Diaspora, Development and Humanitarian Response

Motivations, Opportunities and Challenges for Children of Migrants

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### Acronyms and Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADPC</td>
<td>African Diaspora Policy Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4D</td>
<td>Connecting Diaspora for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>Headquarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICMPD</td>
<td>International Centre for Migration Policy Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADE</td>
<td>Migration and Development Civil Society Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDA</td>
<td>Migration for Development in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPI</td>
<td>Migration Policy Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCK</td>
<td>Third Culture Kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRQN</td>
<td>Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diasporas are growing communities globally and are becoming significant players in development and humanitarian response, whether in their new homes or countries of origin. However, most of the focus of diaspora engagement by academics and practitioners has largely been on financial contributions or remittances, even though there is now a growing body of research on diaspora engagement in politics and cultural transfers. This report focuses on capturing data on the engagement, or lack of, in development and humanitarian response in countries or regions of origin by second generation diaspora/children of migrants from the Horn of Africa\(^1\) and the Middle East\(^2\), with a focus on countries which lag in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and suffer from humanitarian crises. The report is a means to an end; it seeks to address some of the existing gaps in research by highlighting current engagements by children of migrants in development and humanitarian response, which in turn identifies existing platforms to support these initiatives and seek to build a network of diaspora engaged in these sectors, or who are interested in becoming involved. Based on these findings, we intend to strive for the development of better platforms and programmes that respond better to their unique needs and create opportunities.

The report key findings include:

- Interest and focus of activism amongst children of migrants is centred on social and cultural issues and much less on political activism.
- Children of migrants are motivated by contributing to community and personal development.
- For those who are engaged in development and humanitarian response, the nature of engagement is diverse and informal.
- Children of migrants have differing views about geographic location and nature of engagement in development and humanitarian response to first generation diaspora.
- Diasporas actively seek leadership training and development to enable continued engagement in development and humanitarian response.

The intent of this report is to identify opportunities and challenges for children of migrants when it comes to engagement in development and humanitarian response. And although not exhaustive, the data analysis shows the various ways and types of strategies that could be implemented to establish and build mechanisms that encourage diaspora engagement. While researching and analysing data for this report, a number of possible approaches have suggested themselves, and which are detailed in the ‘Overview of Recommendations’ section of this report. To summarise, the main recommendations are: cultivate open channels of communications with and among diasporas and inter-generationally; support children of migrants’ engagement in development and humanitarian response through mentoring and knowledge exchange; increase collaboration between diaspora organisations to build impact in programming and policy advocacy and improved reach out to diaspora groups by development and humanitarian actors, including the establishment of diaspora focal points to sustain partnerships and collaborations.

\(^1\) Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia.
\(^2\) Yemen, Iraq and Syria.
Introduction

While the role and integration of diaspora in host countries has been documented\(^3\)\(^4\)\(^5\), the motivation and forms of engagement they participate in when it comes to development and humanitarian response lack detailed recording\(^6\). This is especially the case when considering children of migrants, whose profiles can differ significantly from first generation migrants\(^7\), for example, fluency in language of country of settlement, educational attainment levels and whether they send remittances\(^8\) to country of origin. Several Studies demonstrated that diaspora engagement in development and humanitarian response has been a growing phenomenon in the global arena\(^9\)\(^10\). The convergence of social and institutional networks, technologies and practices that enable individuals to collaborate in or with development and humanitarian entities offers an opportunity for collaboration in areas ranging from knowledge production and advocacy to peacebuilding and humanitarian action\(^11\).

In the case of children of migrants, while this demographic may be interested in civil society and international development, they are faced with a multitude of challenges when attempting to work or engage in development and humanitarian response\(^12\). In addition, our research suggests that this group viewed itself as ‘global citizens’\(^13\) with multiple identities and belonging to multitude of public spheres\(^14\). The notion of being cosmopolitan, or a ‘global citizen’, can be defined as not just focusing on one’s locality, but recognises a broader “global belonging, involvement and responsibility”\(^15\).

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8 Transfer of money by a migrant worker to his or her country of origin.


The Internet has played a role by providing platforms that have both invigorated and facilitated involvement of children of migrants in socially driven projects as well as being a platform where they connect with likeminded individuals across the globe\textsuperscript{16}. It is noteworthy that many diasporas of Middle East and African origin are now in a strategic position to facilitate the process of transnational activities and networks and to act as development bridge-builders between their countries of settlement and origin\textsuperscript{17}.

Why Focus on Diaspora Role in Development and Humanitarian Response

The growing recognition of diasporas’ role in development has led to an increase in organisations and programmes attempting to leverage knowledge, insights and resources of diaspora individuals and communities, such as IOM’s Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA)\textsuperscript{18} programme and the African Unions’ Diaspora Division\textsuperscript{19}. However, these are at times standalone projects for specific diaspora groups, and at times turn, it is difficult to track the challenges and the successes that emerged from these experiences. There are also established diaspora focused organisations and networks which are dealing in addressing the gap between diasporas and development, such as ADEPT\textsuperscript{20}, AFFORD\textsuperscript{21} and Diaspora Matters\textsuperscript{22}.

Evidence has shown that some information on diaspora communities already exists, but is often narrowly focused on diaspora organisations and associations without taking into account the divergence between first generation and second generation approaches and motivations\textsuperscript{23}. This lack of metric capacity, is indicative of an existing and evolving challenge for diaspora engagement. This is also significantly lacking when looking at the subsequent diaspora generations, with most research focused on integration and assimilation in host society\textsuperscript{24}.

Seeing these gaps, this report is specifically focused on pinpointing key areas of children of migrant’s engagement in development and humanitarian response. It also seeks to identify how and why individuals pursue avenues through which to contribute to humanitarian and development interventions and to better understand what resources and support they require. This raises the need to further examine and challenge the assumption that children of migrants are perceived as having less ties to countries of heritage and are thus less bounded to notions of contributing to development of country of origin. And by identifying motivations, variability, and barriers amongst children of migrants, this will enable opportunities to mobilise this group in the role of agents of change and co-operation.

\textsuperscript{16} Gueron, J and Spevacek, A.M. (2008). Diaspora-Development Nexus: The role of ICT. USAID
\textsuperscript{17} Brinkerhoff, J. M. (2012). Creating an Enabling Environment for Diasporas’ Participation in Homeland Development’, International Migration, 50(1) 75
\textsuperscript{18} http://www.iom.int/mida
\textsuperscript{19} https://au.int/web/en/diaspora-division
\textsuperscript{20} http://www.adept-platform.org/
\textsuperscript{21} http://afford-uk.org/
\textsuperscript{22} http://www.diasporamatters.com/
\textsuperscript{24} King, R., & Christou, A. (2010). Cultural geographies of counter-diasporic migration: perspectives from the study of second-generation ‘returnees’ to Greece. Population, Space and Place, 16(2), p 103
Methodology

An inter-disciplinary methodology was utilised to gather the empirical data for this report to achieve both depth and breadth. Using online survey and semi-structured interviews, we collected and analysed data that would provide evidence-based information and discussion. The survey consisted of 10 questions that primarily helped establish a general profile of the target diaspora group, including information on the demographic, educational background and professions, types of engagement/activism and reasons for engagement.

Shabaka administered the online survey between June and July 2016 among individuals who identified their country(ies) of origin being Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Syria or/and Yemen. The survey was shared online through networks, newsletters and social media with a total of 40 respondents. Survey respondents ranged between 18-60 years of age, with more than half of those responding aged between 21-29. Of those who responded, 27 were females and 13 males. Between February and October 2016, the Shabaka team conducted seven semi-structured interviews with individuals who are working or have worked in the development and humanitarian sectors with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and civil society organisations (CSOs). The interviews — conducted in English — took place via Skype.

Obstacles and Limitations

Our analysis and findings on children of migrant’s engagement in development and humanitarian response reinforce themes in broader literature on diasporas and migrant groups: they are notably complex populations to access. We recognise that the sample of diaspora individuals which we reached are drawn from a much broader population and that response rates among identified individuals are relatively low. In particular, we recognise that not all respondents who provided responses identified region of origin as being Middle East or Horn of Africa, with several responses provided by individuals who identified region of origin as being from other parts of Africa. We should therefore caveat all results by acknowledging that results may not be transferable to all diaspora groups pursued, instead, our findings should be seen as illustrative of experiences of the responding individuals, with potential lessons for large similar research.

Findings

This study aims to provide an overview of children of migrant’s engagement in development and humanitarian response, analyse the nature and strength of these engagements, characterise their activities, deliver recommendations for engaging with diasporas as agents of change, and synthesise findings from the above tasks and propose concrete steps with respect to engaging constructively and effectively with children of migrants. In attempting to address the question of children of migrant’s participation behaviour in relation to development
and humanitarian response, it is key to identify and analyse the pattern by which they are motivated, how they navigate systems and what barriers limit their participation.

The growing interest in the role of diasporas in the development, poverty reduction, reconstruction and growth of countries of origin is attracting considerable policy interest, especially in destination countries tackling challenges in migration\textsuperscript{26,27}. In the migration–development nexus, migrants as transnational collective actors\textsuperscript{28} are becoming central focus of policy dialogue. While the nexus between migration and development was theorised some time ago\textsuperscript{29}, there still remains discrepancy between the political debate and concrete actions in the field.

A perspective which has, thus far, been largely overlooked, is the role and contribution to development and humanitarian response by children of migrants\textsuperscript{30}. While programmes such as MIDA, UN Volunteering\textsuperscript{31} and IOM’s CD4D\textsuperscript{32} and TRON\textsuperscript{33}, suggest that many are actively engaged, our analysis aims to reveal noteworthy patterns which may help policymakers better understand the characteristics, priorities and concerns of the relevant diaspora individuals. Against the framework set out in the previous sections, the following key findings are based on our analysis of the perspectives and opinions of the diaspora individuals that took part in the study.

**Key finding 1. Diaspora communities have a natural affinity with the overarching goals of development**

When asked “Which areas of organising/activism are you engaged in?” many of the survey respondents indicated that the most common thematic area of engagement was social and cultural spheres. This shows that children of migrants are largely motivated and mobilised by their identities, whether it is related to where they live or their families’ origins\textsuperscript{34}. While survey responses showed that social and cultural engagement was highest, there were also strong indication that engagement with economic, environmental and political issues was also significant. While it is promising that engagement is high in areas such as social, cultural and economic activism, there are areas such as youth development, humanitarian activism, and social development where the lack of disengagement is surprisingly low, as per the survey responses. These findings suggest an opportunity to reach out to “disengaged” diasporas in key areas of development.

A key consideration of the relationship between children of migrants and development is its multiple and differing dimensions, namely, development in the diaspora, development through the diaspora, and development by the diaspora\textsuperscript{35}. Development in the diaspora refers to the use of networks in the host country, which includes the cultural ties and social mobilisation. Development through the diaspora refers to diasporic

\textsuperscript{31} https://www.unv.org/
\textsuperscript{32} http://www.iom-nederland.nl/images/Migratie_en_Ontwikkeling/TRQN/2016/18/Stories/Eighteen_Stories_from_Around_the_World_Spreads.swf
communities using their transnational connections to facilitate economic and social diffusion, and development by the diaspora applies to the impact of the flows of ideas, money, and political support to the country or region of heritage\(^\text{36}\).

One of the interesting outcomes is that of those who responded that they engaged in economic based activities, more than 60 percent of the respondents, were aged between 21-29 years of age, and almost 40 percent stated they engaged in this form or activity ‘very often’. While the survey did not explicitly seek to quantify the type of economic activity, it is nonetheless a finding that challenges the assumption that children of migrants are not engaged in financial transfer in the form of for example trade, investment or remittances. With more data, sophisticated analyses are needed on the magnitude, direction and uses of financial transfers going forward to better understand the potential of children diaspora investment, it is especially important to do so in the context of evolving shifts of financial earnings between first generation migrants and subsequent generations\(^\text{37}\).

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Of those who indicated engagement in social and cultural activities, over 82 percent indicated they sought change in the broader region of origin, with those of Sudanese and Ethiopian the most identifying this as a motivating factor and those of Iraqi and Yemeni origin the least.
Key finding 2. Diasporas are motivated by personal development as well as the desire to address development and progress

Data analysis shows that diasporas have highly diverse motivational factors at the root of engagement in development and humanitarian response, such as emotional ties, personal development opportunity, social connections, and community influence. Those interviewed as part of the case study element cited a plethora of motivating factors, such as wanting to give back, offer support to younger members of the community and responding to regional and/or global crises in a practical way. While many indicated a desire to help others as a key factor, there was also clear indication that children of migrants are motivated by personal development, career ambition and opportunity as well as a sense of commitment towards affecting change.

“What keeps me going is the power of collective advocacy” Female, Human Rights professional

What do you hope to achieve through your engagement?
A key inhibiting factor impacting children of migrants when it comes to getting involved or initiating development and humanitarian response initiatives in region or country of origin is the lack of strategic planning and leadership skills. Insufficient skills capacity as a barrier to diaspora responding to development and humanitarian issues has been found to be a key issue in sustainability and in general terms, leveraging children of migrants effectively.

Findings of studies by MADE\textsuperscript{38} and MPI\textsuperscript{39} indicated that while first generation diaspora tended to disburse financial and material support to close family members for short term needs, their children tended to contribute services, skills and knowledge. Yet, while previous capacity building initiatives\textsuperscript{40} have worked with diaspora to harness their knowledge and skills for countries of origin, they have not been integrated in any meaningful way into the development and humanitarian frameworks, either by institutions or state actors, and is largely absent when dealing with children of migrants. While children of migrants contribute knowledge and skills through informal channels, as noted by our findings, the time is now to enhance programmes and schemes that encourage, prepare and harness the skills and knowledge offered by this group.

What skills do you wish to gain to enable you to continue your organising/activism?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Change in country(ies) of origin</th>
<th>Change in region/continent of origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diaspora leadership</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research design and analysis</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme/project management</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information technology</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media and communications</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic planning</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working in development and humanitarian sectors</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basics of the humanitarian system</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basics of international development</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Key finding 3. Nature of engagement is diverse and informal

Diasporas are important actors when it comes to humanitarian and development interventions, with skills gained in their host countries coupled with local knowledge and language skills of the country of origin, they represent a bridge between two (or more) cultures. Diaspora have been utilising their capacities, especially economic capacity in the form of micro-economic remittances (cash transfers) for many years. However, while these remittances have been an important part of boosting local economies in the country of origin, they are also predominantly maintained by first generation diaspora and limited in reach, with most remittances being sent to and kept within the family or specific geographical locations.

By contrast, children of migrants describe their engagement as grounded in involvement in organisations or taking part in events and meetings organised by others. A large number were more drawn to depoliticised and non-institutional activities such as cultural celebrations, volunteering, and networking. This makes it a significant finding in relation to conflict affected countries that majority of children of migrants do not and unlikely to associate with political mobilisation efforts.

What activities are you involved in?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leading activities at school</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online journalism</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community organizing and engagement through the arts</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Investment</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remittances</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boycott or divestment</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid employment with development/humanitarian organisation</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct action (protests, etc.)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitioning (including online)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organising or taking part in meetings/events independently</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship or Volunteering</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organising or taking part in meetings/events with an organisation</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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41 Terrazas, A. (2010). Connected through service: Diaspora volunteers and global development. The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and USAID.
While the overall majority of those surveyed stated that they would be more inclined to participate in non-professional activities, interning and volunteering as well as paid employment were common amongst those ages 21-29 years old, while the percentage of those aged 18-20 year olds involved through paid employment was zero.

This group of young children of migrants that clearly indicated interest in development and humanitarian response are an important resource for future interventions and represent a clear need for further cultivation.

**What areas of activities are you engaged in?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>18-20</th>
<th>21-29</th>
<th>30-39</th>
<th>40-49</th>
<th>50-59</th>
<th>60 or older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remittances</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitioning (including online)</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship or Volunteering</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct action (protests, etc.)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Investment</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boycott or divestment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid employment with development/humanitarian organisation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organising or taking part in meetings/events independently</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organising or taking part in meetings/events with an organisation</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Key finding 4. Different generations have differing views about geographical location and nature of engagement**

Diaspora populations are diverse in nature, manifesting numerous identities – ethnic, political, religious, generational – shaped in complex multidirectional cultural and physical flows. Children of migrant’s identity in some cases is still infused with their country(ies) of origin, as demonstrated by engagement in cultural and social events and activities. In the context of today's globalised world, it is well documented that second and subsequent generation diaspora exhibit dual or even multiple identities and tend to exhibit a greater variety of ways of ‘integrating’ than the first generation migrants.

> “(I) Also, wanted to work on international development as identity in UK as a diaspora was not set and it was an attempt to locate one self.” Female, NGO Professional

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This heterogeneity is reflected by the multitude of ways in which the case study and survey respondents engage in development and humanitarian response. For example, when case study participants were asked “Why did you decided to engage in development/humanitarian work?”, the majority responded that they were driven by desire to contribute to local community in host country as well as being motivated to “give back” to their countries of origin. While survey respondents indicated similar but even more wide range of motivating factors, for example, a combined 30 percent stated that they were motivated by opportunities for personal development and meeting likeminded people, 19 percent were motivated by pursuit of change in country or region of origin, 11 percent indicated that they sought global change, and 14 percent sought change in the community.

![Chart showing what do you hope to achieve through your engagement?](chart)

A recurring obstacle for children of migrants’ engagement in humanitarian and development activities is the difficulty in building cross-generational approaches among the diaspora communities in their country of settlement. Respondents indicated that they felt hampered by both unwillingness of first generation diaspora leaders to engage with them on equal terms and their reluctance to relinquish leadership roles within community organisations to younger members of the community.

These factors are in part shaped by generational aspects and the extent to which culture, language proficiency, and identities play a role. Wide ranging studies in Europe and America, have found that while first generation migrants tended to maintain strong relationships and links to country of origin, second and subsequent generation diaspora sense of identity tends to be shaped by their participation and integration in social organisations such as schools, workplaces, political parties, and so on, in host country as well as family and community and thus the hybridity of identities drives the adoption of different approaches and priorities when engaging in particular activities.

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The issue of developing a common agenda between first-generation migrant leaders and subsequent generations has been, and continues to be detrimental to the collective diaspora's ability to work in systematic and sustainable ways, pursue policy commitment from institutional actors and mainstreaming their strategic agenda.

Key finding 5. Diaspora actively seek leadership training and development

A potential obstacle to diaspora engagement is the gap in the technical knowledge and skills often required by traditional actors in the development and humanitarian sectors. Existing training and other capacity development opportunities for and by civil society organisations have provided entry points for some children of migrants. While numerous diaspora capacity development programmes have been implemented in different sectors, further analysis is required to pinpoint what important lessons could be drawn to improve the mobilisation and utilisation of enduring diaspora engagement.

Respondents overwhelmingly stated that they sought training and guidance in the areas of diaspora leadership, strategic planning, and programme/project management to enable continued engagement in development and humanitarian response. Those interviewed also indicated that key areas of expertise, such as strategy design and planning, are not understood fully by many working on the ground. Training tools and initiatives therefore have the potential to provide the right mix of expertise and knowledge to maximise impact of diaspora individuals and initiatives.

“Older members of the community are worried about passing on knowledge to younger leaders, they don’t want to give up their power”
Male, Humanitarian Professional
Key Finding 6: Motivational Factors and Types of Engagement

While the specific nature of ‘change’ sought was not specified, in this study it is taken to mean a positive impact on the expansion of access and capabilities in the spheres of social, economic or political systems51.

While assessing whether motivations is directly correlated to forms of engagement in development and humanitarian response, it is striking that those who sought to effect change beyond immediate community and host country tended to engage through activities organised or coordinated by an organisation and volunteering, while by contrast, they are least likely to engage in activities related to financial transmissions, including remittances and financial investments.

While the link between motivation and type of engagement does not conclusively identity a single key driver for giving back, it is important to highlight that the role of the diaspora in development and humanitarian response extends far beyond a single factor. Children of migrants’ help drive the transfer of knowledge and skills, and deliver effective development activities across a whole range of sectors: health, education, social enterprise, arts, to name a few. In addition, the findings indicate that their attitude towards seeking to contribute to the community and developing their networks is as significant, if not more so, as engaging in ways that utilise their skills and resources for the development of country of origin.

Conclusion- Observations and Recommendations

Recognising that diaspora bring a wealth of skills and knowledge, coupled with the multiple networks that they share across borders, children of migrants are becoming acknowledged as crucial strategic stakeholders and agents of positive change within the development and humanitarian field. The impact of diaspora engagement is difficult to assess due to the difficulty disentangling causation and correlation, and quantifying the impact of elements like skills and knowledge transfers. Certainly, in our opinion, there are areas that clearly need further investigations, such as how the terms development and humanitarian are defined or understood by individuals, and what, if any, impact does country of residence play on types or levels of engagement.

However, we do know that there is already abundant scope for stakeholders to do more to remove obstacles and create opportunities for children of migrants to engage in development and humanitarian response. Specific actions include identifying common goals, key geographical locations for diaspora engagement and skills available, fostering a relationship of trust with the diaspora, maintaining sophisticated means of communication with the diaspora, and ultimately encouraging diaspora contributions to development at the national and international levels. On the other hand, diaspora groups and individuals also have some work to do to ensure they are being taken into account and do not become constrained under the unrealistic accountability expectations. Based on this, we have the following recommendations.

1. Cultivation of open channels of communication with, and among diasporas, including inter-generationally.

   Establishing lines of communication within and between diaspora individuals and organisations is critical for creating an effective partnership. Online networks and other communications technologies are being utilised by diaspora communities, especially youth, to build networks and foster collaborations between diaspora communities and groups. Online platforms, and social media especially offers the opportunity to build links with and between groups and projects, in addition to access to individuals who have an interest in development and humanitarian response but not the opportunity to engage. For example, Diaspora African Women’s Network (DAWN)\(^\text{52}\), based in the US, looks to develop and support it membership who are interested in African affairs. As highlighted in our findings, marginalisation of children of migrants within diaspora organisations is a significant obstacle to their participation. Steps need to be taken to foster intergenerational communication and ensure children of migrants are brought from the periphery to centre of diaspora-driven development and humanitarian projects and organisations.
   
   **Target:** Diaspora individuals, Diaspora organisations

\(^\text{52}\) https://en-gb.facebook.com/DAWNInc/
2. Mentoring and Knowledge exchange to support children of migrants with engaging in development and humanitarian response

Mentorship and knowledge exchange initiatives can offer young diasporas the opportunity to be mentored by experienced professionals to gain one-to-one support and professionalise existing skill sets. In addition, knowledge exchange allows diasporas and organisations to mutually exchange and collaborate on development and humanitarian projects and inclusion of diasporas in policymaking.

**Target:** NGO’s/INGO’s, Diaspora Organisations, Policymakers

3. Collaboration between diaspora organisations working on similar geographical, regional or thematic areas to build impact in programming and policy advocacy

Diaspora organisation alliances structured along geographical, regional or thematic segments can better place them in terms of bidding for funding and delivering mentoring, sharing and monitoring capabilities that satisfies state and non-state actors. Such an alliance platform can encompass small organisations who should be represented by the umbrella entity, which will not only allow easier collaboration and cooperation, but also make fundraising more agile and streamlined, a benefit to both the member organisations and large donors. Such an umbrella organisation would most probably function within a membership model, encouraging sustainability. Some successful examples of thematic/regional focused organisation include ADEPT53, an African diaspora organisations network based in Europe.

**Target:** Diaspora organisations

4. For stakeholders in the development and humanitarian sectors to reach out to diaspora groups.

How institutions interact with its diaspora is often underpinned by research and consultative exercises. Most often this is conducted on an ad-hoc basis, limited to academia or has been done in a small scale. For effective and sustainable diaspora outreach, organisations and governments should establish entities with key responsibility of conducting research on diaspora related matters and to create relevant databases that would then drive evidence based diaspora strategies. One such entity is IdEA54, a private-public partnership that promotes and supports diaspora-centered initiatives in countries and regions of diaspora origin. However, diaspora outreach should also go beyond understanding diasporas and developing strategies, but should seek actualise these activities and establish joint development and humanitarian programmes.

In order to develop successful partnerships with diasporas, organisations should invest in confidence building tools and initiatives that demonstrate to diasporas that organisations and institutions are serious and committed to working with them.

**Target:** NGO’s/INGO’s, Diaspora Organisations, CSO’s, Government, Private sector

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53 http://adept-platform.org/
54 http://www.diasporaalliance.org/
5. Establishing Diaspora Focal Points at INGOs, development institutions and key governmental departments to sustain partnerships and collaborations.

Empowering diaspora for development is a multi-dimensional process that includes the country of origin, settlement and their organisations. This requires building meaningful partnerships between diaspora organisations and INGOs and policymakers requires provision of sustainable coordination. A diaspora focal point at HQ level for NGOs allows for opportunities to innovate and close interactions with diasporas, and in turn have a much closer engagement with effected communities who are the target for development and/or humanitarian assistance. This can vary from providing linguistic and cultural advice to NGO staff due to be deployed, to guidance on geographical locations where there are needs. This should not be limited to ad-hoc activities or responding after a humanitarian crisis has taken place, but should be developed to enhance resilience to potential future shocks, and to bridge the divide between humanitarian life-saving and longer-term, durable developmental solutions.

**Target:** INGO’s, NGO’s, Diaspora organisation
Bibliography


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Annexes

Case Studies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>M/F</th>
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Survey

3rd Culture Kids engagement in development and humanitarian response

* Were you born or raised outside your country of origin/heritage?  
  Are you engaged or thinking of engaging in organizing or activism?  
  Is your country(ies) of heritage one of these: Eritrea; Ethiopia; Iraq; Somalia; South Sudan; Sudan; Syria; Yemen.

If the answer is yes to all questions, we would like to invite you to take part in this survey, which takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. The survey is part of a new project being launched titled “Diaspora Contributions to Investment in Development and Humanitarian Response.” The survey closes on 31 July 2018.

For further details about the project please go to: http://afhakaha.org/project or you can email us at info@afhakaha.org.

Thank you for taking part in this project!

- Diaspora refers to the dispersion or spread of people who live outside their place of origin or heritage.
- Organizing or activism refers to online or offline effort to promote, impede or affect social, economic, political or environmental change.

* 1. About you

   Name:  

   City/Town:  

   Country:  

   Email Address:  

* 2. What is your gender?  

* 3. What is your age?  

   - 14 or younger  
   - 15-19  
   - 20-29  
   - 30-39  
   - 40-49  
   - 50-59  
   - 60 or older  

* 4. What is your country(ies) of heritage?  

   - Eritrea  
   - Ethiopia  
   - Iraq  
   - Somalia  
   - South Sudan  
   - Sudan  
   - Yemen  
   - Other (please specify):  

* 5. Which areas of organizing/activism are you engaged in?  

   - Economic  
   - Environmental  
   - Political  
   - Social and cultural  
   - Other (please specify):  

* 6. How often do you participate in organizing/activism?  

   - Extremely often  
   - Very often  
   - Somewhat often  
   - Not at all  
   - Other (please specify):  

* 7. How are you engaged in these activities?  

   - Direct action (protests, etc.)  
   - Internship or Volunteering  
   - Organizing or taking part in meetings/events independently  
   - Pajadda (including online)  
   - Reindeer’s  
   - Financial investment  
   - Other (please specify):  

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8. What do you hope to achieve through your engagement?

- Change globally
- Change in country of origin
- Change in region/continent of origin
- Change in country of residence
- Other (please specify)

9. Knowledge - what skills do you wish to gain to enable you to continue your organisational work?

- Basics of international development
- Basics of the humanitarian system
- Working in development and humanitarian sectors
- Fundraising
- Strategic planning/organisational skills
- Media and communications
- Other (please specify)

10. Any comments or suggestions?
Shabaka is a start-up social enterprise established to promote and support migrants and diasporas’ engagement in development and humanitarian response.