

Foreword

For more than four decades, the Commonwealth Secretariat has been working on behalf of small states – presenting to the international community the particular challenges that they encounter, proposing both national and international policy responses and providing a targeted programme of assistance to enable these countries to achieve their development goals. Small states have a unique set of developmental challenges, encumbered as they are by their small size, remoteness, limited human and institutional capacity, indivisible fixed costs, small markets, lack of diversification and opportunities restricted by scale.

In 2012, experts from around the Commonwealth met in Kingston, Jamaica, to examine the development costs and benefits to small states of migration. The ideas that emerged from the meeting provided the basis for the studies collated in this publication.

The book aims to examine the impacts of migration and the required policy responses. The overall findings show that their development challenges put small states at a dual disadvantage in that they function as ‘push’ catalysts for emigration and, at the same time, hamper any efforts by these countries to embrace and benefit from migration.

Each chapter touches on a different inter-related migration theme, including: the specificities of migration within small states; temporary labour migration in the Caribbean and the Pacific; migration and remittances in the Caribbean and Africa; the dynamics of the diaspora in the Pacific and Africa; the migration–development nexus; and the impact of skilled recruitment in Commonwealth small states.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is pleased to have collaborated on this book with so many prominent academics and experts based within various Commonwealth countries. They have made the publication a rich and informative read for our key stakeholders working on small states issues, including policy-makers, experts and academics.

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