

RCRCC News Update November 2006

Hello everyone,

It's been a long time since we at the Consortium exchanged news, so we have compiled this bulletin to keep everyone informed of fellow members' recent research activities. First off, sincere thanks to all of you who have responded to our solicitations for items of interest. We appreciate your taking time off from your work to provide us with the information reproduced here. We look forward to hearing from more of you in the future. We hope the research described here will encourage you to get in touch with one another as well as with us at the Secretariat.

Dr. Rudhramoorthy Cheran has recently completed work on Tamil transnational community organizations in Canada with a focus on the development and relief work that such organizations undertake in conflict/post-conflict zones of their "homelands".

- Two of his publications deal with remittances to conflict zones. You can access them at:
<http://www.berghof-foundation.lk/scripts/DiasporaCirc.pdf>
http://www.lcc.gc.ca/research_project/cheran-main-en.asp

Dr. Paul Harvey of ODI reports that case studies for the Remittances in Crises Project have been completed for Somaliland, Haiti, Aceh, Sri Lanka and Sudan and are all posted on the website:

- <http://www.odi.org.uk/hpg/remittances.html>
A case study of Pakistan is being finalized and will be available shortly.
- A HPG report on remittances in crises, synthesizing findings from the various case studies, is also being drafted.

Anna Lindley at the COMPAS group has been busy working on several projects including:

- Delivering a report on remittances in Somali society for ODI's Humanitarian Policy Group (available at www.odi.org/uk)
- Presenting a revised version of the same paper at the forthcoming HiCN/USAID Poverty Reduction Fragile State Conference on 8-9th November in Washington.
- Co-editing the Migrant Remittances Newsletter (sponsored by USAID and DFID) with Manuel Orozco - Ideas and news are welcome from consortium members. The next Research Note for the newsletter will focus on Remittances and Conflict issues. To subscribe, please email: newsletter@dai.com
- Helping with the preparations for the DFID/WB Second International Conference on Migrant Remittances on November 13-14, 2006, which will focus on Remittances and Access to Finance.

Other COMPAS researcher-related news:

- **Nick Van Hear** is analyzing material on the Tamil diaspora and the Sri Lankan conflict collected in Sri Lanka, south India and the UK over the past few years.

- **David Gellner, Sondra Hausner and Nepali colleagues** have developed a COMPAS related research proposal on the Nepali diaspora and conflict.

Christopher McDowell of ICAR reports:

- ICAR has recently launched a research and consultation project on refugee rights and responsibilities in the UK.
- The project aims to understand how refugees balance their responsibilities to their new community as well as to the diaspora and the country of origin.
- The project will explore the role of remittances and other transfers in these relationships.
- The project involves interactive online consultation that will explore the transnational nature of how refugees manage and distribute their social political and economic resources amongst the diverse groups and individuals they feel responsible for.
- For details, check: www.icar.org/uk/RandR

Dr. Sam Maimbo of the World Bank Group would like to share his news with us.

- He has just edited a publication titled “Remittances and Economic Development in Somalia”, to be published as part of the World Bank Working Paper Series in November in the first instance and later as a book in the Bank’s Direction for Development Series.
- The publication includes six papers on the various aspects of remittances and the Somali economy.

Dr. Manuel Orozco has recently completed several papers listed below

- Diasporas and Development
- West African Financial Flows and Opportunities for Small Businesses
- Transnational Families Report with Methodology
- Remittances and the Local Economy in Latin America
- Understanding the Remittance Economy in Haiti

And now for some more good news. The RCRCC family is growing. Welcome to Dr. Cindy Horst of PRIO and to Dr. Stephen Lubkemann of George Washington University into the Consortium group.

Members, please note our new address at which Consortium news can be accessed. It is: <http://isim.georgetown.edu/pages/RCRCC.html>

That is all we have for now. Please keep the information train going.

Best wishes from us all here at the Secretariat at ISIM, Georgetown