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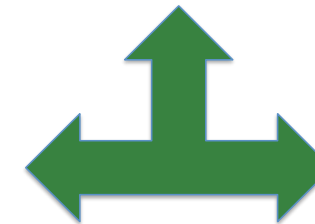
Transnational child-raising arrangements between Africa and Europe



Child in sending country



Caregivers in sending country



Parent in host country



Why study transnational families?

Migration from the global South to the global North is on the rise, yet restrictive migration policies in the North make it difficult for families to travel together. This leads families the world over to live physically apart, using their networks locally and transnationally to find new or adapted arrangements for raising children. The little information that exists on transnational child-raising arrangements (TCRAs), based on small-scale and partial evidence, indicates that there are negative consequences for children's upbringing and emotional costs on parents and children. These negative aspects may offset the positive effects of remittances, which are the focus of migration and development literature and debates. Although these practices are widespread between Africa and Europe they have not yet been systematically studied.

With this research we aim to answer the following questions

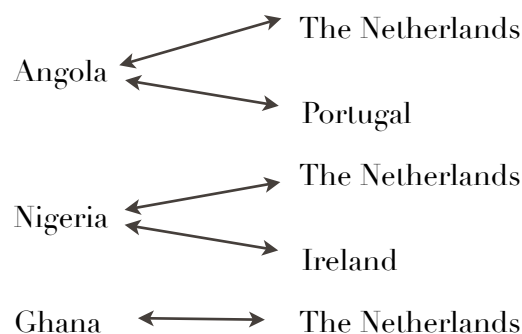
How do TCRAs affect life-chances of children who remain in the country of origin, their migrant parents and their caregivers between Africa and Europe?

How are TCRAs affected by migration laws in Europe and the institution of child fosterage in Africa and how are schools in African countries affected by TCRAs?

How do the different sending and receiving country contexts affect the functioning and outcomes that TCRAs have on the different actors?

Matched case studies

The program aims to answer these questions through 5 matched case studies:



Research methods

- A questionnaire amongst migrant parents, identical in all European countries;
- A questionnaire amongst school children in the sending countries;
- In-depth interviews with parents in the receiving countries, and with children and caregivers in Africa;
- Institutional studies of legal practices in Europe and schools and child fostering norms in the African countries;
- Matched sample: connecting migrant parents in the European countries with their children in the African countries.

Policy formation

The program will shed light on important areas of policy formation:

- migration & development
- migration & well-being
- migration & integration;
- family reunification policies.

Research partners

Maastricht University, in The Netherlands, coordinates the study and collaborates with:

- University College Cork, Ireland,
- University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, Norway.
- University of Ghana, Ghana
- Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria