

# Transatlantic dialogues on migration and development issues

2010 Study Tour, Ouarzazate, Morocco

*Funded by*

GTZ GmbH

Fondation Hassan II pour les Marocains Résidents à l'Étranger.

# Aims of this project

- Facilitate a transatlantic dialogue on migration and development issues from a 'southern' perspective
- Systematic comparison of the Mexico-US and Morocco-EU experiences
- Involve scholars, policy makers and civil society from North and South in a mutual learning experience
- To develop an agenda for research and policy

# Methods

- Study comparing Morocco-US and Mexico-US migration and development experiences (2009-10)
- Workshops and study tours in migrant sending areas in Mexico (2009, GMF) and Morocco (2010, GTZ and Fondation Hassan II)
- Reports and policy briefings (2009-10)
- Commissioned research on 'southern' migration and development policies (funded by GTZ) (2009-10)
- Research project comparing Mexican and Moroccan migrant sending regions (>2010)

→ [www.imi.ox.ac.uk](http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk)

# Key questions

1. How has migration affected development processes in migrant sending areas
2. How can we explain *differences* in migration impacts on the regional and country level?
3. What can we learn from the Mexican/Moroccan experiences in order to formulate better policies?

# Morocco-Mexico

## *A unique comparison*

- Morocco and Mexico share a common geo-political and migratory position right on the global South-North ‘frontier’











# Morocco-Mexico

## *A unique comparison*

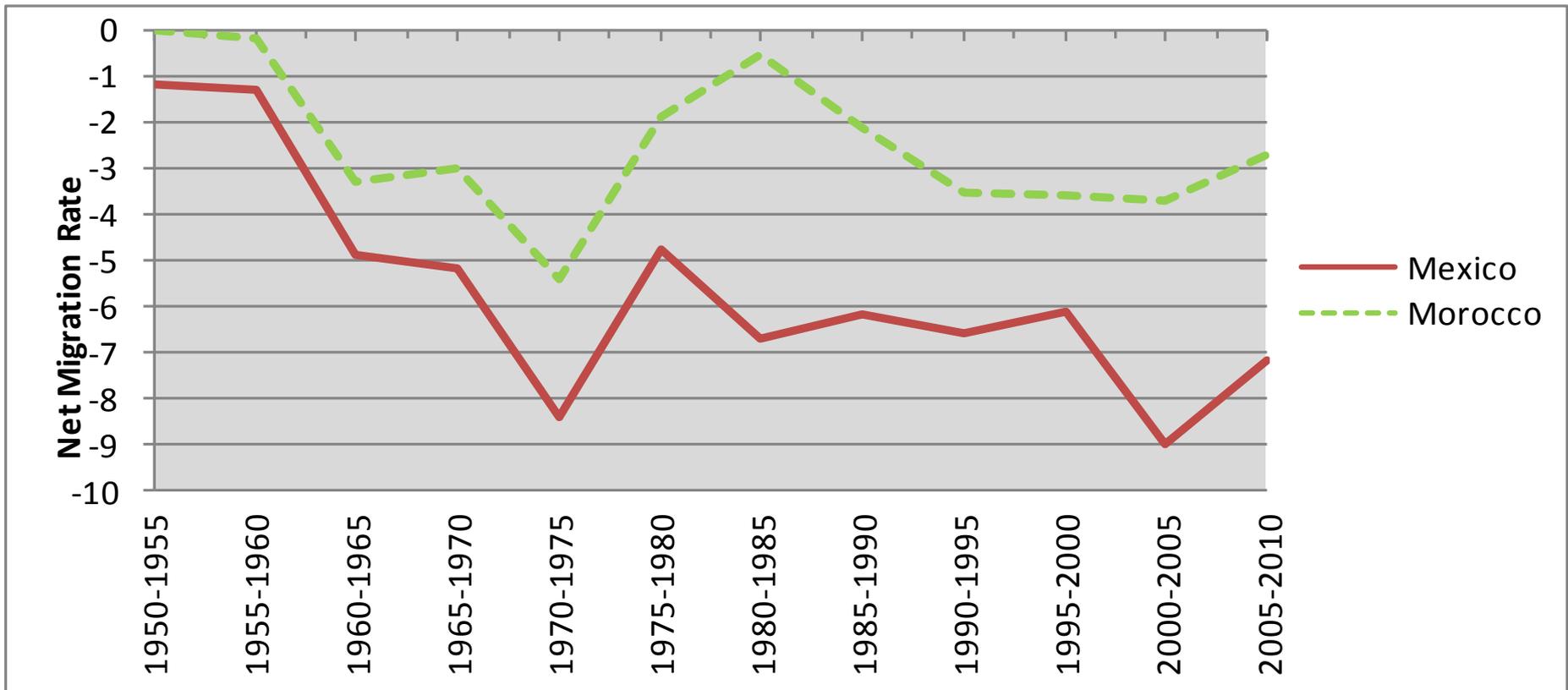
- Morocco and Mexico share a common geo-political and migratory position right on the global South-North ‘frontier’
- But they differ in several economic, social, cultural and political respects
- These contextual differences make the comparison relevant, because it can help us to understand differences in
  - Migration trends and patterns
  - Development impacts of migration (e.g. remittances; brain drain/gain)
  - Activities and impacts of ‘home town’ associations
  - Migration and development policies (e.g., 3 por 1, co-development)

# Morocco-Mexico

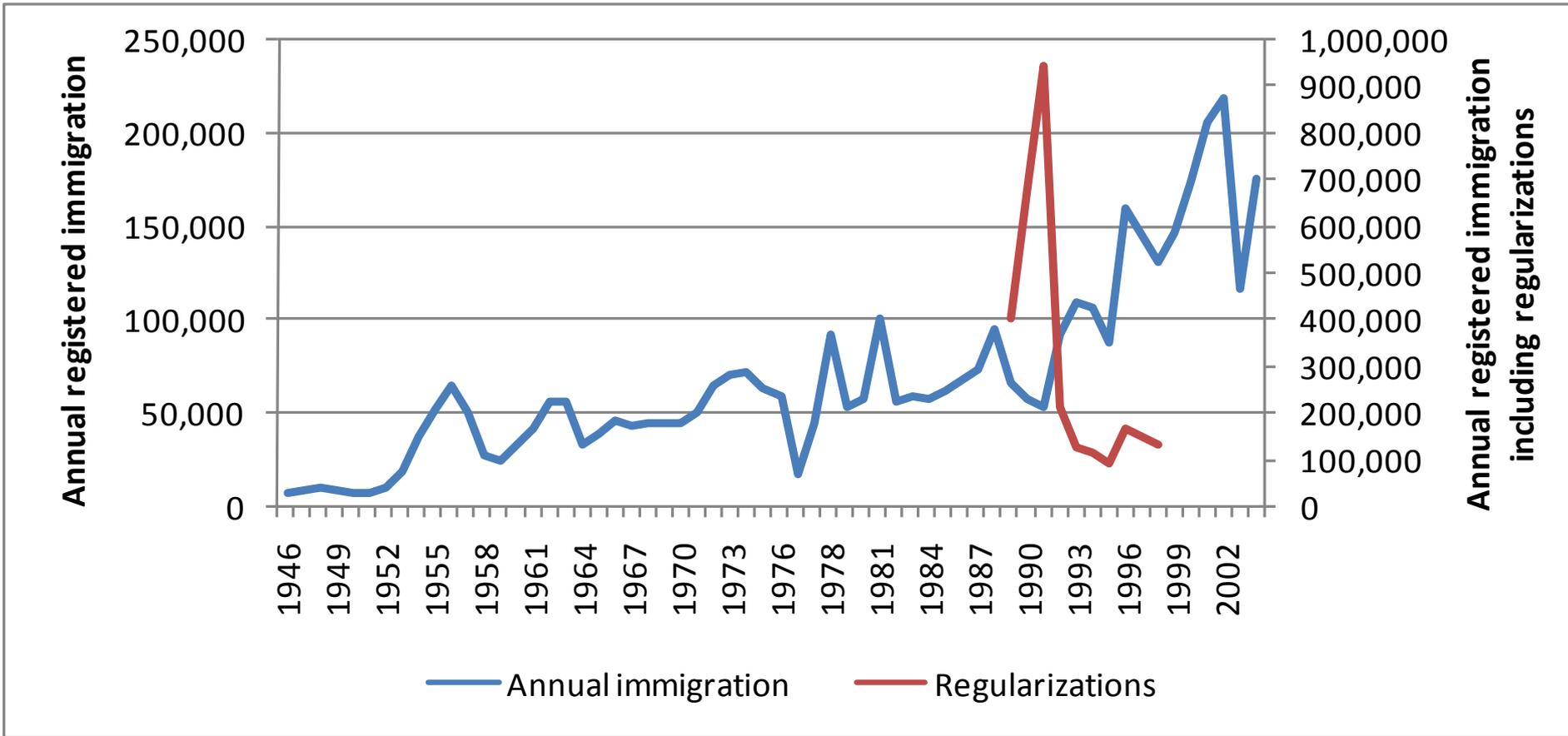
## *migratory resemblances*

- Main sources of low skilled migrant labour in the US and EU
- Persistent emigration → 10-12% of the population abroad
- Migration dominated by political-economic trends and transformations in the US and EU
- Opposed policy trends: trade and labour market liberalisation (NAFTA/EC free trade) vs. increasing migration restrictions
- Rather than decreasing migration, restrictions increased reliance on family and irregular migration and pushed migrants into permanent residence
- Diversification of migration origins and destinations
- Transit and settlement migration from poorer countries further south

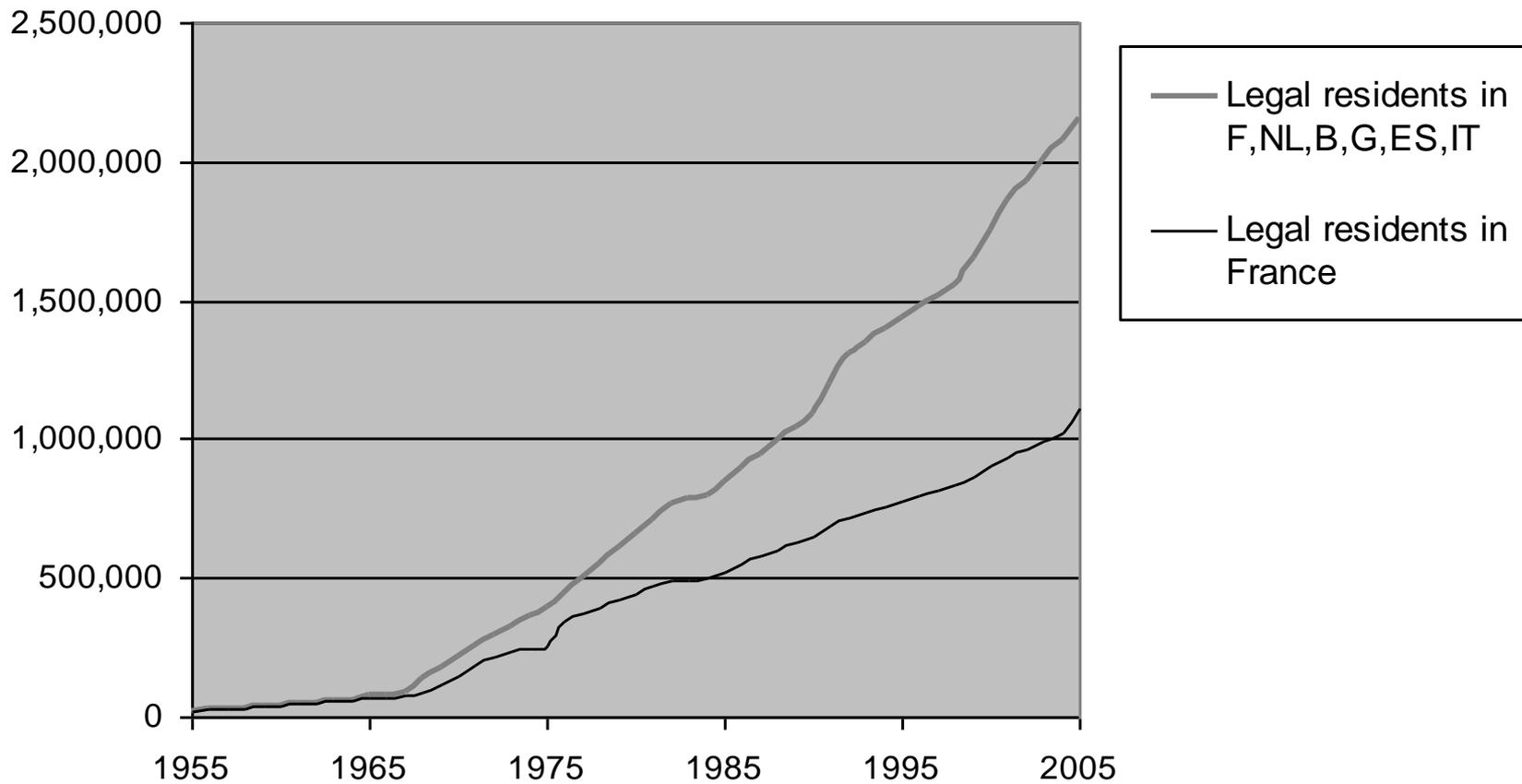
# UN Estimates of net out-migration rate *(per 1,000 population), five year averages*



# Annual immigration to the US from Mexico 1946-2004



# Moroccan nationals living abroad 1955-2005

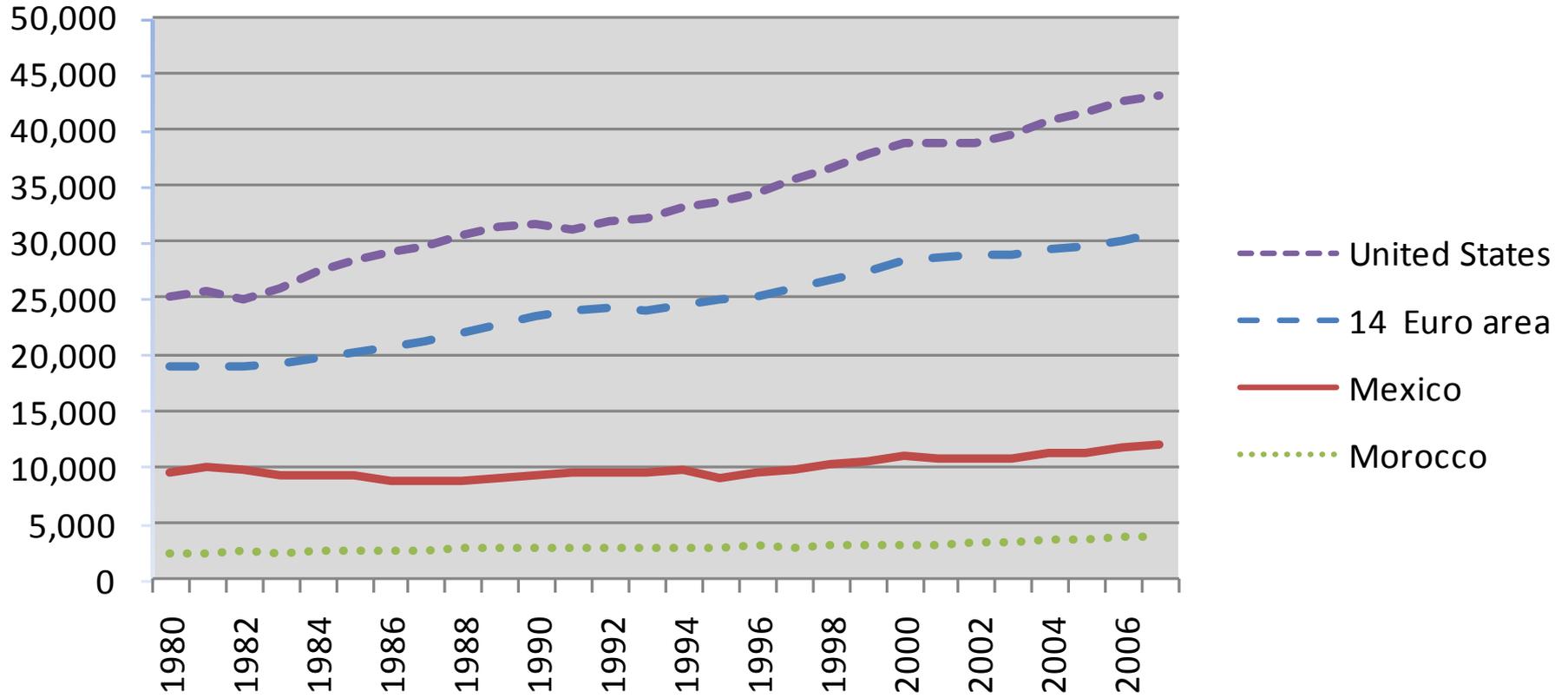


# Morocco-Mexico

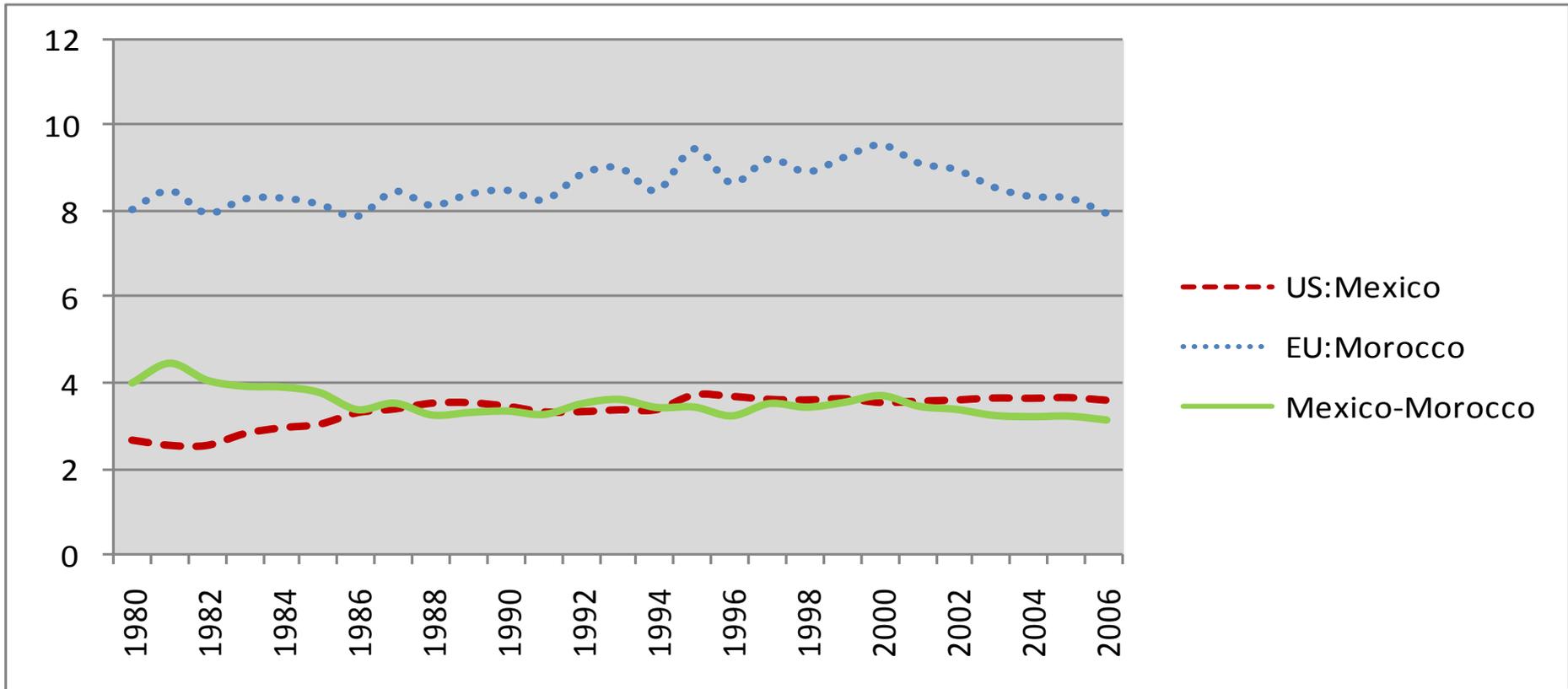
## *Comparing development trends*

- Mexico's *average* level of economic and human development is much higher than Morocco's
- But income inequality is much higher in Mexico
- South-North economic gaps have not decreased

# GDP per capita (PPP)



# Ratio GDP per capita (PPP)



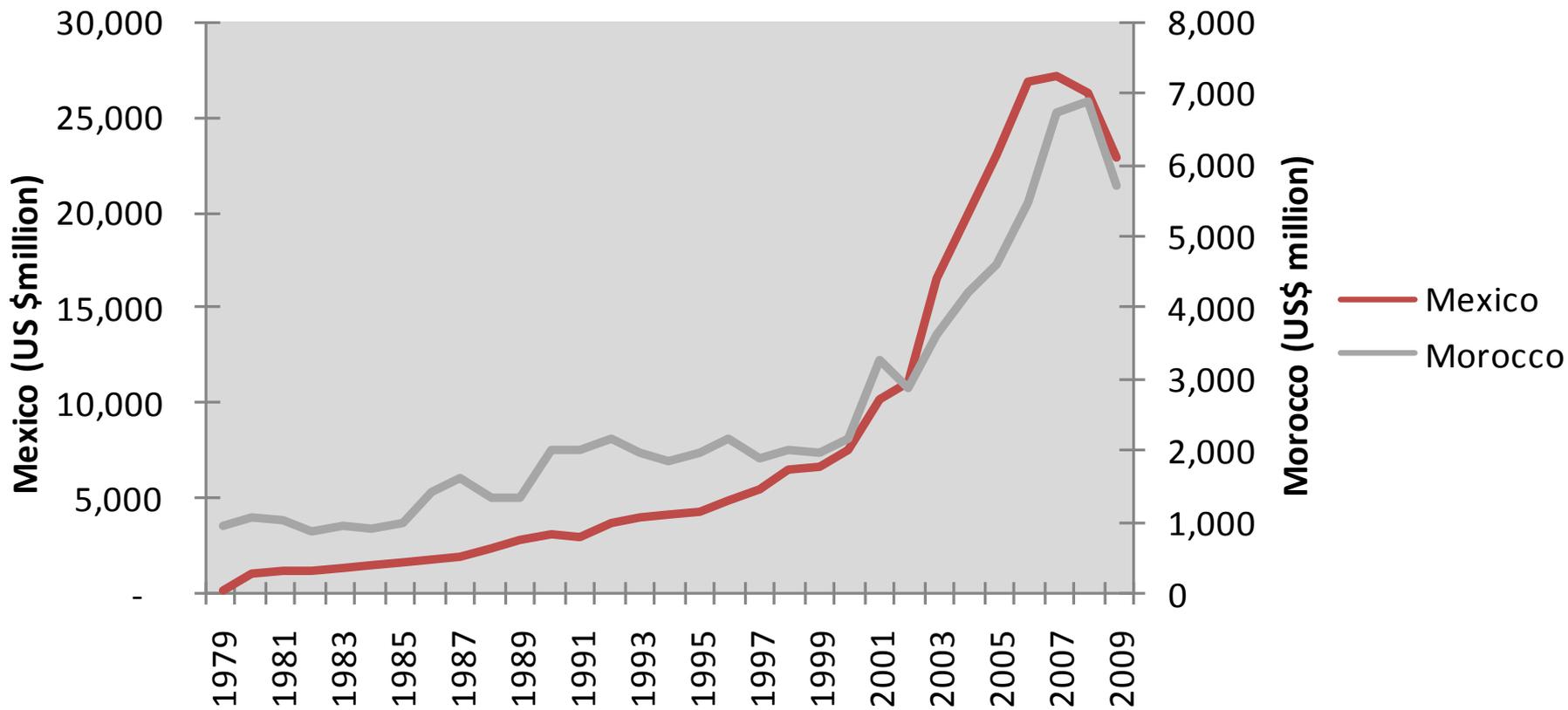
# Morocco-Mexico

## *Comparing development trends*

- Mexico's *average* level of economic and human development is much higher than Morocco's
- But income inequality is much higher in Mexico
- South-North economic gaps have not decreased
- But there has been a South-North *convergence* for other indicators of human development
- Declining fertility and population growth
- How will this affect future migration?

# Remittances to Mexico and Morocco

## 1979-2009



# Morocco-Mexico

## *Development impacts of migration*

- Increasing remittances, despite recent stagnation.
- Morocco's remittance dependency is higher (9% vs 3% of GDP)
- Remittances have significantly improved living standards, education, health and housing (local level)
- Depending on the *context*, development impacts of migration are highly diverse across regions, but they tend to reinforce pre-existing trends of 'cumulative causation' (regional level)
- Migration alone cannot trigger national development because it cannot remove structural development obstacles (country level)

# Morocco-Mexico

## *Development impacts of migration*

- Migrants and remittances can neither be blamed for a lack of development nor be expected to trigger take-off development in unattractive investment environments
- *Key research question:* under which conditions do positive migration impacts occur?
- *Key policy question:* which policies can maximise the developmental benefit of migration?

# Insights from the 2009 study tour

## *Zacatecas, Mexico*

- Migrants as development actors?
  - Risk of shifting governments' responsibilities towards individual migrants and their organisations
  - Not all migrants want or can become entrepreneurs of 'development workers'
  - Migrants can bring added value not only by remitting and investing but also as *political* actors improving public debate and encouraging political and economic reforms

# Insights from the 2009 study tour

## *Zacatecas, Mexico*

- Development projects of migrant associations and policies to support them (e.g., 3 por 1)
  - Collective initiatives are not more ‘developmental’ than individual remittances!
  - There are few independent evaluations of the success of such projects
  - Collective projects may primarily serve political interests of migrant elites and do not necessarily reflect the most urgent needs of communities

# Insights from the 2009 study tour

## *Migration and governments in origin countries*

- Governments have taken measures to encourage remittances and migrants' investments
- Such 'migration and development' policies can have some positive effects, but cannot be a substitute for structural reform
- Reliance on remittances and migrants initiatives may sustain *laissez faire* policies and discourage political and economic reform

# Insights from the 2009 study tour

## *Role of governments in destination countries*

- Less restrictive immigration policies will decrease costs and risks of migration and encourage circulation
- Temporary or permanent return policies can only succeed if migrants retain residency rights
- Policies that give migrants rights and encourage their economic and political participation and prevent discrimination will also enhance their capabilities to contribute to development in origin countries

# Objectives of 2010 study tour

## *Ouarzazate, Morocco*

- Increase insights in the diversity of migration impacts in Morocco through discussion and field visits
- ‘Mirroring’ the transatlantic comparison by exposing Mexico/US participants to the Morocco/EU experience
- Assess the applicability of Mexican migration and development policies in Morocco, and vice versa
- Discuss the contributions of high vs low skilled migrants to development
- Assess the impact of the economic crisis on migration-development interactions

# Programme of 2010 study tour

## *Ouarzazate, Morocco*



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