



**THE CONTRIBUTION OF DIASPORAS TO DEVELOPMENT IN A
CRISIS CONTEXT AND COLLABORATION MECHANISMS
BETWEEN ORGANISATIONS OF THE DIASPORA/CIVIL AND
NATIONAL SOCIETY**

Khady SAKHO-NIANG, President of FORIM

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Diasporas:

- ✓ can today **be close to events**
- ✓ are often **linked to the states and/or the people affected by the crises**
- ✓ can **have easier access to the country** due to their dual affiliations.
- ✓ often **have a perfect knowledge of cultural codes and local features, as well as having an expert understanding of the socio-cultural determinants** that must be taken into account before any intervention (political, humanitarian, economic, health among others).

- Political crises and armed conflicts – e.g. Mali and Ivory Coast:
 - ✓ Strong mobilisation as a political lever: demonstrations, news, appeals to the authorities
 - ✓ Support for populations through remittances, including areas facing an influx of displaced people
 - ✓ Stronger involvement in the process for exiting the crisis and reconstruction (e.g. the meeting of the Malian Diaspora for peace and development in Mali, at Montreuil in April 2013)
 - ✓ Visit of the President of the French Republic to Mali with officials of the Malian Diaspora in the delegation

- **Disasters – e.g. Senegal:**
 - ✓ Joola shipwreck in 2002=➔ Strong mobilisation of the Senegalese Diaspora
 - ✓ Fundraising and equipment ➔
 - ✓ Implementation of sponsorship and support programme for orphans with the Red Cross

- **Natural disasters – e.g. Haiti:**
 - ✓ Earthquake in January 2010 ⇒ Strong mobilisation of the Haitian Diaspora
 - ✓ Then, in March 2012, ⇒ more than 400 representatives of the Haitian diaspora and its organisations meet in Washington.

At this forum, the diaspora develops a collaboration strategy, which addresses fundamental questions for an integrated and lasting reconstruction development.

- Health crises – e.g. Guineas:
 - ✓ Appeal for donations
 - ✓ Mobilisation of partners

What lessons can we learn from these experiences?

Whatever the nature of the crisis, it provokes a united response from the diasporas:

- They are the first to intervene and to risk investment in the reconstruction of the social and economic infrastructure in favour of development
- Multiple intervention methods are deployed:
 - ✓ remittances,
 - ✓ transfer of skills and expertise (mobilisation of medical staff and other professionals),
 - ✓ provision of medicines and food...
- In this sense, diasporas contribute to mitigating the impact of adverse phenomena arising from crises
- Through their transnational and multiple experiences, diasporas promote new models of governance for stability and peace.

What lessons can we learn from these experiences?

- Their mobilisation enables interest to be maintained in the country of residence, after the crisis, and thus facilitates the provision of funding and expertise from partners
- Through the links maintained with the country of origin, their presence and support are continuous and immediate from the emergency situation through to reconstruction and then development.
- However, the efficiency and sustainability of their interventions are only guaranteed thanks to concerted action, coordinated (as a partnership) with the players in the field

Observation: Need to accompany the initiatives of the diaspora



How can we support the development initiatives of the diasporas?

- Support of structuring, training and sharing of experiences of the diaspora's organisations to strengthen their capacity for action and to make their interventions more effective in the direction of the country of origin
- Strengthening of dialogue with the country of origin by:
 - i) consultation frameworks and dialogue
 - ii) the systematisation of the participation of diasporas in the definition of the development strategies and policies of the country of origin
 - iii) involvement in mixed committees and other bilateral negotiations
- Implementation of co-funding plans for the diaspora's initiatives to produce leveraging effects
- Facilitation of the diaspora's productive investments (information on business opportunities, niches in new sectors, adapted financial products...)



Examples of existing plans and mechanisms: FORIM's experience:

What is FORIM?

Created in 2002, the Forum of International Solidarity Organisations for Migration Issues (**FORIM**) is one of the national platforms uniting networks, federations and regroupings of the International Solidarity Organisations for Immigration Issues (**OSIM**), involved in integration activities here and development activities in the country of origin.

FORIM represents around 700 associations intervening in Sub-Saharan Africa, Maghreb, South East Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean.

Missions:

- To be a space for sharing and finding information for the OSIM and diasporas
- To promote access to co-funding plans and to strengthen the capacity for intervention of co-development stakeholders
- To promote cooperation between the International Solidarity Organisations for Immigration/OSIM and the International Solidarity Organisations/OSI, the other stakeholders in civil society, local and regional authorities and the authorities.
- To make known, recognise and promote the contribution of the diasporas to the enrichment of the host society and to the development of the country of origin.
- To be a credible partner of the authorities (North/South) and the organisations of civil society concerned, with regard to structure



Examples of existing plans and mechanisms: FORIM's experience:

With regard to structuring support:

- Organisation and alliances;
- Networking (including transnational);
- Training;
- Mutualisation and capitalisation;
- Partnership/country agreements;
- Project to implement a southern branch (local agency, monitoring of projects etc.)



Towards growth in capacity to act of the diaspora's organisations / Transition on the intervention scale towards the country of origin



Examples of existing plans and mechanisms: FORIM's experience:

With regard to dialogue with stakeholders in the country of origin:

- The South International Meetings (RIS) provide a consultation framework in a given country between the diaspora, the State, local and regional authorities, civil society and the private sector to strengthen the contribution of the diasporas in the country of origin.

E.g.: The latter took place in Mali with an important period of exchanges and partner visits, with the involvement of the Malian Diaspora in the development of local development plans into an economic, social and cultural plan

The issue of gender implications remains significant in all of FORIM's actions



Towards the recognition of diasporas as partners and stakeholders in development by the country of origin

With regard to support and funding of diaspora projects:

- More than a decade of local initiatives borne by the OSIM and diasporas for local and national development:
- PRA/OSIM



For a partnership approach and a local approach to development

- **PRA/OSIM** is a support plan for the co-funding and capitalisation of local development projects by DIASPORAS. It is a **mobilising and unifying programme** for the member organisations of FORIM and their basic structures.
- The programme is implemented in partnership with the International Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Development (MAEDI)

- Although physically remote from the conflicts in their country of origin, members of diasporas can really play an important part in crisis situations and make a big contribution to the transition from the emergency situation to development in a variety of sectors, including governance, human rights and legal conformity.
- In addition, their knowledge of the language, culture and other particulars of the region can be valuable to support international reconstruction efforts ¹

¹ *Information document for the ministerial conference on the diaspora, OIM, June 2013*

- Diasporas are **increasingly involved** and lead projects in disaster or crisis situations in countries described as fragile.
- **Crises are complex and so are the responses to crises.** E.g. DR Congo, Central Africa and currently Guinea (for an example of a health crisis).
- Their emergency initiatives contribute to satisfying basic needs. Their development initiatives contribute to reconstructing villages and neighbourhoods ready for the return of displaced persons. It is therefore important **to strengthen the link needed between Emergency - Restoration and Development (ERD);** in particular through **the deregulation of funding.**
- Other contributions: the flow and transfer of money from the diaspora does not stop in the areas of crisis / conflict (source: M. Naceur BOURENANE, Epargne Sans Frontière).

Also, the diasporas should be considered **as recruiting grounds for the useful skills and expertise necessary for the success of the dynamics of reconciliation, mediation and peace in the country of origin**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION