SUMMARY

Michela Macchiavello:
• General Overview on IOM; Definition of Diaspora; Actions to foster exchanges with Diaspora; the 3 Es approach;

Eraina Yaw:
• Diaspora engagement in the Caribbean; diaspora mapping and its various purposes; diaspora websites; challenges encountered;

Dr. Fitzgerald Yaw:
Diaspora views in relation to their experience trying to engage more with their CoO; challenges related to diaspora engagement (both sides), and the experience of Diaspora in the region
UN Migration Agency

MISSION: IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

HISTORY:
• 1951: founded to facilitate the movement of migrants from Europe following WWII;
• 2016: IOM joins the UN as a Related Organization – UN Migration Agency;
• 172 Member States;
• More than 400 offices globally;
• More than 12500 staff globally;
IOM’s work on Migration and Development

Engaging with the Diasporas

Michela MACCHIAVELLO
Migration and Development: Facilitating Diaspora Contributions to Development

Working to facilitate diasporas’ contribution to development for approx. 50 years.

IOM defines DIASPORA broadly as:

Individuals and members of networks, associations and communities who have left their countries of origin, but maintain links with their homeland.

• Settled expatriate communities
• Migrant workers based abroad temporarily
• Expatriates with nationality of the host country
• Dual nationals and second/third generation migrants
Diasporas and Development

• Diaspora members can play an important role in the advancement of their country of origin, through their innovative ideas, skills, social and human capacities and financial resources

• At the same time, a lot can be done to facilitate diaspora engagement by the government and institutions of the country of origin
Essential Action

Building TRUST with the diaspora:
1. Between diaspora groups and the Government of the country of origin;
2. Among diaspora groups;

Undertaking transparent approaches
The engagement must be beneficial for all actors involved.
How can the Diaspora engage?

Diasporas have several ways to engage with their country of origin (CoO) and become agents of developments:

1. **DIRECTLY**
2. **INDIRECTLY:**
   - Matching schemes: local authorities and hometown associations pool funds to complete infrastructure work
   - Skills Sharing: Sharing time, expertise, professional knowledge, equipment with CoO’s institutions through temporary assignments
Facilitating Diaspora Contributions to Development

IOM’s approach:

Enable
Engage
Empower
Enabling

The creation of appropriate conditions essential to enable transnational communities to become effective agents for development.

Action includes:

1. Fostering social participation and cultural exchange;
2. Developing methods facilitating trade/investment/reducing taxes;
3. Matching grants or direct funding to diaspora-led projects;
4. Developing attractive projects (start ups) for Diasporas - SMEs;
5. Facilitating Remittances – reducing transfer cost;
6. …
Engaging

Knowing and understanding transnational communities is crucial to engaging effectively.

Action includes:

1. Reaching out to the Diaspora globally – acquire knowledge;
   a. Mapping exercise (mapping skills);
   b. Communicating;
   c. Developing National Policies on Diaspora’s engagement;
2. ...
Empowering

Diaspora communities contribute to the CoO regardless of administrative, regulatory and other constraints.

Governments & International Organizations can empower this process by introducing special programmes:

1. Facilitate the mobilization of skills, knowledge and expertise of diaspora members;
2. Leveraging diaspora philanthropy to support entrepreneurship and economic development;
3. Building the financial literacy and savings capacity of recipients;
4. .....

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Eraina Yaw
DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Diaspora Mappings
DIASPORA MAPPING

• Knowledge is a first essential step towards cooperation between diaspora communities and relevant stakeholders – including governments of countries of origin and destination.

• Diaspora mapping is the process of collecting and analysing data about diaspora populations.

• Mappings can focus on a number of different diaspora communities within a single country of destination or on diaspora communities from a particular country of origin spread throughout the world or in a particular set of countries of destination.
IOM Experiences in the Region

Piloted surveys

• Jamaica – (2018)
• Grenada Mapping Diaspora project to begin in (February 2019)
• Effective and Sustainable Diaspora Engagement for the Development in the Caribbean.  www.caribdiaspora.org

Methods

• On-line surveys
PURPOSE OF DIASPORA MAPPING

• Why would we want to map diaspora?
Purposes of diaspora mapping

To design targeted actions/projects/programmes

- Describe composition and structure – “characteristics”
- Identify interest to participate in development activities in the country of origin
- Estimate the number and priority destination countries
- Assess interest/potential to return and upon which conditions

Describe composition and structure – “characteristics”
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Purposes of diaspora mapping (numbers and stocks)

Figure 1.6. Emigration rates of the highly educated by origin country, 2005/06

Purposes of diaspora mapping (characteristics)

- demographic (sex, age, marriage status)
- socio-economic (education level, occupation, skill level, ethnicity)
- legal (citizenship, residence status, regularity/irregularity)
# Purposes of diaspora mapping (potential for engagement)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information on how to find job vacancies</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information on the labour demand in my profession</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information on the labour market in different municipalities in BiH</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channels of searching for employment</td>
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<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to apply for personal documents</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on welfare benefits (health, pension and unemployment benefits)</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on services provided by the Employment Bureaus</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Purposes of diaspora mapping (Matching Diaspora Skills with Skills Gap within home countries)

• Skills Gap Assessments determine the existing skills in home countries and establishes what skills and resources are needed for the country development.

• SGAs support an analysis of existing gaps within the home country and identify possible complementarities with diaspora skills and resources.
CHALLENGES

• Insufficient outreach to representatives of the diaspora – Engaging diaspora representatives in the outreach.
• Lack of personal interactions to verify accuracy of answers
• Keeping the survey still open to gather further answers
• The questions asked – sensitivity - Name, status, address etc.
• Reticent in sharing information
• The use of words such as ‘Mapping’, which can be interpret as having to give personal information and becoming vulnerable
• Lack of trust to share information on the internet –preference to fill in surveys on paper.
Diaspora Experiences in the Region

A missing perspective on diaspora engagement are the views of the diaspora relative to their experiences trying to engage more in development of their countries of origin.

The Univ. of Guyana (UG) tried to get some of these perspectives in hosting its 2017 Diaspora Engagement Conference.

Among the issues that came to the fore was the disconnect between those in the diaspora and those at home.
Diaspora Experiences in the Region

How does the diaspora deal with mistrust? Some of the mistrust is a result of domestic politics in the COO being carried over into the destination countries.

For example in the case of Guyana ethnic insecurity at home is reflected in the diaspora by folks of the major ethnicities congregating in different boroughs of the city.

Not all ethnicities are in the same racist trap as I call it. The diaspora has to play its part in helping to break down the barriers to its effective and pro-active engagement.
Diaspora Experiences in the Region

The diaspora in the Caribbean wants to move beyond remittances in its support for economic development: the SDGs.

The diaspora is frustrated by conflicting policy guidance. Part of the conflict is due to sometimes lukewarm receptivity to visits and investment from the diaspora.

How do we change this lukewarm receptivity?: by respect on both sides. Respect of the experiences and learning of those in the diaspora and of those who remained. Both sides need to understand that aspects of their perspectives serve as lessons for improvement.
Diaspora Experiences in the Region

Governments need to put common sense policy frameworks in place to help those in the diaspora negotiate the channels necessary for re-integration into the Caribbean and other countries of origin.

Support polices for diaspora reintegration if made too complex become barriers and avenues for fraud and corruption.

The support policies and other governmental information useful to Diasporans must of necessity be online and continuously updated to add predictability to persons in the Diaspora who wish to re-migrate.
Diaspora Experiences in the Region

Coming out of the 2017 UG Diaspora Engagement conference another aspect of the improved diasporas engagement experience is Diasporas learning from each other.

At the UG Diaspora conference in 2017 experiences were shared from India and Mexico.

Following up on these learning experience at The UG we are establishing a Centre for Caribbean Diaspora Engagement and in its foundation work we are going to be collaborating with the Univ. of Liberia to learn from African diaspora experiences and vice versa.
In order to ensure that we learn from each other to enhance diaspora engagement we have published through the UG press a collection on Diaspora Engagement.
Gracias
Thank you
Merci

https://caribbeanmigration.org
@IOM_Caribbean