

A woman in a blue shirt is rowing a wooden boat on a canal. The boat is filled with various goods, including produce, a gas cylinder, and a basket. A sign with the number 35 is visible in the boat. The background shows other boats and water.

*Engaging
Diasporas in
Development:
Lessons Learned,
Challenges and
Trends*

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Mission: Oxfam Novib

- **Every human being has the right to a decent existence. But hundreds of millions of people live in poverty. Injustice is the most important cause of poverty. Fighting poverty structurally starts with the basic rights of every human being.**



Rights-based approach to development

1. The right to sustainable existence
2. The right to basic necessities
3. The right to life and security
4. The right to social and political participation
5. The right to identity



Oxfam Novib's response to migration and development nexus

- Provide technical and financial assistance through LINKIS, a facility to support small and large projects initiated by diaspora organisations in the Netherlands and in their countries of origin
 - Provide capacity building training (project cycle management, financial management, fund raising and lobby, financial literacy, microfinance, etc)
 - Conduct debates, workshops, conferences and expert meetings
 - Linking and learning; conduct country theme meetings; exposure programs; linking with microfinance providers
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Strategic Business Plan

- By 2010, national, regional and international **migrant-led networks of Diaspora organisations are established** which serve as platforms for lobby and advocacy related to policies, laws and practices that enhance the development potential of migration. The migrant-led networks can **influence policies and practices** in their host and home countries, development institutions, and other actors in the field of migration and development. **Promote visibility** of migrants' initiatives.

What we have achieved so far?

On **Alliance Building**, Oxfam Novib supported the formation of the following diaspora networks:

- Diaspora Forum for Development (DFD)
 - Multicultural Women Peacemakers
 - ENNOS (Ethiopian networks)
 - Sudan Civil Society Forum
 - Ghana Investments and Development Initiatives (GIDI)
 - SOMNGO (Somali NGOs)
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On Influencing policy-making

Oxfam Novib supported the participation of migrant leaders in the following conferences and dialogues:

- 1) Expert Meeting: *The Link Between Migration and Development* – March 2003, The Netherlands
- 2) Expert Meeting: *Bridging the Gap: The Role of Migrants and their Remittances in Development* – November 2004, The Netherlands
- 3) *Impact of Remittances in Latin America: Microfinance as alternative channel for remittances* – September 2005, Zacatecas, Mexico
- 4) INAFI Conference, 2006, Manila, Philippines
- 5) Conference: Microfinance and Remittances, November 2007, Benin
- 6) Global Forum on Migration and Development 2007, Belgium
- 7) Global Forum on Migration and Development 2008, Philippines
- 8) Attended meetings and consultations with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UPSCALING PROJECTS: SOMALIA: HIRDA

- A non-profit organization founded in 1998 by Somali refugees in the Netherlands
- Amount of project (2005-2007):
Euro 559.877,00
- Types of projects: education, agriculture, peace building, women empowerment, relief and food distribution, youth development (NL and Somalia)
- Partners in NL: Oxfam Novib, NCDO, Hivos
- Partners International: UNICEF Somalia, Red Cross New Zealand, Somalis in Diaspora in various countries
- Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries:
www.hirda.org



ETHIOPIA: DIR



Founded in 2000, DIR Foundation is an Ethiopian organization which initiates projects in the Netherlands and Ethiopia.

Projects funded by Oxfam Novib:

- Coffee Processing Plant and housing project for prostitutes in Addis Ababa
- Hiv/AIDS mainstreaming project
- Housing and employment (brick production) project for ex-soldiers in Addis Ababa

Partner since 1998

Total amount extended

2007-2009: Euro 364.969,00

Number of direct beneficiaries reached:

www.dirnet.nl



GHANA: SANKOFA



- SANKOFA Foundation was founded in 2001 by Ghanaian diasporas.
- Projects assisted:
 - Technical and Training Center for peasant women
 - Sankofa Family Poultry
 - Africa Festival Delft 2007

Partners in Ghana: GNAFF (Ghana National Association of Farmers en Fishermen and GAPNET

Total amount extended from 2005-2010: Euro 340.000,00

POLICY INTERVENTIONS

- Build **inclusive partnerships** with other stakeholders (development agencies, government, multilateral and international organisations, private sector, etc); access to financial and technical support
 - **Gender mainstreaming** (gender, migration and development); address feminization of labor; economic justice for women
 - **Promote and protect** migrants' and human rights
 - **Harness the development potential** of migrants for the development of their countries of origin/Hometown associations; partnering with local government units, private sector, and other stakeholders
 - Advocate for a **coherent migration and development policy**
 - **Capacity building** of diaspora organisations
 - **Promoting financial literacy** (awareness raising) and extend affordable financial services to migrants and their families (micro-insurance, sustainable productive activities, etc.)
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What did we learn?

- Diaspora organisations have different level of organizational capacities, varied interests, situation/condition/motives/, reasons why they left their countries
 - They have their own way of doing things; demand respect and ownership of their ideas and projects
 - Voluntary in nature/professionalism and volunteerism
 - Only a few migrants are involved and committed in development work/they are rare
 - Not all have the capacities to manage large projects
 - Most of the projects respond to basic needs (education, and health but some are venturing income-generating projects
 - Sustainability of the projects/one off
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- EC approved the three-year program titled “Harnessing the potentials of migration for development by linking MFIs and immigrant associations”

Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Europe: Netherlands, UK, Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden

Overall Objective

- To contribute to improved capacities of immigrant associations based in 10 EU countries to actively support the development of their countries of origin and to enable MFI's to facilitate transfer of migrant remittances in a safer and cheaper manner.

Specific Objective

- To establish a trans-national technical assistance program that trains and enables 10 MFIs (INAFI members) located in 10 Sub-Saharan countries to provide worldwide remittance transfers and builds partnerships including a co-development program with immigrant associations working or residing in 10 European countries.

Expected Results

- **R.1. Provided technical assistance to 10 MFI's based in 10 Sub-Saharan African countries enabling them to perform money transfers worldwide. Skills of 40 staff members plus 12 representatives of other organizations are improved enabling them to manage successful money transfer activities.**
 - **R.2. Developed and marketed remittance-based financial products and services, and other investment opportunities targeting potential individual migrants**
 - **R.3. Introduced financial services outreach program to immigrants and remittance recipients. Migrants aware of options to maximize the benefits of remittances.**
 - **R.4. 10 immigrant associations mainly based in the EU, trained on how to carry out co-development projects in partnership with MFIs and other potential partners.**
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Activities: Result 1

- A.1. Identify barriers through survey and desk studies that hinder or facilitate remittance-related activities by MFIs –
- A.2. 3 technical training courses in for 62 MFI staff members on efficient and effective remittance-based services (money transfer and other products). –
- A.3. Establish partnerships between MFIs and MTOs –
- A.4. Work conference in Ghana to finalize different possibilities and models of cooperation in remittances sector, and expand the competitive role of MFIs in the money transfer market

Activities: Result 2

- A.5. Investigate needs and wants of migrant remittance senders and receivers to identify potential products to be offered by MFIs.
- A.6. Design, market and sell remittance-based products
- A.7. Partnership agreement between 10 MFIs and 10 immigrant associations to engage in joint investment schemes.

Activities: Result 3

- A.8. Develop and reproduce financial literacy toolkit
- A.9. Financial literacy training for trainers attended by 40 core immigrant association leaders –
- A.10. Linking and learning activities for immigrant associations in their countries of origin
- A.11.1 Publications: Website on remittances and best practices.
- A.11.2 2.000 brochures

Activity: Result 4

- A.12. 6 project management training sessions for 120 leaders of immigrant associations.

THANK YOU

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