Focus on the theme Migration and Development

Migration is an area that has grown rapidly in the foreign policy domain of the EU. Several EU programs and support tools have been designed to provide a balanced approach in improving the management of legal migration, to slow the flow of illegal migration and optimize the effects of migration on development.

Programs and activities on migration and development include: (1) to strengthen the capacity of governments to maximize the socio-economic opportunities by adopting more development-oriented migration policies, (2) to address the root causes of economic migration, including the effects of environmental degradation, promoting community development and strengthening the capacity of governments to focus development actions more strategically and, (3) implement initiatives to mobilize the skills and financial resources of expatriates for investment and development on the African continent, as well as closer collaboration with host countries of African communities.

Two themes have been especially analysed by the researchers of the unit: the behavior of transfer and transnational practices on the one hand, and the links between migration and development in countries of origin on the other hand. Hence, many programs related to migration, set up mainly by the European Union within the framework of the budget line Migration, the World Bank and UNDP and five other specialized agencies of the UN system - (IOM, ILO, UNFPA and UN Women).

Special issue on the Diaspora and Development:

- Focus on the theme of Migration and Development P. 1
- Diaspora and Development in Africa P. 2
- Remittances in the ACP countries P. 4
- Which contribution of intellectual diaspora? P. 8

“Migration change climate... it becomes cold”
In order to fully understand the area of migration, this article outlines the contours of the concept of diaspora. In economic terms, for instance, an analysis of the observatory ACP (Africa - Caribbean - Pacific) on migration gives an overview of social transfers and remittances in Africa.

Regarding social transfers an interview discusses the contributions of intellectual and scientific diaspora to rebuild Africa. Social transfers can be defined as ideas, practices, identities and social capital provided by the communities living in a host country. Thus, social transfers cover all directions including, innovative ideas, useful transnational networks, knowledge, political values, reforms of public policy and new technology skills.

Do diaspora communities only contribute to the development of their countries of origin? No, in fact the case of the UK economy shows that migrants are just as useful if not more, to their host countries.

Arthur YENGA

**Diasporas and Development in Africa**

At the time when the Africa-Europe platform for the development and promotion of the contribution of the African diaspora in the development of Africa was taking place, the question of what actually covers the word 'diaspora' was raised.

In Greek, the word 'Diaspora' means 'dispersion'. Originally, it referred to the migration of Greek scholars and expatriates worldwide broadcasting their Hellenic culture. Thereafter, in the biblical tradition, the word was used to describe the "dispersion of the Jews". Finally, since the 80s, the concept is used to refer to the national migrant communities interacting with each other and their country.

The concept of 'African Diaspora' was first introduced to describe a population resulting from the deportation of Africans at the time of the slave trade from the 16th to the 19th century and their descendants around the world on the one hand, and of emigration, on the other hand.

At the first Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora held from 6 to 9 October 2004 in Dakar (Senegal), the African Diaspora was proposed as the sixth region of the African Union. This implied that (a) there was a need to clearly define, taking into account both the diaspora of the first generation or the old diaspora, the diaspora of the second generation or the new African diaspora and (b) the need to develop a representative body for the major regions of the world.

Subsequently, in January 2005, the definition of the term 'diaspora' was the subject of a meeting between experts from the Member States. After extensive deliberation, the Member States adopted the following definition by consensus:

« The African Diaspora consists of people of African origin and cultural heritage living outside the continent regardless of their citizenship and who are committed to contribute to the development of the continent and the strengthening of African Union (AU) ».

It is obvious that the diaspora cannot really contribute to the development of countries of origin if they participate in the enrichment of host societies. Indeed, experience shows that it is in accessing employment opportunities in the host country and participating in civil society movements that migrants develop professional
skills, scientific, technical, financial and organizational, which they then transfer to developing countries through a process of diaspora.

WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF THE MOST: DIASPORA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Over the past 20 years, the development of new technologies and the developments in science have allowed some diaspora scientists to play an important role in developing and strengthening the scientific capacity of their countries of origin. Without necessarily moving back to the country of origin, "the diaspora option" involves setting up networks of mobilization and remote reconnection with researchers and engineers in the Diaspora with the scientific community present on the national territory which may allow the diaspora to play this role. This initiative can be crucial in the context of globalization.

BUT THERE ARE OTHER INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ACTORS

African diaspora actors are not limited to scientific and technical diaspora with advanced degrees. Financial transfers are for example all that keeps a more or less strong relationship with Africa. There are also organizations of the Diaspora where different members contribute to local development and in fact, the Diaspora entrepreneurs are operating in various sectors in Africa and Europe.

Partnerships between organizations of the African Diaspora (ODA), associative movements and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the host country also play an important role in local development in Africa. Their interventions can for example provide swathes of villages and towns with basic infrastructure. That is to say, schools, clinics, health centres, electrical network etc. ... The diaspora is also involved in activities of social economy, such as the development of microfinance and transportation.

THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IS CRUCIAL FOR THE FORMALIZATION AND FOR A BETTER ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF DIASPORAS

Firstly, in Europe, apart from the hostility of immigration policy which promotes racism and xenophobia by designating them as a "scapegoat", the African diaspora actors have a very supportive environment in EU countries where their projects are supported by dedicated funding mechanisms.

In Asia, meeting a favorable political encountering will, and because of "migration linkages, economic, cultural, emotional, between pole attachment, the contribution of the diaspora has been quite successful for developing countries such as China and Vietnam.

For Africa, things are less certain / clear. In certain countries of origin, the public authorities, while seemingly supportive of their diasporas, have a tendency only to retain those actors involved in policy that they consider to be competitors to counterparts in the country. This only changes the activity of the African diaspora overall, and undermines its effectiveness.

TO CONCLUDE

Beyond the dispersion and the presence of people of African descent in various regions of the world, the African Union, given the definition to the word "diaspora", emphasizes the commitment to contribute to the development of the African continent. The proposed Africa-Europe Platform finds itself completely under this definition by providing the recognition, the development and the promotion of good practices that diaspora players can make as an effective contribution to the development of Africa.
Remittances in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries

Remittances can be considered to be more than financial flows and can include other kinds of transfers by migrants as well. Remittances may be the most tangible part of the migration – development nexus. However, they do not just concern financial transfers, they also include social remittances - a range of contributions by migrants and diaspora members. This background note aims to shed light on the definition, challenges of remittance data collection, outline the key remittance trends in ACP countries, highlight important issues and provide recommendations for policymakers from ACP countries.

FIGURES AND KEY TRENDS IN ACP COUNTRIES

Remittances play a very important role in relative terms in many ACP countries. Among the top 10 global remittance receiving countries as a percentage of GDP, four are ACP countries (Tonga; Lesotho; Samoa and Guyana). Tonga and Lesotho are only superseded by Tajikistan and thus among the top 3 worldwide. Among the top 30 globally, 13 are ACP countries.

The World Bank estimated that in 2010, ACP countries received 21.4 billion Euros in remittances (see Graph 1, World Bank, 2010b data with UN exchange rate of November 2010). However, 18 countries did not report any data, including countries who probably receive large remittance flows (the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia and Zimbabwe; Mohapatra et al., 2010).3 Therefore, all ACP countries are not covered in these figures. Together with the unknown extent of informal flows, remittances inflows in ACP countries are likely to be considerably higher.

WEST AFRICA

The remittances received by the 16 countries of the West African region account for 43.4 per cent of all funds received from ACP emigrants, thus representing the largest share of remittances of all six ACP regions (World Bank, 2011b data).

However, remittances to the region remain modest on the global scale. Inward flows, of the order of €9.3 bn in 2010, represent 4% of the total flows to developing countries, a marginal percentage (World Bank, 2010b). The remittances vary enormously, as much in absolute value as in relative value: one ACP country alone (Nigeria) is ranked among the 30 first global rankings among destination countries in absolute value, but five (Togo, Cape-Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, and Gambia) count among the 30 first global rankings of destination countries in relative value, as a percentage of GDP (World Bank 2010b). Overseas development assistance (ODA) still exceeds remittances in all these countries, except Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo (Gallina, based on PNUID data, 2009).

Nigeria is the only ACP country among the top 10 remittance receiving countries worldwide and also receives a third of all remittances to ACP countries (an estimated 7.2 billion Euros in 2010; World Bank, 2010b with UN exchange rate of November 2010).
CENTRAL AFRICA

Of the eight countries belonging to Central Africa, remittances do not exceed ODA and are low compared to the other five ACP regions. This is firstly due to a lack of data reported for half of the countries.

Out of the recorded remittances going to the remaining four countries (125.3 million Euros), Cameroun receives by far the biggest share (86%; World Bank, 2010b). Many transfers are believed to be sent to rural areas (IFAD, 2007). In contrast to emigrants from Western and Eastern Africa, in 2005 emigrants from this region tended to predominantly move to other African countries in which workers’ incomes are inferior to the emigrants’ income in OECD countries (Migration DRC, 2007). In addition, it is estimated that the large majority of intra-regional transfers passes through informal channels not appearing in the statistics, even more than in other regions (Gallina, 2010).

EAST AFRICA

Remittance inflows into the 14 East African countries are small in absolute terms when compared to other ACP regions (an estimated 4.7 million Euros in 2010). Sudan’s high remittance inflows represent 48.9 per cent of the total (World Bank, 2010b). Informal estimates are believed to be as high as 80 per cent of all flows to Uganda (UN-OHRLLS and OSAA, 2006). According to a survey of the Tanzania-Uganda remittance corridor, 60 percent of respondents declared that they preferred to send money via informal channels, for example often car drivers, money transfer agents, and sex workers, to cross borders (IOM, 2009b). Net inward flows exceed outward flows except in Tanzania, where outward flows are more than three times higher ($10.8 m of inwards flows, as opposed to $36.2 m of outward flows in 2009) (World Bank data, 2010b, using UN exchange rates for October 2010). Internal flows should be better analysed. During a study undertaken in Kenya in 2009 by the Central Bank of Kenya and the Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) programme, more than half of respondents stated that they had received internal remittances/transfers, as opposed to 16.5 percent in 2006.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Transfers sent by emigrants to the ten countries in Southern Africa have a modest weight in the countries GDP with the notable exception of Lesotho (25% as a share of GDP; World Bank, 2010b). In absolute terms, South Africa is the leading recipient (and sending) country in the region (725.8 million Euros), followed by Lesotho with about half of the amount. Important differences in sending patterns exist between men and women, with women sending less, which is linked to lower wages and different employment status (or lack thereof; Dodson et al., 2008).

Remittances exceed ODA, except in the case of Namibia (Gallina, 2010 based on UNDP, 2009 data). On the outflows side, in absolute terms, the highest sums of remittances are sent from South Africa (770 million Euros), exceeding inflows and highlighting its importance as an immigration country in the region (World Bank, 2010b). In spite of not hosting a large share of the region’s immigrants, Angola sends high sums of remittances abroad, even
exceeding those of South Africa in relative terms as a share of GDP (1% of Angola’s GDP compared to 0.4% of South Africa’s). This can be due to high profits from the mining industry, inaccurate statistics or underreporting. Informal channels are the preferred option in this region as well, being as high as almost 90 per cent in Lesotho (Crush et al., 2010) or estimated to be the almost exclusive way in studies of the South Africa – Zimbabwe corridor (Kerzner, 2009).

Remittances exceed ODA, except in Namibia (Gallina 2010 based on PNUD data from 2009). The highest outward flows in absolute value are those registered as leaving from S Africa (€770 m); they exceed inward flows and demonstrate the importance of South Africa as a country of immigration in the region (World Bank 2010b). In Angola, which does not moreover host many migrants coming from the region, important remittances have been observed coming from abroad: these remittances are even greater than those of South Africa as a percentage of GDP (1 percent of GDP in Angola, as opposed to 0.4 percent of GDP in S Africa). This phenomenon can be explained by the important assets/profits in the mining extraction sector, or by the fact that the data provided is inaccurate or lacking. Informal channels are the most used option in the region: they come close to 90 percent in Lesotho (Crush et al 2010) and, according to estimates, are almost exclusive in the South Africa-Zimbabwe corridor (Kerzner 1999).

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Remittance Data Collection

Despite the overwhelming attention granted to remittances, data collection still faces several shortcomings (IFAD, 2007). Capacity building of national statistical officers is needed and is one of the activities currently being undertaken by the ACP Observatory on Migration. In addition, household surveys on remittances are planned in several pilot countries to learn more about informal flows and sending patterns and eventually lead to adapted policy development. Information is also needed on the potential effects of remittances on inequalities and the impact of the global financial crises; Data collection on remittances needs to be coordinated better at national level (within the central bank and among different national entities) and with major ACP destination countries; Remittance outflows often seem to be forgotten in compiling statistics and analysing them. Nonetheless, in some ACP countries, like Tanzania, they are large in scope and should receive more attention in all ACP countries.

Facilitating the Transfer of Remittances

High transfer costs, in particular intra-regionally, remain an obstacle for migrants to sending money through official channels (IFAD, 2010). When comparing the costs of transfers in USD on the World Bank’s website (as of 10 March 2011), it was discovered that the three most expensive corridors are Tanzania – Kenya, Tanzania – Rwanda and Tanzania – Uganda. These high intra-ACP costs can be linked to the requirement of MTOs to be linked to a commercial bank, the mandatory conversion of remittances into the national currency or legislation on exchange rates, granting banks control of the market, as for instance in South Africa. Innovative practices include impeding exclusivity contracts of MTOs to increase competitiveness in the formal sector, such as in Nigeria (2010; Kerzner, 2009; Irving et al., 2010);

Financial literacy and information need to be strengthened to foster informed decisions and
access to financial tools and banking services for the general population. Having a savings account in the country of origin may increase remittances by 25 per cent. Mistrust in financial institutions is also cited as an obstacle, which needs to be addressed through policies and self-regulation.

A good practice example is the financial literacy project implemented by IOM in Nicaragua with BANPRO bank, where 4,000 people benefit from a personal financial educational session on the importance of remittances, budgeting, savings, credit and insurance; Linking remittances to financial products, for instance, through cooperation between private actors and public authorities can help to create a more sustainable link to financial institutions. Options include savings accounts, pension funds and microfinance products, as recommended for East-Timor (Shuaib, 2008; Alvarez, 2009); Regulating financial operators involved in remittance transfers, including banks and new service providers such as mobile MTOs, should be strengthened with a view to decreasing the costs of sending money (Irving et al., 2010) and sharing information on transactions from and to ACP countries. Self-regulation, such as through an international remittances consumer charter, can help to promote transparent markets and adequate consumer protection. The Bank for International Settlements’ and the World Bank’s General Principles (2007) provide a guiding framework; Anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML-CFT) laws often hinder formal remittance flows as they are not clear to remittance service providers and create confusion (Mohapatra et al, 2010). Information campaigns or abolishing provisions affecting remittances may be considered, and in the case of a predominant migration corridor between two countries, formalizing remittances can be achieved by improving regulations between the two countries.

STRENGTHENING INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL TOOLS

Diaspora bonds and other options for diaspora engagement should be strengthened (Newland, 2010; Mohapatra et al, 2010). Investments back home are of interest to diasporas as financial systems in countries of origin are more stable and should thus be fostered, such as in the area of housing in Kenya (Melde and Ionesco, 2010; Orozco, 2011; Ratha et al, 2011). Access to formal channels can also be impeded through legislative barriers such as provisions requiring immigrants to provide documentation on their legal status in the host country (Kerzner, 2009). Innovative channels can be promoted to overcome this obstacle. It is necessary to extend mobile technology applications for international remittances, as in the case of Kenya Tangaza system set up by members of the Kenyan diaspora which offers domestic and international mobile transfer services;

In Kenya, one in four people uses a mobile phone to save money, thanks to the M-PESA system operating domestically (Central Bank of Kenya and FSD Kenya, 2009), which could provide a great potential to increase savings for the ‘unbanked’. Electronic transfers like the ones supported through the pilot project of IOM and the Universal Postal Union in Tanzania and Uganda can be made possible through improved technology (Melde and Ionesco, 2010).

Home countries can offer investment information and create attractive portfolios like the Senegalese «Caravane des PMEs» (SME mobile unit; IOM, 2009a) and the diaspora investment website of the Government of Cape Verde http://ie.ic.cv/

Mobile technology applications savings with the mobile phone are, for example, more accessible than the internet in many ACP countries.
The intellectual diaspora will not hesitate to use his skills to serve Africa, so ....

During the Triennale of Education and Training in Africa, which was held from 13 to 17 February 2012, the African Diaspora through its representatives mobilized and actively participated in exchanges. During panel inputs and plenary sessions, we met with a representative of the diaspora, Awa Ndiaye, President of ‘Space — Africa’ and representative of the civil society of the African Union. She looked back at the potential offered by the diaspora for sustainable development in Africa, and the need to build bridges to facilitate its contribution to the development of the African continent.

Burkina24 (B24) : Ms, tell us a little about yourself and your organization.

Awa Niang Ndiaye (ANN) : I am Awa Niang Ndiaye, a Senegalese living in Geneva. I chair a platform called "Space International Africa", which has consultative status at the United Nations and in other international organizations. We work in the area of the Millennium Development Goals, notably in education, health, new technology, culture, civilization dialogues and peace. On the other hand, I am a representative of the civil society of the African Union and I coordinated the last two conferences - African Union-Civil society, an intellectual and economic initiative of the African Diaspora based in Europe. This diaspora was recognized in 2003 by the African Heads of State as an essential component for the sustainable development of the continent.

B24: How can we envisage the participation of the diaspora in the development of the African continent?

ANN : We know that there are children of the second and third generation of African migrant workers in the diaspora who are competent and intellectuals of excellent schools. Unfortunately, those children born in Europe and the United States and who have degrees in areas that Africa needs for its development, are used for the North. The time has come to say that it is a continent in trouble indeed, but can get by if we organize and mutualizes all the forces of the continent, whether inside or outside. So in the diaspora, we must get all the skills and expertise, without necessarily asking these African scientists, to return to the continent and country of origin, for example, simply because sometimes they will not find the right environment to do their job. But rather interest them in development issues and ask them to contribute to the search for solutions.

They are building a bridge of knowledge between the North and Africa. We need this scientific and technical diaspora, to participate and conduct programs in African universities, training centers and research. Clearly, there are mechanisms that should be put in place to enable and facilitate the mobility of skills advocated by the African Union. But on the other hand, Africa needs to finance its development, hence the need for financial mobility. Here, we know that African emigrants transfer huge sums each year from North to South. This is also the essence of all mixed diasporas. The World Bank says that all mixed diaspora, migrant workers, transfer three hundred billion (300,000,000,000)
dollars per year. When I say mixed diaspora, there is the African, Latin American and Asian. In this figure no doubt that Africa also has a great part. For some African countries, the diaspora sometimes contributes up to double the ODA. So there's material to organize the transfer of funds, study the real impact and direct remittances into productive investments so that they serve the sustainable development of Africa.

B24: How do you perceive exchanges around the contribution of the diaspora, specifically in the field of higher education, how can it help?

ANN: The diaspora can contribute significantly. As I said, an advantage that the African Union would like to capitalize on would be the mobility of skills, knowledge and technology through well trained diaspora. So it is, as we had discussed at various panels and especially during the day in the Diaspora, to create a mechanism, a gateway for teachers and researchers who are based outside the continent to periodically, if they do not return permanently, give their time and knowledge to African universities and research institutions. Today, this is possible because there is a burst of patriotism that makes the intellectual diaspora, as soon as there is a bridge, never to hesitate to return to his country of origin or to an African country that can utilise his skills. Earlier (in the panel on higher education and research), I gave the example of TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals). TOKTEN is an initiative that was implemented by the UNDP conference after the Millennium. I remember this conference because it was a warning shot for Africa. This conference, held in New York, was a kind of mass exorcism on the state of development around the world. And Africa has increased the dunce cap in almost all areas whether in education, health, new technologies … even in simple human rights. UNDP has established this system of knowledge transfer through expatriates to their country of origin. This is to encourage the diaspora of poor countries to engage in the development of their countries of origin. However, this system of TOKTEN needs to be strengthened. There is also a double chair programme. Africans who are teachers, who are researchers, who are trainers and who hold academic chairs, in Canada, the United States and in European countries, they may have the capacity, in turn, to facilitate a chair in a Northern country and a chair in an African country. There is also strengthening centers of excellence that began in Africa. I think there was an African Institute of Science and Technology that was hosted in Ouagadougou and I hope it is still there. According to the forecasts, other institutions have been created in other countries. So the scientific diaspora again, should contribute towards strengthening the capacity of these institutions. This is the plea I made throughout the Triennial.

Effective involvement [is also important] because there is an awareness of children living outside who see the economic, social, and educational life of the continent from afar. I think that without a doubt every member of the diaspora is driven by a burst of patriotism. But now necessarily there must be a body managing the three entities: international organizations, African governments and civil society.
Immigrants in the UK have made a significant contribution to the tax coffers of the British government, according to two studies published on Tuesday. They are better qualified than nationals, work more, and receive less social support.

"24H without us ... 24H without working ... 24H without consuming"

Two studies released this Tuesday, November 5 by British research institutes are offer a number of ideas: immigrants in the UK are often more highly skilled workers and receive less social support than their British counterparts.

A report from University College London (UCL) indicates that immigrants, especially Europeans, have made a "significant tax contribution" to fund the British government from 2001 to 2011. "Recent immigrants, i.e those who arrived since 2000, are less likely to receive welfare and also less likely to live in public housing as nationals," say the authors.

Over this period, immigrants have contributed about 25 billion pounds (30 billion euros) in taxes to the British government. Of this total, 22.1 billion was contributed by nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA, which includes the countries of the European Union plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein).

Non-Europeans have paid an additional 2% to the state than they cost in welfare over this period. From 1995-2011, however, the aid granted to immigrants exceeded their tax contribution. Meanwhile, the report indicates that between 2001 and 2011, the British cost the state 624.1 billion pounds (737 billion euros) more than what they reported in taxes, noting that immigrants "reduce the tax burden" for nationals.

THE UK ATTRACTS QUALIFIED GRADUATES

One of the report authors, Christian Dustmann, professor at the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration at UCL, commented that unlike most other European countries, the United Kingdom attracts graduates and skilled immigrants from the EEA and elsewhere.

Another report by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), shows that "between 1997 and 2007, the presence of immigrants has increased in most sectors" of activity. "Immigrants have a higher average level of education and work longer periods than nationals' working days", notes the Institute, which also highlights a link between "the increased use of immigrants and higher productivity".

"If I am an immigrant of French nationality ... Am I a French?"

"We hear a lot about the public 's concerns about immigration, but our findings show that the need for skilled immigrants is more widely
accepted than is often thought,” said one author of the report, Heather Rolfe.

In another publication, UCL academics criticize the goal of the British government to limit the annual migration to the United Kingdom to below 100,000 by 2015. Against the backdrop of rising anti-European party Ukip, the discourse on immigration has hardened in the UK in recent months. The opening in 2014 of the labor market to Romanians and Bulgarians crystallizes in particular fears of a massive influx of these.

Learn more about: visit http://lexpansion.lexpress.fr/economie/les-immigres-sont-bons-pour-l-economie-britannique_412666.html#i7B0AGoeHgpyCuOW.