

International Organisation for Migration



Diaspora and Development

25 June 2014

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Demand for Growth: Migration Mega-trend: One in Seven

7 billion Population

1 billion Migrants



232 million **International**

740 million **Internal**

Urbanization: 50% +

Feminization: ca. 50%

Int. migration: faster growth than in past quarter-century

Intelligence Council on Global Trends 2030

I. African Diaspora's Contributions to African Development

Human & Social capital

- Transferring skills and knowledge
- Extended networks

Economic capital

- Beyond remittances & Savings
- Trade & Investment

Cultural capital

- Diverse societies that are dynamic and innovative
- Enhances relations between countries

Remittances

- 60 billion USD per year
- Transaction cost: 12%

Social Remittances

IOM & Diaspora (I): 62 years experience

- **Resettlement** – 14 million persons
 - Mostly refugees from armed conflicts
- **Labour Migration** – recruitment/job placement
- **Migrant returns** - re-building conflict-ravaged countries:
 - Return of Qualified Nationals: 3900 assignments (2004-2014)
 - AVRR: 35,000 a year
- **Protection** to labour migrants caught in crises
 - Including proxy consular assistance for countries without representatives in crisis locations

IOM's 3E Strategic Diaspora Approach



IOM 3Es: #1 - Engage

- **Gain understanding**
 - Diaspora socio-economic profile
 - Contact with country of origin: actual / interest
 - Surveys & “Migration Profiles”: 20 African countries to date
- **Reaching out**
 - Build trust
 - Enhance dialogue with diaspora
 - Outreach campaign

IOM 3Es: #2 - Enable

- **Promote conditions to maximize diaspora potential**
- **Promote respect for migrant rights**
 - Reduce vulnerability, incl .Property rights
 - Social protection & Access to essential services
 - Facilitate trade & Investment
- **Strengthen institutional frameworks**
 - Integrate diaspora policies into national development plans

IOM 3Es: #3 - Empower

- **Support diaspora activities: Developing & Rebuilding**
 - MIDA - Strengthen institutional frameworks, e.g. Somalia
 - African Great Lakes: European diaspora support
 - Institution building
 - Training
 - Humanitarian causes
 - Out-of-Country Voting and Registration
 - IOM support in 6 countries for South Sudan Referendum

IOM and Diaspora Engagement in Africa

Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit in Sandton-Johannesburg, in May 2012 adopted:

Five Legacy Project - IOM as Key Partner includes:

- a. Production of African Diaspora Professionals' Skills Database
- b. Establishment of the African Diaspora Volunteers Corps
- c. African Diaspora Investment Fund
- d. Diaspora Development Marketplace for facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship among African and Diaspora
- e. African Remittances Institute

IOM in Ethiopia (I): Since 1995

- Institutionalization of the permanent and temporary skills transfer of highly qualified Ethiopians
- 137 Ethiopian health professionals in 8 hospitals and medical institutions trained in medical and clinical procedures
- 95 medical professionals given short term trainings
- USD 2 million in medicine & medical equipment donated by the Ethiopian North American Health Professionals Association.

IOM in Ethiopia (2): Since 1995

- Face to face dialogue between Ethiopian officials and Diaspora and 600 - 900 diaspora members through video conference.
- Outreach for Ethiopian government officials.
- Mapping of the Ethiopian diaspora living in Canada, UK, Kenya and South Africa.

II. African Diaspora in a Mobile, Globalized World.

- **Migration:** more than “A” to “B”
- **Social distance shrinks:** Modern technology
 - Benefits from diaspora networks – even without return
 - India
 - South Africa
 - The Philippines

Drivers of Migration

1. **DEMOGRAPHY**: North – ageing, South – youthful
2. **DEMAND** labour shortage vs. labour surplus
3. **DISPARITY** increasing: economic, social
4. **DISTANCE** shrinking : budget transportation
5. **DIGITAL REVOLUTION**: instant information
6. **DISASTERS**: natural & human-made, rapid & slow onset
7. **DREAMS**: life with dignity and prosperity.

III. Policies to Unlock African Diaspora Potential "High Road" Scenario

- **Brain “circulation”**

Well educated and well-connected diaspora is a brain bank:

- Remittances
- Know-how
- Contacts

- **Government Incentives for Diaspora return**

High-level of education (some subsidised by foreign govt)

- Business experience

A “High Road” Diaspora Policy Scenario

- Policy for overseas citizens

From “controlling” to “courting”

- Helps remove obstacles to mobility
- Encourages trans-national citizens to stay engaged in both home and host societies

A “High Road” Diaspora Policy Scenario

1. Senior Diaspora Focal Point within Government
2. Political Rights for the Diaspora
3. Government website devoted exclusively to diaspora matters
4. Diaspora Trade and Investment Missions
5. Regular official meetings with diaspora in main destination countries
6. Support policy for “social remittance” transfer
7. Diaspora network
8. Government matching scheme for remittances earmarked for development
9. Diaspora engagement in outcomes from “social remittances”

A “High Road” Diaspora Policy Scenario: IOM’s contribution

1. Centralise and simplify migration programmes: single government entity
2. De-criminalize irregular migration
3. Assist migrants in crisis, including through AVRR: a rights-based alternative to deportation
4. Process for legal status for those who meet state criteria
5. Integration as an Option: a two-way assisted process
6. Multiple-entry visas and dual citizenship laws
7. Portable social security benefits, migrant access to health services & education
8. Labour migration multi-skill policy for all skill levels
9. Circular migration programmes
10. Integrate migration in development planning”

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