

Flussi migratori in Africa: l'impatto della mobilita' sui bambini

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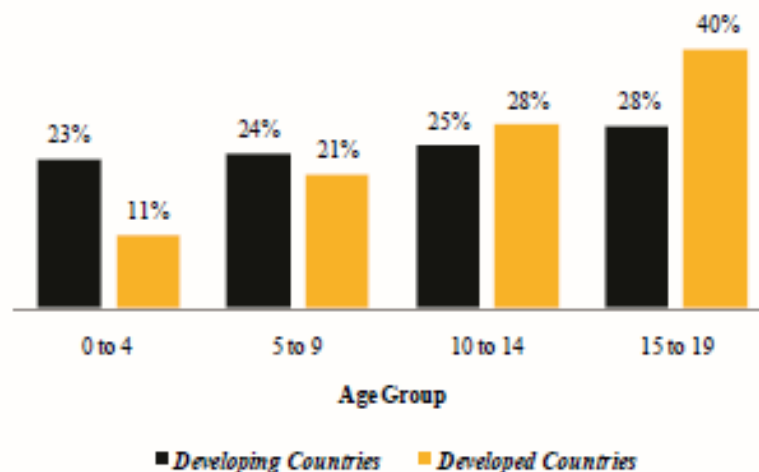
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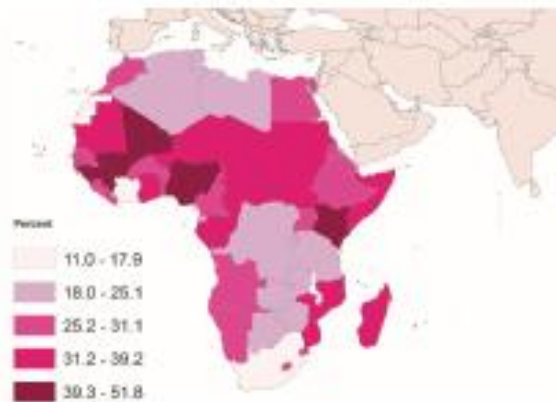
Framework

Migrants under 20 years of age (15% of all the migrants):

- 13 millions in developed countries
- 20 millions in developing countries



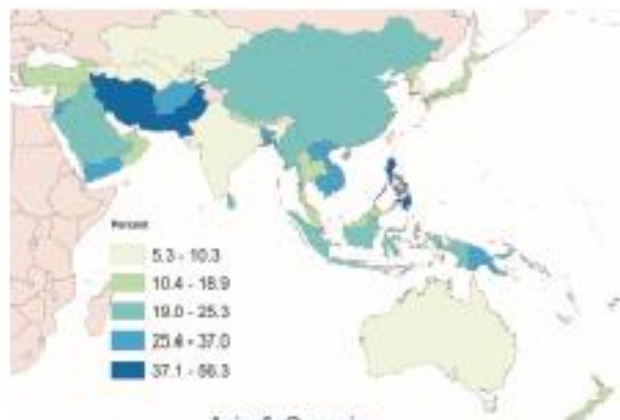
Framework



Africa



Americas



Asia & Oceania



Europe

Percentage of International Migrants under the Age of 20

Framework

Impact of migration on children in developing countries:

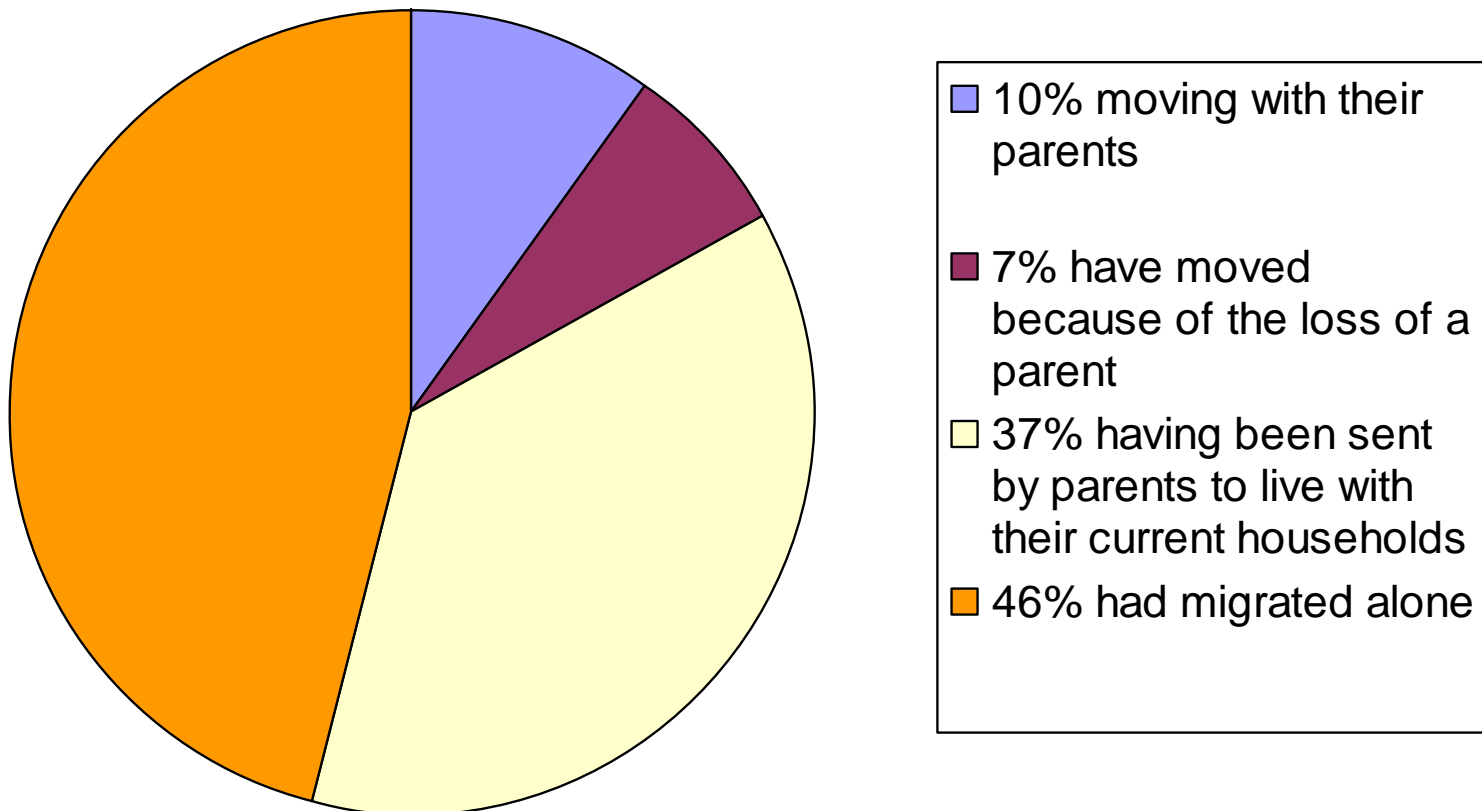
- Children migrating South–South (alone or with parents)
- Children left behind

Mobility patterns

Migrant children	Left behind	Living in context affected by migration
Children migrating with their family - with other adults	Children left behind by one parent	By immigration
Children migrating alone	Children left behind by both parents	By emigration
Foster children, children moving for education		

Child migrants

Children no longer living in their place of origin. Ghana



Source: Ghana LFS, 2003

Left Behind

- **Living in a family with at least one parent away for long periods is part of the normal experience of childhood for many children in the developing world.**
 - South Africa: 25% of all households have members who are migrant workers, but this proportion rises to over 40% of households in deep rural areas (SAMP 2004)
 - Tanzania: that between 50-60% of people living in rural households have at least one member away, while the figure for rural Mali was 80% (Tacoli 2002)

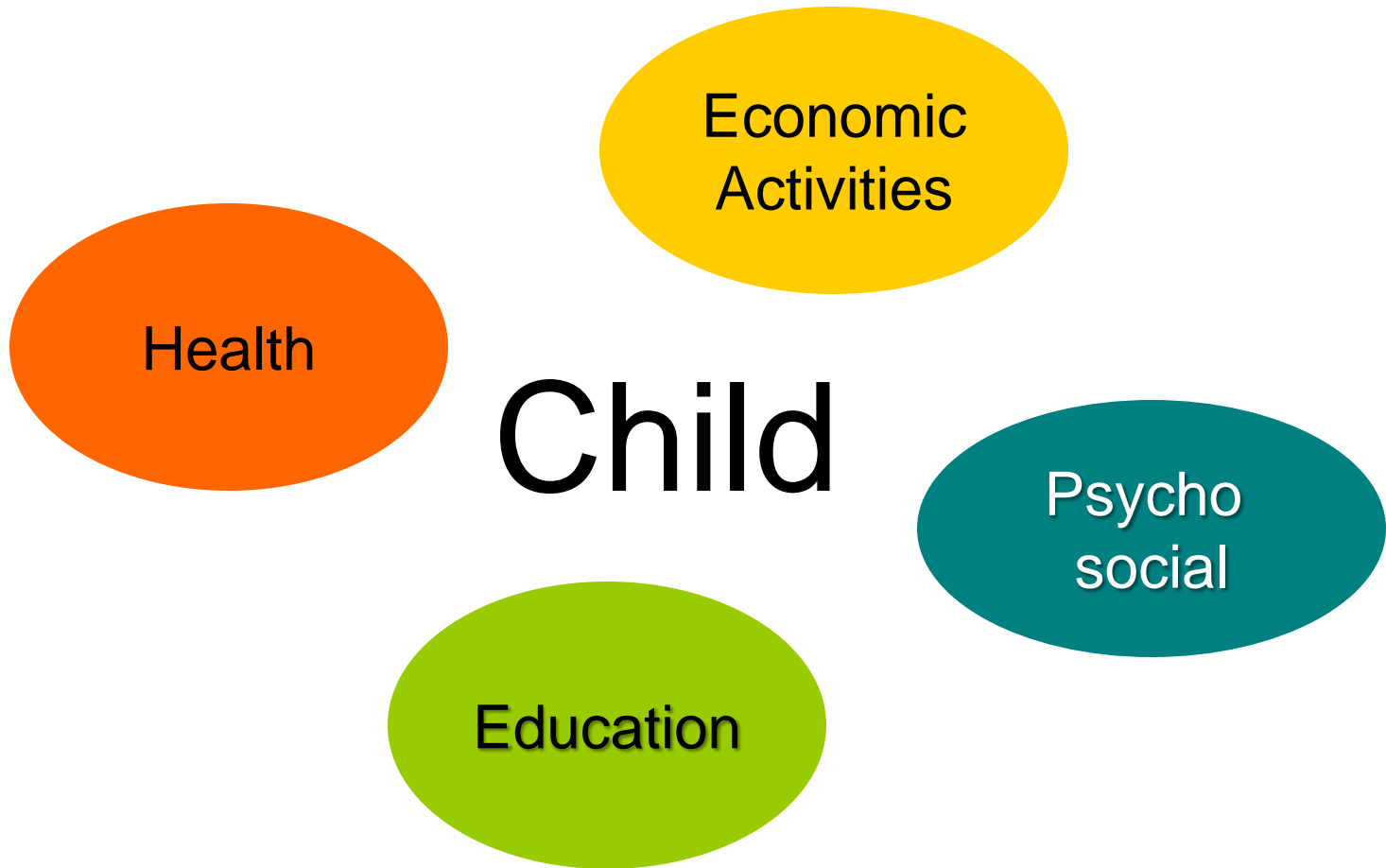
Impact

For **adults** the measurement of poverty and well-being is usually based on the notion of economic well-being,

- i.e. equating people's standard of living with income and consumption levels.

With **children**, such an approach may not be satisfactory. In households with incomes above the poverty line children may still suffer from inadequate access to resources due to intra-household distributional issues

Well-being outcomes



Impact: control group



Children at
destination



Migrant
Children



Children at
origin



Left behind

Impact: migrant children

Health

- Increased access to health care (rural – urban)
- Migrants experience a survival advantage relative to rural natives, but also relative to urban non-migrant children
- Possible discrimination and difficulties in accessing health services if based on a registered residence system

Education and economic activity

- Migrating to attend better or more advanced schools
- Migrating to work. Lack of opportunities for educated children

No research assessing the impact on educational attainment

Impact: migrant children

Psycho-social impact

- Assumptions:
 - Negative impacts due to stress, exclusion and marginalization in countries of destination
 - Positive impacts due to agency, new roles, quick adaptation
- No quantitative studies addressing the mental health of children migrating South-South

Impact: children left behind

Health

- Positive contribution of migration to infant mortality reduction
- Children in households with migrant members are less likely to be underweight

Education

- Increased enrolment
- Private school

Impact: children left behind

Economic activity

- Remittances replace the income obtained from child work and lower wage employment outside the household,
- A family member's migration increases the time children work and receive a wage within family-run economic activities.
- The migration of an adult member may produce two distinct direct negative effects on the household demand for child work:
 - it increases the marginal productivity of the child, who is required to substitute for the foregone adult labour;
 - can influence the productivity of child work if the remittances are used to finance productive investments, such as the purchase of land or of productive equipment

Impact: children left behind

Psycho social

- The social cost of migration can be very high, particularly due to the lack of parental care. Exacerbated if long term migration of one of the parents may lead to permanent disruption of family unity
- Remittances can compensate for maternal absenteeism due their positive contribution to the household income and to the household's potential to access and provide better health, education, and work opportunities
- No quantitative research
- No evident impact on well being indicators

Mini-epidemiological paradox (Mexico)

Positive effects of remittances are confined to the households in the poorest quintile of the income distribution

“although women in migrant households are characterized by a riskier socio-demographic profile, their infants have favourable birth outcomes as compared to infants born into non migrant household”

(Frank and Hummer 2002: 755)

Remittances

The income and livelihood effects on household members left behind depend on:

- The level of income that migrants earn
- The extent to which they can and do send remittances back
- How they are used in the household
(Gender and preferences in the use of remittances)

Remittances

- **Salary** Extent to which the work that migrants are doing is well rewarded in local terms (change over the time)
- **Percentage sent back.** It can decline, as rates of unemployment and the cost of living in urban areas has gone up. Gender: women may send back home an higher percentage even if they are earning a lower salary
- **Uncertainty of the timing** and magnitude of remittances can push women and children from poor labouring households to participate in the labour market under adverse conditions
- **Intra-household distribution.** In some cases women domestic workers sent money to parents rather than to their husbands because they feared their husbands would spend money on liquor and new girlfriends

Gender

- Family decisions concerning the use of remittances often depend upon **which family members are left behind**
- Remittances increase self-employment in men, but reduce the female labour supply. (for Nicaragua, Funkhouser 1992)
- Fathers seem prefer to invest in physical assets and the expansion of family farming and business activities, while mothers prefer to invest in human capital
- With fathers absent, mothers assume more “allocative power,” and tend to channel remittances toward education
- Female labour migration may have a negative effect on the education of children left behind if asymmetric preferences between males and females persist

Challenges in using well being indicators

Well being outcome is the result of two different components, one positive and one negative.

For example:

- lack of parental care produces a potentially adverse health or education effect,
- remittances can compensate for maternal absenteeism due their positive contribution to the household income and to the household's potential to access and provide better services

Impact on children and policy implications



Protection concerns

Development Effects

The sign of the total effect cannot be defined theoretically

Impact

	Non income	income
POSITIVE		Impact on family income
NEGATIVE	Impact on family structure	

Social Remittances

(Levitt 1998)

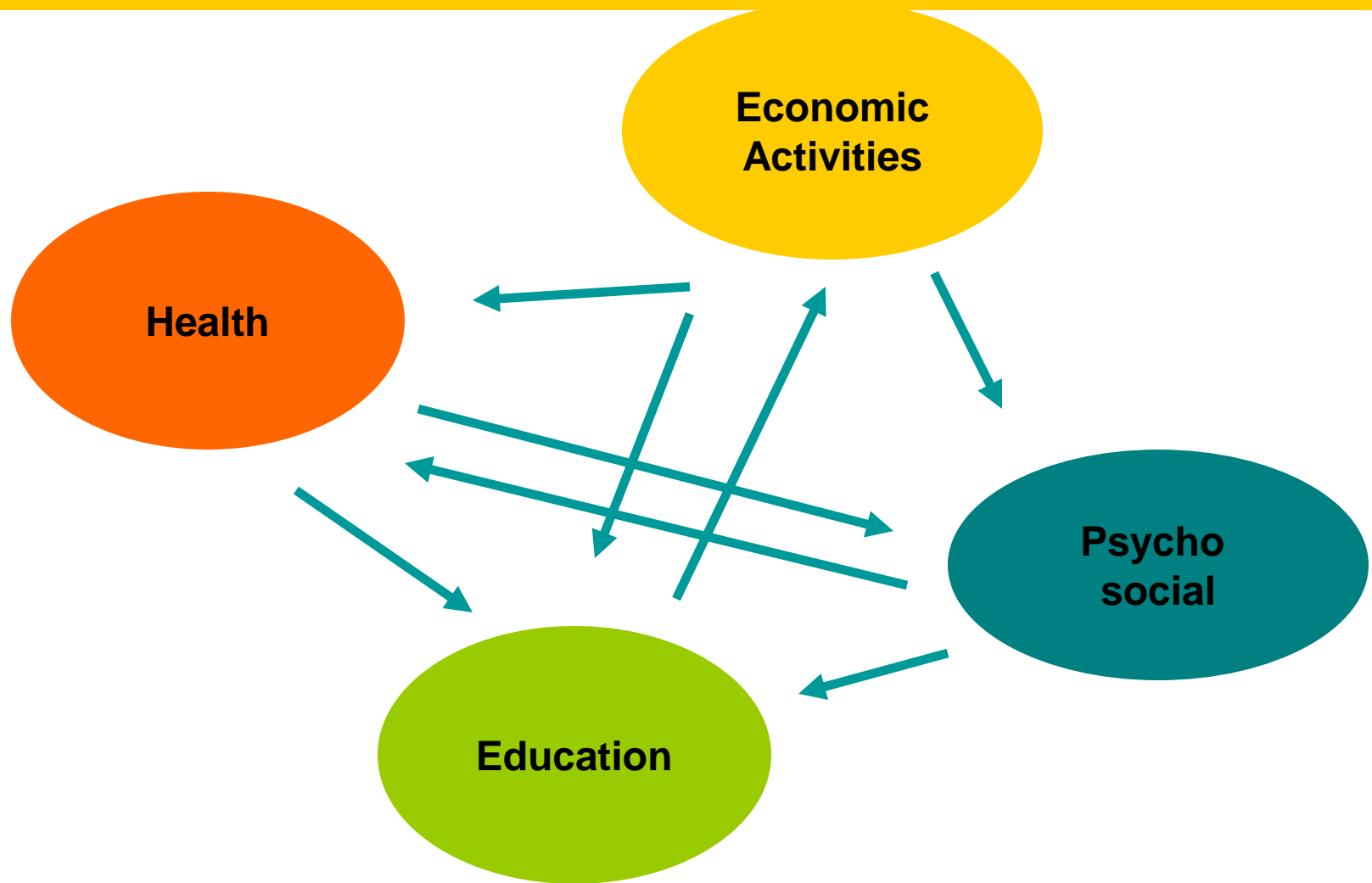
Household income does not present a significant effect on low birth weight, whereas receiving remittances always has a significant effect, reducing low birth weight. (Frank and Hummer (2002)

Migrant members of the household bring back not only financial remittances but also new information, and values that may have a positive effect on children. This positive effect depends, however, on the possibility of existing means of contact between migrants and the household

Impact

	Non income	income
POSITIVE	Social remittances Agency	Impact on family income
NEGATIVE	Impact on family structure	Consumption changes marginal productivity of the child

Empirical challenges



Empirical challenges

Household / family decision making (broad definition)

The decision of one or both parents to migrate and, consequently, to leave children behind, may be the result of an **individual altruistic decision** to send remittances in order improve the lives of family members, or the result of **household utility maximization** that may take into consideration also the risks and perils of travel

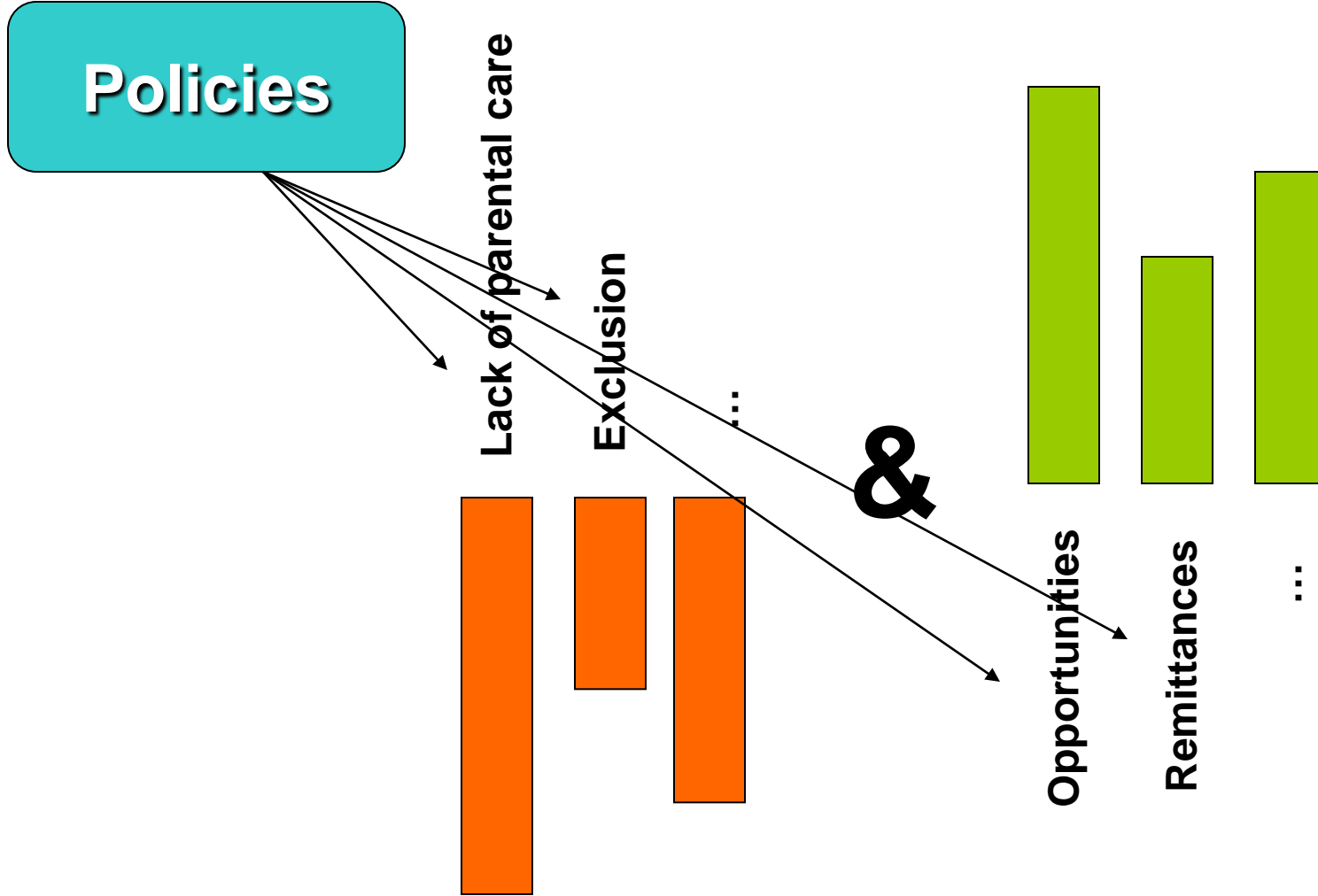
(Funkhouser 1995; Stark 1995; Becker 1974, 1991)

Household

“A small group of persons who share the same living accommodation, who pool some, or all, of their income and wealth and who consume certain types of goods and services collectively, mainly housing and food.”

(United Nations System of National Accounts, 1993)

Policy implications



Data and Policy requirement

- **Absence of surveys designed specifically for this purpose**
 - It is possible to use data drawn from household surveys and census to measure the impact of migration on children
 - Need basic questions on birth place, citizenship and residence. Tabulation by age group 0-18
 - Access to microdata to test assumptions
 - Role of civil society in collecting data
 - Promote evidence based policies
- **Developing countries as countries of destination**
 - Protection of migrants
 - Access to services
 - Non discrimination