



CfD

Connections for Development

The July 2007 Global Forum on International Migration and Development

Response from Some UK Diaspora & Other Civil Society Practitioners

Roundtable Discussion Theme

Remittances and other Diaspora resources: increasing their volume and development value

15th June 2007

Consultation exercises co-ordinated by Betty Okot (Policy & Research Officer), and consultation report edited by Paul Murray (CEO), Connections for Development

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Remittances and other Diaspora Resources:

Increasing their volume and development value

Part I

Introduction to the Consultation and some Perspectives from CfD

Betty Okot, Policy and Research Officer, Connections for Development

In preparation for the Global Forum, Connections for Development (CfD) co-ordinated consultations in collaboration with partners and member organisations to solicit views on remittances in keeping with the Global Forum Roundtable Two discussion theme¹. CfD views the involvement of Diaspora civil society organisations (DCSOs) in this dialogue as a learning process, which will enable Diaspora voices to be heard at higher policy levels. This paper captures responses from CfD and a few policy implications regarding remittances.

CfD organised the first Civil Society preparatory meeting on 14th February 2007. The meeting brought together some UK Diaspora Civil Society Migration and Development actors; some members of both CfD and British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND); and a representative from the Department for International Development (DFID). The overarching objective for the meeting was to make preparations for the July Global Forum, particularly addressing the 3-round table themes proposed:

- Roundtable 1: Human capital development and labour mobility: maximising opportunities and minimizing risks;
- Roundtable 2: Remittances and other Diaspora resources: increasing their volume and developmental value; and
- Roundtable 3: Enhancing Institutional and Policy Coherence, and Promoting Partnerships. ².

¹ The themes are adapted from Global Forum on Migration and Development – Information for Civil Society Organisations, Proposed Agenda for the First Meeting of The Global Forum (July 2007) presented at the 'Global Forum Preparation Meeting 14th February 2007, organised by CfD.

² See footnote 1.

This meeting suggested that participating BOND and CfD practitioners undertake consultations in relation with the Global Forum themes 1 and 2 with their respective stakeholders/networks and share views with DFID and other parties.

This collective response summarises some of the key issues that were identified by our members as currently affecting how the Diaspora and their home countries should benefit from International Migration (IM) in general and remittances in particular.

From the findings presented in this document, it appears that the Diaspora clearly appreciate the interconnectedness, and the complementarities between migration and development, as well as how remittances facilitate development.

The four consultations CfD co-ordinated in collaboration with member organisations revealed that remittances and Diaspora resources are multifaceted. These include skills, knowledge transfer, employment etc, which current IM policies do not address and sometimes perpetuate dire human suffering. The Diaspora is therefore interested in measures that would endorse and promote the value of remittances to increase its impact on development. Such as having clear understandings of available resources are; overseas development needs; and how to channel those resources to meet such needs. This paper emphasises that the Diaspora views and approaches to development though less mainstream³ do not reduce 'their' positive impact on development. The onus is therefore on us to harness those resources and increase their developmental impact as much as possible.

³ See *The Getting It Right Together; Report DFID (2001)* and *DFID Diaspora and Volunteering Programme Consultation Documents (2007)* for more information on issues of divergence between mainstream and Diaspora perspectives on development. www.dfid.gov.uk

Some Perspectives from CfD

In light of the consultation findings from the CfD network, there are a few issues that we suggest that the Global Forum Discussions on remittances ought to address in order to harness the development impact of remittances. It is apparent that effective engagement with issues of remittances and policy coherence at all levels should aim to address the following issues:

- How the Diaspora categorises and/define remittances;
- Host Country and Home Country Policy Implications;
- Global dimensions of Diaspora development debates;
- Economic, Social and Human rights Implications;
- Making remittances policies effective and beneficial to all; and
- Identifying and addressing remittances policy gaps.

Host and Home Country Policy Implications on Remittances

From our consultation findings, it's obvious that remittances are instruments of development as well as factors of globalisation. Therefore, both Northern and Southern stakeholders could maximise opportunities through favourable labour and skills mobilisation policies. Such policies would increase the impact of intellectual remittances⁴ on development. Policy coherence between host and home countries would enable more skilled people to easily transfer their intellectual capital globally. For migrant home, transit and host countries policies on remittances should therefore recognise that in this highly globalised and interdependent world immigration control policies should appreciate the dynamics of globalisation i.e. the faster flow of goods, capital, technology, services/labour and information across borders.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM)⁵ found that the Diaspora participation in the negotiation and formulation of host country policies could influence positive changes. This implies that the Diaspora as remitters could

⁴ Among the Diaspora, skills and knowledge are categorised as social remittances.

⁵ See for more details, International Organisation for Migration (2005) International Dialogue on Migration, Mainstreaming Migration into Development Policy Agendas, Geneva (110) US resident Diasporas are strong advocates for their citizens for government policies.

negotiate for policies that support their contributions to development through remittances.

Economic, Social and Human Rights Implications

The nature of IM and remittances today proves unquestionably that the world's economy is becoming more irrevocably integrated. Due to IM, the world is accepting, transferring and sharing labour, skills, knowledge and financial resources on a global scale more rapidly than ever. Study by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)⁶ indicated that the Diaspora want better consular services to strengthen the 'two-directional' interaction with them.

Remittances as an aspect of IM have human rights implications because some times migrants work in dire situations just to be able to 'send money back home'. The strong view here is that, the Diaspora is subject to both the positive and negative aspects of IM. Hence, clear policies on remittances and the rights of migrants to work could increase their developmental impact and values of as well. This might curtail the exploitation of vulnerable migrants, human trafficking, and the general problems of illegal immigration.

Making Remittances Policies Effective and Beneficial to All

Our members' responses have shown that the Diaspora and migrants⁷ the world over, support their home economies through remittances and as a result have eased the burden of International Development initiatives on International Aid Agencies and Northern Government Departments responsible for ID⁸. Effective and favourable remittances policies would therefore ensure that more resources are mobilised for development. Such suggestions are clear in the RemitAid propositions from AFFORD⁹ and other recommendations in the attached reports.

⁶ 2005 International Organisation for Migration: International Dialogue on Migration, Mainstreaming Migration into Development Policy Agendas, Geneva (108-110)

⁷ http://www.un-instraw.org/en/images/stories/remittances/documents/crossing_borders.pdf.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2007/06/gupta.htm>

⁸ Such Department/Agencies include the UK Department for International Development DfID, United Nations Agencies etc

⁹ AFFORD: www.afford-uk.org.uk for more information on RemitAid.

Identifying and Addressing Remittances Policy Gaps

Currently, there are no policies that encourage mobility of labour and remittances as catalysts for ID and the fight against poverty. Thus, identifying and addressing remittances policy gaps will go a long way to reaffirm the international commitments to promoting development in the global South.

Civil society organisations and the Diaspora/migrants should be party at micro and macro levels of major migration policy consultation as such policies affect them more directly compared to high-level stakeholders. There is a need for the UK Government to facilitate migrant communities to contribute more in policy formulations.

The Diaspora is an important stakeholder in both home/host country development, but the reality is that they cannot work in isolation. There is a need for partnerships as well as support and recognition from governments, International Development Agencies etc. for the significant contributions that the Diaspora makes towards international development. As suggested by our respondents, the RemitAid concept would ensure that tax rebates from remittances are invested in a Common Fund for development projects. This idea would work better in host countries so that such rebates can be invested for overseas development by those DCSOs that cannot access mainstream funding¹⁰ for overseas projects.

¹⁰ For further information please see Murray, Paul. (2006) *“Profile of UK Diaspora Society Groups Involved in International Development: Interests, Attitudes and involvement: A Mapping exercise”* www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Part II

London Focus Group I: 28th March 2007

Sylvia Wachuku-King and **Marriane Cronin**, Ghana Refugee Welfare Group (GHARWEG).

Introduction

Soon after the UN High Level Dialogue on migration and development. Which took place in New York in September 2006, it was agreed to organise a Global Forum on Migration and Development in Brussels in July 2007, as part of an on-going move to continue discussing issues regarding migration and development issues in a systematic and consistent way.

On 14th February the first meeting of the UK Migration and Development Practitioners meeting was held that brought together some members of both BOND and CfD Network and a representative from the DFID. One of the tasks of that meeting was to make preparations for the July Global Forum, particularly addressing the 3-round table themes proposed. At the end it was agreed that BOND and CfD carry out mini consultations around themes 1 and 2 within their representative networks and share views with the Co-ordinating body.

In early March the Ghana Refugee Welfare Group (GHARWEG) was commissioned by CfD to organise a consultation on roundtable discussion theme 2: ***Remittances and other Diaspora resources: increasing their volume and development value.***

The issues discussed include:

- a) Increasing and mobilising formal remittances to developing countries;
- b) Increasing the development value and impact of remittances; and
- c) Strengthening the Diaspora contributions to development.

To promote cost-effectiveness it was agreed with the consultants to organise 2-consultations on migration issues, back to back, to attract more participants.

Consultation Meeting

The consultations were held on 28th March 2007 with a cross section of Diaspora organisations. Participants brought to the table their networks' or organisational perspectives on the issues being discussed. Gibril Faal, Chairman of the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) and Founder of RemitAid facilitated the first consultation on remittances and Diaspora resources.

The meeting began with GHARWEG and London Refugee Voice (LRV) providing brief background of the meeting, welcoming and thanking participants for taking the time to contribute to the consultation. The hosts introduced the speakers; Gibril Faal, founder of RemitAid, and a trustee of AFFORD, and Sacha Cham Kam from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Participants also took turns to introduce themselves.

What is RemitAid?

Gibril gave an introduction on RemitAid¹¹, explaining that it was founded in 2003 as a programme designed to create remittance tax relief for international development. RemitAid focuses on remittances that impact on the global economy, both directly and indirectly by:

- Creating a collaboration between the Diaspora population, public and private interests;

¹¹ RemitAid is an incentive by Gibril Faal aimed at increasing the value of remittances to support development in the global south. It is intended that the programme will work within the same remits of tax relief. For more information on this initiative contact Gibril Faal at. or www.afford-uk.org

- Using standard tax incentive tools (remittance tax relief);
- Implementing RemitAid through simple operational frameworks;
- Creating a “Common Fund” in which the tax rebate will be collected to fund development;
- Investing in the “Common Fund” to be used as an enduring financial asset and income for development; and
- Governing the “Common Fund” on a professional basis, but ensuring that control of funds remains with remitters.

Migrant Resources and Development

There were rich discussions during and after Gibril’s presentation. Participants established that remittances sent by migrants in the various Diaspora have become a major source of external development finance and in some cases bigger than official development assistance. In Senegal and Ghana for example remittances account for 13% of its revenue. However the actual size of remittances to developing countries by migrants, both officially recorded and unrecorded transfers through informal channels would be even larger but remains unknown.

Participants expressed that in the UK remittances is an issue that is of interest to many Diaspora groups in London and beyond. Hence, participants were particularly interested in learning about both the benefits and imperfections of the RemitAid scheme. With regards to the key issues addressed the following basic understanding was reached under each of the discussion topics listed in the next few paragraphs.

Increasing and Mobilising Formal Remittances to Developing Countries

The participants said that, for this to happen:

- More efforts must be made to get remitters to overcome their fears of using the formal system; and
- There is need to strengthen collaboration between remitters in the Diaspora, public and private sectors so that they understand ways in which they can collectively improve the value of remittances.

Increasing the Development Value and Impact of Remittances

In response to the above, participants said that:

- There is need for further research into the nature of remittances;
- There is need to distinguish between remittances that go towards support services like health, education and other activities that contribute towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) directly and those that are sent for private 'family' consumption with indirect impact on MDGs as well;
- The former could be put into a common development fund that would contribute towards the official development assistance (ODA) of the country as well as qualify for the proposed remittance tax relief;
- This could enhance the economic standing of some developing countries;
- Common fund would also protect the identity of vulnerable remitters.

Strengthening the Diaspora Contributions to Development

In response to this particular area of inquiry, participants expressed that:

- Diaspora contributions to development is in itself a self-help financing scheme that is empowering the global south developmentally;
- Placing tax relief generated funds into an ethically based-profit sharing fund would increase Diaspora financial empowerment as well as increase the value of their contributions to development;

- Participants called for support to drafting a policy on remittance tax relief for discussion at the Global Forum; and
- Organise a lobby of Parliament through an Early Day Motion¹² to make the campaign more visible now that the Mayor of London Ken Livingston has endorsed it.

Some participants expressed great interest in learning more about the contributions of community groups to actions concerning remittances. To them, this first exposure to the topic has generated more ideas about the need for awareness raising and better understanding of Diaspora remittances.

Voluntary Return Program

Sacha Cham Kam from the International Organization of Migration (IOM) engaged in a dialogue with the participants on the IOM's Voluntary Return Programs (VRP). This is a scheme that gives refugees and asylum seekers (particularly those whose claims have failed) the chance to return home to their country of origin with financial incentives.

Sacha explained the VRP, which highlights offering educational and employment assistance to participants, and then took questions from the group. Although there were a variety of issues raised, the primary concern of the group was that since the IOM is funded by the Home Office, there were doubts about there being enough done to address the issue of unsafe returns.

The participants agreed that for the IOM to increase their credibility with service users, they ought to take a stand, and aim to influence the Home Office Policy on 'Immigration and Migration.' Jonathan Parr from Refugee Council (RC) explained that although the RC receives government funding, they still actively oppose the policy they deem to be unsatisfactory for their service users. Also, it was suggested that IOM should do more to engage with community groups, so that they have a more realistic view of those who

¹² Early day motions (EDMs) are formal motions submitted for debate in the House of Commons. However, very few EDMs are actually debated. Instead, they are used for reasons such as publicising the views of individual MPs, drawing attention to specific events or campaigns, and demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view (source uk parliament website) .

participate in their VRP. It was agreed that there needed to be a better line of communication between the IOM, refugees and asylum seekers, in order to serve them better or increase their awareness of the opportunities available to them.

Conclusion

All participants were from umbrella organisations and despite the limitations of a Focus Group consultation; their contributions reflected the perspectives and interests of those that they represent. Such representations show that Diaspora voices can be heard from different levels and through a variety of channels. The challenge that remains is for participants to work towards new opportunities for partnership for Diaspora engagement in migration and development dialogues.

London Focus Group II: Women's Perspectives 14th April 2007

Nana Ama Amamoo, The Africa Families' Foundation

Introduction

The African Families' Foundation (TAFF) took another approach to these consultations by soliciting African Diaspora women's perspectives on remittances and other Diaspora resources. The aim of this Focus Group was to identify key migration policies issues from a gender-based perspective. The participants focused on specific messages, outcomes and actions to be considered by the Civil Society Forum at the forthcoming Global Forum in Brussels in July 2007.

The participants felt that it was imperative for governments to realise that globalisation does not have to apply only to big businesses i.e. the free movements of goods and capital, but to all stakeholders. The TAFF consultation participants expressed that international migration is here to stay,

and that people will always be moving around the globe chasing jobs and better standards of living.

It was suggested that Governments should, therefore, respect and protect all migrants' undeniable right to move freely around the world. Particularly by signing the UN Human Rights Charter (for those who have not done so already) and upholding those principles and applying them to all migrants, legal and undocumented. It was also emphasised that home countries should also make more efforts to value their citizens' rights by advocating for better treatment with governments of receiving countries, with special protection given to women and children.

The following recommendations were made:

- That there should be a strong voice and equitable representation of civil society at IOM and in-country meetings regarding issues affecting migrant women; with on-going dialogue between policymakers and migrants' organisations;
- Recognising and understanding the transnational nature of migration, and engendering policies and services that are geared towards promoting the positive effects of migration;
- Remittances as a tool for development, and to work to prevent it from fostering a culture of dependency;
- Agree and implement measures to retain/entice highly skilled migrants; e.g. equal/adequate pay, decent working conditions, housing etc;
- Gender-sensitive measures to be agreed and implemented in both sender and receiving countries; and
- Review and make migration policies less restrictive and punitive in order to promote opportunities for legal and safe migration, as restrictive and punitive immigration policies only benefit traffickers and smugglers.

Key Actions

- E-links to research data, with active research input by migrants and their organisations;
- Reduce costs of sending remittances;
- Observation and implementation of UN Human Rights treaties.

Liverpool Focus Group: 27th March 2007

Bob Deen-Kamara, Save Sierra Leone

Introduction and Background

This exercise was carried out as part of Connections for Development's (CfD) Diaspora preparation for the Global Forum on Migration and Development, slated for July 2007 in Brussels. This document summarises and discusses the views presented during the Liverpool Focus Group discussions.

The focus was on "Remittances and other Diaspora resources: increasing their volume and developmental value" because this is an area of interest to most UK Diaspora communities. CfD stressed the importance of discussing with participants about the relevance of their contribution to this consultation as their views and concerns would enrich the international debate on the interrelatedness between migration and development. Since the Diaspora themselves are the subject of this debate it was important to capture and report their views.

Purpose of the Report

This report provides the basis for CfD to submit a collective UK Diaspora opinion to the on-going international dialogue on migration and development. The report is another dimension of how CfD engages its members and the wider UK Diaspora or Black and Minority Ethnic (BMEs) communities in policy discussions. This document is a record of how CfD gathers views at

community and local levels and evidences the organisation's attempts to ensure that all BME or Diaspora voices are heard.

The Liverpool Diaspora groups that participated in this Focus Group provided their perspectives on the three areas of discussion related to the Diaspora and remittances topics¹³, i.e.:

- Increasing and mobilising formal remittances to developing countries;
- Increasing the development value and impact of remittances; and
- Strengthening the Diaspora contributions to development.

Consultation Process

To facilitate this exercise, Liverpool BME Organisations, Local Community and Voluntary Organisations, Faith Groups and other stakeholders were informed through emails, letters via post, fax, word of mouth and physical visits. This ensured that all participants received the necessary documentation for the workshop in advance. As a result, participants were very resourceful and presented useful ideas during discussions.

Overall, the Focus Group discussions drew from the views and experiences of participants, in particular those that still maintain strong social links with developing countries in Africa, Latin America, the Far East, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean.

Open Session

Remittances and other Diaspora Resources: Increasing their Volume and Developmental Value

During the open session, discussions about the benefits of increasing and mobilising remittances were mostly focused on maintaining social structures (family), capacity building, training and education as priority developmental needs.

¹³ Roundtable 2: Remittances and other Diaspora resources: increasing their volume and development value: Possible areas of discussions at the Roundtable sessions are as listed in the bullet points above. See:

Responses showed that participants' experiences of remitting monies or social remittances¹⁴ target the following areas:

- Family maintenance, this includes both nuclear and extended families;
- Donations to build schools;
- Community support infrastructures such as community centres, health centres, feeder roads construction etc; and
- Skills transfer or skills sharing to support communities in the global south with new approaches to improve the quality of life.

Increasing and Mobilising Formal Remittances to Developing Countries

The group suggested that if structures are set up for formal remittances, they should:

- Recognise the essence of maintaining family networks;
- Strengthen support for skills transfer; and
- Increase skills circulation to benefit the poor and vulnerable in developing countries.

The above points were raised within the Diaspora's definition of remittances as both social and economic. In their views, both forms of remittances should be mobilised and formalised to support developing countries.

Recommendations

The group recommended that, to increase and mobilise formal remittances to developing countries, structures should:

- Emphasise the fundamental nature of Diaspora or BME contributions to micro and macro development in the global south;
- Efforts to increase such levels of remittances should consider the social values of financial remittances meant for family maintenance or consumption; and
- Recognise that remittances play a vital part in reducing poverty and destitution among vulnerable families, particularly those living in rural

¹⁴ The Diaspora refer to the skills, knowledge or ideas and experiences they transfer or share with their countries of origin/ or the global south to be a form of social remittances.

areas: their social welfare depends on such monies. They spend the money they receive on basic needs such as food, health care, housing, education and training etc. Therefore reducing the cost of remittances is an important factor in increasing its value for development.

The general feeling was that there should be a mechanism for organising training and support for Diaspora or BME International volunteers to remit social skills to developing countries. Participants observed that there is need for the Diaspora to invest intellectual capital overseas especially through gainful employment because the dire lack of employment in poor regions of the world is one of the reasons skilled people migrate in most cases.

This Focus group emphasised that headhunting specialist professionals and other highly skilled individuals to deliver required training focused on skills sharing with developing countries to address skills shortages could tackle underdevelopment. The skills remitted to the south could complement the low level of achievement in specialist technical areas like engineering where most poor countries need help and strategic support. Therefore, all forms of remittances, i.e. social and financial are vital to the needs of developing countries. Hence, increasing and mobilising formal remittances must recognise this context.

Increase the Developmental Value and Impact of Remittances

In terms of looking at the value and impact of remittances, the group suggested that:

- The developmental value and impact of remittances can be increased through a shared view on the essence of maintaining family social structures through remittances; and
- Promoting skills transfer/circulation through active engagements in developing countries would increase the developmental value and impact of social remittances.

In relation to the above points, participants specifically stressed that strengthening education, training and technical assistance, providing more health facilities in rural areas and villages and encouraging overseas Diaspora/ BME youth exchange learning programmes would all be channels and mechanisms of increasing the developmental value and impact of remittances. These ideas show approaches, activities, output/outcomes and developmental indicators of how remittances are actually employed at operational levels in developing countries.

Recommendations

With respect to the above discussions, participants recommended that:

- Relevant governments should consider increasing resources that support the capacity of the Diaspora to continue remitting such social skills to developing countries;
- There is need for governments to strengthen Diaspora/BME civil society organisations or networks to harness partnerships that assist formal initiatives geared at increasing the developmental value and impact of remittances; and
- CfD exist as a framework for BME/ Diaspora engagement with the UK Government. CfD should then be strengthened to continue facilitating more meaningful Diaspora and government engagements in transferring or sharing skills for development.

It was anticipated that through recognition and support at government levels, BME Communities with the support of CfD could develop overseas youth exchange learning programmes. In areas like survival skills, youth-community interactions and youth leadership programmes. This would enable them to participate in experiential learning; inter-cultural, inter-faith dialogue and explore arts as vital youth development instruments.

Strengthening the Diaspora Contributions to Development

In relation to this topic participants suggested the following:

- Government to consider tax relief on Diaspora /BME donations or remittances;
- Encourage and support CfD members in delivering support services in developing countries; and
- Increase support and recognition for BME/ Diaspora International Development initiatives.

Recommendations

Participants suggested that Diaspora contributions could be strengthened in the following ways:

- That the UK Government support tax relief on BME financial remittances donation that are targeted at development needs such as school fees, investments, health services and relevant community development initiatives including agriculture etc;
- The Government should assist CfD in their effort to strengthen Diaspora contributions and roles in development because the Diaspora civil society, businesses, faith groups and individuals are actively participating in the delivery of services and development projects in the global south;
- Government departments should forge and nurture partnerships between BME/ Diaspora organisations and other mainstream development NGOs in identifying priorities, processes and positive development outcomes;
- Conduct a mapping exercise to assist in the process of identifying gaps in service provision and establish partnership agreement with NGO's and local people;
- Encourage the development of BME small charity organisations with interest in international development work in particular, provide training and development support;
- Partnership engagement with overseas government in developing countries; and
- Support CfD to manage expectations and concerns of interested Diaspora organisations.

Yorkshire and the Humber Focus Group: March 2007

Karl Oxford, Urban Solutions

Feedback on Global Forum Matters

Participants were informed that different member states were represented at the first *UN High Level Dialogue on migration and development* in September 2006 agreed that it would be useful to create a Global Forum on migration and development as a venue to maintain and broaden discussions on migration and development issues. The first such Global Forum meeting is scheduled to take place in Brussels in July 2007. At this meeting participants to the Global Forum will be considering 3 principal round table topics i.e.

In preparation for the UK's government and civil society's response to the Brussels' meeting, CfD have agreed to feed-in some thoughts from its membership and Diaspora communities on Roundtable 2 topics. The focus groups were generally in agreement with the relevance of the discussion topics and, consequently, these were the key thoughts from the Yorkshire and the Humber (Y&H) region:

Key Thoughts on the Roundtable 2 Theme

- The building and establishment of a strong sense of 'trust' with the representative government departments and other advocates (e.g. CfD) on the Global Forum was seen as a key issue. It was said that previous experience had made the Diaspora communities fairly sceptical, being consulted to no (satisfactory) end result, also concerns of a wastage of resources;
- It was felt that remittances could be better regulated. However, there were loud fears of possible exploitation and strong views that remittances to families back home should not be seen as a cheap supplement to existing development aid;
- There was confusion as to the definitions of *formal and informal* remittances;

- The Diaspora communities felt that they would benefit from having a clear and comprehensive fiscal position. For example, it was said that a baseline measure of the remittance value (including in-kind) is needed – even down to a Y&H regional level – and what is the impact, outcomes, accountabilities, etc of current development resource;
- Also, a scoping and conceptual paper (on remittances) would be very useful, one that highlighted prospective partnership opportunities with the World Bank and other key stakeholder organisations;
- Diaspora communities could utilise their existing financial management skills' base to help to develop any future remittance strategies;
- The targeting of key officers in local authorities would help with networking, the sharing of good practice and other Development information flows;

There was an additional point directly for DfID and in relation to Roundtable 1 – this is around the fears of unethical and, at times, apparent illegal changes in migration rules and policies. It was said that the rules on residency status sometimes change in an instant without warning or recourse, a situation that does not help to build the levels of trust to which the Diaspora communities and migrants aspire.