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

April 22, 2021
Today’s Event

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Integration and Development: Need for Dialogue

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Integration and Development: Need for Dialogue

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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?
Mechanisms linking integration in countries of settlement with development in countries of origin
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Integration in countries of settlement

What affects diaspora members' inclination to engage in the specific activities?

Specific activities

What are possible impacts of the specific activities on integration?

Remittance-sending
Entrepreneurship and investment
Return migration
Circulation and temporary mobility
Transfer of norms, values, and competence
Voting and activism
Civil society-led initiatives
Participation in official development cooperation

Contributions to development in countries of origin

What affects the development impact of specific activities?

Policy and other factors

Policy and other factors
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?
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.
Mechanisms linking integration in countries of settlement with development in countries of origin

Integration in countries of settlement

Policy and other factors

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Specific activities

How can the specific activities contribute to development?

Contributions to development in countries of origin

What affects the development impact of specific activities?

What are possible impacts of the specific activities on integration?

- Remittance-sending
- Entrepreneurship and investment
- Return migration
- Circulation and temporary mobility
- Transfer of norms, values, and competence
- Voting and activism
- Civil society-led initiatives
- Participation in official development cooperation
Diaspora members’ development engagements should be approached with three objectives.
Recognize and value existing initiatives, e.g., remittances. Doing so can have positive effects on development and integration outcomes via recognition.

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

Support and leverage diaspora members’ development engagements. E.g., reducing remittance costs, matching diaspora-initiatives, enhancing development effects.
Efforts to promote diversity in the development sector should be strengthened.

Policy dialogue and coordination between the relevant ministries and directorates is necessary.
Establish cross-cutting fora or communication channels that help prevent segmentation and **policy incoherence**.

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

‘**Do no harm**’

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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• Audio and video from today's webinar will be available at www.migrationpolicy.org/events

• Reporters can contact Michelle Mittelstadt at +1-202-266-1910 or mmittelstadt@migrationpolicy.org

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