![International Organization for Migration — the migration agency — IOM · OIM]

Diasporas:
Policy Challenges and Responses

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OUTLINE

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- ✓ Obstacles
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- ✓ Incentives

3. WHAT ROLE FOR POLICY?
- ✓ Lessons learnt
- ✓ What role?

1. POLICY CHALLENGES

DEFINING DIASPORAS

➢ No one common definition: from **D**iaspora" to "**d**iaspora**s**"

➢ Transnational **individuals** and **communities**

➢ **Parameters**: time/birth/citizenship/belonging

➢ **Examples** of definitions (UK, India, African Union)

➢ The **definition** influences the shape and direction of **policy**

OBSTACLES

Results: IOM Survey 2005 (49 countries)

➢ **Assessing** the diasporas' development potential

➢ **Mobilising finance for** governmental work with diasporas

➢ **Collecting** data on diasporas

➢ **Overcoming competition** among diaspora groups

➢ **Building partnerships** with home or host countries

➢ **Lack of communication** among departments, community representatives and corporate actors

Problem of capacities, structures and ownership in country of origin

GAPS & PRIORITIES

✓ Learn about other international **good practices**
✓ Improve **capacity** to implement and manage programmes
✓ Enhance **coherence** between migration and development agendas

✓Develop a "**policy guide**"
✓Identify "**good practices**"
✓Raise **governmental awareness**
✓Recognize **partners** within diasporas

Knowledge; Exchange; Awareness;
Successful / Unsuccessful?
Lack of evaluation tools

2. ESTABLISHING A « WORKING RELATIONSHIP »

INSTITUTIONS

➢ **Dedicated to diasporas**: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Romania, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Peru

➢ **Diversity**: State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad, Presidential Office for Mexicans Abroad, Ministry for Senegalese Abroad, General Directorate for Ethiopian Expatriates

➢ **Consular services** (Peru)

➢ **Programmes & Events**: Colombia, El Salvador, Tunisia, Algeria, Benin, India, Syria, Armenia

Legitimacy, resources, dialogue, registration

HUMAN CAPITAL

Skills circulation through virtual exchanges, temporary and permanent returns

- ✓ **Skills databanks**: Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Colombia, Philippines, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Mexico, Portugal, Kenya, Argentina, Senegal, South Africa
- ✓ **Matching initiatives**: Africa Recruit, IOM MIDA, UNDP TOKTEN
- ✓ **E-learning**: Rwanda; Sweden
- ✓ **Temporary and permanent returns**: Tunisia, Sri Lanka, IOM RQAN

Deskilling
The **right human resources**?
Return programmes

FINANCIAL CAPITAL

Remittances, FDI, financial transfers, entrepreneurship, business creation

- ✓ **Remittances**: reducing transaction costs
- ✓ **Expatriate bonds**: India, Israel
- ✓ **Tax breaks**: India, Philippines, Ethiopia
- ✓ **Special services for diasporas**: Banques Populaires Morocco, Banco Solidario Equator, Banque de l'Habitat, Senegal
- ✓ **Chambers of Commerce:** key role
- ✓ Investment Fairs: Africa Recruit, Africa Axis

INCENTIVES

Relate diasporas policies to diasporas rights

- ✓ Dual citizenship
- ✓ Consular support
- ✓ Voting rights
- ✓ Property rights
- ✓ Transferability of pension rights and social benefits
- ✓ Reduced transportation costs
- ✓ Simplification of bureaucratic procedures
- ✓ Match diasporas resources with real development needs

3. WHAT ROLE FOR POLICY?
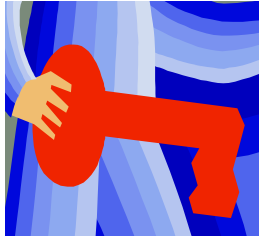
LESSONS LEARNT (1)

1) Address **heterogeneity** of interests within diasporas

2) Recognize **profit making & altruistic** strategies

3) Favour **« local to local »** responses

4) Support **« sector based »** approaches

5) What is on **diasporas' agenda**?

6) Identify who are your diasporas **partners**?

7) Assess roles: **"ice breakers"**, **"middle persons"**

8) Provide **gender** specific responses

9) Identify **the limits** of individual strategies
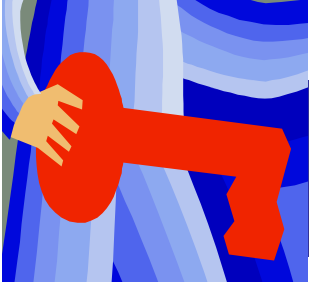
LESSONS LEARNT (2)

10) What is on the **governmental development agenda**?

11) Promote **institutional change** and **internal policy coherence**

12) Recognize **"soft" factors**: trust, perceptions, images…

13) Build on **"social capital"**

14) Identify **obstacles:** institutional, bureaucratic, perceived

15) Relate **home and host** countries interests

16) Better integrate **diasporas** into development strategies

17) Assess **potential negative effects** of policy

18) Estimate the **offsetting** potential of macro-economic and political settings

WHAT ROLE FOR POLICY?

➤ "**Enabling**" **role**

➤"**Inclusionary**" **role**

➤"**Partnership**" **role**

➤ "**Catalytic**" **role**

Diasporas can make a difference in the right policy context

Selected IOM Publications 2006/2005/2004

- ✓ **Migration for Development, Across and Within Borders**
- ✓ **Migrants' Remittances and Development: Myths Rhetoric and Realities**
- ✓ **Migration and Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Policy Makers, MRS 22**
- ✓ **Mainstreaming Migration into Development Agendas, IDM n°8**
- ✓ **Migration and Development: the Cases of Angola and Zambia, MRS 21, IOM**
- ✓ **The development Potential of Zimbabweans in the diasporas, MRS 17, IOM**
- ✓ **Institutionalizing Diasporas Linkages: the Emigrants Bangladeshi in the UK and USA**

Forthcoming:

- ✓ **Diaspora across regions, Collection, under the direction of Nyberg Sorensen N.**
- ✓ **Remittances in the Great Lakes Region, MRS 25**
- ✓ **Engaging Diasporas as partners for the development of the host and home country, Policy Paper, MRS 26**