Reinforcing the Contributions of African Diasporas to Development
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Public Side Event (17:30–19:30, 14 September 2011)
“Migrant Entrepreneurs as Drivers for Development”
Markets for Migration and Development (M4MD):
Trade and Labor Mobility Linkages – Prospects for Development?
13–15 September 2011
Venue: Universal Postal Union
Berne, Switzerland
In summary...
Development: It’s jobs, stupid!
Jobs in migration/development context

- Migrants/diaspora often leave in search of better jobs
- They support relatives back home who lack jobs
- They are worried about what sorts of jobs they might return to
- They are worried about job security where they now live
- They have a vested interest in job-creation
Diaspora & development in Africa = leaky pipe

- Diaspora getting better organized, African countries slower → supply/demand disconnect → resource wastage
- Little systematization, institutionalization or integration of migration into strategic development transformation plans
- Not just (or even) poor migration understanding, more a lack of development planning & strategic management/leadership
- Diaspora can *contribute* to development but are unlikely to *drive* development
How? to fix the pipe

• Some principles
  – Inclusiveness
  – Results-orientation
  – Understand diaspora, meet half way
  – Strategic focus on needs/priorities – demand-driven, not supply led

• And frameworks to better understand diaspora
  – 5Cs of diaspora capital
  – 4Ps of diaspora motivation
Mapping diaspora characteristics, options:

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Catalyst:
- Long-term
- Network of new links

Emotional connection (international investors)
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Mechanisms, actions, & policy options:
- Stock exchange
- Investment/managed funds
- Hands-on trade missions & virtual mentoring to harness resources & strengthen emotional bonds
Systemic transformation Vs charity projects

• Philanthropic projects have their place but cannot replace structural transformation needed to put African countries on true developmental path

• Important to make markets work for jobs & make migration and development work for jobs
Systemic transformation: where does diaspora fit in?
Diaspora for development: from pioneer to mass market phase?
App marketplace – apt metaphor?
Recommendation

• Diaspora for development ➔ Vital to build evidence base ➔ What works, why, how replicable, how scalable? ➔ Better policies, better implementation ➔ Virtuous upward spiral
• Coalition of the willing/able
  – Governments
  – Migrants/diasporas
  – Private sector
  – Development agencies/donors/partners
  – International Organizations
  – Civil society
• Focus on migration & development for jobs: choice to migrate or not to migrate
• Program of comparative action-research: learn by doing
• Build upon existing programs eg ADM I & II; IdEA; JMDI; IOM Diaspora Handbook, next flagship World Bank World Development Report: Jobs
• Feed results into substantive work program for GFMD 2012 (“African GFMD” with Mauritius as Chair-In-Office)