



# THE ROLE OF STATE IN RECEIVING AND RE- INTEGRATING RETURNEES

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**PART 1. RETURN MIGRATION & RECEIVING  
RETURNEES**

**PART 2. REINTEGRATION & SUPPORTING  
RETURNEES**

# Introduction

## Return high on the agenda of the development community

- Potential of return migration on the origin country economic development
- Human capital accumulation of the migrants themselves

## Temporary and circular labour migration as a livelihood strategy

- Settlement abroad often not possible
- Permanence of return movements

## Return movements of IDPs and refugees in conflict-affected countries

- Voluntary repatriation, as the optimum solution to refugee crises



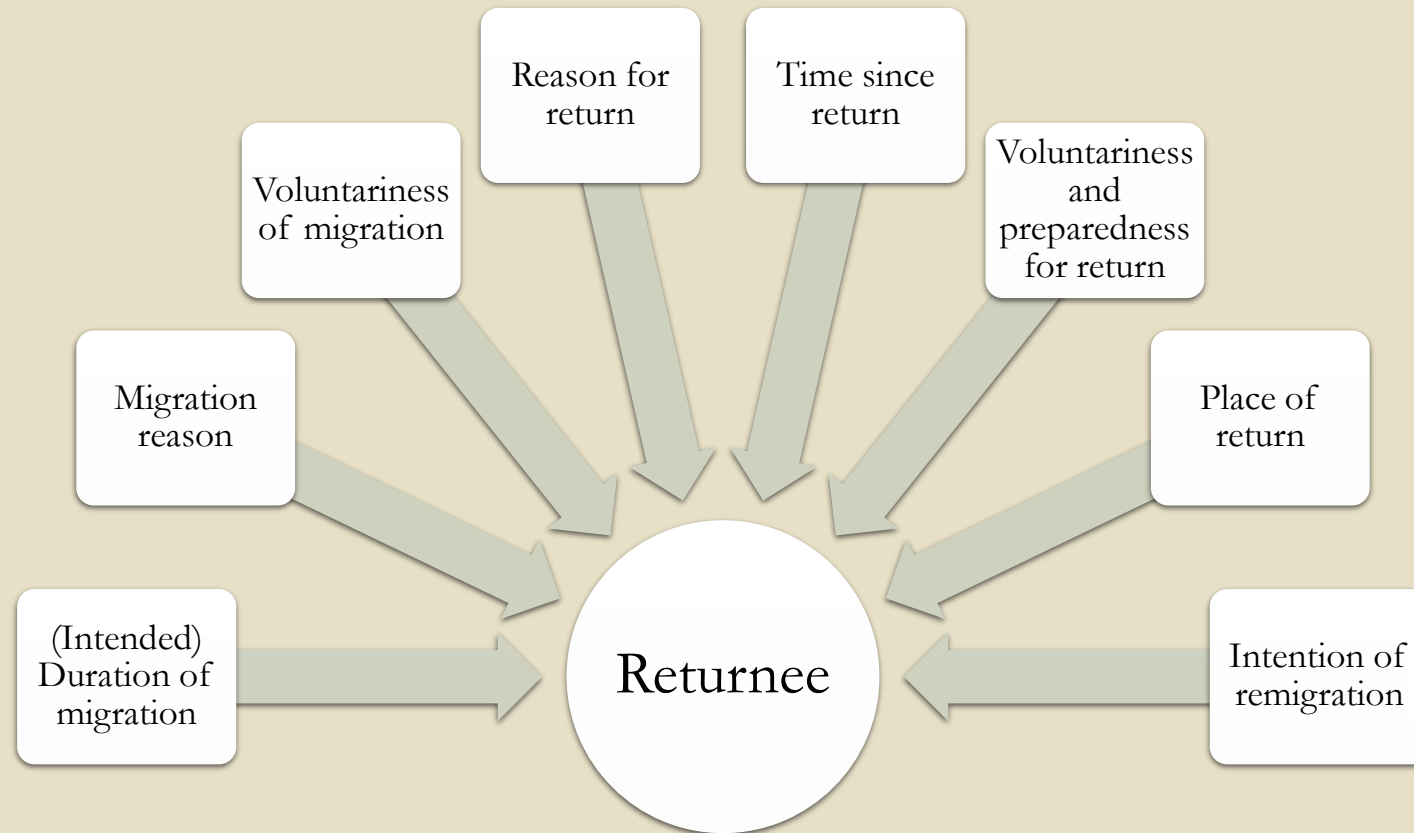
# RETURN MIGRATION AND RECEIVING RETURNEES

Part 1

# Return migration

- “Return migration is defined as the movement of emigrants back to their homelands to resettle” (Gmelch, 1980: 136).
- “...persons returning to their country of citizenship after having been international migrants (whether short-term or long-term) in another country and who are intending to stay in their country for at least a year.” (United Nations Statistics Division, 1997)
- “...any person returning to his/her country of origin, in the course of the last ten years, after having been an international migrant (whether short-term or long-term) in another country. Return may be permanent or temporary. It may be independently decided by the migrant or forced by unexpected/adverse circumstances.” (Cassarino 2008: 3)

# Return migration



# Receiving returnees

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Ensure return in an orderly and safe manner: One-stop-shop approach

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Migration life-cycle: Improve pre-return preparedness and cooperate with destination countries



Planning to come home?  
Apply, teach, inspire and  
make a difference.

*"Sa Pinas, Ikaw  
ang Ma'am/Sir"*

- a convergence  
program for  
OFW LET passers

Who?

How?

Where?

8

# Philippines' approach to pre-return preparedness

- Sa Pinas, Ikaw and Ma'am/Sir Program
  - Training domestic workers abroad to become teachers upon their return
- On site assessment programme of the technical Education and Skills Development Authority
  - Competence assessment for a recognized competency certificate
  - Support upon return to the Philippines



# Receiving returnees

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Ensure return in an orderly and safe manner: One-stop-shop approach

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Migration life-cycle: Improve pre-return preparedness and cooperate with destination countries

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Institute an administrative mechanism for the effective registration of returning migrants

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Estimate and create a database and tracking system regarding the flow and stock of return migrants



# REINTEGRATION AND SUPPORTING RETURNEES

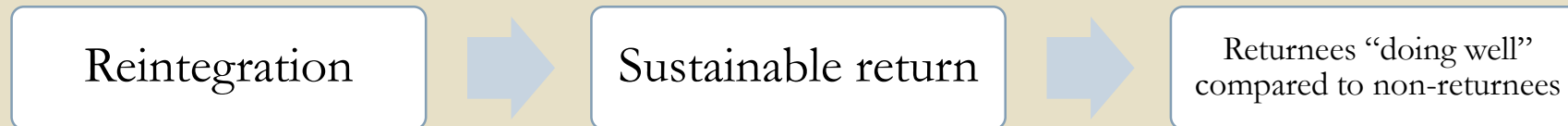
Part 2

# Reintegration

- Little consensus among policy makers and academics on how reintegration is defined or operationalized

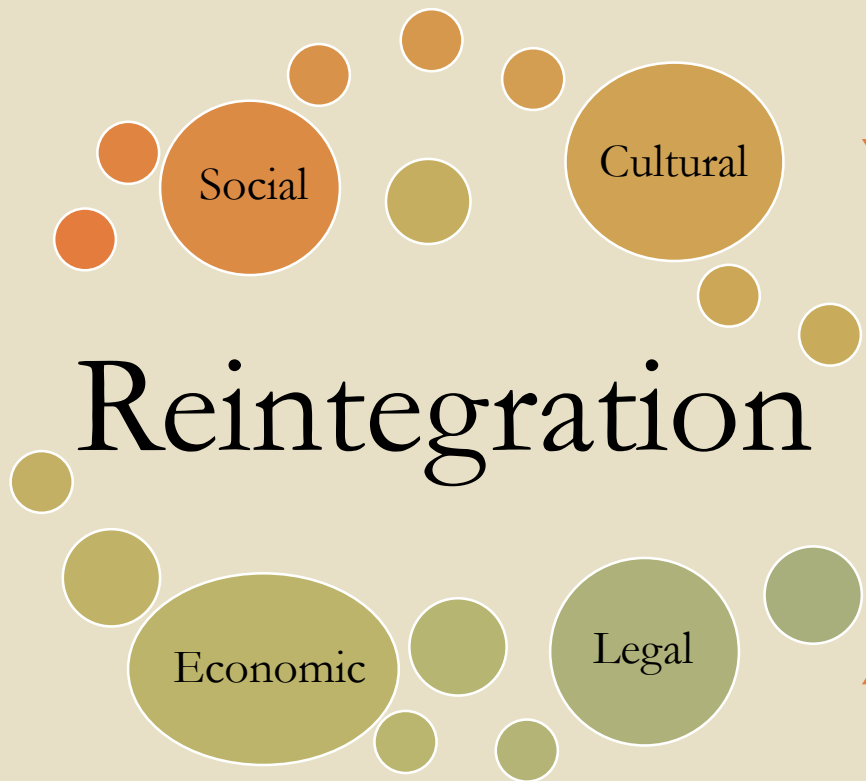


- **NO!** Migration can be an economically viable household strategy for households



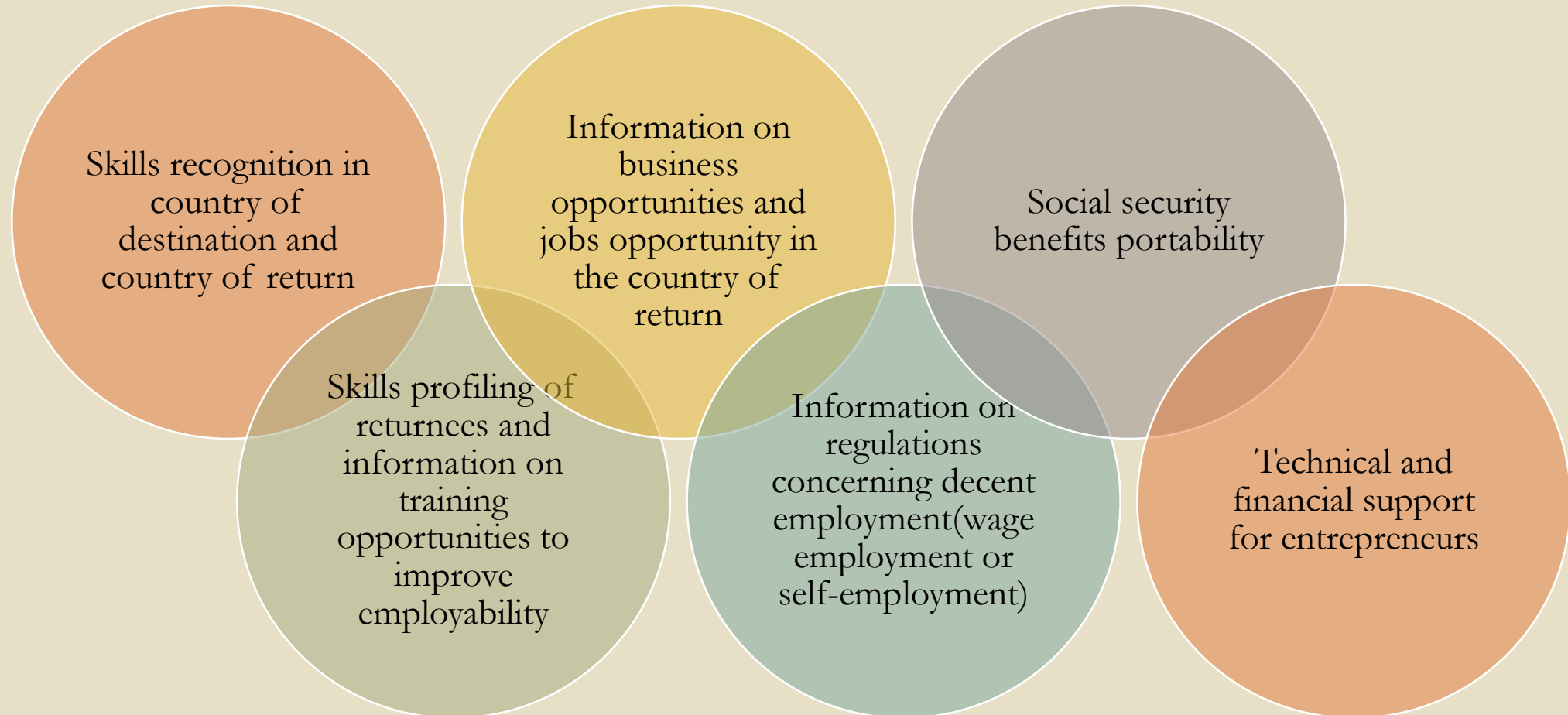
“A process that should result in the disappearance of differences in legal rights and duties between returnees and their compatriots and the equal access of returnees to services, productive assets and opportunities”  
(UNHCR, 2004).

# Reintegration



A  
natural  
process?

# Supporting reintegration



# Ethiopia's approach to economic reintegration

- Massive deportation of Ethiopian labour migrants from Saudi Arabia in 2013
- Long term development plan: Enhancing the potential of return migrants and promoting entrepreneurship



(Kuschminder & Richard-Guay, 2017)

# Comprehensive strategies & institutional capacity



Coherence with broader  
development perspective and  
migration governance



A guiding approach  
Central governmental unit  
Capacity building



Enhance interagency  
collaboration  
Complementary measures with  
CSOs and NGOs

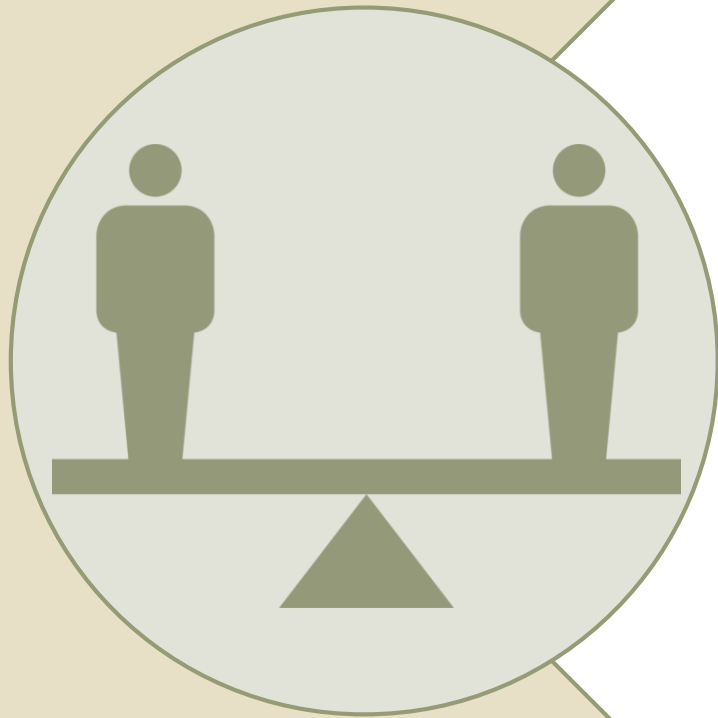




# DISCUSSION

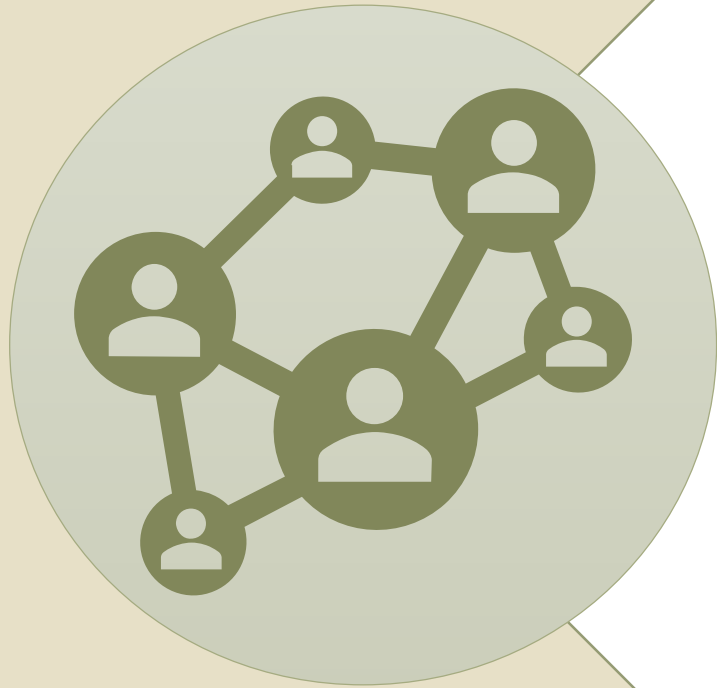
Part 3

# Reintegration - socioeconomic inequality



- Use of absolute measurements instead of relative to local populations
- Comparison of pre- and post-migration situations among returnees

# Reintegration – social cohesion



- Feelings and perceptions of reintegration
- Social reintegration: a two-way process and perspectives of non-returnees

# Thanks for your attention!

## *Relevant publications*

- Fransen, S., & Bilgili, Ö. (2018). Who reintegrates? The constituents of reintegration of displaced populations. *Population, Space and Place*. 24 (6), 1-13.
- Bilgili, Ö. Kuschminder, K. & Siegel, M. (2017). Return Migrants' Perceptions of Living Conditions in Ethiopia: A Gendered Analysis. *Migration Studies*. Published online: 10 August 2017.
- Bilgili, Ö. & Siegel, M. (2014). Policy perspectives of Turkey towards return migration: From permissive indifference to selective difference. *Migration Letters*, 11(2), 218-228.
- [www.ozgebilgili.com](http://www.ozgebilgili.com)