

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

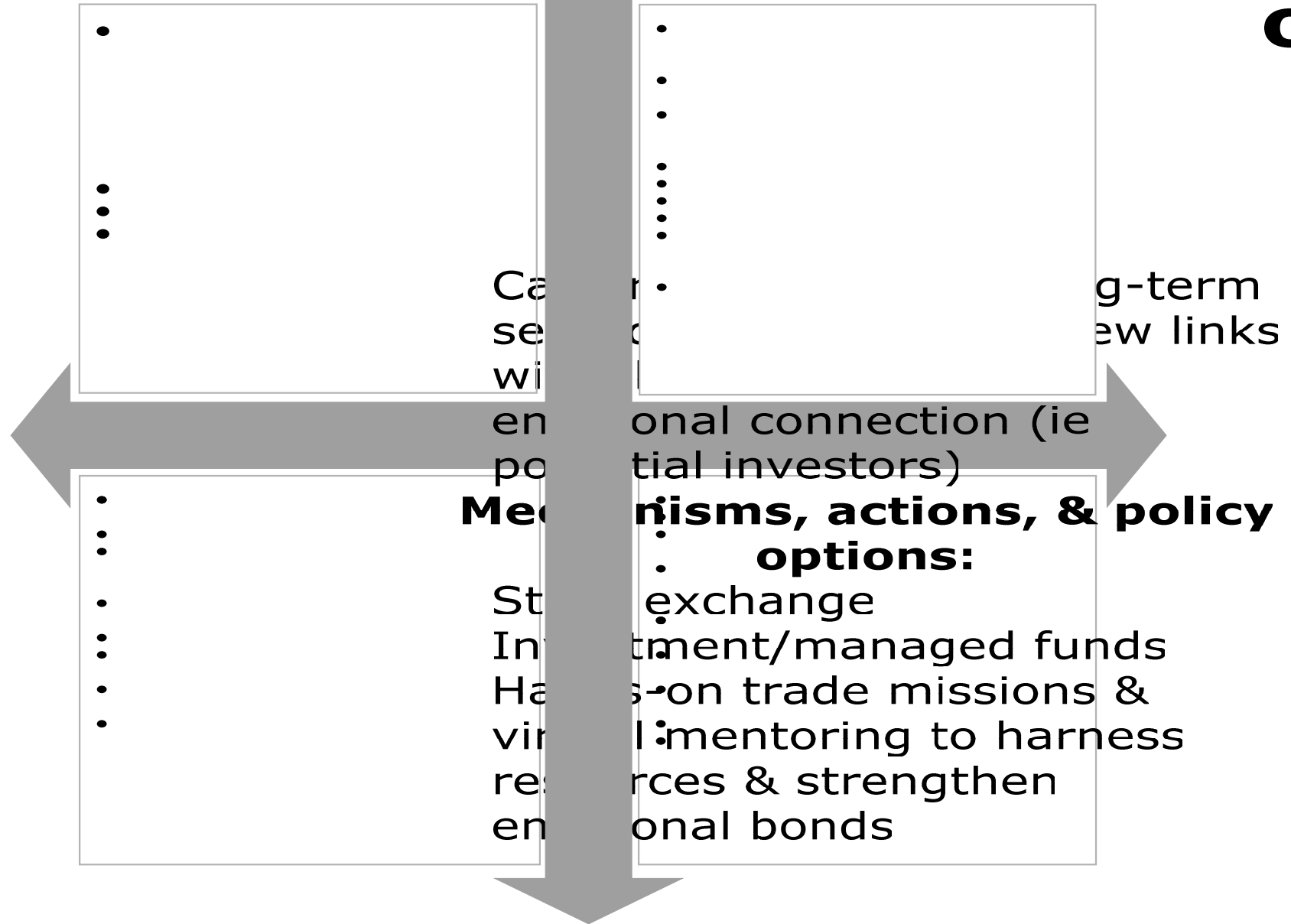
- Diaspora getting better organized, African countries slower → supply/demand disconnect → resource wastage
- Little systematization, institutionalization or integration of migration into strategic development transformation plans
- Not just (or even) poor migration understanding, more a lack of development 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



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)