



Photo: Bread for the World

# Missing Ingredients in Diaspora Engagement in Development: Destination-Country Policies and Integration



April 22, 2021



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# Integration and Development: Need for Dialogue

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## Diaspora, Development and Integration

A review of policies and practice

How does integration in the country of settlement matter for diaspora members' development engagements in the Global South? And how has this intersection been addressed in policy and practice? We explore these questions through examples from Norway, where political efforts to include diaspora in development cooperation and foreign policy have been justified from an integration perspective. In this policy brief, we evaluate the partial implementation of this policy and its relevance for remittances, and argue for the need to re-think how we understand the links between diaspora, development and integration.

- Brief Points**
- Diaspora members' integration in countries of settlement matters for their development engagements in countries of origin in Global South.
  - Policy on migration, integration, and development is largely separate and often incoherent.
  - Diaspora members' development initiatives, including remittance-sending, largely happen irrespective of policy.
  - Policy and practice on integration can negatively affect development engagements, and vice versa.
  - Diaspora development contributions should be conceived of as transnational civic engagement in both country of settlement and origin.
  - This would lead to better policy coherence and to better development and integration outcomes.

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- And how has this intersection been addressed in policy and practice?

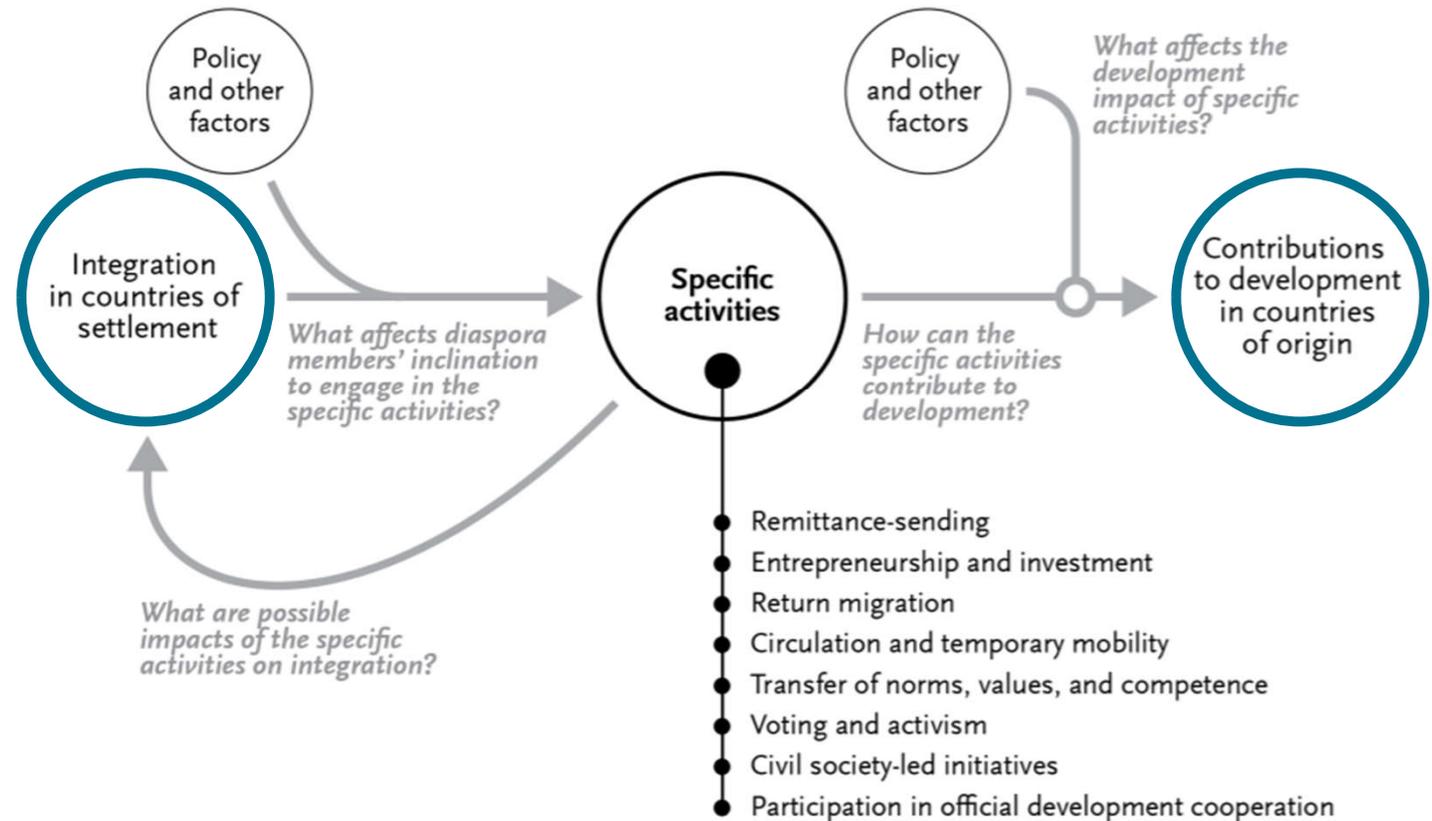


**Mechanisms  
linking  
integration in  
countries of  
settlement with  
development in  
countries of  
origin**



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# Mechanisms linking integration in countries of settlement with development in countries of origin



# Remittances

*Norms, values,  
competence*

*Civil-society led*

*Official  
development  
cooperation*



- How can remittances contribute to development?
- What influences the development effects of remittances?
- What affects diaspora members' inclination to send remittances?
- What are possible effects of remittances on integration?

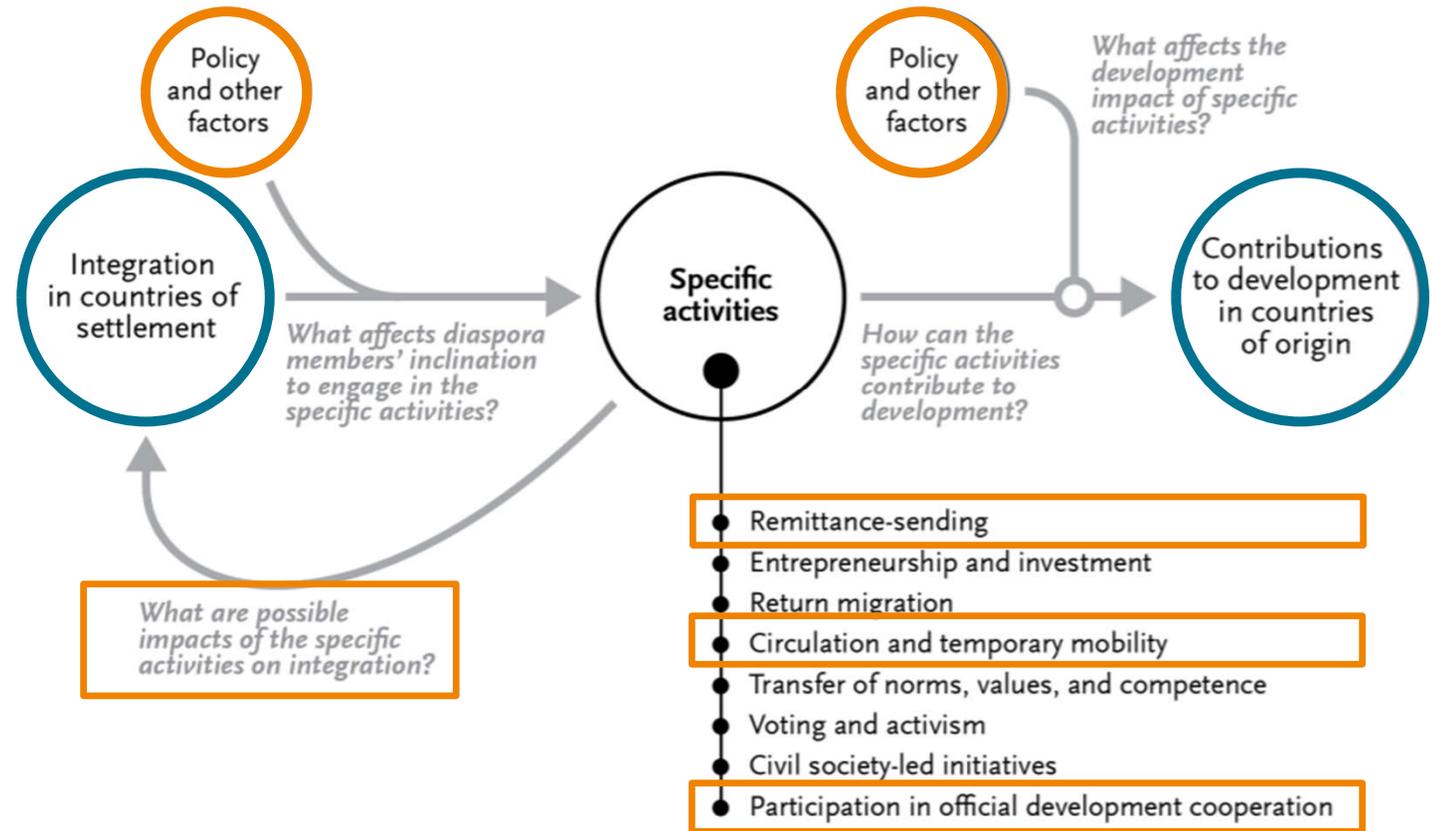
## Six things research can tell us about diaspora- development- integration links

- Integration matters.
- Integration processes and transnational engagements are not a zero-sum-game.
- Migration and migrants' contributions are relevant to development processes.
- There is potential for greater conceptual clarity on both 'development' and 'integration'.
- Integration-development links are exchanges set within interpersonal relationships.
- Mutually 'secondary factors', but which can make a difference.



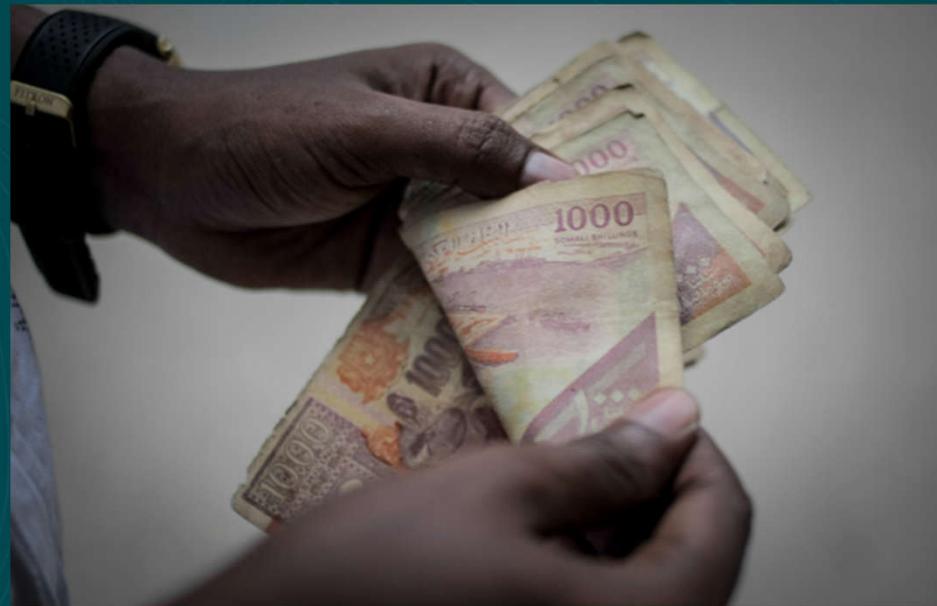
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# Mechanisms linking integration in countries of settlement with development in countries of origin



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Diaspora members' development engagements should be approached with three objectives



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*Recognize and value existing initiatives, e.g., remittances. Doing so can have positive effects on development and integration outcomes via recognition.*

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*Avoid obstructing diaspora members' development engagements, via unwarranted suspicion on transnational connections or creating formalized barriers.*

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*Support and leverage diaspora members' development engagements. E.g., reducing remittance costs, matching diaspora-initiatives, enhancing development effects.*



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Efforts to promote diversity in the development sector should be strengthened.

Policy dialogue and coordination between the relevant ministries and directorates is necessary.



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Establish cross-cutting fora or communication channels that help prevent segmentation and **policy incoherence**.

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Identify implications of policy development in one field for outcomes in others and ensure these are addressed at an early stage.

**'Do no harm'**

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Build institutional memory and become less dependent on the commitment of individual civil servants – especially in ministries and directorates where turnover and internal rotation is high.



# Thank you

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