

Programme Migration & Diaspora – PMD

Key stakeholders in partner countries increasingly leverage regular migration and diaspora engagement to achieve their development goals

The Challenge

According to the United Nations, there were around 258 million migrants in 2017. Bridge-builders between their countries of origin and the countries where they now live and work, these people are key drivers of development: they get involved in local associations and implement projects on site, send remittances to family and friends, and apply their knowledge and experience when returning home on a temporary or permanent basis for work or to set up a business. Nigeria appears to be considerably affected by the brain drain syndrome as an estimated 20 million Nigerians are currently living in the Diaspora (IOM, 2014). However, a significant number of the Nigerian Diaspora also contributes immensely to development in Nigeria through projects and remittances. Placed fifth on the chart, remittances coming from Nigerians in the Diaspora expectedly amounted to \$22bn and contributed to over 5.4% of the country's Gross National Product (GDP) in 2017 (World Bank, 2018). About 40,000 Nigerians from the quoted figure reside in Germany. Thus far, however, the services offered have failed to comprehensively address the needs and potential of migrants in the various phases of the migration cycle (before, during and after migration). The development-related contributions of migrants are not being fully utilized, and the necessary framework conditions are inadequate in most countries of origin. This is where the global Programme Migration & Diaspora comes in.

Our Approach

The Programme Migration & Diaspora supports people who wish to put the knowledge they have acquired in Germany to good use in their countries of origin - for example, by working as returning experts, diaspora experts, starting their own business or getting



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involved in diaspora organizations. With their knowledge, experience and contacts, migrants can trigger important changes and contribute to ensuring a sustainable future for their home countries.

The Programme has five priority areas:

Development-oriented return:

Support for returning experts who have studied or worked in Germany and who wish to put their knowledge to good use by working in their countries of origin. The employers benefit from the knowledge, skills and experience these returning experts have acquired in Germany as they are harnessed to strengthen and develop workplace capacities and structures.

Regular labour migration and mobility:

Information on the risks posed by irregular migration and advice to qualified migrants on job and study opportunities in Germany as options for regular migration to Germany.



Photo left: Handover of workplace equipment to Jekwu Ona, a Returning Expert at Environmental and Human Resources Limited, Enugu

Photo right: Returning Experts identifying their contributions to the SDGs during a Knowledge-sharing Workshop in Lagos



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Photo left: Handover of workplace equipment to Dr. Obinna Ekwunife, a Returning Expert at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

Photo right: Kester Audu and colleagues during the commissioning of the MECA project in Niger state

Social engagement of the diaspora:

Support for development-oriented projects organized by diaspora organizations committed to improving the lives of people in their countries of origin, and support for voluntary short-term assignments for so-called diaspora experts.

Financial and economic contribution of the diaspora:

Support for migrants who wish to start their own businesses in their countries of origin and increase transparency in the remittances market.

Migration governance:

Long-term policy, strategy and organizational advice to migration-relevant government partners. Bilateral and multi-lateral exchange for joint learning on migration policy. Capacity development of partner institutions for the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) goals.

Impact in figures (2016 – 2019)

Since its inception in Nigeria in 2016, the Programme has supported 36 returning experts contributing to the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development's focus such as: scientific cooperation, energy, health, food security, education, environmental protection, sustainable economic development, water management, peace development, etc. Nine diaspora organizations, in collaboration with partner organizations in Nigeria, have received support to implement various development-oriented projects within the period under review. 15 diaspora experts have completed short-term missions with host institutions in Nigeria, with several others waiting in line to commence their assignments.

... and in stories

Migration offers potential for development in the form of knowledge sharing, investments from diaspora, and development-related opportunities for returnees. Returning experts in Nigeria have been contributing to various SDGs through their engagements at their workplaces. Kester Audu, for instance, is a returning expert from Germany, who works as a Senior Manager at Discovery Cycle Professionals (DCP) in Abuja. He led a team in DCP to design and develop the Thinking and Learning Lab - a Knowledge Sharing Platform for graduates and selected faculty members sourced from public, private and international organizations within Abuja to co-create ideas and drive transformative business processes for organizational and national growth. The Lab has hosted over 50 young graduates and 25 faculty members since its inception in 2016 and the network keeps growing while Lab participants keep working together in groups on individual projects or group projects. This initiative is very successful considering that 35 Lab participants have been gainfully employed in the banking, agriculture and education sectors, 10 have gone for further studies within Nigeria and abroad, while 12 have ventured into start-ups.

Furthermore, Kester, together with the DCP team developed and worked on the Machine and Equipment Consortium Africa (MECA) project. The MECA project is a global platform for the full utilization and optimization of the excess tractors that are either underutilized, idle, redundant, decommissioned or broken down. It focuses on the repair and utilization of broken-down tractors to enhance agricultural efficacy. MECA today is an organization at the front-lines of the agricultural mechanization revolution in Nigeria. The MECA idea has profited from teamwork of members of the Thinking and Learning Lab, and strategic partnership with organizations such as National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni), Nigeria Incentive Based Risk Sharing for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) and the German-based Hanseatic Institute for Entrepreneurship and Regional Development (HIERO).

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