annotation: The purpose of the author's speech was to encourage the audience to advance the work being done by national human rights institutions and remedy violations that continually occur in Africa. His plea specifically linked to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which was adopted to provide a human rights-based approach to development across Africa. The author described a case study about the South African Human Rights Commission's hearings on poverty in nine provinces. A human rights-based methodology was used to examine the linkage of human rights to past violations in the South African Constitution and Bill of Rights. The author concluded that this methodology supported the link between human rights challenges in South Africa and the poor. Therefore, governments need to fully support policies and programs that address this linkage.

Nzamujo, Father. 1999. "A New Approach to Sustainable Livelihoods: African Youth and Agriculture." *Development* 42 (2): 64-67.

Annotation: In this paper, the author discusses the success of the Songhai Environmental Rehabilitation Centre in Benin, where he has been the Director since 1984. The Centre is a research and training ground for young African farmers to learn about aquaculture, crop production, and livestock production. More importantly, the author argues, youth learn how to transform sustainable development into reality. At the same time, they are able to remain true to their rural background and traditional value system while gaining a sense of identity and purpose. Therefore, the author maintains, the young can actively participate in socio-economic reconstruction and poverty reduction in their rural villages. This framework has been successful; Songhai is being used as a model for similar rural associations in Burkina Faso, Togo, and Nigeria and is promoting discussion among policymakers, social organizations, and civil society.

Omelaniuk, Irena. 2005. Gender, Poverty Reduction and Migration. World Bank. Available online: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTABOUTUS/Resources/Gender.pdf.

Annotation: Through review of secondary research, the author addresses this migration pattern and expands the study by examining the circumstances of women left at home. To this point, the author addresses the need to compare the livelihood impacts of females in host countries with those females remaining behind. Although the author notes positive impacts of female migration on poverty is minimal, migration can indirectly help alleviate poverty by raising productivity, education, and health of females and their families. However, the author contends, more data is needed about gender analyses to better understand the benefits of migration for poverty reduction and the specific contributions provided by female and males. With this information, origin and destination countries can develop more inclusive policies that incorporate women with different migration patterns.

Porter, Gina. 2002. "Living in a Walking World: Rural Mobility and Social Equity Issues in Sub-Saharan Africa." *World Development* 30 (2): 285-297.

Annotation: The author examines how poverty and stagnant livelihoods in Africa are exacerbated by poor physical access. Through field studies researching mobility of men and women in rural areas, the author illustrates the frustrations of improving quality of life due to poor access and transportation. The author argues that the rural poor are marginalized and frequently ignored in policy development. The report indicates that local nongovernmental organizations have had some success in reaching the rural poor; but local government officials have not effectively incorporated transport polices to alleviate the problem. The author offers a range of potential interventions, from expanded community road maintenance, cooperative transport arrangements, and electronic communication. The conclusion highlights that development issues should incorporate personal and family mobility needs in order to create appropriate transport policies.

Prowse, Martin. 2008. "Pro-Poor Adaptation: The Role of Assets." *Overseas Development Institute,* Opinion 117. (November). Available online: http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=2501&title=pro-poor-adaptation-role-assets.

Annotation: Through his secondary research, the author argues that the assets of the poor are critical for effective pro-poor adaption strategies to address climate change. As governments are slow to focus on and fund adaption strategies, the author outlines three approaches as useful entry points: (1) opportunities and risks of climate change and disasters; (2) community-based adaption; and (3) urban asset adaption network. The author argues that at national and community levels, assets play a key role in responding to climate change and formulating interventions at the household level. By focusing on assets, strategies will recognize that the poor are not passive to climate change and are central to formulating responses on how to adapt over the long-term. Otherwise, as the author states, "The poorest countries, and the poorest people within them, have contributed least to greenhouse gas emissions, but often face the greatest future risks from climate change."

Prowse, Martin and Tim Braunholtz- Speight. 2007. "The First Millennium Development Goal, Agriculture and Climate Change." *Overseas Development Institute* Opinion 85.

Annotation: The authors address the question of whether the physical aspects of climate change will affect the achievement of the first Millennium Development Goal, to halve world poverty by 2015. A majority of this paper focuses on sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), where over 60 percent of people are reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods. The authors try not to alarm the reader, but they raise concerns for the vulnerable. Through secondary research, they determine that smallholders will struggle to adapt as they lack the financial ability to mitigate risk, and poorer farms are usually found on less arable land. The article argues that governments and aid organizations need to think beyond 2015. Especially in SSA, poverty reduction strategies must empower smallholders with rural growth opportunities. Otherwise, as the authors conclude, a

window will be missed to reduce poverty by 2040, and efforts to tackle this challenge will be more difficult to achieve.

Revkin, Andrew K. 2009. "Study Finds Pattern of Severe Droughts in Africa." *The New York Times*. April 16. Available online: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/17/science/earth/17drought.html?_r=1&hp.

Annotation: The reporter addresses the findings of a new study exploring year-by-year climate changes in sub-Saharan Africa over the past millennia. By looking at layered mud and dead trees in a crater lake in Ghana, scientists have determined that more mega-droughts will plague SSA; this will have devastating effects on the 390 million poor people whose livelihoods depend on the land and rain. The report also indicates that experts on climate and African poverty emphasized that developing countries must curb greenhouse gases to keep climate change at manageable levels. The article concludes that the sense of urgency to address climate change issues stems from the high population growth rates in SSA. The article provides the reader with a quick snapshot of very current information on the parallel effects of global warming with the livelihoods of a vulnerable population.

Selvam, Sahaya G. 2008. "Capabilities Approach to Youth Rights in East Africa." *The International Journal of Human Rights* 12 (2): 205-214.

Annotation: In this article, the author critically examines the current national youth policies of three countries, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, from a "capabilities" approach. This approach was pioneered by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen and developed by the American philosopher Martha Nussbaum. It is meant to challenge the "legalistic naivety of human rights" in that governments may be a party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet not take any affirmative action to enhance the well being of their citizens, especially the youth. The author expands upon this perspective by suggesting that youth policies should not only focus on their "negative" liberties, but also address how to advance their freedoms and opportunities. It is a theoretical framework poised to draw discussions and debates from governments, faith-based organizations and others that work to promote youth well being in Africa.

Sommers, Marc. 2003. "Urbanization, War, and Africa's Youth at Risk Towards Understanding and Addressing Future Challenges." US Agency for International Development. Available online: http://www.beps.net/publications/BEPS-UrbanizationWarYouthatRisk-.pdf.

Annotation: The author, a Youth at Risk Specialist with CARE, argues that African urban youth represent an untapped resource for stability, economic growth, and ingenuity. However, he states that this viewpoint is not widely held by many in Africa's civil societies. By researching primary sources, the author analyzes why urban youth are treated as an alienated minority when they are, in fact, the demographic majority. This demographic group will grow as many youth from rural sub-Saharan Africa, where economic and employment opportunities are limited, seek a better life in cities. The paper addresses this issue through analysis of African urban youth, especially those affected by conflict, and why they are attracted to cities. The author suggests

programming should: (1) accept that most urban youth will remain; (2) engage and integrate urban youth; and (3) change perceptions of urban youth. The author argues that youth are the solution, not the problem.

Tanner, Arno. 2006. Emigration, Brain Drain and Development: The Case of Sub-Saharan Africa . Helsinki: East-West Books and Migration Policy Institute.

Annotation: In this book, the author reviews existing literature and argues against the positive aspects of emigration. The author agrees that emigration will continue and could be somewhat beneficial. However, he argues that highly skilled labor movement out of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has devastating consequences on the overall development of the region. The author examines case studies in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe and draws thought-provoking conclusions of emigration trends. For example, with the emigration of physicians from Malawi, the health care system has become severely crippled in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This leaves a large hole in HIV prevention as sub-Saharans tend not to return, as remittances are erratic and do not offset emigration costs. To reverse this trend, the author concludes with recommendations for specific policies that target foreign development aid to mitigate the negative consequences of SSA's "brain drain."

Terenzio, Fabrizio. 2007. "The African Movement of Working Children and Youth." *Development* 50 (1): 68-71.

Annotation: The author argues that children play a crucial role in successful development in Africa. In this paper, the author examines the participation of working children since 1987. He argues that because children constitute a majority of the population in Africa, they should play a key role in economic, political, and social agendas. As a result of the author's primary research, the reader learns that children's participation in development does positively impact the economy and contribute to poverty reduction. Going forward, the author argues that the only sustainable model is to develop policies that promote education, which helps to empower children's competitiveness in the marketplace. By embracing this approach, all African children can create their own culture and livelihoods.

Thorsen, Dorte. 2007. "'If Only I Get Enough Money for a Bicycle!' A Study of Childhoods, Migration, and Adolescent Aspirations against a Backdrop of Exploitation and Trafficking in Burkina Faso." Working Paper T21. (September). Available online: http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/working_papers/WP-T21.pdf.

Annotation: The focus of this paper is unique in that it considers the child's perspective concerning the motivations and rationale for independent migration to rural towns and urban centers. By reviewing existing literature from various perspectives, the author is able to conceptualize the choices that children and adults make as it relates to migration motivation in Burkina Faso (West Africa). From the author's research, children view migration as a valuable asset to improve their status, learn new skills, and transition into adulthood. Especially for young girls, migration is seen as an opportunity to gain status and skills to find a good husband. For

young boys, migration promotes success through purchases of gifts to bring home, such as a new bicycle. The author concludes that policies need to address the vulnerabilities of rural youth and ground them through an improved educational system and better employment opportunities.

Truong, Thanh-Dam. 2006. "Governance and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management." *International Social Science Journal* 58 (190): 697-714.

Annotation: This article investigates the boundary between migration and human trafficking from the dual perspectives of governance and poverty, and offers some insights into rethinking best practices. The author's academic research indicates that the framework of migration management is bifurcated into "trade-connected mobility," which is protected by government, and "mobility to sustain livelihood," which is subject to punitive measures with limited scope to protect human rights. With the rise of migration of women, children, and young people in a growing population, human trafficking issues have increased and will put added stress on infrastructure and policy-makers. The author suggests a human rights approach to migration management. She concludes that new best practice concepts need to address alternative governance approaches toward human rights (especially migration management, crime, labor standards, poverty reduction, and communities at risk) since current protection has variant policies depending on what people, which location, and what interest is involved.

Ulicki, Theresa and Jonathan Crush. 2007. "Poverty, Gender and Migrancy: Lesotho's Migrant Farmworkers in South Africa." *Development Southern Africa* 24 (1): 155-172.

Annotation: This paper explores the economic growth of commercial farms in post-apartheid South Africa. The authors note that the success of this economy continues to be sustained by migrants from neighboring countries like Lesotho. The research is based on findings from the Southern African Migration Project survey of 152 Basotho farm workers, both documented and undocumented. The paper focuses on personal profiles describing the Basotho migrants' experiences, their conditions of employment, the regulatory environment around them, and the future of migration legislation in South Africa. In particular, the authors explain that most of the migrants are very poor, older Basotho women who see farm work as the only option for employment. Unfortunately, these women endure exploitation, abusive treatment, low wages, and little basic rights. The authors argue that much work is needed in South Africa to promote a collective labor system to protect the interests of all Basotho migrants.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP). 2003. "Poverty Reduction and Human Rights: A Practice Note." (June). Available online: http://www.undp.org/governance/docs/HRPN_(poverty)En.pdf.

Annotation: The UNDP developed this report through an intensive joint consultative process, which included discussions with three UNDP Knowledge Networks: poverty, governance, and human rights. This paper provides a human rights framework to the context of poverty reduction and provides practical steps to guide UNDP programming. It should be noted that the

framework is intentionally kept broad-based so it can be applicable to various areas of focus at the local level, whether it applies to macroeconomics, trade, micro-finance, livelihood, or Millennium Development Goals. By incorporating a human rights approach to poverty reduction, the UNDP will focus its programming on efforts to encourage government and other actors to tailor MDG targets, capacity building efforts, participatory assessment methodologies, and development assistance to the local context via stronger pro-poor poverty policies.

UNICEF. 2009. "Rights and Results: A Human Rights Approach During Emergencies." Available online: http://www.unicef.org/rightsresults/index_23693.html.

Annotation: This article discusses UNICEF-Mozambique's strategy to fight malaria through a human rights approach to programming and community capacity development (CCD). The article addresses UNICEF's success in using this approach during a flood emergency in the Gaza province, where communities were engaged in capacity development efforts. Through these efforts, residents' understanding of malaria prevention and treatment improved, which helped to reduce the heavy toll of malaria upon returning home. As a result of the CCD success in Gaza, UNICEF developed a similar strategy in Mozambique. The author discussed how this both improves the capacity of ordinary citizens and influences high-level decision makers about using a human rights approach during an emergency. The author emphasizes that, by passing this knowledge to rural Mozambicans, sustainable progress can be made in fighting malaria.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2005. "Case for Investing in Young People as Part of a National Poverty Reduction Strategy." Available online: http://www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.cfm?ID=236.

Annotation: Even though much research exists that supports investment in the young, the importance of youth is not always reflected in policies and programs at the national level. In many cultures, the young are not "full" members of society in terms of voting rights, status, and decision-making. This paper provides primary research for policymakers to support national efforts toward poverty reduction by investing in the young. It provides a public policy framework and acknowledges the difficult tradeoffs that decision-makers must address when formulating policy. To this end, the paper provides seven convincing arguments as to why national poverty reduction efforts must focus on youth to be successful. These arguments focus on grassroots efforts whereby the outputs will flow into national policies and create a "virtuous circle" model. The hope is that the focus on youth will become self-sustaining as it brings about benefits to society as a whole.

United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs. 2007. "World Youth Report." Available online: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr07.htm.

Annotation: This report explores the challenges and opportunities for the approximate 1.2 billion youth population between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four. It provides a regional overview of major youth development trends in fifteen priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth. The report covers major issues including employment, education, health,

poverty, and conflict. It also highlights youth as a positive tool for development and contribution. Drawing upon UN research, Chapter Three of this report ("Overcoming the Barriers of Poverty: Challenges for Youth Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa"), reviews the major constraints to development over the last twenty-five years, including youth's demographic context, economic and social obstacles, political involvement, conflict, and HIV/AIDS. The chapter concludes with an overview of areas in which sub-Saharan Africa is making progress with youth development. In particular, it highlights the recent trends in youth volunteerism and regional initiatives to advance livelihoods.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. 2005. "Youth, Education, Skills and Employment." (December). Available online: http://uneca.org/eca_programmes/policy_analysis/publications/youth_educ_skills_emp.pdf.

Annotation: This paper addresses the challenges of Africa's youth to gain active employment, which was reflected by a youth unemployment rate of 21 percent in 2003. This paper emphasizes the lack of access to education that directly affects young people's ability to promote economic growth, poverty reduction, and prosperity in Africa. To address this issue, the author provides a conceptual framework to justify education and active labor market policies. The author argues that these policies need to be cost effective and provide consideration to the young people who do not successfully transition into employment. If these problems are ignored, the author concludes, Africa will face larger economic and social challenges in the future.

_____. 2006. "Youth and Economic Development in Africa: An Issues Paper." (October). Available online: http://www.uneca.org/adf/adfv/docs/Issue_paper_eco.pdf.

Annotation: Through primary research, this papers highlights seven main issues to promote the well being of youth and economic development in Africa: (1) education and training; (2) employment and migration; (3) entrepreneurship; (4) access to information and communication technology; (5) health and HIV/AIDS; (6) environmental and sustainable livelihoods; and (7) participation in economic decision-making. However, the last issue is emphasized as a key context for government and international partners. To advance the development process, young Africans need to be engaged as key contributors in all aspects of programs and initiatives, especially as it relates to Poverty Reduction Strategies, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Millennium Development Goals. The paper addresses several initiatives undertaken by bi-lateral and local organizations to improve youth participation. However, it concludes that more youth involvement is needed to help (1) craft economic policies; (2) implement; and (3) monitor and evaluate, in order to affect change.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). 2008. "The State of African Cities 2008. A Framework for Addressing Urban Challenges in Africa." Available online: http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/getPage.asp?page=bookView&book=2574.

Annotation: This is the first issue in a series of African cities reports and provides a tool and a context for debate on urban issues for governments at the central and local level, as well as for other key actors in the development sector. The authors hope to promote innovative thinking that confronts critical challenges in housing, urban development, and governance as Africa is faced with increasing population growth and migration. With 46 percent of the African urban population living in slums and informal settlements, this report addresses the context of tackling poverty while trying to address these challenges. The report is well organized by region; thus, the reader can find extensive data, history, and research for a comparative study of the continent.

Utviklingsfondnet (Development Fund). 2009. "Empowering Landless Youth by Distributing Hillside Land." Available online: http://www.utviklingsfondet.no/filestore/PP_ethiopia_web.pdf.

Annotation: The Development Fund is a non-governmental organization that supports development projects for smallholders in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Its activities focus on both environmental and sustainable development at the grassroots level. This report is based on a case study of a project that targeted landless youth, which comprised 25 percent of the total population in the northern region of Ethiopia. The project had three goals: (1) to support landless youths with income generating activities; (2) to contribute to reducing the soil and land degradation; and (3) to decrease migration to urban areas. Per the report, an important component to achieving these goals included collaboration of government and civil organizations at different village and regional levels. The project has been successful; one key lesson learned is that youth interventions help decrease urban migration and sustain rural livelihoods. But, challenges to the project's continuing success exist due to the increasing number of landless youths and droughts.

van Blerk, Lorraine. 2008. "Poverty, Migration and Sex Work: Youth Transitions in Ethiopia." *Area* 40 (2): 245-253.

Annotation: The author has taken an unconventional approach to understanding migrating youth, marginalized through poverty. By drawing on interviews with sixty young female sex workers in Ethiopia, the author demonstrates that sex work may be a risky and vulnerable option, but often provides independence for rural-to-urban female migrants. This is not to say that the author believes in this manner of employment as a means to independence. In fact, the paper argues that sex work in Ethiopia is extremely risky with no legal protection. However, the author's research demonstrates that sex work can provide a successful transition to adulthood. The paper concludes by stating that policymakers need to learn more about young people and draft policies that provide independence and different employment options for migrating youth, especially girls.

van Blerk, Lorraine and Nicola Ansell. 2006. "Children's Experiences of Migration: Moving in the Wake of AIDS in Southern Africa." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 24: 449-471.

Annotation: Drawing upon empirical studies of young migrants in Malawi and Lesotho, the authors argue that migration research needs to recognize children's experiences, whether alone or accompanied, and the consequences migration has on their lives. For this study, the authors cite that AIDS is an unavoidable context of these children's migration experiences. These experiences include being sent to work, caring for ill relatives, living with other members of an extended family, or leaving on their own to survive. This presents a complex set of challenges about how to address the increased burden that migration has on households. Therefore, the authors argue that migration research needs to elevate the combination of AIDS and child migration issues into the forefront of all migration-related agendas.

van Dijk, Han, Dick Foeken and Kiky van Til. 2001. "Population Mobility in Africa: An Overview." In M. de Bruijn, Rijk van Dijk and Dick Foeken (eds.), <u>Mobile Africa. Changing Patterns of Movement in Africa and Beyond</u>. Leiden: Brill.

Annotation: This book presents the results of research undertaken by the African Studies Center. The case studies in this book represent several authors' interpretations of mobility and collectively reject the notion that migration is a breakdown in society; in essence, migration becomes part of the African livelihood. The findings indicate that economic opportunities, affiliated ethnic and religious groups, safety from prosecution, urban character, and the presence of aid organizations all contribute to decisions of whether to migrate. In addition, women migrating rural-urban on their own is increasing. And, their new livelihoods are not all positive as they can engage in jobs ranging from homemakers to prostitutes to domestic servants. In all cases, the authors encourage further data collection on both intra- and inter-national migration to promote further discussion about the effects of mobility in Africa.

Villarreal, Marcela, Rosemary Vargas-Lundius, Guillaume Lanly and Martha Osorio. 2008. <u>International Migration, Remittances and Rural Development</u>. Rome: International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Annotation: The International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations conducted research to study the root causes of outmigration with a focus on its economic and social implications. The authors based their research on secondary sources of literature review, policy papers, survey studies, and interviews with migrants. Their research indicates that population expansion will reach 9.2 billion people by 2050. As 70 percent will be living in urban areas, the authors argue that rural development cannot be isolated from urban migration. To address this issue, a majority of the book provides an overview of the economic impacts of migration, the role of financial institutions, and the development of original communities. The book concludes with a thoughtful analysis about the relationship between challenges of migration, climate change, mobility of diseases, and rural development.

World Bank. 2008. <u>Girls' Education in the 21st Century. Gender Equality, Empowerment and Economic Growth</u>. Washington DC: World Bank Publications.

Annotation: This book draws upon World Bank data to present compelling evidence for more investment in female education; gender equality is not a women's issue, it is a development issue. To address this argument, the book presents examples of country-level experiences that help the reader understand these issues and why many successful interventions are attuned to community-level programs that embrace local values and norms. These examples support the strategy that educating girls is one of the most cost-effective ways of advancing development because it helps break the cycle of poverty. The data indicates that this is positively correlated to increased economic growth, productive labor markets, higher income, and improved social health and well-being. The book becomes a useful reference tool for researchers, policy makers, development practitioners, and other actors to help implement strategic policies that advance the movement towards gender equality and empowerment of women by 2015.

_____. 2008. World Development Indicators 2008: Poverty Data Supplement. Available online: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/WDI08supplement1216.pdf.

Annotation: This report presents the latest poverty headcount data produced by the World Bank. From household surveys, the book details extensive data on the estimates of global poverty and re-evaluates the World Bank's 1999 standard of "$1.00 a day" extreme poverty line. Based on new measurements for 115 developing countries, the World Bank refined the international poverty line to $1.25 a day. This line maintains the same standards for extreme poverty, but updates it using the latest cost of living information of these countries. The report indicates that, at the $1.25 a day line, global extreme poverty fell from 1.9 billion people in 1981 to 1.4 billion people in 2005. However, the authors indicate there are large differences between regions, across countries in the same region, and even within countries. The data does not propose any solutions but helps the reader to see differences within the poverty context.

_____. 2009. "50 Factoids about Sub-Saharan Africa." Available online: http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/EXTPUBREP/EXTSTATINAFR/0,,contentMDK:21106218~menuPK:824080~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:824043,00.html.

Annotation: The World Bank, drawing on its 2008 Africa Development Indicators (ADI) report, created this simple, easy-to-read list of facts about economics, goods and services, natural resources, climate, society, and culture in sub-Saharan Africa. As an alternative to reading the entire ADI report, the reader is able to quickly review relevant data that can advance further analytical research about the region. This brief report is especially beneficial to researchers and development organizations that are seeking to use the data as a tool to help aggregate variant information.

_____. 2009. 2008/2009 The Little Data Book on Africa. Available online: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTSTATINAFR/Resources/LDB-Africa-12-2-08.pdf.

Annotation: This resource guide is a readable pocket edition of the 2008/2009 Africa Development Indicators. It contains approximately 115 key indicators on economics, human development, governance, and partnership. The book was designed to be user-friendly with: (1) an extensive glossary of terms; (2) countries listed in alphabetical order; and (3) country tables detailing data from 2006 economies for World Bank member countries. It was also designed to provide more current information, such as current political arrangements and governance, anticorruption indicators and Country Policy and Institutional Assessment ratings from 2007-2008. The staff of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank developed this guide as a quick resource tool for the reader and as a supplement to the more in-depth Africa Development Indicators.

_____. 2009. "Fact Sheet: The World Bank and Agriculture in Africa." Available online: http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/0,,contentMDK:21935583~pagePK:146736~piPK:146830~theSitePK:258644,00.html.

Annotation: This report provides an overview of African agriculture as well as current World Bank activities. The data is drawn from the World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development. The report's bulleted format provides the reader with key background information that supports the statement that "Agriculture is essential for sub-Saharan Africa's growth and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals of halving poverty by 2015." The reader will quickly glean what work still needs to be accomplished as well as what efforts are underway. The data presented in this piece is useful for conducting further in-depth analytical research on the topic of agriculture and its impact on poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa.

_____. 2009. "Youth Employment: Key to Conflict Prevention, Poverty Reduction." (December 4). Available online: http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21997667~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html.

Annotation: This essay, by the World Bank, addresses the major problem of joblessness among youth in rural and urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa. As the youth drop out of school and young women experience early motherhood issues, a dream of a better life lures them to the urban areas where sustainable infrastructure is not in place. This results in further unemployment and conflicts. The essay argues that current interventions are too narrow in scope and too focused on urban areas. It suggests that an integrated approach is needed and has to address job creation in urban areas and education programs in rural areas, where 70 percent of youth live. The World Bank provides a compelling argument as it draws data from its 2008-2009 edition of Africa Development Indicators. With the population growing in Africa, the migration issues will only worsen and lead to further unrest unless holistic approaches are implemented to support Africa's youth.

Zlotnik, Hania. 2003. "The Global Dimensions of Female Migration." *Migration Information Source*. (March). Available online: http://www.migrationinformation.org/feature/display.cfm?ID=109.

Annotation: The author is the Chief of the Population Estimates and Projections Section of the United Nations Population Division. By collecting data assessing female migration, the author has been able to trace the evolution of the number of female migrants from 1960-2000. The result of this new set of global estimates is that women and girls have accounted for a very high percentage of international migrants for a long period of time. In fact, for more than forty years, female migrants have almost been as numerous as male migrants. In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the author reports that the proportion of female migrants has risen in parallel with the increasing number of refugees. The author concludes that the data supports his position that female migration is not a new phenomenon; however, the increasing trend of female migration is a unique aspect of global migration facing many policymakers.

Zuberi, Tukufu, Amson Sibanda, Ayaga Bawah and Amadou Noumbissi. 2003. "Population and African Society." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29 (1): 465-486.

Annotation: This report reviews how African population growth and urbanization are clashing with the constraints of famine, civil wars, economic deterioration, HIV/AIDS, and environmental change. The authors provide the reader with more in-depth profiles of two types of constraints—ecology and mortality—within the context of population change. Even though the authors make reference to North Africa, the focus is on sub-Saharan Africa, particularly emphasizing the region's integration of social change and population. Regarding urbanization, the authors stress the growing concern of urban growth, its effect on the economy, the environment, and rural livelihoods. Specifically, the reports states that increasing urbanization has led to unemployment, underemployment, poverty, crime, overburdened social services, sanitation issues, and water and air pollution. The conclusion of the paper offers some insight into the African population and its social development through the lens of African history.