



DIALOGUE ON MEDITERRANEAN TRANSIT MIGRATION (MTM)

STRENGTHENING AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN DIASPORA POLICY
THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE
(AMEDIP)

**AMEDIP Workshop on
North-South Cooperation in
Migration and Development**

Bern, Switzerland, 23-24 April 2013

Background Paper

Project funded by:



1. North-South Cooperation for M&D in Times of Crisis

In the relationship that connects the 'so-called North' to the 'so called South' via international cooperation, Migration and Development (M&D) is a specific field that stresses the importance of – in overly simplified wordings - a bi-directional vector: from South to North, people move across borders, while on the opposite direction from North to South, different material and immaterial goods and initiatives are transferred: money in forms of financial remittances, people who wish to return temporarily/virtually/permanently, know-how, ideas, relationships and social capital defined in the literature as 'social remittances', community-projects, identities, etc.

M&D is the field whereby spontaneous transnational initiatives run by migrants, as well as programmes that put together different stakeholders and public policies are implemented, which simultaneously touch upon the developmental potential of migration and furthers the links between migrants' integration and their development activities¹.

Figures and facts show that as of 2009, more than 215 million people live outside their countries of birth for various reasons (economic, social, political, humanitarian, etc.), and over 700 million migrate within their countries (IOM, 2010)². Increasingly trends also show that migration occurs intra-regionally at the South-South level, transforming traditionally emigration countries into countries of immigration.

The last decade saw the growing interest and an optimistic attitude towards the M&D link, from both institutions and actors in the South as well as in the North, mostly in consideration of the fact that remittances went beyond the amounts of Official Development Aid (ODA)³, demonstrating their stability and a counter crisis effect⁴ (less volatile and pro-cyclical): remittance flows to the developing world in 2012 totalled \$406 billion, with an increase of 6.5% over the previous year, despite the current global economic weakness⁵.

Despite these positive trends in the M&D field, two opposite scepticisms are today at play and worthwhile mentioning. On the one hand, the administrations concerned with migration policy and development planning are not fully aware of the positive contribution of migrants to a country's development (economic, cultural, political etc.). On the other, due to the economic

¹ M&D has been interpreted for example as integrating migration issues in development policies, via topics such as remittances transfer, brain circulation and cooperation with diaspora organisations, while at the same time incorporating development aspects into migration policies by means of areas such as circular migration, return and reintegration, and institutional capacity building on migration management in countries of origin.

² IOM (2010) World Migration Report 2010, <http://www.publications.iom.int>

³ Remittances sent home by migrants to developing countries are three times the size of official development assistance and can have profound implications for development and human welfare (World Bank, 2012, Brief on Global Migration and Remittances, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationDevelopmentBrief19.pdf>)

⁴ Not in all geographic areas this growing trend holds true. In particular it has been noted that remittances are expected to remain flat to Europe and Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa regions, mainly because of the economic contractions in high-income European countries. Remittance flows to Europe and Central Asia are estimated at a virtually unchanged \$41 billion and \$31 billion to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2012, although both regions are projected to make a robust recovery in remittance flows in 2013. (WB, 2012)

⁵ Remittance flows are expected to continue growing and to reach \$615 billion by 2014, of which \$467 billion to developing countries (WB, 2012)

crisis, North-South Cooperation is severely questioned regarding its relevance and appropriateness by many governments and respective citizenries in different donor countries.

On the first point, sound research and evidence should clarify the positive as well as challenging contribution migration can achieve towards development, and more specifically towards actual Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This could help positioning migration into the post 2015 agenda⁶, advancing the discussion as to whether migration should become a specific MDG.

On the second scepticism, the argument put forward in this paper is to consider the economic crisis as turning point for:

- Redefining the objectives of a specific public policy field;
- Finding innovative ways in order to enlarge opportunities at the global level and to find new forms of development finance (including new partnerships/stakeholders/donors);
- Capitalizing on programmes/initiatives and policies that have worked; and
- Putting forward sound policies based on serious evaluations.

As a premise of this entire reasoning, it should be stressed that the economic crisis is challenging North-South Cooperation, calling for a transformative change that allows going beyond a donor-centred approach. While ODA must continue to be important, it will need to be used in a more focused and catalytic manner and to leverage other appropriate forms of development finance.

Migration experts from the MTM Dialogue Partner Countries will convene at the AMEDIP Workshop on North-South Cooperation for Migration and Development, where they will have the opportunity to reflect on challenges connected to North-South Cooperation and the link between M&D especially in times of crisis. Issues and questions put forward and hashed in the next paragraphs include: attention to innovations that need to be envisaged in the North-South Cooperation framework in times of crisis (new possible and strategic stakeholders to partner with, new approaches to explore, sectors to prioritise and coherent policies to implement), successful and less successful stories in the field of M&D in terms of policies and interventions to capitalize from, paradigm shifts to put forward, institutional interrelations, and possible triangulations to talk out.

⁶ Knoll, A. (2013) 'A challenging road ahead: International migration and the post-2015 agenda' in GREAT Insights, Volume 2, Issue 3, April

2. What shifts and transformations for a revised North-South cooperation framework for M&D?

In this section, the specific terms of the M&D paradigm shall be defined in order to obtain a better understanding of the objectives of this policy field. This exercise entails a better comprehension of the linkages between the integration of migrants and their development activities, and full awareness of the realistic role migrants can play in country-specific development also in the perspective of negotiating the role of migration in the post 2015 agenda. Secondly, this section will discuss ways for enlarging the levels of engagement within the M&D, to include also the local level. Finally, the relevance of policy coherence for fostering the positive triangulation simultaneously beneficial for countries of residence, of origin, and migrants themselves shall be highlighted.

Redefining the Terms of the Paradigm

Concerning the re-definition of the terms, it is key to explicit what is meant by development and to further unravel the role migration can play in development. As explicitly declared in the UNDP Human Development Report (2009) dedicated to human mobility, development - inspired by Amartya Sen's (1999)⁷ broader capabilities-focused perspective - is the process that 'promotes people's freedom to lead the lives they choose, recognizing mobility as an essential component of that freedom'⁸. The focus is on enhancing people's capabilities and thus opportunities, not just their income.

Regarding the role migrants - in policy terms referred as 'diasporas' - can play, while recognizing the great potential in contributing to development processes, individual migrants alone cannot solve more general contextual constraints such as endemic corruption, misguided macro-economic policies, insecure property rights, etc. Insofar migration should not be celebrated as 'self-help development from below' (de Haas, 2010)⁹, rather attention should in the first place be on structural constraints and the vital role of states in shaping favourable conditions for positive development impacts of migration to occur.

It is therefore fundamental to stress the importance of the more general development context in determining the extent to which the development potential of migration can be realised. Depending on this broader context, migration may enable people to retreat from, just as much as to engage and invest in, social, political and economic activities in origin countries. The role of states is thus central for contributing to the positive turn of development in origin countries, increasing trust in governments, and contributing to economic growth to take off. Under these conditions, migrants are likely to be among the first to recognize such new opportunities, reinforcing these positive trends through investing, circulating, and returning to their origin countries. Such mutually reinforcing migration-development processes have occurred in several

⁷ Sen, Amartya (1999) *Development as Freedom*, Anchor Books, New York

⁸ 'In other words, the ability to move is a dimension of freedom that is part of development—with intrinsic as well as potential instrumental value' in HDR (2009) *Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*, UNDP, NY, pp. 14-15, http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2009_EN_Complete.pdf

⁹ de Haas, Hein (2010) 'Migration and development: a theoretical perspective', in *International Migration Review*, 44 (1)

former emigration countries as diverse as Spain, Taiwan, South Korea, China, and, recently, Turkey (de Haas, 2010).

In this perspective, a concern about the appropriateness of the M&D link is put forward as well as a question regarding the need to shift the paradigm towards more Development for Migration. In this direction, a new responsibility is called upon countries of origin for them to set and implement their development priorities, strategic plans, within which afterwards call for migrants' contribution.

Expanding the Levels of Institutional Engagement, Including New Territorial Stakeholders

Local authorities have become increasingly active as players in development cooperation¹⁰, including M&D initiatives, addressing and acknowledging the linkages between the integration of migrants and their development activities¹¹. This is particularly true in countries where decentralised cooperation is vital, such as in Italy and in France for example, but it is a generalized trend and increasingly also true for countries of origin (Morocco or Senegal for example). The local dimension implies local authorities, as well as a plethora of actors/institutions that in the various territories 'here' in the North and 'there' in the South live and interact: migrants, trade unions, universities, the private sector, banks, foundations, NGOs, hospitals, etc. Within such schemes, a specific dialogue between local authorities involved in diaspora policy in different countries both in the North and in the South can take place with the aim of sharing knowledge.

Within the M&D paradigm, the rise of such new actors and stakeholders across and between territories can be further enhanced with the purpose of a) expanding the levels of institutional engagement within countries (national, regional, local) as well as between different countries (city-to city), b) differentiating donors and resources in times of crisis, c) establishing partnerships in the local territories, beyond classical NGOs, to include the private sector, chambers of commerce, universities, and research centres, foundations etc. In the case of the private sector it is clearly important to delimit the area and principles that guide development cooperation versus the internationalisation of SMEs, finding the correct linkages and synergies between these two domains.

Specifically on the role that local authorities can play within the M&D paradigm, a vertical cooperation within other levels of government and a horizontal cooperation between the government actors operating at the same level, for example between those working on M&D and those working on integration, could further enrich the understanding of these inter-linkages. Finally, at the operational level, to ensure appropriate effectiveness and sustainability in this

¹⁰ The EU in 2006 recognized officially in its' Commission Communication (2006): Local Authorities: Actors for Development, that '...local authorities (...) due to their proximity and territorial presence, as well as knowledge of local needs and expertise in traditional sectors conducive to poverty reduction – urbanisation, water and sanitation, assistance to vulnerable groups and poor populations in remote areas – LAs can participate greatly in maximising the effects of development assistance by bilateral and multilateral donor institutions'. See <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0626:FIN:EN:PDF>

¹¹ This has also been confirmed by a recent report of the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative. JMDI (2010): Lessons Drawn from the Experience of Local Authorities, http://www.migration4development.org/sites/m4d.emakina-eu.net/files/JMDI_Migration_to_Development_LA_report_July2010.pdf

policy area, both vertical and horizontal cooperation/partnerships occurring at the trans-national level should be placed within existing frameworks of regional or multilateral dialogue.

Policy Coherence for Positive Triangulation

In addition to challenges in creating interfaces between local and central levels mentioned above, coherence between different policy fields at the national level, and specifically on M&D within the countries' administration is often affected insofar as development cooperation is subordinated to migration interests, i.e. in the debate on and increasing applications of migration-related conditionality in development cooperation and since migration is still often considered as a challenge for the host countries. Switzerland represents a positive case whereby since 2011, the interrelationship between the migration and development policy agendas have benefitted from enhanced interdepartmental cooperation through the 'IMZ' ('Internationale Migrations-Zusammenarbeit') mechanism, ensuring a 'whole-of-government' approach to enhance policy coherence within the Swiss administration.

Lack of coherence results also at the EU level, whereby the European Commission's proposal to facilitate circular migration¹² can be interpreted as a way to limit the disadvantages of a permanent migration and its integration in the countries of residence. Furthermore, a clear conditionality clause is an integral part of the European Union's Mobility Partnerships¹³ - the EU's principle framework of bilateral cooperation to comprehensively address the migration issues with countries of origin and transit - linking mobility facilitation to readmission agreement in case of irregular migrants¹⁴.

Under these conditions and conditionality it can be complicated to find the balance and pursue a positive triangulation between countries of migrants' new residence in the North, countries of origin in the South, and migrants themselves.

An overall lack of cooperation between the authorities responsible for M&D among all countries exists, while it is a precondition in assuring overall policy coherence. On this specific theme, although all countries have committed to promote Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) at the various international levels (UN, EU) as well as in national policy discussions, there is quite some way to go to make overall migration policies more development-friendly.

Evidence shows that the individuals who are best able to pursue transnational lives are those who have secure residential status in both country of origin and country of destination, so that

¹² European Commission, On circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and third countries (COM [2007] 248 final, Brussels, May 16, 2007).

¹³ France and the Netherlands among others actively participate and promote this new instrument of cooperation on migration. Mobility partnerships have been signed with Moldova (2008), Cape Verde (2008), Georgia (2009), and Armenia (2011). The EU has started a process towards negotiating new Mobility Partnerships with other countries, including Tunisia and Morocco. The UK is negotiating the new Mobility Partnership with Ghana.

¹⁴ In fact the EU is in the first place interested in 'identifying novel approaches to improve the management of legal movements of people between the EU and third countries ready to make significant efforts to fight illegal migration' and secondly 'in addition to look at ways to facilitate circular migration, which will help EU Member States address their labour needs while exploiting potential positive impacts of migration on development and responding to the needs of countries of origin in terms of skill transfers and of mitigating the impact of brain drain' in European Commission, On circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and third countries (COM [2007] 248 final, Brussels, May 16, 2007).

they can travel back and forth without fear of losing status in either country. Dual citizenship is the most secure guarantee of such ability, but other forms of legal, permanent residency may confer similar flexibility. This situation is quite different from that of people who circulate, but not quite freely, according to the terms of a visa or contract that requires them to leave the country of destination after a specified period, with the obligation to return home but the possibility of a repeat sojourn. Their capabilities are limited, though still perhaps greater than those of someone who is unable to move at all, or must do so through irregular channels¹⁵. What cooperation among countries should be promoted to further coherence in policies that find a balance between external constraints (i.e. terms of admissions and stay, dual nationality, requirements of permanent residency) and the trajectory chosen – and not imposed - by the individual such as for example the ability (and right) to freely circulate?

Policies and initiatives designed for migrants could easily risk to be interpreted as positive discrimination against non-migrant populations, undermining social cohesion both in countries of origin and destination. Insofar a balance needs to be pursued in order not to discriminate while also placing migrants at the centre.

3. What Lessons Learnt from Key and Controversial Practices/Initiatives of North-South Cooperation on M&D?

In this section, three major areas of intervention are put forward with the aim of unravelling the M&D paradigm and finding ways for fostering migrants' transnationalism. The first area calls into question the excessive attention remittances and economic migrants' contribution have received in the last decade at the expenses of other major domains. The second area of intervention - for long time controversial - touches on the issue of return. In this case the major focus is on circular migration/temporary return discussing effective and fictitious challenges for implementing/coordinating circular migration interventions and policies. Thirdly a theme which most donor countries are committed to - supporting and engaging diasporas as agents of development and integration - is disentangled with the aim of questioning the visions linked to such interventions.

Mainstreaming Migrants' Economic Contribution and Beyond

The migration and development mainstream generally deals exclusively with the economic side of transnational exchanges. This is mirrored by considerable consideration in most donor countries' strategic documents with regards to migrants' financial capital and contributions: remittances (Italy, the Netherlands, etc.), productive investment (France), professional skills (France, Italy, and the Netherlands) and business links for business creation (the Netherlands). Both the socio-cultural and the political domains are much less targeted as developmental

15 Newland, K. (2009) Circular Migration and Human Development, Background paper for the HDR2009, http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/papers/HDRP_2009_42.pdf

spheres although in a few instances explicitly recognised as key¹⁶. Part of the reason for the preferred migrant contributions may be that these are easier to measure whereas cultural and social change, effected by so-called 'social remittances' (Levitt, 1998)¹⁷, is too volatile and un-sizeable for the M&D policy oriented discourse. At the same time political transformations are very controversial, unpredictable, and must be considered case by case, not being fully included in a positive vision of transnational effects. Insofar the only domain that can be conceptually managed without any risk and supported 'in the name of progress' is the economic one. Migration and development approaches thus run the risk of being oriented by mainstream economic framework and categories, with little attention paid to plurality, diversity, autonomy, and migrants' agency.

Return, Circular Migration, and Professional's Loyalty

Return and reintegration have always been central thematic areas within M&D approaches. Generally, regarding return, two different types of activities can be identified, the first one focusing on voluntary/assisted return and the second one on circular return. While for some time (until 2000), return has been connoted negatively within M&D initiatives¹⁸, circular migration has been celebrated as having a strong potential for development through the transfer of knowledge and skills. Even the today well-established and universally recognized 'co-development' francophone experience/governmental policy, used to be connoted negatively before 2000 as a form of 'assisted return in disguise'.

Research suggested that the share of foreign direct investment in a developing country is positively correlated with the number of that country's graduates present in the investing country and that the more high-skilled emigrants from one country live in another, the more trade occurs between those countries. Insofar, in order to nurture the loyalty of professionals settling abroad, a variety of incentives can be promoted, in correspondence with coherent and facilitating policies. These include for example voting rights, making progress regarding the portability of social security rights, dropping restrictions on investment and land purchases, etc. These policies in some cases are controversial. Thus, as discussed above, conditionality on the one hand and very few enabling and coherent policies on the other did not help circular schemes succeed.

Circularity can also imply the training of people in poorer countries through scholarships in all the essential fields in rich countries. When development takes off and conditions improve sufficiently, this diaspora will return, as they have done in India, South Korea, and China. This same trained diaspora will have nurtured relationships that will stay alive and deepen the transnational exchanges between countries in the North and in the South.

Engaging the Diaspora: What Vision for the Future?

¹⁶ The speech of the Swiss Ambassador Martin Dahinden in 2010 at the occasion of the 40 Years NADEL recite 'Still, the development impact is not limited to remittances, brain drain or gain, and investments, but includes important socio-political and cultural dimensions', 'Migration and Development: a Development Cooperation Perspective', Zurich, October 29, 2010. For the full text see: http://www.deza.admin.ch/ressources/resource_en_207669.pdf

¹⁷ Levitt, Peggy (1998) 'Social Remittances: Migration Driven Local-Level Forms of Cultural Diffusion', in *International Migration Review* 32: 926-48

¹⁸ A different trend can be observed – mostly due to the economic crisis especially ferocious in the North - towards assisted return

Promoting diaspora engagement is among the most prominent topics in several EU donor countries such as France, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, as well as Germany, Norway, Spain, or the UK. A further specification of this area of intervention is the implementation of initiatives to support migrants' associations working for the development of their countries of origin through capacity building programmes.

The assumption both for countries in the North as well as in the South is that migrants' associations can be active both as vectors of inclusion for migrant groups in the host society and as facilitators of investments in countries of origin. There are various reasons why transnationalism can reinforce integration, just to illustrate a few: in order to raise funds for transnational activities migrants must improve their language skills and their knowledge of local rules and regulations which are two important aspects of integration. Secondly, in order to set up international cooperation projects migrant organisations need to cooperate with other local groups, which is a way to foster interaction between autochthonous organisations/institutions and promote alliances and partnerships for development. When such 'integrating' measures are met, development activities towards the countries of origin can/tend to occur.

The topic concerning diasporas engagement¹⁹ however often lacks a serious discussion on the long term objectives for sustaining diaspora organisations/interventions. This involves both institutions/authorities in the North as well as in the South which have started to support diaspora abroad. Serious challenges exist in order to make engaging processes participatory and inclusive. For this purpose it is important to engage with the most 'representative' range of diaspora groups possible, particularly when dealing with diaspora originating from countries with conflicting political factions. It is also indispensable to be aware of the different levels of capacity of diaspora groups, and perhaps try to support groups unreached by competitive processes. If it is believed that building mixed alliances and partnerships fosters integration, trust between 'traditional development actors' and diaspora groups must be built, against conflicting and sometimes prejudicial stories about migration. As already mentioned it is fundamental to gain a better understanding of the role and impact of different types of diaspora groups in the long term. What trajectories of professionalization are foreseen for diasporas? Is the objective to raise competences of a few and work with these? Is there a risk to generate a new dependency cycle (similar to NGOs)? Since the majority of countries have implemented programmes to support and fund diaspora associations, an exchange of lessons learnt must be taken seriously as an area for further improvement.

¹⁹ For further specification see IOM/MPI (2012). Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development. A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries, Geneva and Washington, IOM/MPI <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/thediasporahandbook.pdf>; Horst, Cindy (ed.) (2010). [Participation of Diasporas in Peacebuilding and Development. A Handbook for Practitioners and Policymakers](http://unpos.unmissions.org/Portals/UNPOS/Repository%20UNPOS/PRIO%20Report%202010%20with%20links.pdf). Prio Publication <http://unpos.unmissions.org/Portals/UNPOS/Repository%20UNPOS/PRIO%20Report%202010%20with%20links.pdf>

4. How can North-South and South-South Cooperation further interconnect?

If the importance of North-South Cooperation and South-South Cooperation is widely celebrated, the two types of cooperation seem to follow parallel paths, while the inter-linkages between the two are completely omitted. The last section highlights mechanisms/systems that can be put in place to enhance the connection between North-South Cooperation and South-South Cooperation. Trying to look at interesting practices that linked North-South Cooperation and South-South Cooperation initiatives, the perspective of trilateral (in some documents triangular) cooperation for M&D is put forward, verifying if especially in times of crisis it is viable. Other mechanisms designed and implemented for establishing symmetrical/'true' partnerships between the North and the South are also discussed and specifically linked to monitoring and evaluation practices.

Trilateral Cooperation?

Bolstered by the remarkable economic performance of emerging countries, South-South Cooperation and trilateral/triangular cooperation have grown rapidly in recent years. They have outgrown their traditional role as complements to North-South Cooperation and are now an indispensable source of knowledge sharing and innovation for many developing countries. Trilateral/Triangular Development Cooperation is defined as partnerships between DAC donors and pivotal countries (providers of South-South Cooperation) to implement development cooperation programmes/projects in beneficiary countries (recipients of development aid)²⁰. Four virtues and merits of South-South and triangular cooperation can be sketched: the benefits accrued from sharing knowledge and experience among peers to find more effective solutions, sharing appropriate technology and experience that can promote convergence with North-South Cooperation goals, respecting real ownership, with the South in the driver's seat, and developing countries' rapidly emerging as new donors (HDR2013)²¹. In Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia represent examples of pivotal countries engaging in triangular cooperation with DAC donors.

The example of Japan is paradigmatic: the country experienced a development trajectory similar to that of some emerging countries today, having first been a net foreign aid recipient, then playing a dual role as aid recipient and emerging donor for a number of years before finally becoming only a donor²². The assumption of trilateral cooperation is that sharing development experience, knowledge, and appropriate technology among developing countries can play a very useful role in development cooperation and thus warranted donor support. An interesting practice – although not focusing on M&D - saw the cooperation among Brazil, Japan, and Mozambique. Japan helped Brazil develop its own tropical savannah region (known as the Cerrado), making it a leading producer of soybeans and other agricultural products. The two countries now extend collaborative support to Mozambique to develop that country's vast savannah (HDR2013).

²⁰ Talita Yamashiro Fordelone, (2009) Triangular Cooperation and Aid Effectiveness, OECD Paris.

²¹ See also UNDP Human Development Report 2013 The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World, NY, UNDP

²² As the first Asian member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1964(HDR2013)

South–South and trilateral cooperation could be scaled up as a central approach in development cooperation, while avoiding excessive aid fragmentation among an increasing number of development actors. These emerging forms of aid architecture could interesting be challenging also for finding sound and reasonable triangulations concerning issues linked to M&D. This could be envisaged within pluriannual programmes that see the participation of ‘donor’ countries together with countries in the South that are at different stages of their development path and expertise also on M&D issues.

A rising issue in the South concerns the transformation of countries which have traditionally exported migration, into countries of transit and immigration. As a consequence for such countries (Senegal, Ghana, Morocco, etc.) we assist at the formation of diasporas – groups and communities - in the South²³. Such countries are thus facing issues of ‘migrants’ integration’ while still often in total denial of the changing reality and problems linked. It is argued that for such countries, it could be appropriate to learn from Southern experiences: Thailand, Costa Rica, etc.²⁴. Regarding this new theme it could be interesting to verify if there could be also ground for exchanging experiences and models through triangular cooperation schemes.

A Culture of Evaluation

Most countries invest modestly in independent evaluations and self-evaluations for M&D lessons learnt to find out what worked and what did not. While ‘communities of practice’ have been established in other areas, with the results of evaluations being shared so that all can benefit from the lessons learnt, the results of the relatively few existing migration and development evaluations tend to be scattered and not shared systematically between states. Since for some countries the up-front cost of conducting an impact study may be deemed too expensive, ways to reduce costs can be envisaged, including through cost sharing. Within the framework that fosters North-South, South-South and trilateral/triangular cooperation, governments could come together to identify key policies and programmes of mutual interest that could be the subject of a ‘thematic joint evaluation’. This would encourage countries of origin, transit, and destination to work together sharing methodologies and common criteria to conduct joint evaluations looking at how mobility enhances migration and development outcomes. Evaluation groups consisting of key stakeholders from academia and governmental and nongovernmental organisations in both the sending states and countries of residence could be created for this purpose. Evidence in some cases will be country-based, and therefore attention must be paid not to simplistically transfer results and recommendations from one context to another.

²³ See a recent OECD paper by Gagnon Jason and David Khoudour-Castéras (2012) SOUTH-SOUTH MIGRATION IN WEST AFRICA: ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION, OECD Working Paper 312, April, Paris <http://www.oecd.org/dev/emea/Immigration%20West%20Africa.pdf>

²⁴ Ibidem