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Local faith actors and the migration-development nexus: a review of the literature

Since the turn of the millennium, the migration-development nexus has gained renewed attention within international organisations' policies and academic debates. However, in these debates, the roles played by faith-based actors in general, and local faith actors (LFAs)' in particular, have so far only been marginally addressed. This fails to reflect the growing literature and practice examples of LFAs' engagements with sustainable development and migration separately. This review thus aims at outlining gaps and suggesting some links between local faith actors' engagements and the migration-development nexus. After a brief section on methodology, limitations and terminology, this paper focuses first on some of the key debates around the migration-development nexus to which LFAs' engagements with development and with migration are particularly relevant. The central part of the paper outlines existing research and policy documents on LFAs, migration and development that directly speak to these key debates. Finally, the last section presents some key observations and suggestions to further explore the intersections among these areas of academic research and policymaking. This overview of the literature on the migration-development nexus and the roles played by local faith actors will provide interesting points for discussion on the post- 2030 Development Agenda. In particular, it will show how looking at LFAs' experiences can contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between migration and development and of the issues at stake.

Keywords: migration, sustainable development, migration-development nexus, local faith actors