

Pacific Skills Partnership: Lessons from the Global Compact

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PACIFIC SKILLS SUMMIT: FOCUS QUESTIONS

- 1. Why should the region work together to address its emerging labour market challenges?**
- 2. How can the Pacific capitalise on the prospect of a demographic dividend, and what should be put in place to make it a reality?**
- 3. What experiences and learnings to date can the region build on to ensure a “net skills gain” under labour mobility opportunities?**

The corner stones in conceptualising the future

1. Demographic change in the Asia-Pacific
2. Technology – a digitally connected world
3. Climate change – covered in another paper
4. Skills premium for workers globally

Question: What can we learn from GSP???

What is a Global Skill

Partnership?

1

Destination



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Country of destination (1) Identifies projected skills gaps which require migrant labor; and (2) Provides finance and technology to train would-be migrants in a country of origin

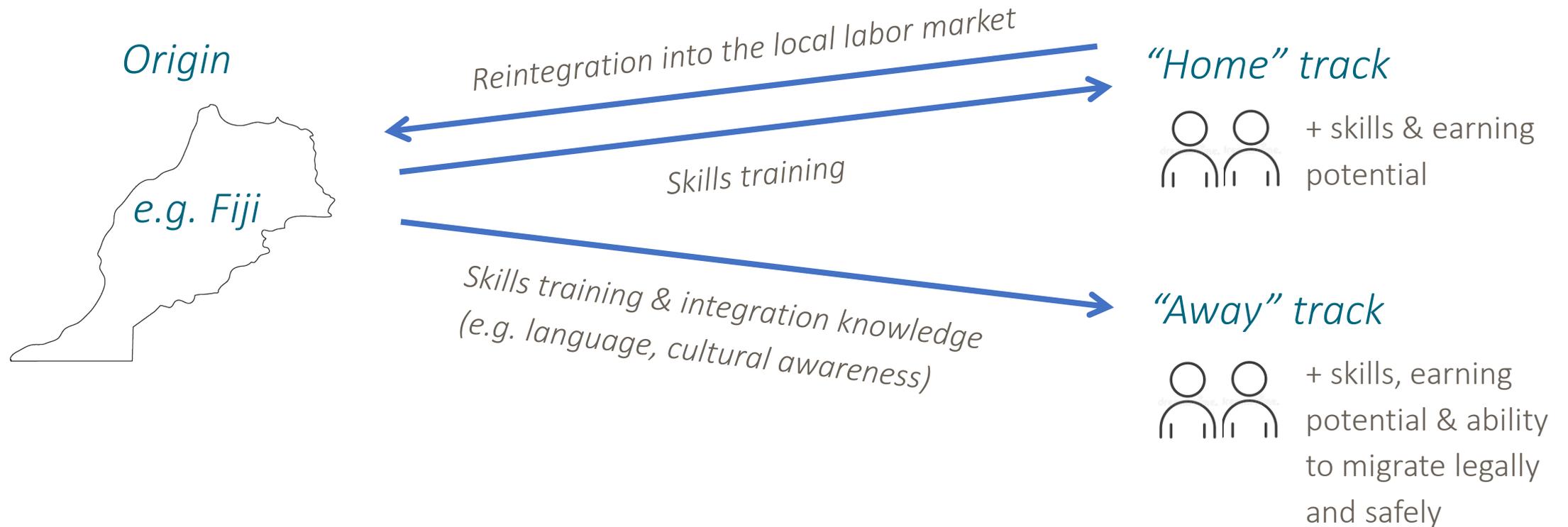
Origin



What is a Global Skill

Partnership?

2



What is a Global Skill

Partnership?

3

“Away” track



Migrants with skills needed to contribute & integrate quickly move to the country of origin, staying for a short or long time

Destination

e.g. Australia



Who benefits?

Destination



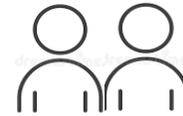
- + Migrants who contribute & integrate quickly
- + Plugged skills gaps
- + Regulated migration: controlled borders & maximum benefits

Origin



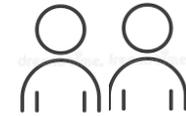
- + Training facilities
- + Increased human capital from “home” track
- + Remittances from “away” track
- + Reduced pressure to meet labor demand

“Home” track



- + Skills
- + Earning potential

“Away” track



- + Skills
- + Earning potential
- + Ability to migrate legally and safely

Navigating the future – incentivizing skill creation via emigration

1. GSP provides the means to Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for skill creation based on demand.
2. Estimates are that Australia will have a shortfall of 51,000 nurses by 2023.
3. Nurses in Australia earn FOUR times similarly qualified nurses in Fiji. Training of nurses in Fiji costs HALF/THIRD that of Australia.
4. Thus nurses trained in Fiji for Australia has the potential to create significant economic value.
5. Similarly for trades such as motor mechanics, electricians, plumbers, etc.

QUESTION: Will a pathway for emigration lead to EVERYBODY leaving? Brain drain?

Actions to improve returns to skills

1. Raise quality of education – PILNA & PEARL
2. Skills recognition/portability – AQF or PQF
3. Work experience for int'l mobility – Pacific Skills Visa
4. Loan scheme to fund tertiary education – for sustainability
5. Human resource planning to match supply of and demand for skills.

Conclusions

1. Pacific Skills Partnership can evolve into an improved RSP (re GSP)
2. What have we learnt from APTC thus far
 - i. Skill recognition a problem – use AQF on user pays principle
 - ii. Resourcing and financial viability a challenge – student loans (TELS, HECS)?
 - iii. Opportunities for Skill/Brain circulation in the PIF – Regional Pac Skills Visa
3. Navigating the future – incentivizing skill creation via emigration through Epeli Ha'ofa's notion of the Pacific as a 'Sea of Islands'.