Diasporas & Departments: From silos to "joined-up" approaches for common purpose?

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Aims

• Provide a diaspora perspective on migration & development nexus
• Explore (messy) policy space created by contemporary migration & transnationalism to test possibilities for “coherence”
• Peer a little into the future to see what might be next…
From silos to...
...win/win?
Overview

• Diaspora engagement in historical perspective
• Migration & development for win/win/win?
• Overview of diaspora engagement strategies
• A practical look at how: Case study – DFID toolkit
• Crossing borders – national & departmental?
• Future of engagement: which directions
How new is “diaspora engagement”?
Diaspora engagement - 18th century - 1940s London

• Olaudah Equiano & Sons of Africa must have engaged with British government around
  – Abolition of Slave Trade
  – Fate of London’s “black poor”

• Outcomes
  – Abolition of Atlantic Slave Trade
  – First ship of freed slaves, ie black poor (& white prostitutes!!) bound for Sierra Leone 1787
Diaspora engagement - 18\textsuperscript{th} century - 1940s London

• West African Students' Union
  – Hostel for African students facing racism
  – Support for Gold Coast Farmers Union 1938
    Gold Coast cocoa hold-up
  – Anti-colonialism – self-determination

• Colonial Office
  – African students’ hostel minus radical politics
  – Self-determination for European nations only
Migration-development nexus today

- Harnessing the benefits of migration for receiving & sending countries & migrants (win/win/win)
- Global Commission on International Migration (2005)
- 3Cs
  - Coherence
  - Capacity
  - Cooperation
DFID & diaspora engagement

1997
WP1 - build diaspora skills - promote development

2000
WP2 - Rethink mobility, more research

2003
Connections for Development formed

2005
Launch www.sendmoneyhome.org

2006
BME Remittance Survey Report

2007
Diaspora engagement toolkit
Phases of diaspora engagement

- Mid ‘80s – mid ‘90s: Pre-Discovery or Ostrich Phase
- 1997: Initial Moment of Discovery
- 1997 – 2003: “Ah, yes but” or Research Phase
- 2003: Second Moment of Discovery (Rediscovery)
- 2007: Diaspora As Panacea or Silver
Lessons?

• Diasporas already mobilized for development – development actors mobilize themselves to engage with & learn from diasporas – two-way relationship

• Set realistic expectations – migration no panacea for development (neither are diasporas)

• Recognize diasporas’ added value, make long-term commitment – policy voice &
Lessons?

• Avoid double agendas – using development policies to curb migration is unrealistic & will lead diasporas to shun development cooperation

• Subordinating development policy to a restrictive migration policy undermines diasporas’ core added value – transnational engagement
3Rs approach to migration

- Retention
- Return
- Retrieval
Areas of diaspora engagement for development

• Supporting diaspora networks, capacity building of diaspora organizations & creating durable alliances with established development actors
• Facilitating & reducing costs of remittances
• Supporting diaspora groups’ development projects
• Supporting diasporas to set up enterprises in countries of origin & facilitating ‘brain
What’s in it for the UK?

• Remember 3Cs & win/win/win?
• What domestic agendas can be achieved in context of migration-development nexus?
• What does diaspora engagement that works for diasporas, sending countries, & UK look like?
• What outcomes could be achieved & how?
Analytical framework: Migration & development

The returnee’s preparedness

- Willingness to return
- Readiness to return

Resource Mobilisation

- Tangible resources
- Intangible resources
- Social capital

Circumstances in host and home countries

Figure 1: Conceptualising return migration
(From Cassarino 2004:271)
Transnational diaspora

Mohan’s diaspora & development framework

Development in diaspora

Development through diaspora

Development by diaspora
New target for MDG 1

• In October the UN General Assembly accepted a new target for MDG 1:
• 'Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people'
"Tackling Poverty & Extending Opportunity"

- 1999 HM Treasury study…
- “shocking conclusions on the scale of poverty and inequality…”
- “work and access to work… key driver in Britain… lack of work… primary cause of poverty.”
- “work is the best route out of poverty - 8 out of 10 people who moved into work moved out of the poorest fifth.”
Jobs here & there?

• Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform/UK Trade & Investment, DFID, Business Links, One London, Business Extra, local authorities, etc dialogue & collaborate to support transnational entrepreneurs – create jobs here & there

• Win/win/win is possible!
Thank you!
Contact us for more information

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• AFFORD’s mission is to expand & enhance the contribution that Africans in the diaspora make to Africa’s development