

Diaspora return visits for knowledge transfer and capacity development

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Diaspora Return Visits for Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Development:

A Case Study of IOM's Connecting Diaspora for Development Project in Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Somaliland

1. Diaspora members on diaspora return visits for knowledge transfer and capacity development have altruistic, non-altruistic and mixed motivations for participation (Chapter 5).
2. While diaspora members can make valuable contributions to host institutions in countries of origin, the level of capacity development they are able to achieve is limited (Chapter 6).
3. While information transmission is influenced by individual- and group-level factors, knowledge creation mostly depends on group- and contextual-level factors and contributions to capacity development are affected by individual-, group- and contextual-level factors (Chapter 7).
4. During diaspora return visits for knowledge transfer and capacity development, diaspora members show a high level of awareness of returnee stigmas and employ preventive and counteractive strategies to try to address and avert them (Chapter 8).
5. To further existing definitions and use of knowledge transfer concepts, migration scholars should focus on knowledge transfer and capacity development as processes, which may include distinguishing between information transmission, knowledge creation and contributions to organisational capacity development.
6. Diasporas are heterogeneous communities and harnessing diaspora members' contributions to development requires attention to a complex interplay of individual-, group- and contextual factors.
7. Acknowledging the roles that age, gender and diversity play in returnees' development contributions could facilitate targeted approaches to development.
8. Diaspora members can make valuable contributions to knowledge transfer and capacity development in their country of origin through a diaspora return programme.