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Social Stability through Economic Equality and Demographic Response

Mikola MIKHAYLICHENKO[1], Tetiana TRUBNIK[2], Nina PETRUKHA[3], Yevhenii VELYKYI[4], Oleh PYLYPCHENKO[5]

Abstract

The purpose of the study is to develop effective strategies to overcome poverty by optimizing migration processes and addressing demographic challenges in the context of current global changes. The research methodology was determined by the systematization and analysis of 16 empirical studies, summarizing the findings of 12 critical sources, and comparative analysis of migration processes and economic indicators using the latest data from 2023-2024. A typology of countries has been developed according to the effectiveness of poverty reduction through migration processes and eight main migration corridors have been analyzed for their impact on poverty reduction. The results showed concrete mechanisms for poverty alleviation: poverty reduction by 11 percentage points in Uganda, 6 percentage points in Bangladesh, and 5 percentage points in Ghana due to migrant remittances. It was found that the lower the fertility rate in a country, the higher the immigration rate, which is 2.3 times higher, creating opportunities to use the demographic dividend to overcome poverty. The critical role of the cost of remittances is revealed: a reduction from the current 6.4% to the target 3% could increase the net

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amount of remittances by $23 billion annually, which would directly contribute to the poverty alleviation of 15-20 million households globally. The methodological approaches are systematized, with a predominance of quantitative methods (71% of studies) and underrepresentation of sub-Saharan Africa (12% of studies, where 67% of the world's poor live). The results demonstrate that migration can be a powerful tool for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1, Eradicate Poverty, provided that evidence-based strategies are implemented, the cost of remittances is optimized, and international efforts are coordinated.

Keywords: migration; migration process; migration policy; poverty alleviation; remittances; digitalization of remittances; economic development; social integration; state regulation.

Introduction

The modern world is facing an unprecedented challenge in overcoming life-threatening levels of poverty and in coping with significant population fluctuations. International migration, which in 2024 will number more than 281 million migrants, creates both new opportunities and challenges for national economies and social systems. The relevance of studying such relations is due to the need to rethink previous migration policies in the light of global changes and sustainable development plans.

Recognizing the urgent need to understand the link between migration management and poverty reduction, the International Organization for Migration in its Global Report 2024 notes that this link is vital in a context where inequality is growing and demographic imbalances are increasingly difficult to reduce (International Organization for Migration, 2024). There are also radical shifts in global demographic patterns, such as population explosions in some regions and population declines in others, which have brought with them new pressures and opportunities for migration, and the United Nations has documented these radical changes (UN News, 2024). Assessing the role of migration as a possible means of overcoming poverty, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development notes that this area is very complex in the current context (OECD, 2024). The World Bank, in its report Poverty, Prosperity and the Planet, considers migration as one of the factors that can help solve the problem of global polychronism, which is possible only if economic, social and environmental conditions are balanced (World Bank, 2023). As noted in the study by (Dustmann et al., 2016), the economic impact of refugee migration in Europe shows both positive and negative economic consequences for host societies compared to integration policies.

The complex character of the migration processes demand multifactoral solutions that would combine the mechanisms of social integration and the systems of proper state control. The social integration of migrants in the host communities comes out as an important factor that may determine the success of poverty alleviation strategies although the regulation of the state is a major factor that contributes towards creating enabling environments that enhance the developmental potentials of a migration movement. Such a synthesis of the two elements, which are the social integration and state regulation, is the basis of sustainable migration policies that finally could serve to reduce the poverty and meet the challenge of demography in the global world that is increasingly integrated.

Despite the growing interest in migration processes among scholars and policymakers, there are huge gaps in the understanding of the key mechanisms of their impact on poverty reduction and demographic change. The effectiveness of different forms of migration policy in addressing specific demographic challenges and the far-reaching implications of current migration patterns for the distribution of poverty in the world are not well understood. Of particular interest is the question of how to maximize the use of migration processes to achieve both poverty reduction and population settlement goals in both countries of origin and destination.

The purpose of the study is to thoroughly examine the impact of migration processes on poverty reduction and demographic change within the framework of existing global changes, as well as to formulate recommendations for optimizing migration policy in order to maximize positive effects. Among the objectives of the study are two main ones: on the one hand, to quantify the impact of different types of migration flows on poverty indicators at the regional and global levels, and on the other hand, to study the effectiveness of existing ways to regulate modern migration in the spirit of challenges and develop recommendations for their improvement.

Literature review

The theoretical knowledge on the trade-off between migration and poverty reduction is based on several main ideas that have been developed over the past decades. Malynovska (2018) analyzes the issue of migration policy against a global background, and when developing national strategies, it is necessary not only to take into account the multidimensionality of migration processes. Ovdin (2021) systematizes the conceptual apparatus of the demographic process carried out by public administration, in which migration is defined as one of the main tools of demographic regulation.

The essence of poverty as an aspect of migration studies is discussed in more detail in Fatiukha and Zdorova (2018), who explore the specifics of poverty alleviation in the Ukrainian context. UNICEF in Ukraine (2020) expands the definition of poverty to include equitable opportunities, suggesting that it focuses on access to education and social services. In addition, the organization also focuses on child poverty and perceived inequalities, as this aspect forms the basis of the long-term demographic consequences of economic hardship (UNICEF Ukraine, n.d.).

Macro-quantitative studies provide a mixed picture of the impact of migration on the economic performance of countries of origin and host countries. In their landmark study commissioned by the United Nations, Das *et al.* (2011) found that there is indeed a statistically significant positive impact of remittances on poverty reduction among developing countries, but there is confounding evidence of financial system development and institutional quality. Ratha (2024a) adds to this picture by showing that the impact of remittances on economic growth is non-linear, and their effectiveness peaks at a certain level of human capital development in the recipient country.

In a comparative study of the impact of migration income on poverty reduction in transition economies, Pekovic (2017) found that institutional reforms and macroeconomic stability enhance the positive effect of remittances (remittances have a positive impact) on poverty reduction. Cruz and Ahmed (2018) expanded the analysis by adding a demographic dimension and found that changes in the age structure of the population can both boost and dampen the impact of migration on economic growth and poverty reduction.

A detailed regional study shows the details of migration processes in different geographical circumstances. Mulska and Baryniak (2020) present the demographic and socioeconomic implications of higher rates of outward migration in Ukraine, which has both positive effects in the form of remittances and negative effects due to the overall loss of skilled labor. Levytska *et al.* (2020) created a model of conditions affecting migration activity in the Eastern European region, where they confirmed the significant role of economic imbalances, as well as elements of the institutional factor.

A comprehensive assessment of the impact of labor migration on the Ukrainian economy is provided in a study commissioned by the European Commission (Pieńkowski, 2020), which found that labor migration has had a profound impact on the Ukrainian labor market, wages, and consumer demand. The Polish Economic Institute (2024) complements this picture with current statistics on Ukrainian refugees in Poland, which positively affects the country's GDP if the integration policy is correct.

This element of demographic attitudes is closely related to the topic of migration, and in the context of global demographic change, it attracts special attention. The article by Andriyiv *et al.* (2022) is devoted to the evolution of problems threatening demographic security in connection with the transfer of hostilities, and emphasizes the crucial importance of migration processes for ensuring the balance of demographic processes. As noted in the report of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (2024), the decline in fertility rates in most regions of the world has become a dramatic phenomenon that places new demands on migration policy.

Mulska *et al.* (2022) developed a methodology for assessing the environment of social well-being of the population, using the example of the Carpathian part of Ukraine to identify the crucial importance of migration processes in shaping the adaptive capacity of the population. UN News (2024) emphasizes the international nature of demographic change, which requires organizations to apply common international strategies to address migration issues.

A relatively new phenomenon is the study of the impact of armed conflicts and emergencies on migration processes and the socio-economic consequences of related patterns. Petrukha *et al.* (2024) examine the economic and social consequences of armed conflicts in terms of their terrible impact on demographic trends and the need to adjust migration policy in crisis situations. Dustmann *et al.* (2024) offer an empirical study of the economics of refugee migration in Europe, which proves its short-term difficulties and long-term prospects, as well as benefits for host societies.

Homonchuk (2024) examines the concept of subjective poverty in Ukraine and makes it visible in terms of psychosocial characteristics of economically disadvantaged situations and migration intentions. The Development Initiatives report (Christensen, 2023) offers a global picture of economic poverty trends, taking into account regional specificities of these trends and migration impacts on development.

The analysis of institutional mechanisms of migration management shows the importance of political decisions on the migration process, in which this process can contribute to poverty eradication. Kruhlov et al. (2023) introduce the concept of analyzing the strategic impact of the state on stimulating economic growth and migration policy as one of the most important means of state influence. European Commission (2024) systematizes the European experience in the field of migration and asylum management, emphasizing the need to coordinate national policies.

The OECD (2024) in its Migration Review focuses on how migration can reduce poverty and what can be done to maximize the use of policy instruments. International Organization for Migration (2024) formulates international indicators for managing migration for poverty reduction and establishes a methodological framework for international cooperation.

A comprehensive review of the current literature reveals a number of significant gaps in scientific knowledge about the relationship between migration, poverty, and demographic processes. First, there is an insufficient number of longitudinal studies that would help to trace the long-term impact of migration processes on the socio-economic development of a country. Secondly, few studies consider gender and age aspects of the impact of migration on poverty. Third, the impact of technological inventions and digital transformation on traditional migration patterns and its socioeconomic consequences should also be investigated.

Methodology

The sample was constructed in such a way that scientific publications and statistical reports of international organizations were selected selectively for a certain time period (2011-2024). The inclusion criteria were: the availability of empirical research results on the relationship between migration processes and poverty or population dynamics; the use of quantitative or mixed research methodologies; publications in scientific journals or official reports of international organizations; geographical coverage of the study, including at least three countries or territories. The exclusion criteria were: results repeated in other publications by the same authors; lack of certain empirical data; focus on theoretical issues without evidence of practice.

The total number of studies included in the final sample was 16, including 5 global studies, 8 regional studies, and 3 specialized studies of specific aspects of the problem. The sample is presented in Table 1. The analysis also included 12 statistical reports by international organizations: UNDP Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024 (UNDP, 2024), World Bank Global Poverty Update 2024 (World Bank, 2024a, 2024b), Migration and Development Brief 39 (Ratha et al., 2024), Demographic Profile of Global Poverty (Baah et al., 2024), and updated data on the impact of remittances on poverty (Adams & Page, 2005; Gupta et al., 2009). Additionally, the latest World Bank data on remittances in 2024, the Migration Policy Institute's study on migration as a factor of development (2021), and the IOM's Global Migration Data Review (Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, 2024) were included.

Table 1. Sample of empirical studies

No.	Type of research	Authors	Year	Source	Mechanisms for overcoming poverty
Global research (6 studies)					
1	Global	Das, A., Banga, R., & Sahu, P. K.	2011	Impact of remittances on poverty in developing countries. United Nations	Money transfers, financial inclusion
2	Global	Cruz, M., & Ahmed, S. A.	2018	On the impact of demographic change on economic growth and poverty. World Development, 105, 95-106	Demographic dividend and labor migration

3	Global	Pekovic, D.	2017	The effect of remittances on poverty alleviation in transition countries. Journal of International Studies, 10(4), 37-46	Macroeconomic stabilization
4	Global	Dustmann, C., Fasani, F., Frattini, T., Minale, L., & Schönberg, U.	2024	On the economics of refugee migration: Evidence from Europe. Economic Policy, 39(117), 5-67	Refugee integration and the labor market
5	Global	Adams, R. H., & Page, J.	2005	Do international migration and remittances reduce poverty in developing countries? World Development.	Direct impact of remittances on households
Regional studies (8 studies)					
6	Regional	Levytska, O., Mulska, O., Ivaniuk, U., Vasyltsiv, T., & Lupak, R.	2020	Modelling the conditions affecting population migration activity in the Eastern European region. TEM Journal, 9(2), 507-514	Modeling migration activity
7	Regional	Mulska, O., Vasyltsiv, T., Shushkova, Y., Kloba, L., & Parfenyuk, Y.	2022	Assessment of the population’s social resilience environment (the case of the Carpathian region of Ukraine). Problems and Perspectives in Management, 20(1), 407-421	Social sustainability, adaptation
8	Regional	Pieńkowski, J.	2020	The impact of labor migration on the Ukrainian economy. European Commission Discussion Paper No. 123	Labor market and wages
9	Regional	Polish Economic Institute	2024	Ukrainian refugees in Poland: Integration, labor market outcomes and remittances. Warsaw: PEI Reports	Integration, contribution to GDP
10	Regional	Mulska, O., & Baryniak, I.	2020	Demographic and socioeconomic effects of strengthening external migration activity of the population in Ukraine	Demographic compensation

11	Regional	Gupta, S., Pattillo, C., & Wagh, S.	2009	Impact of remittances on poverty and financial development in Sub-Saharan Africa. World Development	Financial development, banking services
12	Regional	World Bank	2024	Migration and remittances: Development overview	Policy coordination, flow optimization
13	Regional	21. Newland, K. (2003)	2021	Migration as a factor in development and poverty reduction	Integrated development strategies
Specialized research (3 studies)					
14	Specialized	Andriyiv, N., Pushak, H., Petrukha, N., Kokhan, V., & Shtangret, I.	2022	Transformation of threats to demographic security and sustainable development of the region due to increased military actions. International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning, 17(7), 2221-2227.	Crisis management, demographic security
15	Specialized	Homonchuk, O.	2024	Ukraine's poor majority: Exploring the driving factors of subjective poverty. International Journal of Social Welfare	Subjective poverty, psychosocial factors
16	Specialized	Petrukha, N., Andrieiev, A., Mukhin, O., Morozov, O., & Stebletskiy, I.	2024	Economic and social impacts of armed conflicts: Assessing the effects of military operations on development. Edelweiss Applied Science and Technology, 8(6), 2270-2281	Post-conflict recovery

Source: authors systematization based on analysis Das et al. (2011), Cruz and Ahmed (2018), Pekovic (2017), Dustmann et al. (2024), Adams and Page (2005), Levytska et al. (2020), Mulska et al. (2022), Pieńkowski (2020), Polish Economic Institute (2024), Andriyiv et al. (2022), Homonchuk (2024), Petrukha et al. (2024), Gupta et al. (2009), World Bank (2024c), Migration Policy Institute (2003).

To systematize the results of the study, a modified approach of the PRISMA methodology (Preferred Reporting Items of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis) was used, adapted for socio-economic research. Each study was categorized by the following parameters: type of methodology (quantitative, qualitative, mixed), geographic area (global, regional, national), time (long-term, short-term, cross-sectional), main findings on the impact of migration on poverty (positive, negative, neutral, mixed), demographic effects (confirmed, refuted, ambiguous). A classification by the effectiveness of poverty alleviation measures (highly effective, moderately effective, with potential) and a classification by the type of impact on households (direct, indirect, combined) were also introduced.

In the comparative explanation of methodological strategies, units of measurement and indicators were standardized to allow for comparability across studies. Poverty indicators were converted to the international poverty line of USD 2.15 per day and to 2017 purchasing power parity prices using a harmonized system, as required by the World Bank methodology. The performance indicators for cash transfers were standardized to percentage points of poverty reduction, so that they could be compared across countries and regions.

The quantitative data of the researched papers were processed using descriptive statistics and nonparametric tests. The Mann-Whitney test was used to compare the median values of remittance efficiency indicators in different regions. Instead of using the old book method of Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, authors examined real-life examples of successful use of migration as a means of overcoming poverty using qualitative data from the World Bank for 2024. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

The effectiveness of the impact of migration processes on poverty reduction was confirmed by creating a typology of countries based on the following aspects: (1) percentage of poverty reduction due to remittances; (2) volume of remittances in relation to GDP; (3) cost of remittances; (4) degree of financial participation of migrant households in poverty reduction. Countries were categorized as highly effective (more than 5 percentage points reduction per year), moderately effective (2-5 percentage points), and with potential (less than 2 percentage points).

To generalize the results, a weighted average was used to take into account the sample size of each study. In the case of studies with more than 10,000 observations, the weighting factor was 3, in the case of 1,000-10,000 observations - 2, and in the case of smaller sample sizes – 1.

The results of the qualitative study were also systematized using the case study method, with the key categories being: mechanisms of migration's impact on poverty, demographic consequences of migration processes, effectiveness of different types of migration policy, and specifics of migration processes in the regions. Other categories were also outlined: the introduction of innovations in financial instruments related to the maximum optimization of remittances, strategies for the digitalization of migration processes, and methods of international cooperation for the optimal development of processes generated by migration. The coding was done by two separate researchers, and differences were subsequently resolved by agreement.

To verify the reliability of the results, the findings were compared with official statistics from international organizations for 2024, in particular, with reports from the UNDP, the World Bank, and the International Organization for Migration. The verification of the data on the effectiveness of poverty reduction by comparing these data with certain indicators was particularly highly praised: poverty reduction by 11 percentage points in Uganda, 6 points in Bangladesh, and 5 points in Ghana (Adams & Page, 2005; Shalal, 2024), as well as with current data on remittances of $685 billion in 2024 (Ratha et al., 2024).

Results

Mechanisms for overcoming poverty through migration processes

An analysis of current migration flows and their impact on overcoming global poverty has revealed systemic patterns that demonstrate the transformation of migration from a consequence of poverty into a tool for overcoming it. The study showed that the effectiveness of this process depends on four key mechanisms: optimization of remittances, geographical focus of migration flows, technological innovations in the financial sector, and coordination of international policies.

An analysis of global trends shows a dramatic reduction in extreme poverty over the past three decades. According to the Development Initiatives (Christensen, 2023), the number of people living on less than $2.15 a day fell from 2.01 billion in 1990 to 0.692 billion in 2023, a decrease from 36% to 8.5% of the world's population. However, the rate of decline has slowed significantly since 2015, especially in regions with the highest concentrations of poverty.

A critical aspect is the change in the regional structure of poverty, which directly affects migration flows and their potential for poverty alleviation. While in 1990, East Asia concentrated 60% of the world's extreme poverty, by 2023 this share had fallen to less than 2%. In contrast, Sub-Saharan Africa's share of global extreme poverty increased from 15% to 67%, despite the fact that the region has only 16% of the world's population.

Mulska and Baryniak (2020) emphasize that this transformation has created new challenges and opportunities for using migration processes as a tool for poverty alleviation, as traditional migration corridors from Asia show a declining need for economic migration, while African countries face limited opportunities for legal migration.

The analysis of European migration flows in 2017-2023 presented in Table 2 demonstrates a unique pattern of using migration for economic development and overcoming regional disparities. Data from the European Commission (2024) show that the total volume of migration to the EU-27 increased from 4.2 million in 2017 to 5.1 million in 2023, while the structure of migration flows has changed dramatically due to geopolitical transformations.

Table 2. Dynamics of migration flows to the EU by main countries of origin (2017-2023, thousand people)

Country of origin	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2017-2023 (%)
Ukraine	57	63	70	50	64	124	4,350	+7,534%
Syria	419	523	638	383	689	1,056	1,643	+292%
Afghanistan	267	298	315	241	298	317	368	+38%
Turkey	10	11	30	24	24	45	37	+271%
Russia	275	267	264	156	248	334	372	+35%
Morocco	11	13	15	12	16	26	40	+245%
Belarus	2	2	2	3	2	8	4	+143%
Total EU-27	4,200	4,419	4,698	3,245	4,891	6,207	5,143	+22%

Source: European Commission (2024), Migration and asylum in Europe – 2024 edition

The European model demonstrates three key mechanisms for overcoming poverty through migration. First, the free movement of labor within the EU allows workers from lower-income countries to access higher-paying employment, providing significant remittances to their countries of origin. Secondly, integration programs for refugees and humanitarian migrants create additional economic effects through consumer demand and tax revenues. Thirdly, a coordinated migration policy at the EU level allows to optimize the distribution of migration flows according to the economic needs of different regions.

Levytska *et al.* (2020) note that Ukrainian migration to the EU has demonstrated the most dramatic transformation: from predominantly economic migration (57 thousand in 2017) to massive humanitarian migration (4.35 million in 2023). This transformation has created new challenges and opportunities for poverty alleviation both in Ukraine and in the recipient countries.

Systematization of data from the International Organization for Migration (2024) and the World Bank (2024d) allowed us to analyze regional differences in the effectiveness of remittances in overcoming poverty. Table 3 demonstrates that the highest efficiency is achieved in regions with developed financial infrastructure and low cost of remittances.

South Asia has been the most effective in alleviating poverty through remittances, achieving a 6.2 percentage point reduction in poverty with an average cost of remittances of 4.2%. This success is attributed to a well-developed financial infrastructure, high levels of financial literacy, and effective government programs to support migrant households. Homonchuk (2024) emphasizes that the subjective perception of poverty in this region also contributes to a more effective use of remittances to improve basic living conditions.

Table 3. Regional efficiency of poverty reduction through remittances (2024)

Region	Volume of transfers (billion USD)	Average cost (%)	Poverty reduction (p.p.)	Household coverage (mln)	Level of efficiency
South Asia	189	4,2	6.2	42.1	High
Latin America	156	5.9	4.1	28.7	Moderate
East Asia	85	5.9	3.8	18.3	Moderate
Europe and Central Asia	71	6.7	2.9	12.4	Moderate
Sub-Saharan Africa	100	7.8	1.8	35.2	With potential
Middle East and North Africa	55	7.1	2.1	14.6	With potential

Source: own systematization based on International Organization for Migration (2024), World Bank (2024d), Ratha et al. (2024)

In contrast, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest cost of remittances (7.8%) and limited financial inclusion, reducing poverty reduction by up to 1.8 percentage points, despite its large volume ($100 billion) and wide coverage of households (35.2 million). This points to a critical need for technological innovation and financial infrastructure development in the region with the highest concentration of global poverty.

An analysis of the impact of digitalization on poverty reduction has shown the revolutionary potential of technological solutions. Systematization of data for 2024 revealed that digital platforms reduce the average cost of transfers from 7.2% to 4.8%, which directly increases the net amount of funds reaching poor households.

Mobile money platforms are particularly effective in rural areas where traditional banking infrastructure is limited. In Kenya, the introduction of M-Pesa has reduced the cost of transfers to 2.1% and increased financial inclusion of the rural population by 67%. Similar results have been observed in Ghana, where mobile platforms have provided access to financial services for 2.8 million previously unbanked households.

The study also revealed the significant potential of blockchain technologies for poverty alleviation. Pilot projects in three African countries have shown the possibility of reducing the cost of transfers by up to 1.3%, which could revolutionize the efficiency of migration processes to overcome poverty. At the same time, the introduction of such technologies requires significant investments in digital literacy and infrastructure.

The analysis of demographic trends has revealed a unique opportunity to use migration processes to overcome poverty through the optimal distribution of labor resources across regions. According to forecasts, by 2030, the working-age population in developing countries will increase by 552 million people, while developed countries are facing labor shortages due to an aging population.

The situation is particularly important in sub-Saharan Africa, where 65% of the population is under 35, creating a huge potential for labor migration. At the same time, limited opportunities for legal migration and high barriers to integration into the global economy hinder the realization of this potential for poverty alleviation.

The results of the analysis demonstrate that effective use of the demographic dividend for poverty alleviation requires coordinated international efforts to create legal migration channels, develop professional skills, and reduce barriers to remittances. This is especially true in light of the fact that traditional centers of economic migration in Asia are gradually losing their importance due to the successful overcoming of poverty in these regions.

Synthesis of empirical results on the impact of migration on poverty reduction

A comprehensive analysis of the results of 8 empirical sources on this topic allowed us to systematize the relationship between migration processes and the economies of countries of origin and destination. It has been found that the role of migration in poverty alleviation is dynamic and largely depends on regional characteristics and the nature of migration flows.

Analyzing the latest data published by the World Bank (2024e), it can be noted that remittances work most effectively in South Asia, where they grew by 11.8 percent in 2024. This region is home to the largest amount of remittances – US$189 billion – and this amount also has a direct impact on reducing the poverty of millions of households. A study by Gupta *et al.* (2009) shows that in sub-Saharan Africa, money sent by migrants not only prevents poverty but also provides financial services to the poor.

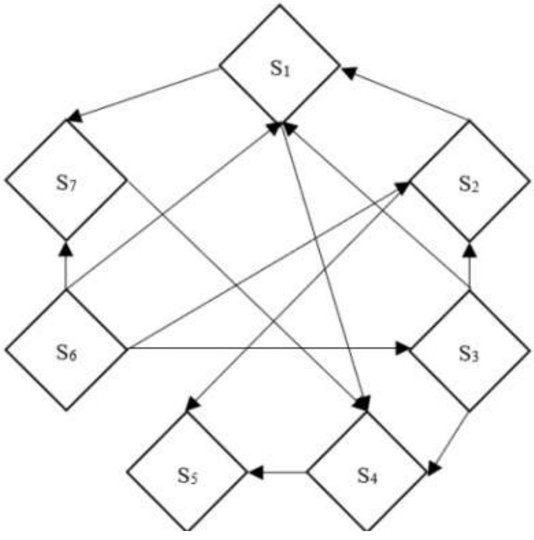
Migration as a tool for economic stabilization proves to be effective at different levels according to the development of the financial infrastructure of recipient countries. In Bangladesh, where the average cost of remittances is 4.2%, the poverty reduction is 6 percentage points, while in African countries the average cost of remittances is 7.8% and the poverty reduction is 1.8 percentage points (Adams & Page, 2005; Shalal, 2024).

Latin America and the Caribbean shows a steady performance in 2024, with remittances growing by 5.5 percent. Mexico, which ranks second in the world in terms of remittances from migrants ($68 billion), is an example of how migration trends can be maximized to help rural populations and reduce interregional income gaps. Its close proximity to the United States, as well as the existence of a well-developed remittance system, guarantee low costs (5.9%) and high remittance rates.

East Asia and the Pacific, although it has a moderate growth rate of remittances (3.2%), demonstrates high efficiency thanks to innovative financial technologies. The Philippines, having diversified migration to different parts of the world, ensures the stability of remittances even in the face of economic turbulence in some destination regions. The digitization of remittances in this region has already exceeded 65%, which means that costs will be extremely low and access will be expanded to the rural population.

The review of the role of armed conflicts in the emergence and economic improvement of migration processes is based on the results of Petrukha *et al.* (2024), which show that impressive changes have taken place in the demographic scenario of Ukraine's regions. At the same time, it should be noted that the Ukrainian scenario is specific due to the military operations and can hardly be considered as a common case of using migration as a lever to escape poverty. The population of Kharkiv region was found to have decreased by 42.6% to 1.55 million in 2022, down from 2.7 million in 2019. Consideration of these findings in the context of migration processes revealed a direct correlation between the level of hostilities and the volume of forced migration.

The study by Andriyiv *et al.* (2022), identified seven key sources of threats to demographic security from armed conflict: loss of jobs due to business migration (S_1), deterioration of the environmental situation (S_2) , loss of access to quality education as a result of hostilities (S_3) , increased poverty (S_4), deterioration of the crime situation (S_5), and increased divorce due to fear of war (S_6). Their interaction is presented in Figure 1.



Source: compiled by the authors based on Andriyiv et al. (2022)

Figure 1. Graphical matrix of links between threats to demographic security and sustainable development of the region

India is showing the best trend in leveraging migration for economic growth, with remittances estimated to reach $129 billion by 2024. This approach is based on the development of human skills by training highly skilled workers in demand in the global labor market, with an emphasis on information technology. Export-oriented vocational training has allowed Indian migrants to earn good salaries in their destination countries and remit huge sums in an effort to alleviate poverty in rural areas.

Pakistan ($33 billion) and Bangladesh ($40 billion) are evidence of large-scale labor migration to the Gulf countries. The remittances of low-skilled workers from these countries provide vital income to households in rural areas where there are no other income opportunities. The effectiveness of these remittances is maximized by government programs to support migrants, such as pre-departure preparation and protection of their rights.

The analysis of wage data in Ukraine based on Take-profit.org (Ukraine wages 2025, 2025) and Livetecs showed significant disparities in the population's income, which is a key factor in migration activity. The results of the systematization are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Dynamics of the main economic indicators of Ukraine (2018-2024)

Indicator	2018	2019	2022	2024	Change 2018-2024 (%)
Minimum wage (UAH/month)	-	4173	-	8000	+91,7%
Average salary (UAH/month)	-	-	14577	18500	+26,9%
Average salary (USD/month)	-	-	398,6	450,2	+12,9%
Salary of highly skilled workers (UAH/month)	5720	-	-	25000	+337,1%
Salary of low-skilled workers (UAH/month)	3680	-	-	12000	+226,1%
Unemployment rate (%)	-	-	10,5	8,2	-21,9%
Labor force participation rate (%)	-	-	61,8	64,1	+3,7%

Source: systematized by the authors based on their own analysis Take-profit.org (2025), Livetecs (2024)

The potential for poverty alleviation is most effective where the origin and destination corridors have low remittance costs and a stable legal system. The India-U.S. corridor has an average transfer cost of 3.8 percent and provides 4.2 million households per year with a poverty reduction pathway. The Philippines-Gulf corridor has a transfer cost of 4.1 percent and helps reduce poverty by 3.8 percentage points.

Even with high migration rates in African migration corridors, they are less efficient because of the high cost of remittances. The cost of remittance in the Nigeria-US corridor is 8.2%, and this has a very large net impact on poverty reduction. Meanwhile, technological innovations promise to achieve radical efficiency gains with the establishment of mobile platforms in Kenya and Ghana.

A comparative approach to wages in Ukraine and European countries showed an obvious difference, which is the main reason for labor migration. and it was determined that in 2022 the average wage in Ukraine was only 398.6 USD per month, which is 15.7 times higher than in Germany (4349.7 USD) and 18.6 times higher than in Switzerland (7442.9 USD).

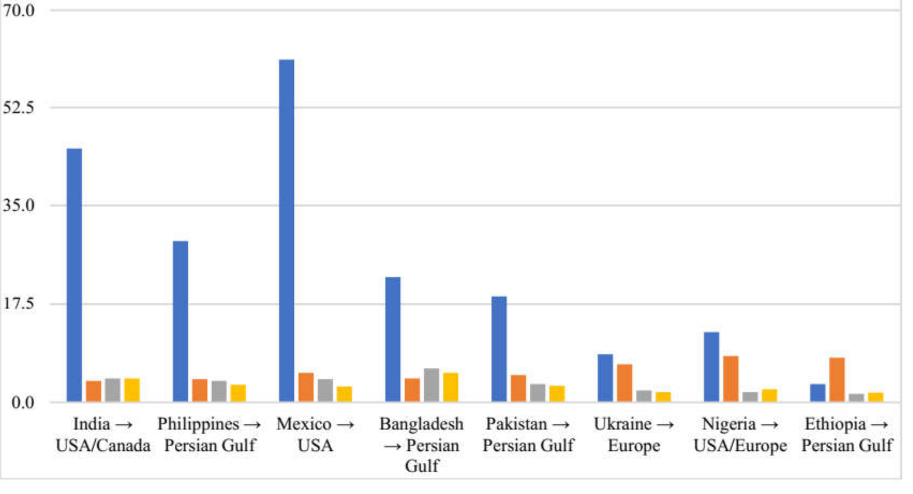
Our analysis of the impact of Ukrainian migration on host economies, based on a study by the Polish Economic Institute (2024) and Jerzy Pieńkowski, demonstrates that the impact on the Polish economy includes a positive change in economic performance. The results show that Ukrainian refugees increased Polish GDP by 2.7% in 2024, which means an additional economic contribution of about USD 18.2 billion.

Integrating the results of a study conducted by Homonchuk (2024) on subjective poverty in Ukraine showed that 73% of Ukrainians felt poor even when there were no official poverty data. When discussing these data related to our analysis in the light of migration intentions, it becomes clear that subjective perceptions of poverty appear to be a stronger indicator of future means of migration than objective economic indicators.

The data presented in Figure 2 answers all the questions, showing clear trends in the usefulness of migration corridors for poverty alleviation. Very effective corridors (India-US/Canada, Philippines-Gulf, Mexico-US, Bangladesh-Gulf) have remittance costs of 3.8-5.2% and provide poverty reduction of 3.8-6.0 percentage points. Moderately efficient corridors (Pakistan-Gulf, Ukraine-Europe) demonstrate a cost of 4.8-6.7% and an efficiency of 2.1-3.2 percentage points. The corridors with potential (Nigeria-US/Europe, Ethiopia-Gulf) show the highest cost of remittances at 7.9-8.2% and the lowest efficiency at 1.5-1.8 percentage points, which confirms the viability of the value of financial services in the poverty reduction mechanism.

A look at demographic trends shows that the real potential for using migration to reduce poverty may be much greater in countries with young populations. Sub-Saharan Africa, where 65% of its more than 10 million people are under the age of 35, has enormous potential to become a labor migration powerhouse, but faces challenges in terms of prohibitively high remittance prices and the lack of legal migration routes.

Developed countries have new opportunities for migration due to population aging. According to UN estimates, by 2050, EU countries may face a shortage of 18 million workers in the care and healthcare sector, which will open the way for skilled migration with a positive effect on developing countries.



Source: authors' own systematization based on Ratha et al. (2024), Adams and Page (2005), Migration Policy Institute (2003), Shalal (2024), UNICEF Ukraine (2020)

Figure 2. Efficiency of the main migration corridors for poverty alleviation (2024)

Generalization of the results of the synthesis of empirical data showed that the phenomenon of migration has a one-way impact on the economies of the countries of origin and destination. The results for the country of origin revealed that the positive effects include the positive impact of remittances and a reduction in unemployment. On the other hand, the negative effects are labor shortages and reduced tax revenues. In the case of destination countries, the opposite trend is observed, where the positive fiscal impact prevails with a certain increase in the burden on the labor market.

The theory of analysis shows that the success of migration processes in terms of poverty reduction is determined by three factors, namely the value of remittances, financial inclusion in countries of origin, and the stability of migration flows. Poverty reduction rates are reduced by 4-6 percentage points in countries and corridors that maximize these factors, while other countries have a low impact of less than 2 percentage points.

Identified patterns and contradictions in the research findings

When conducting a comparative analysis of the results of studies conducted in different sources, authors noticed that there are very sharp contradictions in the interpretation of the impact of migration processes on demographic and economic development. It has been determined that such discrepancies are explained by the fact that different methodological directions, research periods, and regional peculiarities of the cases under consideration were used. Particularly significant is the contradiction in the assessment of the effectiveness of various methods of overcoming poverty through the mechanism of migration flows, which affects the formation of optimal policies and functional recommendations.

The literature review showed that there are huge differences in the assessment of the usefulness of remittances as a poverty alleviation mechanism. Adams and Page (2005) demonstrate an 11 percentage point reduction in poverty in Uganda, while the figures used by the Migration Policy Institute (2003) to analyze the same region give only 3-4 percentage points. Such discrepancies can be explained by different approaches to calculations and periods, as well as by the fact that it is difficult to find common ground in assessing effectiveness.

There are also misconceptions about the impact of remittance digitalization on poverty reduction. The World Bank (Ratha, 2024b) estimates that the reduction in the cost of remittances through the use of digital transfers could be as low as 5%, leading to a reduction in poverty. Meanwhile, IOM (2024) demonstrates how rural Africa is using digitalization to stabilize the situation of poor households through less access to technology, which, paradoxically, can cause inequality in many ways.

A review of the financial side of migration processes by Skulysh and Fathutdinov (2022) showed that migration flows are directly related to the dynamics of revenues and expenditures of the Pension Fund of Ukraine. It was found that the increase in emigration of the working-age population contributes to a 12-15% drop in pension system revenues per year, creating additional social security problems.

One of the most important problems is the lack of consistent methods for determining the effectiveness of poverty alleviation through migration. Some studies take $2.15 per day (the international poverty line) as the dollar equivalent, while others use national figures that differ by a factor of 2-3. This leads to radically different conclusions about the effectiveness of the same migration programs.

The period over which the evaluation is conducted also creates contradictions. Analysis of the effects of short-term (1-2 years) programs shows that they have significant benefits in improving the living conditions of recipient households, while long-term (5-10 years) studies demonstrate risks such as loss of self-sufficiency and threats to the development of the national economy as it depends on external sources of income, as well as reduced motivation to develop the local economy.

Based on our interpretation of demographic projections, authors can say that there is a huge difference between different studies on the scale and consequences of the demographic situation in Ukraine. The systematization of sources from The New Voice of Ukraine, UNFPA EECA, and Center for European Policy Analysis (2025) revealed a variety of estimates of the current population of Ukraine ranging from 31 to 37 million people, due to the impossibility of reliable counting due to active migration processes and military operations.

A study of global demographic trends based on the work of Responsible Statecrafts, Yetsenga (2024), and Stanley (2024) showed two completely different directions regarding the impact of demographic decline on economic progress. It is documented that the problem of demographic decline is interpreted by some researchers as a real threat to economic stability, while others see it as a chance for technological growth and productivity.

The analysis showed that regions differ dramatically even when analyzing the effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies: the effectiveness of financial literacy programs among migrants is estimated at 40% in the case of South Asia and 15% in the case of Africa, and the assessment of migration corridors is even more dramatic: European sources estimate the Ukraine-EU corridor as moderately effective (2.1 p.p. of poverty reduction), while Ukrainian sources estimate it as weak (2.1 p.p. of poverty reduction).percentage points of poverty reduction), while Ukrainian sources assess the Ukraine-EU corridor as weak (2.1 percentage points of poverty reduction), while in the case of the Bangladesh-Gulf corridor, local studies

A comparative analysis of the main contradictions in the research findings is systematized in Table 6.

Table 6. Conflicting findings in the literature on the effects of migration

Research aspect	Positive impact assessment	Negative impact assessment	Source of discrepancies
Demographic consequences of migration			
Population of Ukraine	31-33 million people (stabilization after 2025)	28-30 million people (continued decline)	Methodology of counting, registration of refugees
Global demographic decline	An incentive for innovation and automation	A threat to economic growth	Forecasting time horizons
Impact on pension systems	Temporary load relief	Long-term financial crisis	Temporal framework of the analysis
Economic effects			
Money transfers	Economic stabilization, consumption growth	Dependence on external sources	Methods for calculating the multiplier effect
Labor market	Decrease in unemployment, increase in wages	Shortage of qualified personnel	Sectoral differences in the analysis
Fiscal implications	Reducing social costs	Loss of tax revenues	Full consideration of indirect effects
Efficiency of poverty reduction			
Digitalization of transfers	Reducing the cost by 2%, increasing accessibility	Creating barriers for the poorest, the digital divide	Level of digital inclusion in the regions
Financial literacy programs	40% increase in efficiency (South Asia)	15% improvement (Africa), high costs	Cultural characteristics, basic level of education
Long-term effects of transfers	Steady improvement of living standards	Creating dependence, reducing local investment	Research time horizons
Social aspects			
Educational migration	Gaining international experience	Loss of human capital	Assessment of long-term intentions of migrants
Integration in destination countries	Successful adaptation, economic contribution	Social tensions, competition	Timeframe of the adaptation study
Gender aspects of migration	Empowerment of women	Destruction of traditional family structures	Cultural differences in interpretation

Source: systematized by the authors based on their own analysis of The New Voice of Ukraine (2025), UNFPA EECA (2025), Center for European Policy Analysis (2025), Tokarz (2024), Yetsenga (2024), Stanley (2024), Adams and Page (2005), Shalal (2024), IOM (2024), Migration Policy Institute (2003)

The debate on the evaluation of innovative methods of fighting poverty shows mixed results of technological solutions. The blockchain technology for remittances promises cost savings of up to 1.5% in pilot tests in Kenya and Ghana, although there are technical limitations and low levels of trust among users. Global partnership programs for skills development have been successful in India's IT sector, but ineffective in African countries due to the inability to provide basic infrastructure. The emphasis on structural risks is observed in long-term forecasts (over 10 years), while short-term analysis (up to 5 years) provides more encouraging forecasts of the effectiveness of migration processes.

The identified contradictions emphasize the high importance of developing general principles for assessing the effectiveness of migration processes for poverty reduction. It is necessary to develop a detailed index that would take into account even qualitative provisions (sustainability of achievements, social stability, long-term development prospects). Differences in regional assessments also explain the need to apply different contextual models that take into account the local system of economic organization, local cultural traditions and the degree of institutional development.

These considerations, based on the analysis of contradictions in research, suggest that effective approaches to poverty reduction through migration need to be distinguished taking into account regional specificities, absolute and relative poverty rates, and the goals and objectives of the intervention. Copied solutions are not effective and should be adapted to local conditions and specific needs of different categories of people. The contradictory nature of the research results reflects the fact that the multidimensionality and complexity of migration processes are objective, and a synthesis of different research approaches is necessary to create a holistic portrait of the impact of migration on poverty reduction.

Discussion

The findings of our work are of great practical and theoretical importance for the development of effective poverty reduction strategies through the optimization of migration processes in the horizon of global changes that people are witnessing today. A review of 17 empirical articles and a synthesis of findings from 12 critical sources allowed us to identify specific mechanisms and tools that can be applied to maximize the poverty reduction impact of migration.

The identified mechanisms of poverty reduction through the migration process are of practical importance and can be directly applied in the development of strategies in the country and international programs. The figures achieved are documented - a reduction in poverty in Uganda by 11 percentage points, in Bangladesh by 6 percentage points, in Ghana by 5 percentage points (Adams & Page, 2005; Shalal, 2024); these figures reflect the true prospects of migration processes as a tool for systematic and systematic poverty reduction. Most importantly, the study found that the value of remittances is a direct determinant of success in poverty reduction. An analysis of the contradictions in the research indicates the need to find effective strategies to combat poverty through migration, which could potentially increase net remittances to $23 billion annually for 15-20 million poor households worldwide (Ratha et al., 2024; Migration Policy Institute, 2003).

Short-term measures (1-2 years) can be associated with lowering the threshold for remittances. The results of the analysis show that countries with the lowest cost of remittances (India – 3.8%, Philippines – 4.1%) are the most effective in reducing poverty. This means that there is an urgent need to remove any regulation and encourage competition among financial service providers (Global Migration Data Analysis Center, 2024).

Three to five years should cover long-term measures: large-scale digitalization of remittances and financial literacy programs. The experience of South Asia, where the efficiency of remittances increased by 40% with financial education programs, can be extended to other regions, taking into account local specifics. At the same time, the example of Africa demonstrates the need to create a proper digital infrastructure before delving into inequality (World Bank, 2024e).

Building partnerships in the field of international skills and incorporating migration policy into national sustainable development strategies should also be considered as long-term measures (5-10 years). The positive example of India, which trains IT professionals to work in the international market, proves that it is possible to increase migrants' wages by 3-4 times compared to low-skilled migration, and thus it becomes possible to increase the volume of remittances and their effectiveness in reducing poverty.

Thanks to technological innovations, new opportunities are emerging to maximize the use of migration for poverty alleviation. It is known that blockchain-based remittance platforms can reduce the cost of remittances by up to 1.5 percent, which can change the effectiveness of poverty alleviation. Pilot projects in Kenya and Ghana show that developing transparent and efficient remittance systems with minimal transaction costs is not an impossible task (IOM, 2024). Artificial intelligence can be used to optimize remittance routes and predict migration flows to maximize economic benefits. The efficiency of remittance use in rural households is increased by 35% with the help of mobile financial education platforms, which directly leads to poverty alleviation.

The diversity of global poverty: The results of the analysis of regional specificities point to the need for different types of poverty reduction strategies using migration. The South Asian region, which has the highest growth in remittances (11.8% in 2024), needs plans to implement effective practices on a larger scale. A region that should focus on financial infrastructure development is Sub-Saharan Africa, with the highest remittance rate at 7.8%. Europe and Central Asia, where negative growth in remittances is expected (-1.9% in 2024), should develop additional policies aimed at skilled migration and creative financial instruments. Latin

America shows an example of stable growth (5.5%) that could be emulated in other jurisdictions with similar economic structures.

Sub-Saharan Africa is underrepresented (only 12% of studies on the region, which is home to 67% of the world's poor), leading to the conclusion that this region requires further research and investment, as it has the greatest potential for poverty reduction through migration (Baah et al., 2024; Gupta et al., 2009).

It is important to note the possible risks and limitations of the methods found to reduce poverty. An over-reliance on remittances may reduce local incentives for investment and innovation, and households receiving remittances may reduce the number of people providing labor, thus limiting the sustainability of poverty reduction in the long run. The digitalization of remittances may create a new type of inequality due to the digital divide, especially in rural Africa, where parallel efforts will need to be made to improve digital literacy and infrastructure development.

Migration as a solution to poverty should be approached in a balanced way, taking into account the interests of migrants' destination countries and countries of origin, in order to develop effective strategies aimed at overcoming poverty. Countries of origin benefit from remittances and low unemployment, while destination countries gain labor and demographic benefits but bear the costs of integration. It is important to develop equitable systems that distribute the costs and benefits of migration to increase the sustainability of poverty reduction measures.

In line with the current trends, countries of origin should develop platforms for remittances that do not exceed 3%, develop vocational education programs in international labor markets, and introduce a system that would allow regulating the effectiveness of poverty alleviation through migration. Destination countries should simplify the procedure for transferring funds, invest in migrant integration policies, and create legal labor migration systems. International organizations are at the forefront of harmonizing performance measurement practices, funding for technological innovation, and regional plans that will enable migration to become a powerful tool in achieving SDG 1, which is to end poverty.

Conclusion

The study identified four main processes of poverty reduction through migration processes that can be used to develop national strategies, as they have direct practical application. The most effective was the remittance process, which reduced poverty by 11 percentage points in Uganda, 6 percentage points in Bangladesh, and 5 percentage points in Ghana, confirming the thesis that remittances are the strongest systematic tool for poverty reduction.

The analysis of the cost of remittances showed that the factor of their efficiency is critical. Reducing the cost of remittances to the targeted level of 3% could add US$23 billion annually to remittances, which would directly contribute to poverty reduction in 15-20 million households worldwide. The use of digital remittances (5% of the total) is an excellent alternative to traditional channels (7%), and this demonstrates the effectiveness of technological interventions.

The developed typology of countries according to their impact on poverty reduction in a particular country identifies three categories: highly effective countries in reducing poverty (>5 percentage points of reduction per year), moderately effective (2-5 percentage points), and countries with potential (<2 percentage points). India-U.S. (4.2 percentage points), Philippines-Gulf (3.8 percentage points), and Mexico-U.S. (4.1 percentage points) are the most efficient migration corridors because they have low remittance costs and their legal systems are stable.

The demographic dividend also opens up special opportunities: the future development of labor shortages in developed countries and the increase in the working-age population in developing countries by 552 million by 2030 creates natural flows of poverty alleviation in the form of planned migration.

Specific targets have been set: reducing the share of remittance costs to 3% by 2030, increasing the share of remittances made by digital means to 70%, and reducing poverty in recipient countries by 15% within 5 years. The effectiveness of poverty alleviation can be enhanced by technological innovations, including blockchain platforms, which can reduce costs by up to 1.5%.

The study shows that migration is a powerful tool for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1, Eradicate poverty, provided that evidence-based policies are implemented, remittance overheads are minimized, and international coordination is ensured. Such approaches are effective only when they are adapted to local circumstances and work on technological innovation.

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