



Joint Migration and Development Initiative(JMDI)



Useful practices on migration and local development

Practices

The illustration features a central text block on a background of horizontal brown brushstrokes. Above the text is a white line-art city skyline. Below the text are two white silhouettes of people: one on the left looking up and one on the right carrying papers. At the bottom is a white line-art village scene with houses and trees.

Useful practices on migration and local development

Cooperatives in Costa Rica: Mapping and understanding migrant communities abroad and remittance flows

Country/Region/Territory

Costa Rica



Date/Period

2013 and ongoing



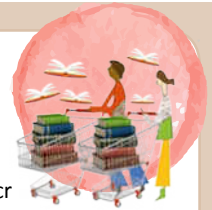
Actors

- COOPEALIANZA Cooperative
- Diaspora of Costa Ricans in the United States of America
- Immigrants from the United States of America and Canada in Costa Rica



Sources

- COOPEALIANZA:
www.coopealianza.fi.cr
- Report on Emigration and Remittances. COOPEALIANZA, San Isidro, Pérez Zeledón. April 2005.
- Information provided by the Marketing Department of COOPEALIANZA.



Story



COOPEALIANZA is a Costa Rican credit union founded in 1971 that has become a point of reference in the country in combining commitment to labour and human development. Initially created in San Isidro del General (Canton of Pérez Zeledón, a territory of notable emigration and immigration) COOPEALIANZA gradually expanded throughout the country, to the point where today it has 52 offices in 31 cantons within the national territory.

Studies are carried out periodically through the Marketing Management Unit of COOPEALIANZA. These allow for a mapping and understanding of the characteristics of the Costa Rican diaspora, particularly those who send some kind of remittances. This Unit maintains formal communication, among others, with the Association of Costa Rican Migrants in the State of New Jersey, a state in the USA which hosts the biggest concentration of the Costa Rican diaspora. According to the United States Census carried out in 2010, there were 187,689 Costa Ricans in the United States (around 75% of the total number of Costa Ricans who have emigrated).

In addition, in the year 2013, research was carried out regarding immigration of foreigners to Costa Rica (mainly North Americans), with the intention of obtaining an image of the economic reality experienced by United States' immigrants living in the country. Furthermore, this study allowed them to analyse the possibility of making inroads into the existing market niche among these immigrants, little exploited by the national financial system and with the intention of generating financial and non-financial products adapted to their needs.



Lessons Learned

Remittances are a reflection and expression of deep emotional bonds between family members separated by geography and borders and the manifestation of the constant interaction between those family members despite the distances between them. The decisions as to where to seek income and how to use it are frequently the result of the opinion of the family nucleus. Even when migration is an individual decision, it frequently emerges as the product of family consensus on the need to develop a source of income. Such families can be called "transnational families". The families – linked through remittances – constitute important actors in the globalization process. As entrepreneurs who seek markets, capital and labour around the world, they cross borders looking for competitive advantages.

This type of research undertaken for an understanding of migratory trends, but also the identification of financial and non-financial services that can enhance the quality of life of the participating members and their families.

Local integration to boost the impact of development: The PAICODELS project in Senegal

Country/Region/Territory

Senegal: Sédhiou region in Casamance (South of Senegal)



Date/Period

2014/2016



Actors

- Sédhiou Regional Development Agency
- GRDR – Migration Citizenship Development
- Departmental Development Councils.



Story



The region of Sédhiou is an enclave and a strong source of emigration. Migrants from Sédhiou have extensive communities abroad, and the issue of outward migrations is very noticeable within the population.

The Regional Development Agency (ARD) created its PAICODELS project (Project for Support to Local Economic Co-development Initiatives in the Sédhiou Region) as a set of meetings permitting the bringing together of migrants and local actors around issues of development in the region.

To that end the ARD created an online platform allowing migrants to enrol and present their initiatives. In so doing, technical advice from the ARD team are provided on the initiative and new partners

found from the region. This essentially allows their initiatives to be fully in line with the development actions and needs in the region.

To facilitate this, focal points for the platform are present in France and Spain to raise awareness of it among migrant communities and provide them with support on the questions that they might have concerning their projects.

Within Sedhiou, migration-development spaces are organized so as to enable meetings between private actors, civil society, migrants and local authorities around the diverse contributions of emigrants, immigrants and return migrants.

An economic fund is also in place to support the initiatives of the migrants.

Lastly, the coordination efforts between local authorities and the ARD provide the space for dialogue on discussing the best way to support and guide return migrants.



Lessons learned

Emigrants can contribute to the development of their region of origin, without however returning to install themselves permanently.

The participatory and multi-stakeholder approach provided by the dialogue spaces allow for a more in-depth understanding of the opportunities and ideas return migrants may have that allow them to contribute to development beyond traditional land property investments.

A key concept is to ensure that migrants are not to be considered as 'beneficiaries' of the initiative, nor investors who should undertake all of the work, but rather equal partners of the local actors. This is also made possible due to the dialogue and participatory processes implemented between the local actors and migrants.

By working with migrants as partners, their knowledge and contribution is allowed to feed into local development planning and strategies, thus also allowing for migrants' initiatives to be in line with real development needs.

Creating economic opportunities by strengthening capacities and creating transnational partnerships at the local level: the JAPPANDO Project in Senegal

Country/Region/Territory

Senegal: Diourbel Region



Date/Period

2010/2016



Actors

- Regional Development Agency of Diourbel
- CONFESEN: Senegalese Confederation for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Migrants
- Committee of Women Entrepreneurs of FEDERCLAAI Veneto



Story



The Regional Development Agency of Diourbel and CONFESEN have already collaborated on a project aimed at supporting the economic initiatives of migrants through capacity building and financial education activities.

In 2012 and in collaboration with the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), it was decided to extend this initiative to the neighbouring regions, establishing similar information and financial support services through the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) under the framework of migrant reception desks. RDAs are also supported to identify the growth sectors and the feasibility of the migrants' projects at local level through the outreach capacity of the migrant reception desks. CONFESEN in turn works with the Italian association FEDERCLAAI Veneto to

develop partnerships between the local enterprises and similar Italian firms to support entrepreneurship and investment by the Senegalese abroad.

Bridging this initiative with Senegalese actors in Dakar, a Liaison Office managed by CONFESEN was created. This liaison office links networks of Senegalese abroad and migrants in Senegal with various development actors to allow for an understanding of the development opportunities and needs at local level in Senegal and promote Senegalese investment in such opportunities.

The setting up of support at local level (economic support, service for information to migrants) has made it possible to attract the attention of new potential partners, which leads in return to transnational economic opportunities.

JAPPANDO is a Wolof word that means *"interaction for success"*.



Lessons learned

Providing local services to migrants abroad can attract new investors and bring new economic opportunities for development.

However, such initiatives need to be designed in a participatory manner with local actors, particularly migrants, order to take into account their needs.

For example, the main difficulty for migrants is access to financing. If the economic support services at the local level cannot provide a response to these issues, the services will not be used by the migrants thus limiting cooperation dynamic that can be spurred at the transnational level.

Challenges in data collection: how to overcome fear of visibility in election processes

Country/Region/Territory

Ecuador



Date/Period

2006/2007



Actors

- Communities of Ecuadorian migrants abroad
- National Government of Ecuador



Sources

- Moreno, P. *“El proceso electoral de los ecuatorianos en el exterior: reflexiones para un debate sobre la participación en contextos de migración”*, en **Los Derechos en la movilidad humana: del control a la protección**, Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, Quito, (2009).



Story



In October 2006 and for the first time, Ecuadorian migrants were able to exercise their optional vote abroad to elect the President and Vice President of the Republic. Official data show that 143,352 Ecuadorians were registered to vote in 42 countries worldwide, a figure that appears significant in the context of similar experiences, as compared for example with Mexico which registered just over 40,876 voters for the presidential elections of 2006 out of a total of over four million Mexican migrants who had consular registration at that time. Studies of this experience of electoral participation by Ecuadorian migrants failed to determine whether people who

were registered and voted abroad were regularized in the countries of destination, since their registration did not require information on their legal status. Even so, these studies show that the legal situation of migrants (as well as the distances and costs of reaching registration and voting points) could have influenced absenteeism for both registration - which had to be done personally and directly at the Ecuadorian consulates - and for suffrage, reflecting the fear of visibility and the risk of being arrested for not having regular documents.

Thus, for instance, the letter of an association of Ecuadorian migrants in Bonn (Germany), signed in 2007 by 110 members and sent to the former Supreme Electoral Tribunal, requested:

- *“That polling stations be installed in strategic and most appropriate locations [...] Thus, in addition, the following problems experienced in past elections will be avoided:*
 - *Low participation/high absenteeism;*
 - *2) Excessive travel costs (approx. 50 Euros non-refundable);*
 - *3) Risk of immigration controls in trains for people without regular documents.”*



Lessons learned

Once the National Secretariat for Migrants (SENAMI - created in March 2007) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had assessed the logistics of registration on the electoral roll for the 2006 elections, the Ecuadorian government implemented various mechanisms to ensure greater dissemination of the electoral process in 2007 for the election of a Constituent Assembly, and to improve the system of registration abroad.

In 2008, following the experience of the 2007 elections, SENAMI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the former Supreme Electoral Tribunal established an Inter-Agency Standing Committee, aimed at promoting the Approbatory Referendum of the new Constitution abroad. This entailed updating the electoral roll abroad, developing of a communications plan, and implementing an operational plan to analyze the technical and legal tools that would enhance the referendum process.

For the 2009 elections of the Assembly members representing Ecuadorians abroad and of the President and Vice President, the registration and dissemination procedures already incorporated lessons learned from previous years. For instance, since the 2007 elections implementation of consular brigades that travel to cities with a greater presence of Ecuadorian citizens (rather than Ecuadorian migrants having to reach their consulates), contributed to an increase in the number of registrations from 152,180 voters in 2007, to 156,677 in 2008 and 184,000 in 2009.

Thinking point: Migration, gender and sexual diversities

Country/Region/Territory

Ecuador:

Provinces of:

- El Oro (southern border) – cities of Machala, Milagro and Quevedo;
- Pichincha – city of Quito;
- Esmeraldas (northern border) – city of Esmeraldas.



Date/Period

2005



Story



Sexuality and gender identities are elements that motivate and define migration experiences, yet they are still poorly analyzed both from an academic perspective and in the construction processes of public policies on human mobility. On the one hand, people with diverse sexual orientation or gender identities have migrated because they consider their immediate contexts to be repressive and have settled in countries where socio-cultural constructions around gender and sexual diversity are deemed less discriminatory or exclusionary. On the other hand, many women (also transgender individuals) have migrated to industrialized nations, finding job options in the sex industry which are better paid than other labor niches for migrants.

Actors

- Groups of female sex workers
- Popular women's associations
- Associations of migrants
- LGBTI groups
- Local Authorities



Sexuality and gender identity are elements that further define the dynamics of inclusion or integration into host societies, evidently varying according to the origin of the migrants (nationality, class and ethnicity, among other factors) and the social context and existing immigration policies in destination societies.

These realities of human mobility pose several challenges for local authorities from a human rights perspective. The first is to incorporate participation from the community of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersexed (LGBTI) individuals and sex workers in the formulation of human mobility public policies, programmes and projects, seeking to:

- inform potential migrants of opportunities and risks associated with migration;
- foster reintegration processes of those migrants who have decided to return;
- prevent acts of violence or discrimination towards migrants based on national origin or sexual and gender identity.

The second challenge involves adopting comprehensive measures regarding the possible risks that may arise in the sex industry (mainly sexual and labor exploitation and trafficking), for women or transgender people, who as migrants, refugees or returnees are particularly vulnerable.

An early initiative regarding this issue was implemented in 2005 in Ecuador by Civil Society organization “Fundación Quimera” and the organization of female sex workers “Flor de Azálea” with the support and funding from the Global Fund for Women. These organizations promoted a series of informative talks and workshops in various cities, aimed at familiarizing sex workers and potential migrants on issues such as internal and international migration; the sex industry and trafficking in persons; social constructions of gender and sexual identities; and the role of migrant women in migration processes.

The activities were led by anthropologist Laura Agustín, expert on undocumented migration, informal labor markets, human trafficking and the sex industry. Laura herself is a migrant woman.



Lessons learned

By addressing issues such as irregular international migration (reasons why undocumented travel is an option, associated risks, how information on potential jobs is sought), the social and cultural stigmas weighing on migration at the time were made evident (especially regarding migration of women, LGBTIs and migration associated with the sex industry), and the scarce work implemented to inform potential migrants of the difficulties of seeking work in unfamiliar contexts. Additionally it was found that active involvement in the organization and facilitation of workshops (in a peer-to-peer dynamic) of women, sex workers and LGBTIs contributed to empowerment of these groups on this issue and to identifying more accurately the necessary key elements to ensure their comprehensive protection in migration processes.

The lessons brought home by this experience can shed some light for local authorities on mainstreaming human mobility, the gender perspective and consideration of different sexual identities into the formulation of public policies, as well as stimulating the creation of specific programmes for LGBTI migrants

Return Migration: Lessons Learned from implementation of national public policies

Country/Region/Territory

Ecuador



Date/Period

2007/2013



Actors

- National Secretariat for Migrants (SENAMI)



Sources

- Castillo, Ana Lucía. Masters Degree Dissertation "Impacto socioeconómico de la entrega del capital semilla del Programa Fondo Concursable El Cucayo a personas migrantes retornadas y a las expectativas de su proyecto de retorno" (2011)
- Moncayo, María Isabel, "El Plan "Bienvenid@S a casa": Estudio sobre la experiencia del Fondo "El Cucayo", Serie Avances de Investigación nº 51, (2011)



Story



The National Secretariat for Migrants (SENAMI) was the governing body for migration issues in Ecuador from 2007 to 2013. One of its main objectives was to *encourage the permanence of Ecuadorians in their country and build the conditions that enable voluntary, dignified and sustainable return for migrants*. Thus, in the context of the global financial crisis which saw many Ecuadorians return from Europe and in particular, Spain, SENAMI launched the **"Welcome Home Plan"**.

This plan was comprised of three elements:

- outreach programs;
- accompanying migrants' 'physical' return;
- promotion of social and productive investments.

One of the **key initiatives** of the Plan was the **“Incentives and Guidance Programme for Migrants’ Social and Productive Investment”** aimed at individuals, families and migrant groups who wished to undertake productive ventures in Ecuador on their return, thus generating sources of employment and, in turn, helping boost the economy. The programme was launched through the “Cucayo”² Grant Fund. From 2008 to August 2010, 230 business ideas were supported by the Fund (with migrants’ counterpart investment), generating 4,283 direct and indirect sources of employment (5% of businesses were not successful). 30% of beneficiaries were women.

The second **key initiative** was the **“Coming Home Programme”** which sought to inform and accompany people for their dignified and voluntary return through the services implemented by SENAMI, in the main countries of destination of Ecuadorian migration. The programme also implemented a special advisory unit for returning migrants wishing to bring with them household goods, working equipment and a vehicle for family use which was accompanied with exemption from tax.

Various academic analyses have been conducted on the “Welcome Home Plan”, and when SENAMI was transformed into the Vice Ministry of Human Mobility in 2013, the Government carried out evaluations of the programmes implemented to determine the relevance of incorporating them into the new institutional structure. The generated reflections pointed to several elements that could be recovered in the process of designing specific programmes to support the return of migrants and their full reintegration at both national and local levels:

- Return programs have been designed based on the visions both of “successful migrants”, who have accumulated economic capital and knowledge, and of “entrepreneurial migrants” seeking to return to invest these capitals and generate self-employment.
- The majority of migrants who have returned do not meet these criteria and have had more difficulty reintegrating, especially as regards employment, and are facing complex situations of precariousness on their return.
- Key issues such as reintegration into family and community spheres, as well as cultural, social, education and educational insertion, have not been covered by these programs.
- Considering return as the endpoint of a cycle is based on a linear conception of the migration process; however, return is neither necessarily definitive nor invariably towards the migrant’s origin community but rather to cities where there are more options for economic/labour insertion, especially in salaried jobs.
- Returning experiences respond to household strategies rather than individual projects, aimed at generating economic, labor, family and social-affective stability; and within these criteria, female and male strategies are implemented differently.
- Transnational networks of strong ties with family and close friends (social capital) play a crucial role in the return and reintegration processes. They help to set expectations in more real contexts, provide support and solidarity, and meet emotional needs.

² Kichwa term referring to provisions or luncheon shared during indigenous community work.



Lessons learned

Returning migrants are a heterogeneous group (given their personal life - profiles, pre-departure contexts, migration projects, motivations for returning, and the various types of capital in the societies of origin and destination). Therefore public policies, programmes and services designed by national and local authorities, accompanying the return and promoting reintegration in various fields, will be more effective if they are not based on an economic bias and incorporate heterogeneity as a key element in providing a better response to returning migrants' needs, especially at the local level.

Complementarily to the above, certain determinant elements in returning, which could be understood as strictly of a private nature - family networks, extended family bonds, friendship networks, etc. - must be linked to the macro-context of return, and therefore analyzed and incorporated into the design and implementation of public return and reintegration policies, programmes and services.

In order to ensure a sustainable return process with positive effects for migrants, their families and local development for host societies, return policies should ensure return is of a voluntary basis thus ensuring a high degree of preparation prior to the process.

From this perspective, lessons learned from Ecuador's return plans were taken into consideration for the drafting of the National Equality Agenda for Human Mobility 2013 – 2017. This agenda is a planning instrument that establishes guidelines for the formulation of sectoral and inter-sectoral public policies for all national entities and at all levels of government (including local authorities) for management of human mobility.

The Agenda therefore includes objectives related to return migrants that include:

- accompany Ecuadorians who have already returned and to their families, in the process of their social, cultural and economic reintegration into family and community spheres, incorporating them in all public institutions mechanisms for comprehensive care;
- promoting the right to education for Ecuadorian migrants on their return;
- implementing and strengthening comprehensive programmes for economic reintegration of Ecuadorians who have returned, so as to ensure, among other things, creation of decent jobs (salaried or independent labour), access to finance and credit systems and productive investment, and affirmative action regarding tax duties.

Return from a gender perspective

Country/Region/Territory

Ecuador



Date/Period

2005/2013



Actors

- Returnee migrant women



Source

- Herrera, Gioconda, **FLASCO Ecuador**, "El retorno a Ecuador desde España: estrategias económicas, socio-familiares y afectivas para una integración transnacional"
- Vega, Cristina, **FLASCO Ecuador**, "El retorno más allá del mito del emprendedor. Estrategias económicas, familiares y afectivas en el regreso de hombres y mujeres a Ecuador desde España" (2013)
- Prieto, Victoria, Koolhaas, Martin, "Retorno reciente y empleo: los casos de Ecuador, México y Uruguay" (2013)



Story



Since 2008, in the midst of the financial crisis faced by the main countries of destination of Ecuadorian migration, the number of people who have returned to Ecuador has continued to grow and has been analyzed in academic studies aiming to assess the link between return, employability and development, as well as examine the implications and challenges of return processes faced by migrant women that are generated by gender inequality.

Various studies (both published and in-progress), concur that in Ecuador returnees are less likely to enter the labor market effectively than the local population in general and employment rate for women returnees is 0.17 times lower than that of their male counterparts.³

³ Prieto y Koolhaas (2013). Op. cit. p. 352.

Two additional key elements on the impact of gender patterns on return experiences are evident. First, women migrants who have returned go back to a gender order that has not changed since they left their home communities. Preliminary findings from qualitative studies show that women who have returned see their economic and financial autonomy diminished, not only because of the difficulties they face in finding a job, but also because they must re-enroll in a patriarchal logic according to which men (parents, spouses, siblings, etc.) determine the orientation of household expenditure. They also have to reinsert themselves local socio-cultural regulatory structures (in order to feel part of the community again), in which women occupy a position of subordination to men.

The second element indicates that women who have returned also experience gender-based division of labor at home related mainly to women traditionally taking up domestic and child-raising duties and which subsequently limits their ability to enter the formal labour market.



Lessons learned

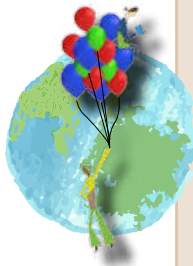
There is a need for a renegotiation of gender roles and women's position within the power structures of the communities to which Ecuadorian women return. This would allow women to build a network that supports and facilitates their reintegration process into the local labor market as well as their psycho-social reintegration.

These are also elements that should guide policies aimed at creating equal opportunities for women's economic inclusion.

Cooperation agreement between the Morazán Local Economic Development Agency and the American Transnational Salvadoran Communities

Country/Region/Territory

El Salvador



Date/Period

2014



Actors

- ADEL Morazán
Local Economic
Development Agency
Foundation
- American Transnational Salvadoran
Communities (COTSA)



Source

- ADEL Morazán/COTSA Framework
Cooperation Agreement



Story



It is estimated that more than 2.5 million Salvadorians are living abroad; due to family and friendship networks, the majority of them have managed to establish themselves in the United States, with those states with greatest presence of Salvadorians being California, New York and Washington.

In recent years, the significant role that Salvadorians abroad can play in their communities of origin has increasingly been acknowledge by main state and non-state actors.

Morazán is a Department of El Salvador and is characterized by strong migratory flows and by the well-established diaspora. In order to strengthen these relations and promote the work of the American Transnational Salvadoran Communities Organization (COTSA) being implemented in Morazán that a Twinning Agreement

was signed in 2011 between the Department of Morazán and Montgomery County in Maryland in the United States as a direct result of joint management efforts by Morazán residents in Montgomery

An essential actor behind ensuring the signature of this agreement was the Morazán Local Economic Development Agency (ADEL Morazán) which carried out all the necessary procedures.

The objective of this agreement is to *“contribute to strengthening the development of people, improving their income and their quality of life, by providing capacity building, technical assistance and financing processes for implementation of profitable productive and business initiatives, as well as in resource management processes”*.

In March, 2014, the director of ADEL Morazán went on a visit to Washington to present the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) to the members of COTSA to encourage their participation in the initiative to be executed in El Salvador through ADEL Morazán and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The JMDI projects aim to support inter-agency collaboration to initiate the Young Entrepreneurs Programme which is contributing to building a better future for youth, by means of the creation of alliances and the generation of opportunities for self-employment, taking advantage of the endogenous potential of seven municipalities of the Department of Morazán (Pequín, San Fernando, Sociedad, Yamabal, Yoloaiquin, Lolotiquillo and Guatajiagua).

Subsequent to the aforementioned meeting and also in May 2014, the Framework Agreement for Cooperation between ADEL Morazán and COTSA was signed. The main objective of this agreement is to establish cooperation alliances to enhance the effectiveness of the initiatives of young people being supported within the framework of the JMDI project through technical assistance and support to manage of funds.

To achieve this, COTSA has a training centre in Guatajiagua (Municipality of Morazán) where technical–vocational training is offered to youth of the municipality. ADEL Morazán has then taken in some young people who have been trained by COTSA and strengthened their capacities further with training in entrepreneurship and business among other things. In addition they have been supported with the equipment and tools needed to start up their own companies. Through these actions, alternatives to irregular migration are offered with the creation of companies headed by youth, generating income for them and contributing to local development in their municipalities.

The cooperation agreement has a duration of two years, which can be extended if both parties agree.



Lessons learned

Inter-agency territorial-level coordination with partners like ADEL Morazán and COTSA (transnational partner) allows for the articulation and support needed for the strengthening of planned development projects. In this case, these projects are directed at generating better living conditions for the youth, ensuring that they can participate actively in the generation of income for themselves, their families and their communities through businesses and cooperatives.

The Story of Hugo Salinas

Country/Region/Territory

El Salvador



Date/Period

February 2015



Actors

- Hugo Salinas



Sources

- Interview carried out with Mister Hugo Salinas, Thursday, February 12, 2014 at 11:30 am in Intipucá, La Unión.
- United Nations Development Programme and Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo Foundation (FUNDAUNGO): *"El estado del desarrollo humano en los municipios de El Salvador"*, (2009)



Story



Intipucá is one of the municipalities that make up the Department of La Unión in El Salvador, with a population of 7,567 inhabitants and a surface area of 94.49 km², consisting of two cantons and 14 hamlets.

Intipucá is one of the municipalities with the highest emigration flows, mainly to the United States. Indeed, the Municipality raised a monument to celebrate the Intipucan emigrant. The first of these journeys was made by Ms. Elba Salinas and Mr. Sigfredo Chávez, who decided as a couple to migrate to the U.S. capital of Washington D.C.

Intipucá has also been the focus of many media and news pieces looking at the culture of migration in Intipucá whereby the majority of its residents have emigrated, leaving mainly women and the elderly behind.

One of the important aspects as regards Intipucá is that among the candidates that put themselves forward for the position of Mayor in the municipal elections for the period 2009 to 2012 was a previous emigrant – Hugo Salinas – who after more than 20 years living abroad in Arlington, Virginia, USA, decided to run for mayor in order to contribute to the development of his municipality of origin.

Mr. Salinas first emigrated in 1992 and went on to found the “United for Intipucá–USA Foundation”, in conjunction with other friends to organise and bring together the Salvadorian community in the US.

The organisers of the Foundation were elected by popular vote and it would hold community activities, raffles, donations, parties, excursions, meals and the election of the Intipucá patron saint festivities from among the daughters of Intipucan residents abroad, among other activities.

Everything collected went to supporting development aid in El Salvador. In Intipucá they worked with a local organization that was in charge of the development and implementation of the projects such as support for the Cultural Centre, extension of the land for the cemetery, aid to churches, supporting the municipal stadium, providing school equipment and economic support for the ill.

When Mr. Salinas managed to obtain US residence he began to travel to Intipucá. During these visits he was able to observe the problems of his municipality and that motivated him to participate in politics and eventually to running for Mayor in the 2006 election campaign though lost.

Undeterred, in 2008 he decided to run again Mayor and won for the period of 2009-2012.

His administration focused on the proper management of municipal funds and, despite encountering an indebted town administration, he modernized tax collection and carried out changes in the municipal rates to go from the old colones to dollars as was the case elsewhere in the country.⁴

Having managed to refinance the town administration's debt, he then sought to carry out improvements in infrastructure in line with the needs of all the communities of the village. To ensure efforts responded to real needs, he held open town council meetings⁵ where citizens could participate and share their concerns.

Mr. Salinas was able to involve the Salvadorans abroad in various municipal development projects. He established the mechanism of municipal ambassadors, who were Intipucans abroad that served to link the communities abroad to development processes in the municipality. This was institutionalised by means of a municipal agreement.

One of the disadvantages faced during his period as Mayor was that due to being a migrant, many people thought that he did not understand the needs of the village. Nonetheless, he showed that despite having lived abroad for a long time, he has always kept abreast of developments in Intipucá and its needs through the Foundation and his many visits.

Along the same lines, other compatriots like him who have resided abroad have also returned and ran for municipal posts. Examples include Mr. Edgardo Zelaya, who has been the Mayor of El Carmen in La Unión since 2009; Mr. Inmar Barrera, from Washington, D.C., Mayor of San Alejo in La Unión, who won the elections in the period from 2009 to 2012 and 2012 to 2015; Mr. José Alvarado, businessperson from the United States and resident in the Washington, D.C. area, has put himself forward as a candidate for the post of Deputy for the 2015–2018 period.

At present Mister Hugo Salinas is once again running for Mayor, for the period from 2015 to 2018.

⁴ In 2001 El Salvador adopted the USD as the official currency in place of the former *colón*.

⁵ *Cabildo abierto* is a public hearing periodically scheduled by municipal authority; it usually works as a public accountability mechanism.

The BaLinkBayan Network

Country/Region/Territory

Philippines



Date/Period

Starting 2012



Actors

- Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)



Story



One of the critical roles of both Philippine national and local governments at present is to widen and sustain the enabling environment that will facilitate and maximize migration for development. An example of this is the BaLinkBayan programme www.balinkbayan.gov.ph, which is a one-stop-portal for Filipino diaspora engagement whose title is a play on the Filipino words for 'Returning Filipino Overseas Worker'. Such engagement ranges from diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, diaspora philanthropy, skills, expertise and technology transfer and exchange. In the framework of exponentially increasing technology and information overload, migrants need reliable, comprehensive and up-to-date information on matters ranging from investing in their hometowns through remitting of finances to sharing their

knowledge and competences. The website will act as a “gateway” for overseas Filipinos to access valuable business and investment information back in their hometowns.

Still an ongoing process, the portal at present contains three sections: Start a business; Donate and volunteer; and Access government online services. The latter has two sub-sections, namely business permit licensing, and real property tax queries.

Under the BaLinkBayan, the Naga City website enables online transactions for OFs who will be able to download their real property statements of account and directly pay their taxes.. Moreover, the provision of a menu of priority city projects that they can choose to support, such as education or scholarships and the ongoing revitalization of the Naga River, is currently under construction

In the province of Ilocos Norte, an online business permit query is already available in the portal.



Lessons learned

While the portal is the first technologically-based initiative that links diaspora to hometowns, it is continuing to evolve in terms of features, outreach and efficiency. It has not undergone any impact evaluation or assessment to determine how effective or responsive it is to the needs of the stakeholders.

Batangas-Rome twinning agreement

Country/Region/Territory

Philippines



Date/Period

April 2009 – June 2011



Actors

- **Philippines:**
 - Provincial Government of Batangas
 - Philippines through the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO)
 - Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative Inc. (Atikha Inc.).
- **Rome:**
 - Provincial Government of Rome, Italy
 - Filipino Women's Council (FWC)
 - Comitato Internazionale Sviluppo per lo Popoli (CISP).



Story



From April 2009 to April 2011 a European Commission – United Nations Joint Migration Initiative (EC-UN JMDI) project “*Maximizing the Gains and Minimizing the Social Cost of Overseas Migration in the Philippines*” was implemented by Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative Inc. (Atikha Inc), Filipino Women's Council (FWC) and the Italian International Committee for Human Development (Comitato Internazionale Sviluppo per lo Popoli or CISP).

The project enhanced the capacity of the migrants in Italy and of the families left behind in the Philippines to contribute to their own, their families and their territories' development by promoting financial literacy, savings and investments among migrants and families. The project worked on the distinct migration route between the province of Batangas and Italy.

To maximize the potential of this migration corridor, Atikha, FWC and CISP explored the possibility of a twinning agreement between the provinces of Batangas and Rome.

FWC and CISP had initial discussions with the Governor of Rome, Nicola Zingaretti, who expressed openness and enthusiasm for the partnership. Atikha discussed the idea with the Governor of Batangas, Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto, who was equally positive about the partnership.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was then drafted and circulated by electronic mail and presented to both parties in January 2011.

To further explore the concept and finalize the details, Atikha, FWC and CISP organized an International Conference on Migration in Rome on April 15, 2011, as the concluding activity of the project. Mr. Meynard Melo, the Provincial Planning and Development Officer, represented Governor Vilma Santos-Recto in the conference and Gov. Recto had her message relayed to the migrants in Italy and the province of Rome via audio-visual presentation. Together with Mr. Melo, the top three migrant-sending municipalities in the province of Batangas were also represented.

Three days after the conference, the LGU of Batangas and Province of Rome met and discussed the arrangements for the twinning. Mr. Melo assured the group that he would convey the discussion to Gov. Recto and request a final date of the Signing of the MoU which was targeted for sometime in October 2011.

After the conference there were exchanges of communication to all parties, including enhancements to the draft MoU. Mr. Melo also worked on the internal processes and consultations with the Legal Office of the Provincial Government.

The following areas of cooperation were defined under the agreement:

- Promotion of private investment from Rome in the Province of Batangas, with special focus on the tourist sector;
- Promotion of investment and philanthropy in the Province of Batangas from Filipino migrants residing in Rome and development of a synchronized programme that encourages collection of remittances of migrants in Italy towards an investment and development project in Batangas that will create jobs and economic opportunities in their communities;
- Promotion of knowledge exchanges and study tours among officials and key staff on issues of common concern such as:
 - integration of migrants in the new environment;
 - re-integration of former voluntary returned migrants;
 - up-grading the skills of migrants and potential migrants.
- Provision of social services for migrants and their families in Rome and Batangas such as:
 - projects that will facilitate communication and information between migrants and their families;
 - joint development of country-specific pre-departure orientation in Batangas for prospective migrants, including their children, leaving for Italy;
 - joint development of post-arrival orientation in Italy and other social services to facilitate integration of Filipino migrants;
 - setting-up of OFW centres in municipalities in Batangas with high concentrations of migrants from Italy;
 - joint development of a community-based reintegration programme for migrants in Rome who will return and reintegrate in the next 5-10 years;
 - joint development of a programme for second-generation migrants.

The Office of Governor Zingaretti awaited the final date of Signing of MoU. Unfortunately Mr. Melo passed away in June 2011. Atikha attempted to push this through under the new leadership but this was not successful given that Rome also had newly elected Governor.



Lessons learned

Although the Batangas-Rome twinning arrangement was not signed, it is still based on an excellent concept and joint work that will benefit both province of origin and province of destination.

The concept was almost realized but external circumstances affected the partnership.

The initiative could materialize if:

- there is a Committee on Twinning of the Provinces that engages other government and private sector offices and is not dependent on individuals;
- the stakeholders first secure the legal mandate or resolution on the Signing of MoU;
- the local chief executives still have time to sign the agreement within their term, given that timing of the agreement is very crucial.

Generating local migration data through a Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)

Country/Region/Territory

Philippines



Date/Period

Since 2002



Actors

- Community-Based Monitoring Network
- As of 8th October 2014, 73 provinces, 862 municipalities and 69 cities, covering a total of 23,276 barangays in the Philippines, have already adopted the CBMS and are at varying stages of implementing the system



Story



The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) was launched in the Philippines in 2002 under the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustments Policies (MIMAP) Project supported by the International Development Research Centre. CBMS-Philippines is part of the global CBMS Network that operates in 15 developing countries.

The latest CBMS household profile questionnaire is a comprehensive tool that has 166 items encompassing demography, migration, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), education and literacy, community and political participation, economic activity, nutrition, characteristics of household members, health, and other aspects.

Early versions of the household questionnaire already had migration-related questions, but the latest version incorporated questions designed to obtain more detailed information on OFW household members. Below are the migration and OFW-related questions included in the survey:

- How long has X been staying in the barangay (village)?
- Where was X's last place of residence before staying in the barangay?
- How many members are there in the household including OFWs?
- Is X an OFW?
- In which country does X work?
- Other sources of income:
 - Remittances of OFWs
 - Other cash receipts, gift, support, relief and other income from abroad including pensions, retirement, workmen's compensation, dividends from investments, etc.

More detailed questions pertaining to migration are planned for incorporation in subsequent versions of the questionnaire. CBMS also targets 100 percent adoption nationwide.



Lessons learned

As a tool, the usefulness of the CBMS in generating disaggregated data makes it an excellent complement to the national poverty monitoring system by facilitating implementation of targeted poverty reduction programmes with its household- and individual-level data. Localized data obtained through the CBMS helps enrich the quality of local governance by providing a sound basis for more informed planning and programme formulation.

Mainstreaming migration into local development planning in Naga City

Country/Region/Territory

Philippines



Date/Period

2010 and ongoing



Actors

- City Government of Naga
- City Advisory Committee on Overseas Filipinos (CACOF)



Story



At the local level, the experience of Naga City (in Camarines Sur in Region V), encouraged by the EU-funded Migrants' Associations and Philippine Institutions for Development (MAPID) Project in 2010 and with the help of IOM in 2011 in mainstreaming migration and development (M&D) into its local development plans has been successful overall. IOM selected Naga to pilot a project to mainstream migration issues into local development planning based the city's good governance traditions and the special opportunity presented by having its former mayor as the newly appointed Interior and Local Government Secretary.

Through the creation of a multi-sectoral technical working group based on an Executive Order issued by the City Mayor, the city laid down the foundation, along with the necessary mechanisms

and structures, for facilitating the mainstreaming of M&D in their City Development Plan (CDP) 2011-2020. This was carried out through a participatory process of consultation, identification of priorities and validation with key stakeholders. Then, a multi-stakeholder City Advisory Committee on Overseas Filipinos (CACOF) was created through an Executive Order to ensure the momentum generated by the inclusion of M&D in the revised CDP was sustained.

It is within this context that the Local Development Investment Programme (LDIP) was carried out with the incorporation of the following migration-related priority projects: (a) Establishment of an Overseas Filipino and Land Administration One-Stop Shop within the City Hall; (b) Operationalization of “Anduyog Fund” as a local vehicle for diaspora philanthropy; and (c) Strengthening of the Naga City Overseas Filipino Federation. All of these priority projects are currently being supported by the J Joint Migration and Development Initiative.

Also with the support of JMDI, from April 2014 to January 2016, CGN will be helping around 15 provinces, cities and municipalities in Bicol to replicate the CGN experience in mainstreaming and institutionalizing M&D within the region.

Lessons learned



The Philippines has 17 administrative regions based on geography and culture. This covers 17 regional development plans (RPDs) of which only one (Region IV-B) has no migration-related provision. The provisions vary but are focused on (i) recognizing remittances as essential for the local economy, (ii) the need to provide more protection to migrants, especially children left behind, and (iii) treatment of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) as a vulnerable sector. One RDP has a separate section on OFWs (Region XI or Davao region) while one provides for OFW reintegration and entrepreneurship

programmes (Region V or Bicol region which includes Naga City).

The following observations stood out from the M&D mainstreaming effort of Naga City:

- **Migration is both a national and local issue.** National governments often see the need to craft policies for M&D at the macro level, but it is clearly also a local issue. In Naga, for instance, one of every four households has an OF member, and everyone has an OF as a relative. At local level, therefore, M&D assumes a human face.
- **There is a limited local capacity to mainstream M&D which marks a key constraint.** Many actors, including local governments, are at a loss as to what to do to manage migration for development. As Naga's experience showed, while the intention was clearly there, limited local capacity constrained the CPDO's ability to move forward. Fortunately, the intervention of the IOM and then the JMDI have filled that gap.
- **Data is crucial for political will and tailored response:** In Naga's case, the City Mayor initially set out with some skepticism about the project. His perception then reflected the conventional worldview of OFWs – that they are better off, and so do not need government attention. Yet when data came with a richer, more accurate description of the challenges facing the local OFWs sector, he saw them in a different light, demanding strong local involvement.
- **Knowledge sharing for replication and endorsement at the national level:** Good practice-driven policymaking is critical to ensure the experience of Naga, will provide the needed templates and guidelines for appropriate national policies supporting local M&D mainstreaming. (For example, the

Department of the Interior and Local Government committed itself to including the outputs of the JMDI Bicol project in its Comprehensive Development Plan.)

- **Empowered, enlightened local governments can facilitate greater coordination between local actors.**

In the Philippine setting, weak coordination between key national government agencies is a recurring theme. By addressing M&D concerns locally, the emerging experiences in the Philippines exemplified by Naga can provide an alternative approach. In decentralized systems, strong local chief executives can bring about the desired state of more effective and efficient coordination between all actors involved.

Migrants Resource Centre in Batangas

Country/Region/Territory

Philippines



Actors

- **Provincial Local Government of Batangas:**
 - Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO)
 - Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO)
 - Provincial Cooperative Development Office (PCDO)
 - Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO)
 - Provincial Tourism Office (PTO)
- **National Government:**
 - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
 - Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and attached agencies
 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)
 - Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)
 - Technical Education and Skills Development Administration (TESDA)
 - Department of Education (DepED-Division of Batangas)



Civil Society Organizations/ Private Sectors:

- Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives Inc. (Atikha, Inc.)
- Lipa Archdiocesan Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People (LACCMi)
- Soro-soro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC)

Date/Period

December 2008 - present



Story



The Batangas Province One-Stop Migration Resource Centre was initiated as a result of the advocacy of Civil Society Organizations such as Atikha, an NGO working in the province on migration.

Atikha discussed, the need to establish a migration center in 2008 with the local chief executive, Governor Vilma Santos Recto, which could assist in addressing the social cost of migration and tap the development potential of migrants.

The province of Batangas has a very large number of migrants. Aside from Atikha, the migrants' desk of the Archdiocese of Lipa is also lobbying for programmes and services for migrants and families. The local chief executive assigned the Provincial Social Welfare Office to discuss the requisites for establishment of the centre.

Atikha had had previous experience in establishing the migrant centre in San Pablo City, Laguna, and was thus able to provide guidance on the process and the legal, technical, financial and physical requisites for its establishment.

The provincial planning body was also assigned to assist in planning for the province's migration programmes. Various activities in planning and capacity-building were conducted to facilitate the establishment of the centre, namely:

- A forum with various migration stakeholders on migration issues and relevant intervention that needs implementation
- A forum of municipal social welfare officers on the social cost of migration and the establishment of migrant centers/migrant desk at municipal level
- Strategic planning for establishing programmes and services for migrants and families of various migration stakeholders who will assist in their implementation

The following activities were conducted to ensure that the One-Stop Migration Resource Center was mainstreamed and sustainable:

- Organizing of a Batangas Migration and Development Council composed of various agencies and organizations from the national and local government, Civil Society Organizations and the private sector which lobbied for establishment of the centre and leveraged their resources to be able to implement comprehensive programmes for migrants and families
- Securing the legal mandate to establish the centre with an annual budget through a provincial ordinance
- Preparation of the physical centre which will serve as the hub for information and services for the migrants

The soft launch of the Batangas Migration Resource Centre took place in January 2010 and was officially launched to the public in September 2011.

The setting up of the Batangas One-Stop Migration Resource Centre was able to benefit from the capacity-building provided by Atikha to local government officials through the following training events:

- Migration and Development Forum;
- Setting-up of Migration Resource Centres;
- Case Management;
- Financial Literacy training of trainers.

Batangas is one of the provinces in the Philippines capable of implement and coordinate its social and economic services not only at provincial level but also at municipal level. To date, it now has eight migration desks operating at municipal level. The capacity-building training provided by the provincial government in setting-up migration programmes and services had already been held in the 20 top sending OFW municipalities.

The Migrant Resource Centre was institutionalized through a Provincial Ordinance No. 6 in 2012 and allocated One Million Pesos (USD 22,222.00) to its implementation per annum.



Lessons learned

- MRCs should be established in provinces and municipalities with high concentrations of overseas Filipinos to ensure buy-in of local government and other relevant stakeholders;
- MRCs should provide comprehensive services, not only social services but also economic services for migrants and families to encourage migrants and migration stakeholders to sponsor and support the center;
- MRCs should not wait for clients to visit the centre but should also have outreach programmes in communities and schools with high concentrations of overseas Filipinos.

- MRCs at provincial level should be able to provide capacity-building to enable municipal government to implement its services at the grassroots level.
- The key to sustainability of the MRCs includes the following:
 - The presence of selected champions (key popular or high level persons) inside the provincial local government from the various departments involved in social welfare, planning and legislation, who are able to mobilize resources and mainstream the intervention of migrants and families into local policy planning
 - The presence of a legal mandate with a specified budget.
 - The existence of a multi-stakeholder partnership.
 - The presence of NGOs such as Atikha with concrete social and economic programmes and services and steady engagement with local governments.
 - Involvement of private sector bodies such as Soro-soro Ibaba Development Cooperative with concrete investments and business opportunities on offer to migrants and families.

The complicated stories of returning Filipino seafarers

Country/Region/Territory

Philippines



Date/Period

N/A



Actors

- Filipino seafarers



Story



Filipino seafarers are typically male workers who work for a minimum of six months (or an average of 9-12 months) aboard shipping vessels that travel on the high seas. Supplying more than 20% of the world's maritime workforce, the Philippines remains the top resource country for seafarers, who constitute more than a quarter of the 1.5 million overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who have helped maintain the stability and growth of the Philippine economy over the years. Indeed remittances from sea-based OFWs alone reached a record high of US\$ 5.21 billion which accounts for 22.8% of total remittances for 2013.

Factors such as low labour costs, competence in the English language, and better work habits contribute to the high demand for Filipino seafarers. Hence the

Philippines is expected to supply this demand for seafarers globally for the next ten years.

However several studies have shown that the seafaring occupation has a higher mortality rate compared to other working groups and encounters more varied issues and concerns in terms of working conditions, environment and family situations. The work profile of seafarers is diverse – some are ship captains or maritime engineers who earn as much as US\$ 10,000/month while others are cabin crew earning US\$ 300/month.

They also work under volatile service contracts, with six months as the minimum, up to an average of 9-12 months without any assurance of being employed after their contract, either immediately or within the next six months. Without immediate employment they can be idle for six months, with their savings from previous work eventually becoming fully expended.

In addition, Philippine laws (in accordance with international maritime standards) require that a seafarer should complete specific training or certification prior to the next boarding. Some seafarers complain that their vacation time of one month (for those assured of an immediate employment after their last contract) is spent complying with the maritime certifications rules.

These complicated conditions confronting Filipino seafarers, aggravated by personal issues such as having several family members or health problems, require specific, responsive “return and reintegration” policies and programmes for them, from both national and local institutions.

There are existing private sector programmes, mostly from the large placement and manning agencies, which support returning seafarers with health benefits, free training and certification, and loan facilities with minimal interest rates. Seafarers and their organizations, however, demand a client-based return and reintegration program that reflects their varying issues and needs.



Lessons learned

From this story, it is clear that ensuring knowledge and information gathering of the specific profiles, conditions and concerns of return migrants allows for a more tailored, and therefore effective, response to return migration.

Investments and transfers of know-how from migrants for the revival of mixed farming in the Figuig Oasiss

Country/Region/Territory

Morocco / Eastern Region /
Urban Municipality of Figuig



Date/Period

2013 / 2016



Actors

- The Municipality of Figuig
- The Association of Agricultural Cooperatives of Figuig
- The Federation of Figuig Associations in France



Story



Situated in a semi-desert area in a region that is still not very well endowed with infrastructures, the Oasis of Figuig is known for its history of caravans, its rich cultural and historical heritage and its magnificent palm grove that has long harboured many crops. Thus, up until the 1960s, residents were relatively self-sufficient in food security. The Oasis has no less than 13 varieties of dates, among which the Aziza and Boufqous Gharas dates,. The former is a variety that is endemic to Figuig, fetching a relatively high price (up to EUR 15 a kilo at present in Morocco) because of its quality and its added nutritional value.

However, the closing of the border with Algeria and the recent periods of severe drought, combined with property inheritance problems, have led to the neglect of agricultural activities and to a

growing emigration of people from Figuig. There are now almost the same number of emigrants outside Figuig than those residing there. It is within this context that the palm grove – previously the lung and pantry of the local population – was heavily impacted by the proliferation of Bayoud, a parasite linked to the lack of maintenance of the plots of land.

Historically the immigration phenomenon in Figuig has seen several phases. The Figuiguis emigrated towards the large Moroccan towns (internal migration) and subsequently were oriented towards the countries of the Maghreb (Algeria and Tunisia) prior to turning towards Europe, notably to France after the 1940s and 1950s. At the beginning of the 20th century the population of Figuig was estimated at between 10,000 and 12,000 inhabitants. Today the town has 12,900 inhabitants, while 11,000 of its citizens live in Ile de France, principally located in Seine-Saint-Denis. This surprising demographic phenomenon illustrates the strong migration dynamic and tradition of this territory.

In general migrants, from Figuig would work in the construction sector. There was always someone who remained in the country to take care of the agricultural plots.

Around the 1980s, emigration for reasons of family reunification multiplied. Although family reunification made it possible for the separated members of a family to come together, there were harmful effects on the maintenance of the plots, already the victims of splintering due to inheritance through lack of interest in farm work.



Lessons learned

Immigrants are at one and the same time development actors and its destroyers, which is paradoxical but is explained by the pernicious effect of the financial transfers that are not directed to productive – in particular agricultural – investments. In fact many young people remain idle awaiting migrants' transfers, and the appeal of easy money has let bad habits arise among the local communities, in particular passivity and looking for handouts. Farming is no longer "profitable" for them. Many now only think about emigrating at all costs.

Women are also victims of this situation. Previously they contributed to the household budget through weaving and other handicraft products from the palm groves. Women have now also become dependent on transfers from the migrants.

The progressive neglect of the plots of land has allowed development of the Bayoud virus (vascular fusarium), which eliminates 4.25% of the date palms each year in Figuig.

According to a basic model for determination of the time horizon for the irreversible extinction of the Figuig palm grove, developed by an economist, Professor Khiati:

In 60 years there will be as many palm trees as residents in Figuig (12,000 souls and palm trees!!!), which is to say that up to the year 2071 there will be more palm trees than people, and from the year 2073 the situation will be inverted: more people than productive date palms not affected by Bayoud.

Internal and international migration and the neglect of the plots of land that has followed have had a real negative impact on the environment and already pose a threat to the future of the palm grove.

Migration, territories and development in Morocco

Country/Region/Territory

Morocco, Souss Massa Region



- The National Agency for Employment and Skills Promotion (ANAPEC)
- The National Social Security Fund (CNSS)
- The Europe Morocco Platform for Migration, Development, Citizenship and Democracy (MDCD)

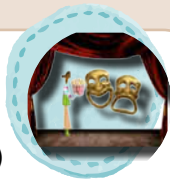
Date/Period

2014/2016



Actors

- Migrations & développement (M&D)
- The Regional Council of Souss Massa
- The Provincial Councils of Tiznit and Tinghir
- The Divisions of the Local Governments of Tiznit, Taroudannt and Tinghir
- The Local Governments of Ammelal, Tafraoute, Arbiaa Sahel, Oum El Guerdan, Tinzert, Azaghar N'irs, Taliouine, Siroua, Ouislate and Tinghir;
- The Agency for International Cooperation and Local Development in the Mediterranean (ACIM)
- The Development Agency for East Morocco (ADO)
- The Regional Investment Centre of the Souss Massa Drâa Region (CRI)



Story



Following its creation in 1986, the Migrations & Développement association (M&D) has been engaged in integrated participatory local development initiatives in Southern Morocco aiming to improve the situation of the residents in rural areas and mitigate rural-urban migration by mobilizing Moroccans living abroad, those from the region and the local actors.

Within the framework of a project for support and assistance to retirees, the better management of the social

entitlements of retired migrants has become one of M&D's concerns. This project was funded by the *Caisse d'Epargne* Foundation and has made possible the drawing up of a study in the majority of the provinces of the Souss Massa region to identify the number of retirees in need of support. Subsequently around one hundred cases have been dealt with in the offices (still in operation) at Development House in Taliouine.

Looking to pursue this dynamic and disseminate this experience, M&D undertook the **creation of reception and guidance offices for migrants** in the partner municipalities: Taliouine, Agadir Melloul, Tafrout, Arbâa Sahel, Ammelne, Ouisselsate, Siroua, Tinghir, Boumalen and Kelâat Mgouna – and the **training of the staff responsible for management of these offices** to:

- improve the economic conditions of the elderly Moroccans living abroad and of their families in Morocco;
- facilitate access for migrants to their social entitlements in the local offices where they live;
- contribute, in collaboration with the Moroccan and French health and old age insurance funds, to the development of a reception, information and support network for retired former Moroccan migrants and their families in Morocco, allowing them to get access to their social entitlements (retirement and care).

These actions likewise fall within the framework of the project entitled "Migration, territories and development", supported by the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) and implemented by the UNDP in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and financed by the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.



Lessons learned

A report issued by the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs (IGAS, France) reveals that a considerable number of Moroccan retirees have not asserted their rights, be it to retirement or pensions, due to not having requested them, or to getting access to them months and even years later due to their delay in requesting them.

This is a context in which many former Moroccan immigrant workers back in the country who had not asserted family reunification rights are unaware of their vested rights with the European pension funds, and encounter major difficulties in their relations with these bodies to receive their pensions and reconstitute their work history. Following their deaths, their widows and children likewise find themselves in a critical socio-economic situation and with no entitlements.

In 2007, the assessment and experimental work done by M&D with reception centres and the mechanism for mobilization in the rural municipalities, allowed for an in-depth understanding of the cases most often encountered in Morocco, as well as the importance of supporting the fittest of the elderly migrants to get involved in the life of their territory of origin.

In total there are 138 cases that have been dealt with within this reception office, out of around 200 identified. Between 2008 and 2012, 72 files were resolved, as were 66 between 2013 and 2014.

In February 2013, a French parliamentary mission for information on elderly immigrants announced findings on the defence of the rights and freedoms of citizens as regards the administration and the struggle against discrimination.

Numerous obstacles are observed, regarding:

- access to care;
- access to social entitlements;
- maintenance of rights, avoiding a situation of a break in pensions.

The emigrants even lose their rights when they return to the country, as no one is able to provide them with the right information to put together their administrative file. M&D has been able to create trust with the rural municipalities, in work at local level that has allowed it to convince the municipalities to take up these issues and in this way integrate these elderly migrants into local life as fully-fledged citizens.

The municipalities involved in the project offer a service to the migrant citizens and their families, who often live in isolated areas where public services for social entitlements are non-existent.

Through this action the local governments contribute to the bringing together of the local administration with those it administers to for more effective service delivery to retired and or elderly return migrants.

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