
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
DEPARTMENT OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**THE ROLE OF DIASPORA DIPLOMACY IN ADVANCING NATIONAL INTERESTS
IN AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF KENYA**

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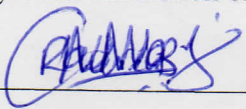
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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES.**

December, 2021

DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for academic award or qualification in any other institution of higher learning.

Signed: _____


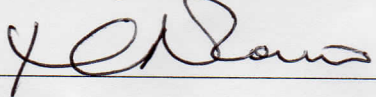
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This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the assigned

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Signature: _____




Date: _____

Prof. Maria Nzomo
Supervisor

DEDICATION

It is with genuine gratitude and warm regard that I dedicate this project to God Almighty, my source of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He has remained faithful throughout this program and to Him I owe all the glory.

I also dedicate this work to my husband; Ned Mawere who has been a constant source of support and encouragement.

To my mama, Doreen Mshai, you have been my inspiration. I am who I am because of you. This is for you and I. Mama we did it!

My love for you all can never be quantified. God bless you.

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My appreciation also goes out to my family for their encouragement and support. Without their tremendous understanding and encouragement in the past few years, it would be impossible for me to complete my study.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	African Development Bank
ADNE:	African Diaspora Network in Europe
CBK:	Central Bank of Kenya
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
IADB:	Inter-American Development Bank
IDB:	Inter-American Development Bank
IT:	Information Technology
MSME:	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
NIDO:	Nigerians in Diaspora Organization
OECD:	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
TOSHPA:	Organization of Sierra Leonean Healthcare Professionals Abroad
UNCTAD:	United Nations Commission on Trade and Development
UNDP:	United Nations Development Program

ABSTRACT

In the 21st Century, economic development is a top priority for countries, especially those that are less developed. It is for this reason that the study aims at analysing the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the achievement of Africa's economic development interests. The main objective of the study was to assess the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting economic development in Africa. This study will increase knowledge and help in filling the gap on this issue. The review has indicated that the rate of diaspora remittances is still very low in Africa. As a result of this, the study aims at determining how Africa, especially Kenya, can increase foreign remittances considering that there are millions of Africans living abroad, this will in turn play a significant role in supporting economic development. The review has indicated that Kenya has a potential of targeting diaspora for the purpose of encouraging investment activities. The study utilized a case study design. Qualitative data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. The target population for the study was employees working in the ministry of Interior and the Coordination of National Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The findings of the study indicate that diaspora diplomacy can contribute to the achievement of the national interests of Kenya. These interests include economic development, increase of foreign remittances, provision of investment opportunities, and utilization of the skills of Kenyans in diaspora. The findings of the study indicated that the government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has taken measures to ensure that members of the Kenyan diaspora are involved in the national development agenda. The study provided several recommendations including increasing dialogue with Kenyans, developing investment-friendly policies, implementing voting rights, offering consular services, and creating diaspora facilities and organizations among others.

Table of Content

Table Contents

DECLARATION..... i

Mwazighe Rhoda Chao i

Prof. Maria Nzomo i

DEDICATION ii

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT iii

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS iv

ABSTRACT.....v

Table of Content..... vi

List of Tablesx

List of Figures..... xi

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY.....1

1.1 Background of the Study1

1.2 Statement of the Problem6

1.3 Research Questions7

1.4 Objectives of the Study8

1.4.1 Main Objective.....8

1.4.2 Specific Objectives8

1.5 Literature Review.....8

1.5.1 Introduction8

1.5.2 Diaspora Diplomacy and Foreign Remittances9

1.5.3 Diaspora Diplomacy and Investment Opportunities.....12

1.5.4 Diaspora Diplomacy and the Utilization of the Skills of the Diaspora Community.....15

1.6 Literature Gaps.....18

1.7 Justification of the Study19

1.8 Theoretical Framework	20
1.8.1 Network Theory	20
1.8.2 Social Capital Theory	21
1.9 Hypothesis of the Study	22
1.10 Methodology	22
1.10.1 Research Design	22
1.10.2 Target Population	23
1.10.3 Data Collection Methods	23
1.10.4 Data Analysis	24
1.10.5 Data Presentation	25
1.11 Chapter Outline	25
CHAPTER TWO: THE ROLE OF DIASPORA DIPLOMACY IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA	26
2.0 Introduction	26
2.1 Trade and Investment	27
2.2 Advocacy and Policy Engagement for Economic Development	28
2.3 Capacity Building	29
2.4 Migration	30
2.5 Chapter Summary	31
CHAPTER THREE: THE ROLE OF DIASPORA DIPLOMACY IN INCREASING FOREIGN REMITTANCES AND PROMOTING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN KENYA	32
3.1. Introduction	32
3.2 Foreign Remittances	32
3.2.1 Understanding the Concept of Foreign Remittances	32
3.2.2 History and Growth of Foreign Remittances in Africa	34
3.2.3 Challenges of Sending Diaspora Remittances in Africa	36
3.2.4 The Impact of Foreign Remittances on the Economic Development of African Countries	37
3.2.5 The Role of Governments in Increasing Foreign Remittances	40
3.2.6 The Future of Diaspora Remittances	41
3.3 Investment Opportunities	43

3.3.1 Investment Opportunities for Members of the Diaspora	43
3.3.2 Benefits of Diaspora investments.....	47
3.3.3 Challenges in Diaspora Investments	50
3.3.4 The Role of the Government in encouraging Diaspora Investments	53
3.4 Chapter Summary	55
CHAPTER FOUR: ROLE OF DIASPORA DIPLOMACY IN PROMOTING THE UTILIZATION OF THE SKILLS OF THE DIASPORA COMMUNITY IN KENYA	57
4.1 Introduction.....	57
4.2 The Role of the Diaspora in Increasing Knowledge Transfer to Home Countries	57
4.3 Role of Diaspora Community Skills on Promoting Economic Development	59
4.4 Challenges faced by the Diaspora Community in utilizing their Skills for Economic Development.....	61
4.4 The Role of the Government in encouraging the Utilization of the Diaspora Community Skills	62
4.5 Chapter Summary	64
CHAPTER FIVE: PRESENTATION OF DATA FINDINGS & ANALYSIS	65
5.0 Introduction.....	65
5.1 Data Analysis	66
5.1.1 Rate of Response	66
5.1.2 Gender.....	66
5.1.3 Age.....	67
5.1.4 Education	68
5.1.5 Department	69
5.2 Informants' Awareness	70
5.3 Research Findings	72
5.3.1 The Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Promoting Economic Development in Africa..	72
5.3.2 The Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Increasing Foreign Remittances and Promoting Investment Opportunities in Kenya.....	73
5.3.3 Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Promoting the Utilization of the Diaspora Community Skills in Kenya.....	76
5.4 Chapter Summary	76
CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	77
6.0 Introduction.....	77

6.1 Conclusion	77
6.1.1 Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Economic Development	77
6.1.2 Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Increasing Remittances and Promoting Investment Opportunities	78
6.1.3 Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in the Utilization of Diasporas’ Skills	79
6.2 Recommendations	79
6.2.1 Policy Recommendations	79
6.2.2 Academic Recommendations	81
6.3 Areas of Further Studies	82
References	83
Appendices	90
Appendix 1: Consent Form	90
Appendix II: Key Informant Interview Guide	91

List of Tables

Table 1 Informant's Age.....60

Table 2 Informants' Level of Education.....61

List of Figures

Figures

Figure 1 Response Rate.....59

Figure 2 Gender.....60

Figure 3 Department.....62

Figure 4 Informants' Awareness of Diplomacy.....63

Figure 5 Informants' Awareness of Diaspora Diplomacy.....64

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Background of the Study

The beginning of globalization many centuries ago marked an important turning point in the world. Globalization has not only increased contact among people, but has also increased the interdependence among countries and led to the introduction of new actors in the management of international affairs. Globalization gave rise to the concept of the diaspora, which means, the movement of people from their countries to other places across the world. The fact that people can move from their countries and stay in other countries shows the need for interdependence in resolving matters of national and international interests. Based on this, the research project is aimed at analyzing the role of diaspora diplomacy in advancing the national interests of Africa. The study will specifically focus on the role of diaspora diplomacy in advancing the economic development interests of Africa. The purpose of this chapter is to give a background analysis of the problem under study. The chapter will give a background of the problem, statement problem, objectives of the study, research questions, hypothesis of the study, justification, literature review, theoretical framework, and methodology.

The concept of “diaspora diplomacy” has evolved over the past years. Different definitions of what it entails have been provided in accordance with the national and international interests that are to be achieved. Brika & Klavins define diaspora diplomacy as the utilization of foreign service and other important branches of the government to build systematic relationships¹.

¹ Ieva, Birka & Didzis, Klavins. “Diaspora Diplomacy: Nordic and Baltic Perspective.” *Diaspora Studies* Vol. 13, No. 2 (2019); 115-132. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09739572.2019.1693861>

Therefore, diaspora diplomacy is about mutual benefits between the country of origin and the residence. There are many interests that can mutually benefit the countries that are involved in diaspora diplomacy. Emre indicates that diaspora diplomacy is made up of three main factors which are migration, formation of organizations, and political mobilization². In terms of migration, individuals move from their home country to the host country but retain their cultural and ethnic practices. In terms of formation of organizations, individuals in the diaspora group together to create a collective identity. Once this is done, diplomacy is applied in influencing the achievement of a country's national interests. According to the Diplomacy Foundation, migration results in the formation of Diasporas.³ As millions of people migrate to other parts of the world, they opt to retain the connection that they had with their home country. As a result of this, they influence international affairs. From these definitions, it can be stated that diaspora diplomacy is an important resource for advancing the economic development interests of Kenya. Economic development is essential for the growth and survival of any country, nation, or state. Its main purpose is to create wealth that benefits the community⁴. It is about growing the economy by not only improving the living standards of the people, but also improving prosperity. Economic development is about allocating scarce resources, promoting fiscal stability, and providing investment opportunities. Effective economic development is beneficial

² Yunus, Emre, "Diaspora Diplomacy as a Foreign Policy Strategy," Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations, 2018, <https://ifair.eu/2018/11/01/diaspora-diplomacy-as-a-foreign-policy-strategy/>

³ Diplomacy Foundation, "Consular and Diaspora Diplomacy." n. d. Accessed 6 May 2021. <https://www.diplomacy.edu/courses/consular>

⁴ California Association for Local Economic Development, "What is Economic Development." 2020, <https://caled.org/economic-development-basics/>

to a country in different ways. It leads to the creation of jobs⁵. Economic development leads to the creation of more businesses and markets that can provide employment to the people of a country. Economic development leads to the diversification of industries⁶. Through diversification, economic development ensures that a country does not rely on a single industry. Economic development can lead to the creation of many industries such as manufacturing, aviation, healthcare, technology, and science among others. Economic development ensures that there is fortification⁷. This implies that a country can be protected from economic downturns such as in the cases of inflation. Economic development leads to increased revenues for a country⁸. Such revenues can be directed to important sectors of a country such as the development of infrastructure. Most importantly, economic development improves the quality of life for the people in a country.

Diaspora diplomacy plays an effective role in promoting economic development in countries. Different aspects of diaspora diplomacy support the economic development of countries. Return migration, which involves those in the diaspora, provides a country with skilled individuals that can contribute ideas for economic development⁹. Apart from this, the diaspora community may return to invest in their home country, and as such, boost economic development. This is

⁵ Amanda, Roche, "Top 6 Reasons that Economic Development is Important to a Region's Economy [Infographic]." Orlando Economic Partnership, 2018, <https://news.orlando.org/blog/top-6-reasons-that-economic-development-is-important-to-a-regions-economy-infographic/>

⁶ Roche

⁷ Roche

⁸ Roche

⁹ Lindsay, Lowell & Stefka, G.Gerova, "Diaspora and Economic Development: State of Knowledge." The World Bank, 2004.

especially true when there are attractive investment opportunities in a country. Diaspora diplomacy has contributed to economic development through remittances¹⁰. Over the past years, remittances have been the main way through which host countries have received money from the diaspora. Other financial instruments that have been used to attract diaspora money include bonds, foreign currency accounts, tax breaks, special duty, and preferential access among others. Hometown associations have contributed to the economic development of home countries¹¹. These are associations that are formed by members of the same home country, who live in a particular town or city. They contribute to the economic development of home countries by sending collective remittances for different purposes such as the development of infrastructure. Diaspora diplomacy is associated with increased trade flows that contribute to the economic development of a country¹². For example, individuals in the diaspora can act as a trade link between the home and the host country. Apart from this, diaspora diplomacy can also lead to the creation of professional networks by institutions, governments, and organizations¹³. These networks can boost economic development by providing guidance and opportunities for the home country. Therefore, diaspora diplomacy offers many advantages to a country.

Diaspora diplomacy has been effective in Africa. In Namibia, the focus has been on determining the effective ways in which members of the diaspora can support the different labor needs of the

¹⁰ Lowell & Gerova 4

¹¹ Lowell & Gerova 4

¹² Lowell & Gerova 4

¹³ Lowell & Gerova 4

country¹⁴. As a result of this, Namibia has kept a record of all its diasporas and their skills. Members of the diaspora are called back to the country to fill up labor opportunities that contribute to economic development. For example, members of the diaspora have played a critical role in filling up the public health sector. In Ethiopia, the government allows its citizens from the diaspora to use their foreign currency as collateral for local currency¹⁵. As a result of this, they can purchase government bonds that are usually sold in times of pressing issues, such as those related to economic development. The Ethiopian government has also involved the diaspora in economic activities related to trade, investment, and tourism. For example, the government provides them with identity cards that enable them to engage in domestic investment despite being foreign nationals¹⁶. Zimbabwe has made efforts to encourage its citizens to invest in the country despite moving to other countries.

The government of Kenya recognizes the importance of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the achievement of national interests. Over the past years, about 3 million Kenyans have moved to other countries to either live or work there¹⁷. This is a large population that can effectively contribute to the economic development of the country. The government of Kenya has established the International Jobs and Diaspora Office to ensure effective interaction with individuals living abroad¹⁸. Some of the main roles that this office has played include delivering

14 Omelaniuk 36

15 Omelaniuk 46

16 Omelaniuk 50

17 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Japan, "Kenya's Diaspora Diplomacy." n. d., accessed 6 May 2021, http://www.kenyarep-jp.com/kenyans/diaspora02_e.html

18 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Japan

consular services, promoting investments, creating re-integration programs, and coordinating the collection of remittances among others. Remittances has been one of the effective ways through which the diaspora has contributed to the economic development of Kenya. The annual total remittances in Kenya amount to about \$1 billion¹⁹. Such remittances have contributed to the growth of the gross domestic products and boosted economic development. The promotion of diaspora diplomacy as a source of economic development in Kenya can play an important role in meeting the foreign policy objectives that have been put in place.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The importance of globalization around the world must be appreciated. Globalization has enabled populations, cultures, and economies to rely on each other to promote activities such as trade, investment, technology, and information-sharing among others. Diaspora diplomacy has been promoted by globalization. The government of Kenya not only recognizes the important role of globalization, but also the benefits that result from diaspora diplomacy. Based on the vision 2030 of Kenya, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented diaspora diplomacy as one of the key pillars of its foreign policy²⁰. This pillar is aimed at achieving different objectives including exploiting diverse skills, promoting the national development agenda, participating in national development, and accessing the international labor market among others. These objectives give Kenyans abroad the opportunity of building a positive image for their country.

¹⁹ Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Japan

²⁰ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Kenya Diaspora Policy." 2014, <https://www.mfa.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Kenya-Diaspora-Policy.pdf>

For example, by participating in national development, the influence of Kenyans on the economic development of their country is seen by other countries.

Diaspora Diplomacy has however, been underutilized as a tool for advancing the economic development interest in Kenya. There are limited studies on how the government can increase remittances, create investment opportunities, exploit the skills of the members of the diaspora, and create employment opportunities among others. Apart from this, it is rather difficult to achieve the foreign policy goals of Kenya without understanding how diaspora diplomacy contributes to it. Economic development is a key objective of Kenya's national interest. The government of Kenya recognizes that this objective can be achieved through foreign policy. As a result of this, the study assesses the role of diaspora diplomacy, as an aspect of foreign policy, and its contribution in achieving the economic development interests of Africa.

1.3 Research Questions

This study will answer the following research questions:

- 1.3.1 What is the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting economic development in Africa?
- 1.3.2 What is the role of diaspora diplomacy in increasing foreign remittances and promoting investment opportunities in Kenya?
- 1.3.3 What is the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the utilization of diasporas' skills for economic development in Kenya?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 Main Objective

The main objective of this study is to assess the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the achievement of national interests in Africa.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

1.4.2.1 To analyze the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting economic development in Africa?

1.4.2.2 To analyze the role of diaspora diplomacy in increasing foreign remittances and promoting investment opportunities in Kenya?

1.4.2.3 To determine the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the utilization of diasporas' skills for economic development in Kenya

1.5 Literature Review

1.5.1 Introduction

Over the past years, a significant number of Kenyans have moved to live and work in different countries such as the United States, Germany, United Kingdom, and Canada among others.

While the government of Kenya recognizes the role that diaspora diplomacy can play in economic development, it has done very little to initiate and conduct the process. For example, Kenya's Diaspora Diplomacy was only launched in 2015 despite Kenyans living abroad for many years. Apart from this, there have also been barriers to the achievement of diaspora diplomacy goals for economic development. As a result of this, the chapter will analyze past

studies on the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting economic development. The chapter will also give a theoretical perspective based on two theories.

1.5.2 Diaspora Diplomacy and Foreign Remittances

One of the main objectives of Kenya's diaspora diplomacy is "to develop diaspora specific products to increase and better manage remittances"²¹. Over the past years, it has been estimated that the annual total remittances amount to about \$1 billion. However, there is still a possibility of increasing this amount if the right strategies for managing remittances are put in place. An increase in remittances to Kenya will play an important role in increasing the gross domestic product and supporting economic growth. In its Diaspora Diplomacy Policy, the government of Kenya intends to increase remittances by working with different government bodies to formulate and implement cheaper and faster methods of remitting money²². The policy focuses on developing a consular service that will address the challenges of Kenyans living abroad with regard to remittances. Apart from this, the government also intends to develop products and a policy framework for increasing direct remittances for development purposes²³.

Rodima-Taylor²⁴ conducted a study on African diaspora and remittances. In the study, the author recognizes that diaspora contribution has an important role to play in the development of home countries. In Africa, diaspora remittances have helped in supporting local livelihoods and

21 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Japan Para. 1

22 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Japan

23 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Japan

24 Daivi, Rodima-Taylor, "African Diaspora and Remittances." Boston University Policy Report, 2015, <https://www.bu.edu/africa/files/2016/11/Boston-University-Report-African-Diaspora-and-Remittances.pdf>

national development. Over 40% of Africans who live in poverty can benefit from diaspora remittances²⁵. In its 2030 agenda for sustainable development, the United Nations highlights the importance of migrants and the diaspora in achieving its objectives. The author of this study indicates that it is important to study migration trends and how they can be utilized to improve financing for economic development. Some of the objectives that should be focused on include reducing the cost of remittances, and developing strategies for collective remittances²⁶. The 2030 agenda for sustainable development of the United Nations aims to reduce the cost of remittances to 3% by 2030.

The African Development Bank (ADB)²⁷ conducted a study on the role of the diaspora in nation-building. This study was aimed at providing lessons for countries in Africa in the aftermath of conflict. While the study focused on many issues, only the issue of diaspora remittances will be analyzed in this case. The study indicated that African countries have faced many financing gaps. However, diaspora remittances can play an important role in supporting the development process. By 2008, the total remittances to Africa reached \$26 billion²⁸. Out of this, about \$22 billion was collected in Sub-Saharan Africa. The study indicated that when compared to other capital inflows, remittances are more stable. Apart from this, remittances have

²⁵ Rodima-Taylor 1

²⁶ Rodima-Taylor 1

²⁷ African Development Bank, "The Role of the Diaspora in Nation Building: Lessons for Fragile and Post-Conflict Countries in Africa." n. d., <https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/2011%20The%20role%20of%20the%20Diaspora%20in%20Nation%20building%20-%20lessons%20for%20fragile%20and%20post-%20conflict%20countries%20in%20Africa.pdf>

²⁸ African Development Bank 6

multiplier effects that can help in reducing poverty. However, this study indicated diaspora remittances collected by African countries are not enough²⁹. Apart from this, the conditions for directing such remittances to economic development are minimal. The report indicated that the failure of African countries to increase the collection of remittances has been as a result of a large number of informal transfers.

Lowell & Gerova ³⁰ conducted a study on the relationship between diasporas and economic development. This study analyzed some of the ways in which the diaspora can support economic development in countries. One area that was focused on was remittances. This report indicated that remittances are the most effective ways of moving money from the diaspora to homeland. The report indicates that are other financial instruments that can be used in collecting money from the diaspora. Bonds and foreign currency accounts are used in attracting money from the diaspora³¹. In countries such as Pakistan and India, higher interest rates are charged on foreign currency accounts. Apart from this, tax breaks and special duty are given to migrants and the investment opportunities that they bring to the country. The other option that has been considered is the use of remittance-backed bonds³². This has helped in raising funds among middle- and upper-income members of the diaspora. Based on the options provided, the current study aims at determining some of the ways in which the Kenyan government can increase the collection of remittances.

29 African Development Bank 6

30 Lowell & Gerova 1

31 Lowell & Gerova 4

32 Lowell & Gerova 4

1.5.3 Diaspora Diplomacy and Investment Opportunities

The Diaspora Diplomacy Policy of Kenya is aimed at encouraging members of the diaspora to invest in the country. The government intends to do this by harmonizing investment promotion and facilitating initiatives that target Kenyans living abroad³³. The government of Kenya also intends to use policy advocacy to target investment opportunities in collaboration with different organizations and the Kenya Missions Abroad, part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The government intends to create intermediary facilities to provide investment management services to Kenyans living abroad³⁴. Apart from this, it also intends to develop investment products and incentives and develop measures for providing assistance and protection to investments by members of the diaspora. Recently, the government has established the Kenya Ambassadors Program to promote investment. Therefore, the government of Kenya is focused on using diaspora diplomacy for the promotion of investment opportunities at home.

Bulwaka³⁵ conducted a study on diaspora diplomacy in Uganda. The focus of this study was on determining the role that diaspora diplomacy plays in promoting the development of the home country. The author of the study recognizes that lack of coordination is a major hindrance in ensuring the maximum utilization of the diaspora for development. The author indicates that apart from coordination, effective policies must be implemented by the government in

³³ Republic of Kenya, "Kenya Diaspora Policy." 2014, <https://www.mfa.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Kenya-Diaspora-Policy.pdf>

³⁴ Republic of Kenya 15

³⁵ Michael, Bulwaka, "Diaspora Diplomacy: A Case Study of Uganda." University of Malta, 2009, https://www.diplomacy.edu/system/files/dissertations/23082010102413_Bulwaka_%2528Library%2529.pdf

collaboration with the civil society and other important stakeholders. The study was carried out in Uganda, where 2.2% of the population live abroad³⁶. The findings of the study indicated that the diaspora community has contributed to the development of Uganda. This has been done through foreign direct investment, promotion of trade, and public diplomacy among others³⁷. The author of the study concluded that there was need to create shared responsibility among the host country, home country, and the migrants to increase the benefits of diaspora diplomacy. Apart from this, the government should also develop effective policies for promoting investment opportunities among members of the diaspora. This study aims at determining how investment opportunities can be created for Kenyans living in the diaspora.

Malouche et al.³⁸ provided a report to the World Bank concerning the mobilization of Middle East and North Africa diaspora in economic integration and entrepreneurship. One area that the report focused on was the relationship between diaspora and investment. The report indicated that the diaspora could increase the rate of investment flows from host country to home country³⁹. The report recognizes that members of the diaspora might gain extra knowledge that they can use to invest in their home countries. Apart from this, they can also use information they know about their home countries to identify effective investment opportunities. Culture,

36 Bulwaka 7

37 Bulwaka 111

38 Mariem, Mezghenni Malouche, Sonia, Plaza, & Fanny, Salsac, "Mobilizing the Middle East and North Africa Diaspora for Economic Integration and Entrepreneurship." World Bank Group, 2016, <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/251661484064811210/pdf/111806-REVISED-PULIC-4530-MENADiasporaPaper-March29-5pm.pdf>

39 Malouche et al. 21

language, and ethnicity in the home country are some of the factors that members of the diaspora can utilize in identifying and implementing investment opportunities. The report indicated that members of the diaspora could encourage their foreign partners to invest their home countries⁴⁰. These individuals can share their knowledge of the home country with foreign investors to help them in identifying effective investment opportunities. The findings of this report indicated that members of the diaspora from the Middle East and North Africa about \$10,000 each in their home countries⁴¹. This amount could increase if the right policies are put in place. The report also indicated that most of the members of the diaspora are not interested in investing in their home countries.

Rodriguez-Montemayor provided a report to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) concerning diaspora direct investments⁴². The report focused on policy options for development. The report suggested some of the policies that countries can put in place to promote investments among the members of the diaspora. National Investment Promotion Agencies are public institutions that identify partnerships in non-governmental organizations to promote diaspora home investment⁴³. The creation and utilization of such agencies can promote foreign direct investments to the home country. These agencies can build trust with members of the diaspora

40 Malouche et al. 21

41 Malouche et al. 24

42 Eduardo, Rodriguez-Montemayor, "Diaspora Direct Investment: Policy Options for Development." Inter-American Development Bank, 2012, <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Diaspora-Direct-Investment-Policy-Options-for-Development.pdf>

43 Rodrigues-Montemayor 18

and this can facilitate increased investment in the home country. An example of such as agency is the Export and Investment Center in the Dominican Republic. The second policy option that governments can consider is the utilization of business incubators⁴⁴. Business incubators can help in solving the institutional challenges that members of the diaspora, and especially entrepreneurs, face when seeking business opportunities in their home country. For example, they can be used in providing information about the available investment opportunities in the home country. The other policy option that can be considered is the development of a diaspora database for conducting meetings⁴⁵. Keeping members of the diaspora informed can encourage them to seek investment opportunities in their home country.

1.5.4 Diaspora Diplomacy and the Utilization of the Skills of the Diaspora Community

The government of Kenya recognizes the importance of diasporas' skills in promoting the economic development of the country. In its Diaspora Diplomacy policy, the government has the objective of developing an inventory of diaspora expertise and skills⁴⁶. The government intends to achieve this objective by implementing programs, incentives, and structures that can attract skilled Kenyans that are living or working abroad. Apart from this, the government also intends to achieve this objective by putting in place measures for promoting the transfer of knowledge and skills virtually and through online support to increase the local capacity of Kenyan citizens

44 Rpdriquez-Montemayor 19

45 Rodrigue-Montemayor 20

46 Republic of Kenya 16

living abroad⁴⁷. By keeping an up-to-date inventory, the government will identify skills shortages in Kenya and providing employment opportunities for the diaspora members.

Brinkerhoff et al.⁴⁸ conducted a study on diasporas and their effect on skills transfer and remittances. One area that this study focused on was on the factors that can encourage members of the diaspora to contribute to the development of their home country. The first factor that was analyzed was the ability to mobilize members of the diaspora. The study indicated that creating a sense of solidarity could go a long way in mobilizing members of the diaspora⁴⁹. Coupled with this is the need to create a community identity. By doing this, diasporas can view themselves as one and they can share the same understanding on the need to support their home country. By building a network of relationships, the social capital of members of the diaspora can be greatly improved. It can lead to the building of trust in the abilities of the home country. The second factor that can encourage members of the diaspora to support their home country is providing opportunities for development⁵⁰. Some of the opportunities that were suggested in the study include investment opportunities, access to important infrastructure, and proactive support to members of the diaspora among others.

⁴⁷ Republic of Kenya 16

⁴⁸ Jennifer, M. Brinkerhoff, "Diasporas, Skills Transfer, and Remittances: Evolving Perceptions and Potential." 2006, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/261862537_Diasporas_Skills_Transfer_and_Remittances_Evolving_Perceptions_and_Potential

⁴⁹ Brinkerhoff 12

⁵⁰ Brinkerhoff 12

A 2012 report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)⁵¹ focused on the ways of harnessing remittances and diaspora knowledge to build productive capacity in least developed countries. The report indicated that millions of workers from least developed countries who have moved abroad have a university-level education. Therefore, it can be stated that individuals that move to work in the diaspora are highly skilled. As a result of this, the report indicates that if the right measures are not put in place to harness the knowledge and skills of members of the diaspora, least developed countries will experience brain drain⁵². On the positive side, the migration of workers to other countries will increase their knowledge, experience, and skills. The study indicates that home countries can benefit from the increased knowledge, experience, and skills by implementing programs and strategies for harnessing them. One way in which this can be done is through the establishment of diaspora knowledge networks⁵³. However, governments must be actively involved to ensure that this process is a success.

A 2012 report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)⁵⁴ focused on the ways of harnessing the skills of immigrants and diasporas for the purpose of development. The report provided some of the measures that countries can put in place to ensure

51 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, "Harnessing Remittances and Diaspora Knowledge to Build Productive Capacities." 2012, https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ldcr2012_ch5_en.pdf

52 Brinkerhoff 128

53 Brinkerhoff 128

54 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, "Harnessing the Skills of Migrants and Diasporas to Foster Development: Policy Options." 2012, https://www.oecd.org/els/mig/Policy_Brief_Migrants_En_BD%20DEFINITIF.pdf

that diaspora skills contribute to the economic development of countries. The first measure is to improve information access on job opportunities in the home country⁵⁵. Information can be made available through migrant networks and bilateral agreements with labor organizations. Apart from this, private recruiting agencies can be used. In recent times, the internet has been used to share information on the available job opportunities. For example, Egypt has implemented the Integration Migration System⁵⁶. The second measure for harnessing the skills of members of the diaspora ensuring that their skills match with the available jobs in the home country. Effective matching does not only ensure that the diasporas' knowledge is effectively utilized, but that remittances for economic development are increased⁵⁷. The other measure that can be put in place is developing effective recruitment processes and eliminating any barriers in the home country. The Korean Employment Permit System is an example of an effective recruitment system for citizens working abroad⁵⁸. The European Union Migration Portal is another system that has eliminated barriers to the harnessing of diaspora knowledge.

1.6 Literature Gaps

The analysis of existing literature on the role of diaspora diplomacy in advancing national interests in Africa, has led to the identification of several gaps that will be filled by this study. The review has shown that the government of Kenya is still faced with the challenge of reducing the cost of remittances. This study will thus assess some of the effective ways of reducing the

55 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 11

56 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 11

57 Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation 13

58 Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation 14

cost of remittances. The review has indicated that the rate of diaspora remittances is still very low in Africa. As a result of this, the study aims at determining how the Kenyan government can increase remittances considering that there are millions of Kenyans living abroad, and they can play a significant role in supporting economic development. The review has indicated that Kenya has a potential of targeting diaspora for the purpose of encouraging investment activities. Therefore, this study aims at determining how investment opportunities can be created for Kenyans living in the diaspora. The study also aims at determining the challenges that members of the diaspora face when seeking investment opportunities in Kenya and the solutions that can be put in place to encourage investment opportunities. Further, the study will identify the policies that have been put in place by the government to encourage investment opportunities in Kenya. The review has indicated that there has been an ineffective utilization of diaspora skills in Africa. As a result of this, the aim of the current study is to determine ways in which the Kenyan government has supported diasporas in using their knowledge and skills to improve economic development. The study will assess the policies that have been put in place by the government of Kenya to harness the knowledge, skills, and experience of diasporas for the purpose of economic development. The study will also assess the measures that the government of Kenya has put in place to eliminate the barriers in harnessing the skills, knowledge, and experience of the diasporas for the purpose of economic development.

1.7 Justification of the Study

The achievement of the national interests of Kenya is critical in ensuring that it protects, preserves, secures, and defends its relationships with other countries. Apart from this, Kenya has to achieve its foreign policy objectives to promote development, stability, and prosperity.

Therefore, this study will be important in providing further knowledge about the role that diaspora diplomacy can play in achieving the national interest and foreign policy objective of economic development. The study will be important to educators and institutions as it will add more knowledge to the existing studies. The information from the study will enable the government of Kenya to implement effective policies for promoting diaspora diplomacy for the purpose of economic development and other national interests. This study will also be beneficial to the public, and especially members of the diaspora. It will enlighten them on the important role they play in promoting the economic development of their country.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

1.8.1 Network Theory

The current study will utilize network theory to determine the role of diaspora diplomacy in achieving the economic development interests of Kenya. Network theory is based on the assumption that there are patterns of relationships among different entities within a social space⁵⁹. In the context of this study, the different entities include migrants, the home country, and the host country. Within this network, there are formal, social, informal, and affiliation networks. Social networks are those that are created among individuals⁶⁰. For example, members of the diaspora have family and friends in their home country. Formal networks are those that are created among organizations. For example, it can be a strategic alliance between an diasporas' organization and another business in the home country. Informal networks are those

⁵⁹ Jason, Owen-Smith, "Network Theory: The Basics." Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, n. d., <https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/41858618.pdf>

⁶⁰ Owen-Smith 6

that are created among people for different purposes⁶¹. For example, it can involve the movement of the diaspora community from their host country to home country. Affiliations are those that include many people. An example is membership to different associations in the home country. All these relationships are essential in ensuring that diaspora diplomacy contributes to the economic development of a host country. These networks can play an important role in creating social capital, markets, investment opportunities, employment opportunities, innovation, and long-lasting relationships among others. Therefore, networks can be used in boosting diaspora diplomacy for economic development.

1.8.2 Social Capital Theory

The main assumption of the social capital theory is that social relationships can be used as resources for development and the accumulation of human capital⁶². This implies that the social relationships that a government of the host country builds with migrants can help in boosting economic development and providing skilled labor. Apart from this, the social capital theory also implies that a stable environment in the host country can support increased investments, remittances, and utilization of diaspora skills⁶³. Social capital is about features of social relationships that lead to productive benefits. The social capital theory explains why members of the diaspora are not interested in investing or sharing their knowledge and skills with the host country. The failure of the government to build the right relationships and provide a conducive

⁶¹ Owen-Smith 6

⁶² Richard, Machalek & Michael, W. Martin, "Sociobiology and Sociology: A New Synthesis." International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences, 2015, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/social-capital-theory>

⁶³ Machalek & Martin

environment that can breed trust with the members of the diaspora has been a problem for exploiting the benefits of diaspora diplomacy for economic development.

1.9 Hypothesis of the Study

1.9.1 Diaspora diplomacy has a role to play in promoting economic development in Africa

1.9.2 Diaspora diplomacy has a role to play in increasing foreign remittances and promoting investment opportunities in Kenya

1.9.3 Diaspora diplomacy has a role to play in promoting the utilization of diaspora skills for economic development in Kenya

1.10 Methodology

1.10.1 Research Design

The research design that will be used in this study is the descriptive survey method. The main purpose of descriptive survey is to determine the distribution and range of different social characteristics such as occupation, training, and location among others⁶⁴. Once this is done, it is related to different attitudes and behavior patterns. This research design is effective for this study as it will allow for the comparison of research findings. The descriptive design that will be used for this study is the case study method. Case studies provide the real-world context of the research subject⁶⁵. As a result of this, the researcher can get a good perspective of the research process. Case studies provide an in-depth and multi-faceted view of complex issues. They will

64 Hossein, Nassaji, "Qualitative and Descriptive Research: Data types Versus Data Analysis." *Language Teaching Research*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (2015); 129-132

65 Nassaji 130

provide quality information that will go a long way in advancing theoretical concepts and ideas⁶⁶. Qualitative data will be used in understanding the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the achievement of Kenya's national interests.

1.10.2 Target Population

The target population for this study will be composed of civil servants and employees working Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. By interviewing the experts in the different areas of diaspora diplomacy, a better understanding of the role of diaspora diplomacy in advancing the achievement of Kenya's national interests (economic development) will be provided. To ensure that the right respondents with the required knowledge are selected for the study, purposive sampling will be utilized. Purposive sampling relies on the judgment of the researcher to choose the population that takes part in a study⁶⁷. It will ensure that only experts in the field are chosen for the study.

1.10.3 Data Collection Methods

Data for the study will be collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data is firsthand and original⁶⁸. Primary data for this study will be collected using a key informant interview guide. The interview guide provides a list of questions that the researcher will utilize

66 Nassaji 130

67 Business Research Methodology, "Purposive Sampling." n. d., <https://research-methodology.net/sampling-in-primary-data-collection/purposive-sampling/>

68 Victor, Oluwatosin Ajayi, "Primary Sources of Data and Secondary Sources of Data." (2017), DOI:10.13140/RG.2.2.24292.68481

when interviewing the respondents⁶⁹. It will ensure that the collection of the right data that will achieve the objectives of the study. Secondary data is that is collected by any other person who is not a primary user⁷⁰. Secondary data for this study will be collected from different sources including articles, books, journals, government websites, periodicals, organizational records and news sites among others. The secondary data selection will be based on their relevance to the objectives of the study.

1.10.4 Data Analysis

Data for this study will be analyzed using the content analysis method. It is used in making valid and replicable inferences through the interpretation and coding of textual material⁷¹. Such materials can include oral communication, documents, and graphics. Therefore, the content analysis process will be based on the objectives of the study. Document analysis will be used to interpret the different documents and find their relationship with the topic under study. Human coders will be used in the content analysis process to ensure reliability. Apart from this, the responses of the interviewees will also be recorded and will undergo transcription before being analyzed and coded. The analysis will be organized into different themes to determine effective relationship with the objectives.

⁶⁹ Population Council, "Key Informant Interview Guide." 2014, https://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/Heshima_KII-Guide_2014.pdf

⁷⁰ Ajayi

⁷¹ Terry College of Business, "Content and Textual Analysis." University of Georgia, n. d., <https://www.terry.uga.edu/contentanalysis/index.php>

1.10.5 Data Presentation

The data for the study will be mainly qualitative and as such will be presented in a textual format and according to the provided themes and objectives.

1.11 Chapter Outline

The research study will be organized as follows:

Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter introduces the main topic under study. It covers the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the research questions, the research aim and contribution, research objectives, literature review, theoretical review, hypothesis, and research methodology.

Chapter Two: Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Promoting Economic Development in Africa

This chapter analyzes how diaspora diplomacy influences economic development in Africa. It determines the role of members of the diaspora in contributing to economic development in their home countries.

Chapter Three: Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in increasing foreign Remittances and Promoting Investment Opportunities in Kenya

This chapter analyzes how the members of the diaspora can be encouraged to remit money and invest more in their home countries. It also analyzes the role of the government in both processes.

Chapter Four: Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Promoting the Utilization of the Skills of the Diaspora Community

This chapter analyzes the role of the diaspora in increasing the skills and knowledge of diasporas and how such skills can be used to boost economic development in the home country. The role of the government is also analyzed.

Chapter Five: Data Analysis and Presentation

This section will provide the research data analysis and presentation based on the role of diaspora diplomacy in achieving the national interests in Africa using the case of Kenya.

Chapter Six: Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendations

This chapter will provide a summary of the research findings. Conclusion and recommendations will also be provided in this chapter.

CHAPTER TWO: THE ROLE OF DIASPORA DIPLOMACY IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

2.0 Introduction

The members of the diaspora have a significant role to play in contributing to the economic development of their home countries in Africa. The fact that majority of African countries are

still developing shows just how much members of the diaspora can do to not only change the image, but advance growth of their countries. Members of the diaspora can contribute to reconstruction, poverty reduction, and change in communities through economic development. However, this role is still not being recognized by both members of the diaspora and home countries in Africa. This research is aimed at proving that the leveraging of the contributions of the members of the diaspora, can lead to the achievement of the economic development goals of home countries.

2.1 Trade and Investment

The first way in which members of the diaspora can contribute to the economic development of their home countries is through trade and investment. Trade and investment are enabled through diaspora remittances as will be discussed in the next chapter. Financial contributions can also be done through instruments such as bonds and special banking arrangements⁷². These financial contributions and remittances can be directed to economic development through institutions such as central banks. For example, in 2015, the World Bank indicated that remittances from the African Diaspora reached \$35 billion⁷³. While this amount signifies that economic growth should have been achieved in Africa, there are still many challenges that have been faced in ensuring that the contributions are directed to economic development. One of the main

⁷² Meala, Tesamichael, "Diaspora's Contribution to the Developmental Process of the Homeland: the Case Study

of the Eritrean Community in Switzerland." University of Westminster, 2010, <http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/academy/content/pdf/participant-papers/2012-07-iscda/Diaspora's-Contribution-to-the-Developmental-Process-of-the-Homeland-Meala-Tesfamicha.pdf>

⁷³ Tefsamichael 17

challenges is the high cost of transferring money. Apart from this, there have also been technical difficulties in transferring money, including limited platforms that can be trusted by members of the diaspora. The government has also failed to provide a consolidated channel that members of the diaspora can depend on for productive investments⁷⁴. As a result of this, a large part of the remittances has only been directed towards dependent family members or friends.

Despite the existence of these challenges, there have been efforts to ensure that members of the diaspora contribute to the economic development of their home countries. Multilateral agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have provided solutions to the technical difficulties that have been faced in making money transfers⁷⁵. Apart from this, important institutions such as the African Institute for Remittances have been formed to provide members of the diaspora with advice on how they can contribute to the economic development of their countries. Members of the diaspora have also taken the initiative of contributing to their home countries economic development by setting up businesses⁷⁶. As a result of this, investor confidence in African countries has grown, and has provided an opportunity for increased economic growth.

2.2 Advocacy and Policy Engagement for Economic Development

The second way in which members of the diaspora can contribute to the economic development of their home countries is through advocacy and policy engagement. This entails political and social dialogue, participating in advocacy issues, and contributing to the creation of awareness of

74 Tefsamichael 18

75 Tefsamichael 27

76 Tefsamichale 28

the ways in which economic development can be boosted⁷⁷. African governments have encouraged members of the diaspora to be involved in advocacy and policy engagement by creating enabling environments for their contribution. For example, they have created social and economic linkages; provided incentives; and accelerated structural reforms⁷⁸. The collaboration of African governments and members of the diaspora can go a long way in developing strategies for growth. For example, a shared vision can be developed such as in the case of Nigeria when it established the Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDO)⁷⁹. These kinds of collaboration between governments and members of the diaspora can ensure that they act synergistically. African countries are taking steps to develop frameworks for improving collaboration with members of the diaspora. Some of the countries that are already in the process include Rwanda, Senegal, Ethiopia, and Kenya among others⁸⁰. In Rwanda, the Rwanda Day has been initiated to engage members of the diaspora on economic development issues.

2.3 Capacity Building

Members of the diaspora can contribute to the economic development of their home countries through capacity building. In this sense, capacity building refers to the transfer of skills, technology, and management practices to home countries⁸¹. For example, there have been

⁷⁷ Benhardt Edem Kofi Norglo, Margriet Goris, Rico Lie, Antony Otieno Ongayo, "The African Diaspora's Public Participation in Policy-making concerning Africa." *Diaspora Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2016.

⁷⁸ Norglo et al.

⁷⁹ Norglo et al.

⁸⁰ Norglo et al.

⁸¹ Martha K. Ferede, "Engaging the Diaspora: Potential for Sub-Saharan African Universities." Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2020, https://www.oecd.org/sti/Engaging%20the%20Diaspora_Ferede.pdf

instances in which public private partnerships have been created between African governments and members of the diaspora. This has ensured that new expertise from members of the diaspora is shared with home countries for purposes of economic development. Evidence has shown the effectiveness of the transfer of knowledge and skills from members of the diaspora to home countries. For example, in the face of the Ebola pandemic, members of the diaspora whose home is Sierra Leone contributed to the transfer of knowledge and skills through the TOSHPA organization. Apart from this, they also sent equipment to their home country to help in fighting the pandemic. In Nigeria, members of the diaspora contribute to the economic growth of their country by creating a management consultancy (BethAri Limited) to provide training on the skills needed for pharmaceutical practices.

2.4 Migration

Over the past years, migration has been indicated to be one of the main reasons for the slow economic growth in African countries. For example, migration has been blamed for brain drain, which has affected most African countries. As a result of this, governments have failed to pay attention to the way migration and migrants can contribute to the economic development of their home countries. The African Diaspora Network in Europe (ADNE) has been created to show the importance of including members of the diaspora in economic development planning of their home countries⁸². This organization indicates that effective planning and engagement of migrants can ensure effective contribution to economic development. This is especially true for countries with a large number of migrants. Some of the ways in which governments can ensure

⁸² African Diaspora Network, "About." 2021, <https://africandiasporanetwork.org/>

that members of the diaspora contribute to economic development of their home countries is by enabling dual citizenship, giving them access to their legal status, eliminating administrative hurdles, and providing maximum support.

2.5 Chapter Summary

This chapter has shown that members of the diaspora can contribute to the economic development of their home countries. While the main method of contributing is by remittances and investments, African governments can also include them as development partners. Despite the potential of members of the diaspora to contribute to the economic development of their home countries, there have limited efforts to encourage and support them. Based on this, the chapter has indicated that African governments have an important role of developing policy objectives that can mobilize members of the diaspora to contribute to economic development. African governments should make efforts aimed at identifying areas of collaboration with members of the diaspora. This will ensure that members of the diaspora contribute to the economic development of their home countries as required.

The analysis of this chapter has indicated that diaspora diplomacy can promote economic development in Africa if properly utilized. This can be done through trade and investment, advocacy and policy engagement, and capacity building. Therefore, the hypothesis of this objective has been confirmed and it states that diaspora diplomacy has a role to play in promoting economic development in Africa. The analysis of the chapter aligns with the network theory which indicates that patterns of relationships among entities can contribute to development. It also aligns with the social theory which indicates that social relationship can be used as a resource for development.

CHAPTER THREE: THE ROLE OF DIASPORA DIPLOMACY IN INCREASING FOREIGN REMITTANCES AND PROMOTING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN KENYA

3.1. Introduction

This chapter assesses the role of diaspora diplomacy in increasing foreign remittances and promoting investment opportunities in Kenya. It analyzes the history and growth of foreign remittances in Africa. It goes on further to analyze the role of the government in implementing the right policies and strategies for increasing foreign remittances. Apart from this, it analyzes the need for members of the diaspora to be encouraged to invest more in their country. It also analyzes the role of the government in encouraging investments in the home country.

3.2 Foreign Remittances

3.2.1 Understanding the Concept of Foreign Remittances

The Central Bank of Kenya⁸³ defines a remittance as the non-commercial transfer of money by foreign workers, members of the diaspora community, or citizens that have familial ties abroad, to their home country. This is why it is referred to as diaspora or foreign remittances. Apart from international aid, diaspora remittances are the second largest financial inflows in developing

⁸³Central Bank of Kenya, "Diaspora Remittances", 2021, <https://www.centralbank.go.ke/diaspora-remittances/>

countries in Africa, such as Kenya. This shows that foreign or diaspora remittances have grown rapidly over the past years. They have been a major source of income for developing economies. The World Bank indicates that in 2018, global remittance to developing countries reached \$528 billion⁸⁴. By 2019, the global remittances to developing countries had reached \$549 billion. Egypt is an example of a country that has received the highest diaspora remittances in the world (\$26 billion in 2017). Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa are other African countries that have received a substantial number of foreign remittances. In Kenya, the Central Bank conducts surveys on remittance inflows through commercial banks and authorized international service providers. The table below shows the remittances in the first five months of 2021.

Year ▼	Month ▲	North America ▲	Europe ▲	Rest of World ▲	Total Remittances (USD '000) ▲
Year	Month	North Am	Europe	Rest of W	Total Remitta
2021	1	177,413.63	46,034.91	54,898.11	278,346.65
2021	2	160,892.74	50,423.35	48,969.68	260,285.77
2021	3	171,144.37	63,775.42	55,851.40	290,771.19
2021	4	179,810.14	64,566.83	54,913.42	299,290.39
2021	5	190,748.28	68,658.03	56,395.50	315,801.81

Source: Central Bank of Kenya Database

⁸⁴The World Bank, "Personal Remittances, Received (Current US\$)", n. d., <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.CD.DT>

This table shows that Kenya, and Africa in general, has the potential of increasing foreign remittances.

Understanding the process that is followed in submitting diaspora remittances can improve the analysis of the challenges that hinder this process. There are three main steps that are followed in submitting foreign remittances. In the first step, a migrant sends the remittance to a sending agent⁸⁵. The money can be sent in the form of money order, cash, check, debit card, and credit card among others. Once the sending agent receives the money, the second step is informing the agent in the recipient country to deliver the money to the receiver or beneficiary⁸⁶. The agents can then settle the amount between themselves. The settlement can be done through commercial banks or goods trade. A fee is charged for the cost of remittance, and is paid by the sending agent. A currency conversion fee is also charged if the money is delivered in local currency. Other fees can be charged by banks and other small operators.

3.2.2 History and Growth of Foreign Remittances in Africa

The history and growth of diaspora or foreign remittances can be linked to migration over the past years. By 2020, there were over 281 million international immigrants around the world⁸⁷. Out of this, 24 million were from Sub-Saharan Africa, which includes Kenya. The migration dynamics in Africa has mainly been based on different factors which includes permanent and temporary rural-urban migration, movement as a result of famine and drought, movement by

⁸⁵International Monetary Fund, “What are Remittances?”, n. d., <https://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/FT/fandd/basics/76-remittances.htm>

⁸⁶ International Monetary Fund

⁸⁷United Nations, “International Migration 2020 Highlights”, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/desa/international-migration-2020-highlights>

professionals and students, and movement aimed at escaping conflicts and persecution among others⁸⁸. Despite the large number of immigrants, the migration of Africans to other countries have not been seen in a positive light. For example, it has been argued that some of the immigrants were forced to migrate by the colonialists. Despite this argument, the fact is that migration has boosted economic development of African countries due to the existence of international remittances. While Africa is still witnessing a slow growth of inflows of international remittances, the growth has been steady over the past years. Nigeria, Kenya, and Sudan are some of the countries that have witnessed growth.

An analysis of the growth of remittances in other parts of the world can also give more insights of its potential in Africa. Just like Africa, remittances in other parts of the world have been linked to migration. Evidence shows that between the 19th and the 20th century, countries such as Italy, Spain, and Ireland had a high dependence on foreign remittances⁸⁹. By 1946, 25% of all income received in Spain came from foreign remittances. These countries experienced a growth in their remittances as they enacted laws to ensure that it is done in a legal way and is done effectively. For example, Italy signed a law to protect its remittances. Spain and Argentina Collaborated to reduce the cost of sending remittances across the two countries. Between 2000 and 2012, remittances increased significantly. By 2012, remittances around the world had

⁸⁸Anna, Lindley, "Africa Remittances and Progress: Opportunities and Challenges (ARI)", Elcano Royal Institute, 2008, http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/rielcano_en/contenido?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_in/zonas_in/sub-saharan+africa/ari52-2008

⁸⁹United Nations, "Remittances", n. d., [Towards_SustainingMDGProgress_Ch4.pdf](#)

reached \$529 billion⁹⁰. China and India are among some of the leading countries that send a large number of remittances back home.

Different actions have been taken to lower the cost of remittances back home. In 2004, G8 countries agreed on lowering costs for migrant workers⁹¹. By 2008, the World Bank had already established an international database for determining the cost of remittances. It covers over 200 countries across the world. 60% of the countries that are included in this database are still developing. This shows that a majority of African countries are in this database. The international database is aimed at achieving four main objectives which are providing comparisons across countries, benchmarking improvements, ensuring that service providers improve their services, and supporting consumers⁹². The lowering of the costs of remittances has been a subject of discussion by many countries. It has the potential of improving the economic growth of African countries.

3.2.3 Challenges of Sending Diaspora Remittances in Africa

Evidence has shown that the possibility of increasing diaspora remittances to foreign countries has not been effectively exploited. One of the main reasons that has prevented this exploitation is the large amount of money that is unrecorded⁹³. This money is not tracked, and as such, is not included in the national statistics. Ineffective financial and monetary policies by African

⁹⁰ United Nations

⁹¹ United Nations

⁹² United Nations.

⁹³Gumisai, Mutume, “Workers’ Remittances: A boon to Development”, African Renewal, 2005, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/october-2005/workers%E2%80%99-remittances-boon-development>

governments have contributed to the challenge of sending remittances back home. This is unlike in other developing countries Mexico, Brazil, and India. In these countries, incentives are offered to attract diaspora remittances. For example, India has set up a migrant pension plan⁹⁴. The existence of weak financial systems is another factor that has contributed to the challenge of sending remittances back home. For example, Zimbabwe does not have an official foreign exchange after the withdrawal of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund⁹⁵. The high transaction costs of sending remittances are one of the main factors that has contributed to the challenge of sending remittances back home.

3.2.4 The Impact of Foreign Remittances on the Economic Development of African Countries

The focus of this study is on how diaspora diplomacy has contributed to the achievement of the national interests of Africa. Economic development is among the top national interest of many African countries. As a result of this, understanding how foreign remittances can boost economic development is critical in explaining the need to implement reforms or develop the right policies to attract immigrants. In most African countries, remittances contribute to the increase of household income⁹⁶. In Ghana, foreign remittances contributed to the growth of household income by 9% between 1998 to 1999. Evidence shows that 41% of households in Ghana receive remittances amounting \$218 at least once a year. The large number of remittances that is

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received by households is spent on consumption, and as such, improving economic growth of African countries.

Foreign remittances are essential in crises and downturns in African countries. Crisis and downturns have occurred in many parts of the world. However, the main difference has been how countries recover from them. For African countries, remittances can help in the recovery process. In Botswana, remittances have enabled the rural people to preserve their livestock and assets⁹⁷. In Mali, migrants have used remittances to provide insurance to interested individuals and businesses. Generally, remittances protect families of migrants from risks that might arise from time to time. These risks do not only affect the families, but also the economic development of the home countries. However, families that fully depend on remittances can go back to poverty if the migrants stop sending the money. This situation has been witnessed in the Ashanti villages in Ghana⁹⁸.

Foreign remittances have boosted the economic independence of many families, and this has contributed to the overall economic growth of home countries. In Senegal, remittances have been used to develop irrigation systems in the Senegal River Valley⁹⁹. In Ivory Coast and Ghana, remittances have been used in establishing and supporting a large number of small businesses. In Nigeria, remittances have been invested in the development of properties. Apart from this, remittances have been used in supporting education, which has a long-term effect on economic development. By 2006, remittances contributed 1.6% of the gross domestic product of the

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African countries¹⁰⁰. Cape Verde, Gambia, and Lesotho are some of the countries that recorded an increased gross domestic product during this time. Remittances is not only a source of savings and investments, but also reduces foreign exchange constraints and finances external deficits. This implies that diaspora remittances can improve the creditworthiness of a country.

The World Bank has provided a compilation of the benefits that can result from an increase in foreign remittances to developing countries, such as in Africa. It indicates that remittances promote access to financial services for a large number of developing countries¹⁰¹. This is related to an increase in the rate of economic development. The World Bank indicates that remittances can increase the rate of economic development through increased investments. In Armenia, remittances have been used in establishing family businesses¹⁰². Through domestic investments, remittances also encourage economic growth.

Apart from this, the World Bank has provided suggestions for increasing the rate of remittances in African countries, to improve economic growth. The World Bank has advocated for the reduction of the cost of transactions¹⁰³. The World Bank estimates that a reduction of the transaction costs by 5% can lead to a \$3.5 billion increase in remittances annually in African countries. The World Bank advocates for the introduction of official channels for money transfer. One reason that has prevented African countries from developing official channels is the lack of incentives for the immigrants and the recipients. Formal transfers can also be improved

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¹⁰¹ Mutume

¹⁰² United Nations

¹⁰³ Mutume

by setting favorable exchange rates and developing efficient banking systems¹⁰⁴. For example, more banks should be set in rural areas to prevent the overreliance on the informal sector.

Countries can also implement other innovative approaches such as collaborating with countries in developing effective transfer services¹⁰⁵. For example, In Paris, banks in Senegal and Mali have collaborated to offer lower transaction costs for the remittances. These arguments prove that African countries are still behind in exploiting foreign remittances for economic development.

3.2.5 The Role of Governments in Increasing Foreign Remittances

Governments have the most important role to play in increasing foreign remittances for the purpose of boosting the rate of economic development. The African Development Bank Group¹⁰⁶ has provided some of the recommendations that can be put in place by African governments to increase foreign remittances. The first recommendation is providing financial and technical support to businesses or agencies that are involved in the process¹⁰⁷. This assistance can create an effective environment for increasing diaspora contributions that target economic development. The second recommendation is the implementation of comprehensive national policies and strategies¹⁰⁸. These policies can be more effective as opposed to the

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¹⁰⁶African Development Bank Group, “AFDB and Migrant Remittances: A Snapshot”, <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/migration-and-development-initiative/afdb-migration-activities>

¹⁰⁷ African Development Bank Group

¹⁰⁸ African Development Bank Group

implementation of ad hoc projects that are not attractive to the immigrants. The third recommendation is the utilization of financial instruments to increase financial contributions¹⁰⁹. This can promote private sector growth and also encourage entrepreneurship. For example, the treasury department of African countries can provide diaspora bonds to encourage investments. The other recommendation is the hiring of experts in the diaspora to provide virtual services to migrants in different countries. Most importantly, the government should create awareness on the benefits that migrants can achieve by sending money back home. They should be open and transparent about the opportunities that they can get. This will not only increase remittances, but also boost economic growth. There are many other measures that the government can put in place as already indicated above. They can lower the cost of transactions, ensure that a large number of individuals have access to banking services, and promote financial inclusion.

3.2.6 The Future of Diaspora Remittances

The future of diaspora remittances is still bright and African countries can take advantage of it. In the past year, the covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the migration flows across the world. This has been due to the implementation of travel restrictions, reduction of jobs, and the fear of contracting the virus¹¹⁰. Apart from this, there has been a reduction in the number of foreign workers. As a result of this, some of the migrants have been forced to return back home. This has increased the challenge of providing essential services in home countries.

¹⁰⁹African Development Bank Group

¹¹⁰Dilip, Ratha, "Keep Remittances Flowing to Africa", Brookings, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2021/03/15/keep-remittances-flowing-to-africa/>

However, migration flow is expected to increase in Africa in the coming years. It will be mainly driven by the increase of the working-age population, climate, change, and the widening income gaps¹¹¹. Therefore, governments in African should prepare for the increase in remittances by reducing the cost of transactions. Evidence shows that the cost of sending money to Africa is the highest rate in the world. Currently, the rate stands at 9%¹¹². This is three times higher than the Sustainable Development Goal target as outlined by member countries of the United Nations. Apart from this, governments in Africa should ensure that agents that are involved in the business do not face any potential barriers, in partnering with other correspondent agents¹¹³. This is especially essential for banks, which carry out a formal process. Governments should not only partner with money transfer operators, but also national banks, national post offices, and telecommunication companies to make the process smooth. This will not only eliminate entry barriers, but also increase competition. Other measures that governments should put in place for the future include encouraging bond financing and issuing diaspora bonds¹¹⁴. African governments should also work together to create a non-profit remittance platform to ensure that remittances keep flowing. This will ensure that remittances are directed to economic development, and can play an essential role in reducing the high rate of poverty in Africa.

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3.3 Investment Opportunities

3.3.1 Investment Opportunities for Members of the Diaspora

Investment opportunities is top of the interests of members of diaspora in the home country.

They are interested in getting investment opportunities that will ensure that the money that they work for is utilized effectively. As a result of this, it is important to analyze the investment types that members of the diaspora might be interested in. The investment types are as described below.

3.3.1.1 Remittances

Diaspora remittances is one of the most common ways of investing back in the home country, yet it has been underutilized. Evidence has shown that diaspora remittances, aimed at investing, is the main source of economic development in Africa. A 2019 World Bank report indicates that remittances to Africa reached \$86 billion¹¹⁵. African countries such as Nigeria, Egypt, and Morocco have recorded the largest number of foreign remittances. In Nigeria, the remittance received in 2018, which amounted to \$22 billion, was larger than its federal budget¹¹⁶. Other countries such as Cape Verde, Lesotho, Gambia, and Comoros have recorded foreign remittances that are higher than the GDP. Apart from the recorded remittances in various countries, a significant number of the members of the diaspora have used informal and unregistered channels

¹¹⁵ Paul, Asquith & Stella, Opoku-Owusu, "Diaspora Investment to Help achieve the SDGs in Africa: Prospects and Trends." Intech Open, 2020, DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.93129

¹¹⁶ Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

to send money back home. Further, there are also in-kind remittances. When all these forms of remittances are put together, the total money sent to Africa each year reaches \$200 billion¹¹⁷.

Different factors can determine the chances of using remittances to invest back in the home country. When households back home review remittances as transitory, the chances of investing are high¹¹⁸. This implies that when money is sent back home, it is invested rather than spent.

The sender conditions can determine the likely of foreign remittances being used in investments. Therefore, the sender can give conditions, which the money that he or she is sending home, is to be used for investments¹¹⁹. For example, they can give conditions that the money is used for purchasing a machinery or starting a business. Further, members of the diaspora can target family members or friends that are likely to invest their money. Members of the diaspora can give instructions, that part of their remittances be placed in investment accounts¹²⁰. Therefore, the use of remittances in investments, is mainly based on the interaction between members of the diaspora and their family and friends back home.

3.3.1.2 Direct Investment

Members of the diaspora can invest directly in their home country. It is referred to as diaspora direct investment. In diaspora direct investment, members of the diaspora might have heritage or origin in the home country¹²¹. The nationality of the members of the diaspora does not matter.

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¹¹⁸ Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

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¹²¹ Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

Their main interest is to identify a country in which they can direct their investments. Evidence has also shown that millions of Africans in foreign countries, are not aware of their country of origin¹²². As a result of this, these individuals rely on available data to determine the countries that would be best for their investments. Such kind of data is provided annually to ensure that investors can understand available trends and policies in various countries.

Diaspora direct investment is both formal and informal, just like in the case of foreign remittances. Informal direct investment can include investments that are directed towards unincorporated businesses¹²³. This is a good thing for members of the diaspora, considering the fact that most businesses are informal. Evidence shows that up to 65% of jobs in Africa, are provided in the informal sector¹²⁴. Apart from this, evidence has also shown that most investments in Africa have been directed towards the informal sector. For example, members of the diaspora have invested in family businesses or MSMEs. In the formal sector, investments have been directed towards MSMEs and property¹²⁵. Evidence shows that over 30% of remittances are directed towards investments in the informal sector. This includes sole traders, self-employed individuals, unregistered trade agents, entrepreneurs, and partnerships.

Just like in the case of remittances, there is also in-kind diaspora direct investment. This kind of investment is usually focused on acquiring physical assets or helping individuals gain the

122 Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

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knowledge that they require to engage in businesses¹²⁶. Apart from this, in-kind investment is also directed towards technological development and capital investment. It has also been used in boosting existing businesses. Members of the diaspora have utilized channels such as business angel networks and diaspora investment clubs to directly invest in businesses in Africa¹²⁷. For example, they have invested in diverse businesses such as those involving financial products.

3.3.1.3 Real Estate Investment

Real estate investment is the most common type of investment for members of the diaspora. Real estate investment involves acquiring properties and developing them for future benefits.

Different factors determine why members of the diaspora would prefer real estate investment.

Such factors include retirement plans, development of residential, rental and commercial units, outright sale, and long-term leasing among others¹²⁸. Apart from this, members of the diaspora can use real-estate investments to get loans from banks, to further the real estate investment interests or invest in other business ventures. The World Bank has indicated that real estate investment is among the most successful forms of investments in home countries.

3.3.1.4 Portfolio Investment

Portfolio investment is another common form of investment by members of the diaspora. This is a form of investment that involves equity and debt securities¹²⁹. Securities can be defined as tradable and negotiable financial instruments that represent ownership of an asset. Such assets

¹²⁶ Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

¹²⁷ Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

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can include shares, stocks, sovereign bonds, corporate bonds, derivative contracts, and debentures among others. Despite this, portfolio investment in Africa is very limited and still underdeveloped. While the value of global portfolio investments was \$60 trillion, the amount in Africa was only \$92 billion¹³⁰. However, members of the diaspora have an option of investing in diaspora portfolio investment. This is a type of investment that can be made by a member or members of the diaspora by purchasing sovereign bonds in the country of origin, purchasing equity in companies, investing in fixed income, purchasing stocks, and investing in mutual funds¹³¹. One of the main benefits that members of the diaspora can receive from engaging in portfolio investment is the fact that it is regulated by government authorities. Therefore, it is a safe form of investment.

3.3.2 Benefits of Diaspora investments

The main interest of diaspora investors is the benefits that they will derive from the investments that they make in the home country. An investment interest survey that was sponsored by the African Diaspora Marketplace, provided some of the benefits that members of the diaspora would want from their investments in the home country. The findings were divided into different categories. The first category involves financial benefits. In the survey, 44% of the respondents indicated that they invested back home for financial gains¹³². Based on this, they indicated that they invest back home to generate long-term income. Apart from this, they invest home to create

¹³⁰ Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

¹³¹ Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

¹³² Liesl, Riddle, "Investment Interest Survey." African Diaspora Marketplace, n. d., <https://business.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs1611/f/downloads/African-Diaspora-Marketplace-Investment-Interest-Survey-Report.pdf>

financial stability, for when they relocate. This implies that they want financial independence when they get home. Investing in the home country does not only create jobs, but also creates a steady flow of income¹³³. Members of the diaspora that have already invested home indicated that they require more investments to increase the value of their portfolios. This increases the rate of profitability.

The second category is emotional benefits. A significant number of the respondents indicated that they invest due to the emotional connections that they have to their home countries.

Emotions include feelings of pride, honor, accomplishment, and duty among others. 72% of the respondents indicated that they have a personal duty to invest in their home country¹³⁴. Almost the same number of people indicated that they take pride in investing in their home country.

Apart from this, they indicated that it is a feeling of accomplishment. The third category is social status benefits. This includes factors such as social responsibility and the feeling of being committed to a course. About 67% of the respondents indicated that they invest to show their commitment to their home countries¹³⁵. They indicated that they get a feeling of respect when they invest home. Apart from this, it shows that they are committed to their communities and their fellow diaspora members.

There were also political interests for investing home. A limited number of the respondents indicated that they invest home to get political power or influence¹³⁶. Part of the respondents

133 Riddle 12

134 Riddle 14

135 Riddle 15

136 Riddle 17

also indicated that they invest to avoid legal problems that could affect them or their families. Further, the respondents indicated that they invest to have access to government officials, who can help them with different issues. The respondents in this survey also indicated that they invest home for the benefit of their families. 54% of the respondents indicated that they invest to prevent their families from relying on remittances¹³⁷. Further, they indicated that they invest to ensure that their families are financially stable and secure. Others indicated that they invest as a duty to their families and based on the expectations of the family. Majority indicated that they invest to create jobs and sources of income for their families.

Evidence has shown some of the benefits that members of the diaspora can get from investing in the home countries. A report by the World Bank indicates that members of the diaspora can benefit from investing in their home countries. The report indicates that members of the diaspora are more likely to benefit from their investments due to the cultural, social, and religious connections that they have to their home country¹³⁸. They have higher chances of making the right business choices and sustainable investments. A report by the African Foundation for Development in collaboration with Migration and Development Civil Society Network also provides some of the benefits that members of the diaspora can derive from investing home. The report indicated that investing home can lead to increased income, business opportunities,

137 Riddle 19

138 John, Speakman & Donald, Agaba, "Connecting the Dots: Engaging the African Diaspora in trade, Investment, and Skills Transfer for Africa's Development." World Bank, 2015, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/trade/connecting-dots-engaging-african-diaspora-trade-investment-and-skills-transfer-africa-s-development>

financial stability when one relocates home, and creation of income for families¹³⁹. Further, this report indicates that investing back home can lead to the diversification of investment portfolios, and as such, increasing the stream of income flow. Other benefits that were mentioned in the report include maintaining links with the home country, transferring knowledge and skills, increasing trade links, and building networks¹⁴⁰. Such benefits are not only attractive to potential investors, but also countries and their interests. Therefore, members of the diaspora have the opportunity of impacting themselves and the economic development rate of their countries.

3.3.3 Challenges in Diaspora Investments

Over the years, members of the diaspora have complained about failed investments and the difficulty to invest in their home countries. Different reasons can explain why these challenges exist. Surveys have indicated some of the barriers of diaspora investments. Such surveys have been conducted organizations such the Commonwealth and UNCTAD. One of the main barriers has been a lack of knowledge of the investment opportunities that are available in the home country¹⁴¹. Evidence has shown that the lack of knowledge of investment opportunities is especially common among 2nd and 3rd generation migrants. The other barriers that have been mentioned in these surveys include political instability, corruption, bureaucracy, and lack of collaboration with members of the home country or the government. As a result of these barriers,

139 Chadine, Allen, Stella, Opoku-Owusu, & Daivi, Rodima-Taylor, "Diaspora and Migrant Investment and National Development: Building on the Nexus." African Foundation for Development, 2016.

140 Allen, Opoku-Owusu, & Rodima-Taylor 11

141 Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

the risk of investing in the home country has been high¹⁴². This has led to a large number of investments being directed to the informal sector, where friends and family members can protect them. This has reduced the impact of investment on the economic development of African countries.

Policymakers, financial institutions, and the private sector have failed to implement the right policies for encouraging members of the diaspora to invest in the home country. The policies that have been put in place have created negative business environments, and as such, made them unattractive to diaspora investors¹⁴³. As a result of this, diaspora investors have opted to send remittances to their friends and families, as opposed to directly investing in their home countries. Coupled with this, is the fact that members of the diaspora lack trust in the various institutions that are responsible for development in the African countries¹⁴⁴. As a result of this, the potential African market has been underutilized.

Members of the diaspora have indicated some of the obstacles that they have faced in seeking investment opportunities in their home countries in Africa. These obstacles are related to financial capital, government barriers, and infrastructure challenges. In terms of government barriers, the main challenge that has been raised by members of the diaspora is government bureaucracy¹⁴⁵. Followed by this, is the difficulty in finding lenders that can support an investment, such as a business. Some of the other major challenges that have been suggested by

142 Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

143 Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

144 Asquith & Opoku-Owusu

145 Riddle 20

members of the diaspora include finding individuals or companies that can invest in a business, slow government processes, corruption among government officials, and challenges in borrowing money from financial institutions among others 146.

Apart from this, there are other challenges that have been indicated to hinder diaspora investments. The first challenge is complicated investments¹⁴⁷. Majority of investments in Africa are complicated, and especially in the financial sector. As a result of this, it has been difficult for members of the diaspora to make investment decisions. Secondly, the government has taken control of most diaspora investments, and as such, limiting the ability of other institutions¹⁴⁸. In most African countries, the government has determined investment areas of interest. This has prevented the involvement of development institutions and diaspora communities. Lack of information on available investment opportunities is another major challenge for members of the diaspora¹⁴⁹. For example, there is limited information on investments in securities. Members of the diaspora are sometimes forced to rely on family and friends, who may not have the required knowledge and experience. Apart from this, members of the diaspora have received limited support from the government and other institutions.

146 Riddle 20

147 Abdelkader, Benbrhaim & Leon, Isaacs, "Diaspora Investment in Africa: Myth or Reality." Making Finance Work in Africa, 2020, <https://www.mfw4a.org/blog/diaspora-investment-africa-myth-or-reality>

148 Benbrhaim & Isaacs

149 Benbrhaim & Isaacs

3.3.4 The Role of the Government in encouraging Diaspora Investments

The government has a critical role to play in encouraging diaspora investments. It has the power and capability to put in place effective policies and structures for encouraging diaspora investments. One of the main measures that African governments have taken is the implementation of policies that encourage diaspora investments¹⁵⁰. Some of the policies have focused on reorganizing the various embassies in host and home countries to increase engagement with members of the diaspora. Apart from this, policies have focused on the establishment of government agencies that are aimed encouraging members of the diaspora to invest, as a way of supporting local communities¹⁵¹. These agencies have been involved in collecting data about members of the diaspora and the areas that they would be interested to invest in. They have also focused on providing consular services, counseling, and investment information among others. Further, government agencies have been involved in providing housing, security, and insurance programs to encourage diaspora investments.

Apart from policies, African governments have created initiatives aimed at encouraging diaspora investments. Such initiatives have included the creation of ministries that are aimed at supporting investments by members of the diaspora¹⁵². These ministries have provided members of the diaspora with functions such as foreign affairs, trade, finance, and social affairs among others. Government initiatives have also been focused on creating decentralized institutions and councils

¹⁵⁰ Dilip, Ratha & Sonia Plaza, "Harnessing Diaspora." *Finance and Development Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 3, 2011.

¹⁵¹ Ratha & Plaza 50

¹⁵² Ratha & Plaza 51

to provide solutions to different issues that are raised by members of the diaspora. African governments have also worked with the embassies of host countries to encourage diaspora investments. African embassies in the United States, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom among others have worked with African governments to provide information on investment opportunities in their home country¹⁵³. Apart from this, training can be provided to the staff in the embassies to ensure that they can support members of the diaspora as required.

African governments can encourage the development of the private sector as a way of encouraging diaspora investments. Private sector networks can act as the link between members of the diaspora and the home country¹⁵⁴. For example, such networks have invested in modern communication technologies to ensure that there is flawless interaction with members of the diaspora. African governments should ease restrictions on investment to encourage members of the diaspora to invest¹⁵⁵. For example, there should be limited restrictions on land ownership. Discount on land purchases can also be implemented to encourage investments. Another way in which African governments can encourage diaspora investments is allowing dual citizenship¹⁵⁶. Dual citizenship will encourage members of the diaspora to travel to their home countries, and will not face constraints related to foreigners. Apart from this, dual citizenship will ensure that members of the diaspora have access to social benefits and public services. Further, dual

153 Ratha & Plaza 51

154 Ratha & Plaza 51

155 Ratha & Plaza 51

156 Ratha & Plaza 51

citizenship strengthens the emotional ties that members of the diaspora have with their home countries. This does not only encourage contact, but also investments.

African governments should also create a favorable business environment to encourage diaspora investments. A favorable business environment is one that has limited red tapes, has no custom delays, has no corruption, has modern infrastructure, has limited trade barriers, and has legal measures for protecting investments among others¹⁵⁷. Further, African governments should ensure that they have a transparent financial sector safe working environment, and efficient court systems. Implementing these measures will be vital to encouraging diaspora investments in African countries.

3.4 Chapter Summary

This chapter has focused on the role of diaspora diplomacy in increasing foreign remittances to Africa. The history of diaspora remittances has indicated that it is linked to migration. As a result of migration, many home countries have benefitted from foreign remittances in different forms. The chapter has indicated that countries have experienced increased economic development as a result of foreign remittances and increased investments. However, in Africa, the process is still slow as a result of various challenges related to policies, poor structures, unofficial channels, and high costs among others. Despite this, the chapter has highlighted the economic benefits that will result from increasing diaspora remittances and increased investments. The future of diaspora remittances and investment is still bright, and as such, African countries and their governments

¹⁵⁷ Ratha & Plaza 51

must make changes aimed at increasing remittances and investments for the purpose of boosting economic growth.

The analysis provided in this chapter has indicated that diaspora diplomacy can increase foreign remittances and promote investment opportunities in Kenya. This confirms my objective. The achievement of this objective implies that Africa has the opportunity of achieving its national interests through diaspora diplomacy. Further, the analysis of this chapter confirms the hypothesis that diaspora diplomacy has a role to play in increasing foreign remittances and providing investment opportunities in Kenya. This analysis aligns with the network theory on the role of different affiliations in creating investment opportunities. It also aligns with the social capital theory, which states that social relationships can lead to productive benefits.

CHAPTER FOUR: ROLE OF DIASPORA DIPLOMACY IN PROMOTING THE UTILIZATION OF THE SKILLS OF THE DIASPORA COMMUNITY IN KENYA

4.1 Introduction

This chapter analyzes the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the utilization of diasporas skills in Kenya. The chapter will focus on how the diaspora has increased the transfer of knowledge and skills of the members of diaspora. It will analyze how the use of diaspora skills can promote economic development. Further, it will analyze the challenges that are faced by diasporas in utilizing their skills in the home country, and how the government of Kenya can help in addressing these challenges.

4.2 The Role of the Diaspora in Increasing Knowledge Transfer to Home Countries

Knowledge can be defined as what people know, and which can lead to increased capacity development. Therefore, it can be stated that the diaspora has significantly contributed to capacity building that is required to boost economic development in home countries such as Kenya. Diasporas have contributed to the increase in knowledge transfer in different ways. Members of the diaspora have formed organizations and knowledge networks. Diaspora organizations have helped in bringing together members of the diaspora that have similar skills¹⁵⁸. This has led to the rise of organizations such as scientific diaspora and technology diaspora among others. Members of the scientific diaspora have contributed to the scientific development of their home countries. On the other hand, knowledge networks have been formed

¹⁵⁸Katie, Kuschminder, "The Role of the Diaspora in Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building in Post-Conflict Settings: The Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals to Afghanistan." Maastricht University, 2011.

to enable the transfer of skills from the diasporas to the members of the home countries¹⁵⁹. Such knowledge networks include those that are focused on providing expert assistance, local associations, and scholarly networks among others.

In developing countries such as Kenya, knowledge plays a critical role in promoting productivity and economic development. On the other hand, the transfer of knowledge to the diaspora is a significant limitation for the successful development of developing countries. It is for this reason that the diaspora has been considered an important source of knowledge and skills that can be utilized by countries¹⁶⁰. The transfer of knowledge and skills of members of the diaspora does not only promote innovation, but also entrepreneurship and capacity building. While diaspora knowledge transfer usually takes place in the form of knowledge networks, organizations, and engagement policies, it can also be informal between a migrant and a person from the home country¹⁶¹.

All forms of knowledge transfer to home countries are considered to be important for development. Therefore, temporary, permanent, and virtual return are some of the ways in which knowledge is transferred from the diaspora to the home country. International organizations have played a critical role in ensuring that members of the diaspora transfer their knowledge to their home countries. One of the earliest return programs is the Transfer of Knowledge through

¹⁵⁹ Kuschminder 7

¹⁶⁰Charlotte, Mueller, "Research on Diaspora Knowledge Transfer within a Temporary Return Program." Migration Knowledge, 2019, <https://migrantknowledge.org/2019/10/16/research-on-diaspora-knowledge-transfer-within-a-temporary-return-program/>

¹⁶¹ Mueller

Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) as put forth by the United Nations Development Program¹⁶². Other programs that have been effective over the years include the Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals, Migration for Development in Africa Program, and Connecting Diaspora for Development. These programs have focused on developing countries, and especially in Africa.

Further, there have also been temporary return programs to supplement the brain drain that has been caused by immigration. Evidence has already showed that a majority of individuals that move to the diaspora are educated and skilled. The International Organization for Migration is an example of an organization that has provided temporary programs to link members of the diaspora with their home countries¹⁶³. Some of the developing countries that have benefitted from these programs include Iraq, Ghana, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Morocco, and Somalia among others.

4.3 Role of Diaspora Community Skills on Promoting Economic Development

Every year, a significant number of diasporas move back to their home country, in an attempt to contribute to growth and development. These diasporas believe that the knowledge and skills that they have acquired from the host countries, can go a long way in supporting economic growth in the home countries. The role that diasporas play when they return back home has not been given much attention in Africa, despite its importance. Diaspora community skills can be utilized in

¹⁶² Mueller

¹⁶³ Mueller

freeing up substantial resources that can promote economic growth¹⁶⁴. For example, engineers and scientists can come home with significant knowledge that can contribute to the exploitation of more resources. Organizations have implemented different programs that are aimed at ensuring that diasporas contribute to economic development in home countries. The International Organization for Migration offers attractive packages to expatriates, to fill skill shortages in their home countries¹⁶⁵. This promotes the rate of economic development. The TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals) program by the UNDP focuses on encouraging expatriates to come home temporarily to perform specific assignments. For example, expatriates are encouraged to provide training to members of the home country for a period of three months¹⁶⁶. This ensures that members of the home country are equipped with the right skills that can contribute to the rate of economic development. In Africa, the Migration for Development in Africa has provided a range of activities that expatriates can pursue as a way of contributing their skills to the economic development of their home countries. For example, it has provided an avenue through which IT skills can be transferred to the home country¹⁶⁷.

The transfer of expatriate or diaspora skills for the purpose of economic development back home, has also involved the sharing of information. Professional networks have mainly been utilized in sharing information that can contribute to economic development of home

¹⁶⁴ Lowell & Gerova 8

¹⁶⁵ Lowell & Gerova 8

¹⁶⁶ Lowell & Gerova 9

¹⁶⁷ Lowell & Geriva 9

countries¹⁶⁸. Types of information that are shared with members of the home country are related to jobs, technology, and business opportunities that they can provide among others.

4.4 Challenges faced by the Diaspora Community in utilizing their Skills for Economic Development

Despite the desire by members of the diaspora to contribute to the development of Kenya, by sharing their skills and knowledge, there are still many challenges that have been faced. Limited capacity has prevented the effective utilization of diaspora skills. This has especially been experienced in budgetary allocations and the hiring of personnel to work in diplomatic missions, to offer consular services to Kenyan in diaspora¹⁶⁹. Further, the government of Kenya has failed to provide a safe environment that can allow diasporas to come back home, and contribute to economic development. For example, there are no labor migration laws to protect those in the diaspora that are willing to come and work back home¹⁷⁰. The slow adoption of technology in Kenya has been another reason for the underutilization of diaspora knowledge and skills. It has prevented the implementation of online services that can contribute to the sharing of the knowledge and skills of those in the diaspora.

Members of the diaspora, who wish to share their knowledge and skills with members of the home country have received limited support from the government. For example, departments, government ministries, and agencies have failed to implement policies that can encourage

¹⁶⁸ Lowell & Gerova 9

¹⁶⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 10

¹⁷⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 10

coordination, for the purpose of supporting members of the diaspora¹⁷¹. This has led to limited planning and engagement. For example, Kenya lacks an effective database for identifying and supporting members of the diaspora, who wish to contribute their skills and knowledge to the development of the country.

4.4 The Role of the Government in encouraging the Utilization of the Diaspora Community Skills

The government of Kenya has a significant role to play in encouraging the utilization of diaspora skills for economic development of the country. The role of the government has been clearly outlined in the Kenya Diaspora Policy that was implemented in 2014. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has focused on taking the leading role in ensuring that Kenyans living abroad get maximum support, to enable them contribute to the economic development of the country¹⁷². One of the measures that have been put in place by this ministry is the establishment of a database for all Kenyans living abroad. Apart from this, the ministry has also focused on creating a curriculum that will improve the interaction between members of the diaspora and the home country, through the sharing of skills.

The Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Services has been involved in implementing solutions for ensuring that members of the diaspora contribute to the economic development of the country. The ministry has effectively engaged Kenya Association of Private Employment Agencies, to offer job opportunities for diasporas who return home¹⁷³. This guideline is aimed

¹⁷¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 11

¹⁷² Ministry of Foreign Affairs 20

¹⁷³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 20

at ensuring that members of the diaspora provide foreign contracts for skilled members of the diaspora. Apart from this, the ministry plans to review the Employment Act, to ensure that recruitment agencies in Kenya engage members of the diaspora, to allow for the sharing of skills and knowledge for economic development. Apart from this, the ministry has also reviewed the labor migration policy, to ensure that any migration issues faced by diasporas are immediately addressed¹⁷⁴. The ministry has also developed a skills inventory, to ensure that there is a regular update on how members of the diaspora can contribute to the economic development of the country. Apart from this, the inventory will also provide regular updates on government institutions, that diasporas can support with their knowledge and skills.

The Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government has also been committed to the process of ensuring that members of the diaspora contribute to the economic development of the country, through the sharing of knowledge and skills. For diasporas that wish to return home to implement their knowledge and skills, the ministry has ensured faster processing of documents such as passports¹⁷⁵. The ministry has also opened up more passport issuing centers abroad. The National Treasury has contributed to this effort by providing incentives to diasporas that wish to share their skills and knowledge, for the purpose of economic development¹⁷⁶. For example, the CBK has focused on reducing the cost of developing investment products. The CBK has also focused on educating investors on ventures that they can pursue using their knowledge and skills. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has focused on formulating

¹⁷⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 21

¹⁷⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 22

¹⁷⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 22

information and communication technology policy to ensure information sharing between members of the diaspora and the home country¹⁷⁷. Apart from this, the ministry has enhanced telecommunication infrastructure to enable universal information access.

Other efforts are being put in place to ensure the effective sharing of skills and knowledge by members of the diaspora. The county governments in Kenya have focused on increasing engagement with members of the diaspora, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹⁷⁸. This has enabled the creation of partnerships that focus on providing incentives and investment opportunities for members of the diaspora. The Associations of Kenya Communities Abroad have been registered with Kenyan diplomatic missions to increase engagement between members of the diaspora and the government¹⁷⁹. The Retirements Benefits Authority has provided opportunities for members of the diaspora to save and invest. Therefore, maximum efforts are being implemented to ensure that members of the diaspora can effectively share their knowledge and skills for purposes of economic development.

4.5 Chapter Summary

This chapter has analyzed the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the utilization of diaspora skills in Kenya. The chapter has indicated that there are several ways in which diaspora knowledge and skills can be shared with members of the home country. The chapter has indicated that the utilization of diaspora skills can promote the rate of economic growth in the home country. However, the chapter has identified several challenges that has prevented the

¹⁷⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 23

¹⁷⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 24

¹⁷⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs 24

effective utilization of diaspora knowledge and skills for economic development. The chapter has indicated the several efforts that have been put in place by the government to encourage diasporas to share their knowledge and skills. While these efforts have been included in the Kenya Diaspora Policy, they are not yet to be fully implemented. Therefore, there is need to speed up the implementation process.

The objective of this chapter has been achieved. The analysis of the chapter has indicated that diaspora diplomacy can promote the utilization of diaspora skills for economic development in Kenya. Diasporas cannot only share their knowledge and skills, but also create organizations and associations for linking with individuals in the home country. Therefore, Africa has the potential of achieving its national interests by using diaspora diplomacy to exploit diaspora skills. The analysis of the chapter confirms the hypothesis that diaspora diplomacy has a role to play in promoting the utilization of diaspora skills for economic development in Kenya. The analysis of the chapter confirms the network theory, which indicates that networks can boost the effectiveness of diaspora diplomacy. It also confirms the argument by the social capital theory, which indicates that a stable environment should be created in the home country to encourage the utilization of diaspora skills.

CHAPTER FIVE: PRESENTATION OF DATA FINDINGS & ANALYSIS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter provides the findings from data analysis based on the role of diaspora diplomacy in advancing national interests in Africa using a case study of Kenya.

5.1 Data Analysis

5.1.1 Rate of Response

The informants were obtained from the 100% respondents initially targeted. The number of respondents that were targeted was 30.

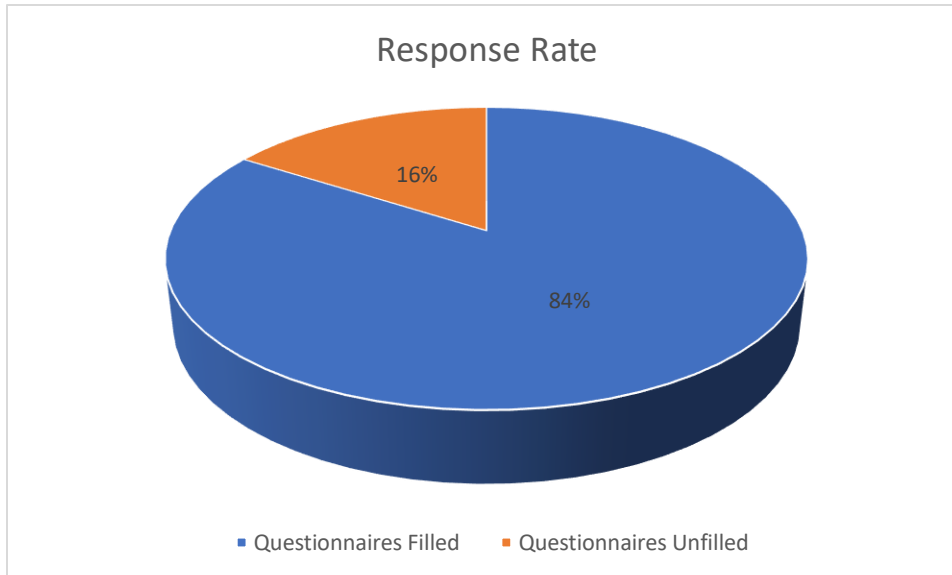


Figure 1: Response Rate

Figure 1 shows the rate of response from the informants that were involved in the study. Out of the 30 informants that were contacted, 25 completed the interview guide successfully. This represents an 84% response rate as indicated in the graph, and as such, ensuring that the sample size is close to the original size.

5.1.2 Gender

The gender of the informants is as indicated in figure 2 below.

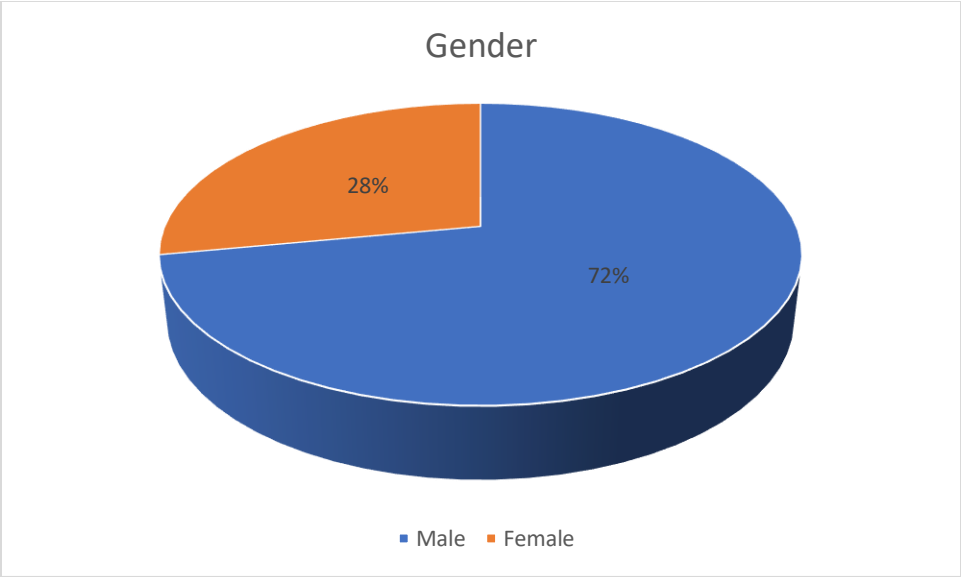


Figure 2: Gender

Figure 2 shows the gender of the informants that were involved in the study. The graph indicates that 72% of the informants were male and 28% were female.

5.1.3 Age

The age of the informants is as indicated in the table below.

Table 1: Informants' Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 30 years	4	13.3
30-39 years	9	30
40-49 years	13	43.3
Above 50 years	4	13.3
Total	30	100

Source: Researcher (2021)

Four different age groups were considered in the study with an interval of ten years. The findings of the study indicated that informants below 30 years represented 13.3% of the population, 30-39 years represented 30%, 40-49 years represented 43.3%, and those above 50 years represented 13.3%.

5.1.4 Education

The level of education of the informants is as shown in the table below.

Table 2: Informants' Level of Education

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Secondary	3	10
Tertiary College	5	16.7
Graduate	15	50
Postgraduate	7	23.3

Total	30	100
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Source: Researcher (2021)

The findings of the study indicated that a majority of the respondents had acquired a university degree. This represents 50% of the informants. 23.3% of the respondents had a postgraduate degree, 16.7% went to a tertiary college, and 10% had a high school certificate.

5.1.5 Department

Informants that were involved in the study were selected from the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The figure below shows the distribution of the informants.

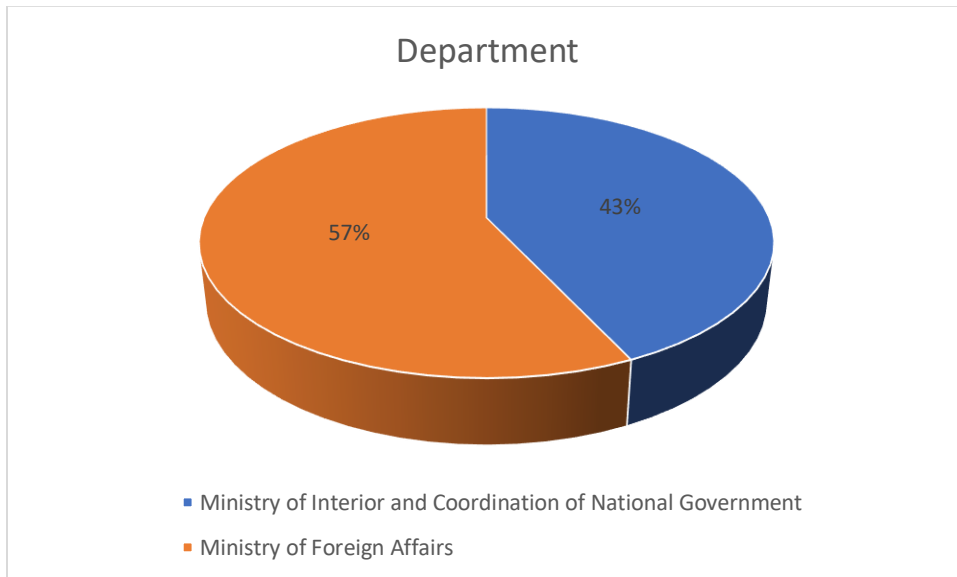


Figure 3: Department

The graph indicates that a majority of the respondents were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which represents 57%. 43% were from the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National government.

5.2 Informants' Awareness

Informants were asked whether they were aware of the terms “diplomacy” and “diaspora diplomacy.” The results are as indicated in the graphs below.

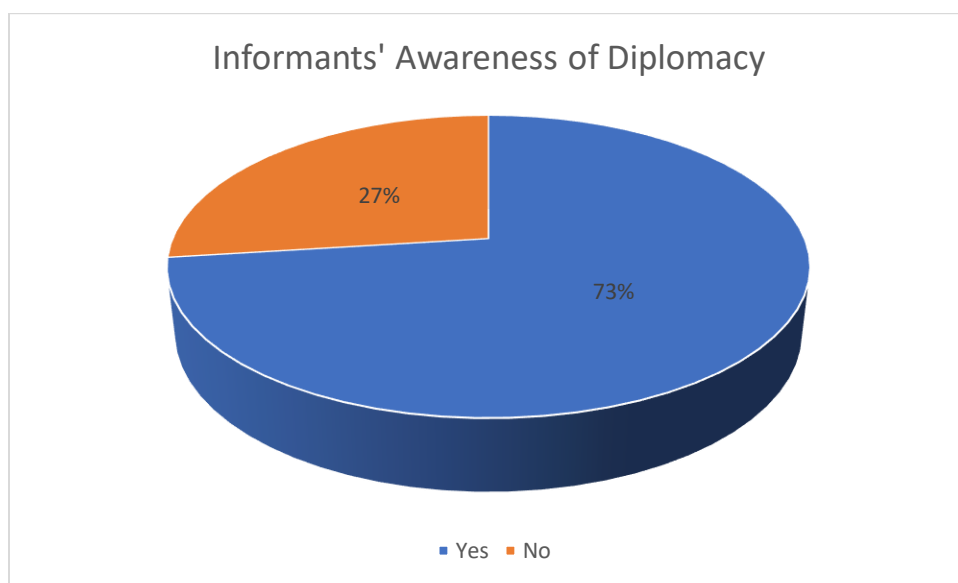


Figure 4: Informants' Awareness of Diplomacy

The graph indicates that 73% of the informants were aware of the term “diplomacy.” This implies that it is a concept gaining tract in the country. For example, one respondent described diplomacy as:

“The existence of positive relationships between individuals, groups, or countries.”

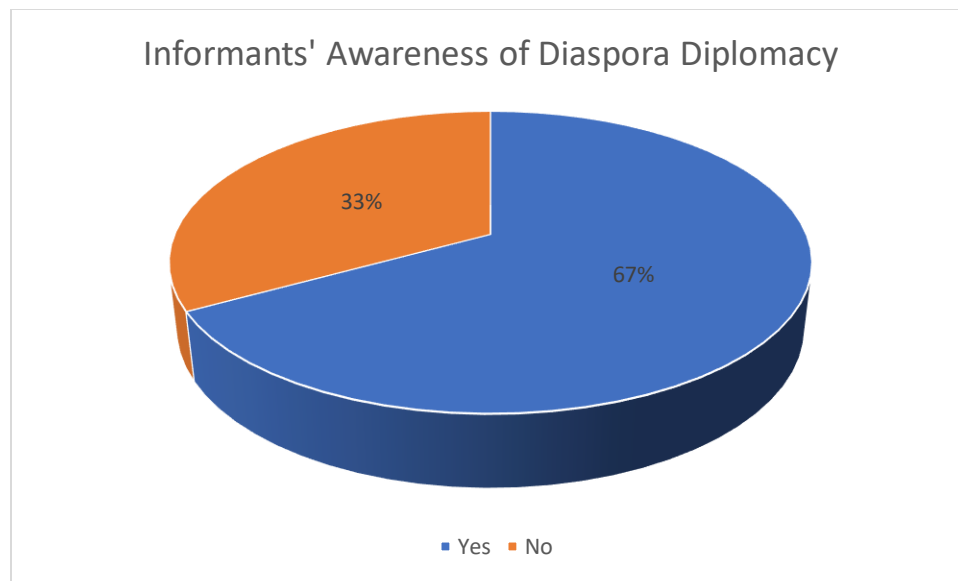


Figure 5: Informants' Awareness of Diaspora Diplomacy

The graph indicates that 67% of the respondents were aware of the term “diaspora diplomacy.”

This is also an indication that the term is gaining tract in Kenya. For example, one informant described as:

“The process of engaging country people who are living abroad.”

From the data presented above, we see that a majority of the informants completed the interview guide successfully which therefore indicates that they were aware of the subject under study. The age analysis is an indication that the two ministries that were involved, that is, the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are male dominated. The consideration of analyzing the age of the respondents was an important aspect as this can be considered as a reflection of their work experience in the respective ministries. It is seen that a majority of the informants had experience in their jobs, which involves diaspora

diplomacy. Level of education is used to measure the qualifications of the respondents and in this case a majority of the respondents were qualified to be part of this study. As the respondents were selected from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a majority of the respondents were exposed to issues involved in diaspora diplomacy. Upon looking into the informants' awareness of diaspora diplomacy, we see an indication that the term is gaining tract in Kenya.

5.3 Research Findings

The main purpose of the study was to analyze the role of diaspora diplomacy in advancing the national interests of Africa using the case study of Kenya. The study was aimed at achieving three main objectives which are the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting economic development in Africa; the role of diaspora diplomacy in increasing foreign remittances and promoting investment opportunities in Kenya; and the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting the utilization of diaspora skills in Kenya.

5.3.1 The Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Promoting Economic Development in Africa

The informants were asked whether they thought there was a relationship between diaspora diplomacy and economic development in Africa. 65% of the respondents indicated that there was a relationship while 30% indicated that there was no relationship while 5% did not know whether there is a relationship or not. The informants suggested some of the ways in which diaspora diplomacy relates to economic development. Some of the suggested responses included promotion of trade and investment, creation of markets for products, technology transfers, and contributing to innovation among others.

To be more specific, the researcher asked the informants ways in which members of the diaspora can contribute to the economic development of their home countries. One factor that stood out was through remittances and the transfer of knowledge and skills. Apart from this, the informants also indicated that members of the diaspora can contribute to economic development through investments and advocating for effective leadership.

Based on these responses, the researcher asked the informants if the economy can significantly improve through diaspora diplomacy. 69% indicated that the economy could improve, 23% indicated that the economy cannot improve, while 8% did not have a definitive answer. One informant who indicated that the economy could not improve stated that:

“I have seen little evidence to prove the role of diaspora diplomacy in economic development.”

Therefore, it can be concluded that while diaspora diplomacy can contribute to economic development of home countries, more needs to be done to ensure that all available opportunities are effectively utilized.

5.3.2 The Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Increasing Foreign Remittances and Promoting Investment Opportunities in Kenya

Based on this objective, the informants were asked whether they believe diaspora diplomacy can increase foreign remittances and promote investment opportunities in Kenya. 71% of the respondents said yes, 22% said no, and 7% did not give a definitive response. This indicates that a majority of the respondents believed that diaspora diplomacy can increase foreign remittances and promote investment opportunities in Kenya. The researcher went ahead to ask the informants ways in which diaspora diplomacy can increase foreign remittances and promote investment

opportunities. Some of the ways that were suggested by the informants include developing an effective means of communication with members of the diaspora, reducing the cost of remittances, providing technical support, and engaging member of the diaspora in policy development. A representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated that:

“The government should offer consular services to the missions in various countries.”

The respondents were asked whether foreign remittances are increasing in Kenya. 79% indicated that the foreign remittances are increasing, 18% indicated that the foreign remittances are still low, while 3% did not give a definitive answer. Evidence from Kenya indicates that foreign remittances to Kenya increased in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Remittances increased by 10% \$2.7 million in 2019 to \$3.09 in 2020¹⁸⁰. This is evidence to prove that Kenya is on the right track when it comes to increasing foreign remittances. The informants were asked to state some of the reasons why foreign remittances are increasing in Kenya. Majority of the respondents indicated that the implementation of Kenya’s Diaspora Policy has contributed to the increase of remittances. An informant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated that:

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a booklet with information on the various channels through which they can remit money.”

The informants were asked whether the government of Kenya provides enough investment opportunities for members of the diaspora. 64% of the informants indicated that there are limited opportunities, 32% indicated that there are several opportunities, while 4% did not have a

180 International Fund for Agricultural Development, “Remittance Flows to Kenya defy the odds during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” 2021, <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/remittance-flows-to-kenya-defy-the-odds-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

definitive answer. An informant from the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government indicated that:

“Corruption has been a major barrier to the increasing of investment opportunities in Kenya.”

This implies that Kenya has a potential of increasing investment opportunities for members of the diaspora. Majority of the informants indicated that the government can increase investments by members of the diaspora if they eliminate barriers. One main barrier that was stated by a majority of the informants was corruption. The informants were asked some of the investment opportunities that are available for members of the diaspora. Various opportunities were stated by the informants including insurance products, real estate, and bank products among others. Members of the diaspora also have the opportunity to invest in businesses, including private ones.

The final question on this objective asked the respondents whether enough institutions have been created to encourage members of the diaspora to invest back home. 65% indicated that there are still limited institutions, 32% indicated that there are more institutions, while 3% did not have a definitive answer. One main institution that was mentioned by the informants is the National Diaspora Council of Kenya.

From the analysis of the responses, it can be concluded that diaspora diplomacy plays a significant role in increasing remittances and promoting investment opportunities in Kenya. The responses also indicate that Kenya is on the right track in increasing remittances and promoting investments.

5.3.3 Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Promoting the Utilization of the Diaspora Community

Skills in Kenya

The informants were asked whether they knew who a diaspora is. 85% of the informants indicated that they knew the meaning of a diaspora. 15% did not provide a definitive answer, but had an idea. This implies that almost all the informants know the meaning of a diaspora. The informants were asked how the diaspora has increased the knowledge and skills of the diasporas. Different ways were mentioned including providing job opportunities, providing opportunities for training, providing networking opportunities, and providing opportunities for education among others.

The fact that diasporas get the opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills, shows that they can share it with members of the home country to contribute to the achievement of national interests. The informants were also asked how the government has created a conducive environment for harnessing diaspora skills and knowledge. Different answers were given including providing job opportunities, creating exchange programs, and developing a database for enabling communication with members of the home country.

These responses show that Kenya has the opportunity of utilizing diaspora skills to achieve national interests. However, more needs to be done to create an enabling environment for utilizing the knowledge and skills.

5.4 Chapter Summary

This chapter has indicated that diaspora diplomacy can contribute to the achievement of national interests, as indicated in the case of Kenya. The chapter has indicated that while diaspora diplomacy can contribute to economic development, increase remittances, promote investment

opportunities, and promote the utilization of diaspora skills, effective measures have to be put in place in the home country. The chapter has indicated that Kenya is in the process of implementing these measures, and positive results are now being seen. If such measures are implemented in African countries, national interests will be achieved.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction

The main objective of this study was to analyze the role of diaspora diplomacy in advancing national interests in Africa. The study was focused on Kenya as an African country with a large number of members of the diaspora. This chapter reviews the findings and its implications. The chapter also provides discussions, conclusions, and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of diaspora diplomacy.

6.1 Conclusion

6.1.1 Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Economic Development

The study focused on finding out the role of diaspora diplomacy in promoting economic development in Kenya. The findings of the study indicated that members of the diaspora contribute to the economic development of Kenya through different ways. These ways include transfer of skills, monetary remittances, transfer of knowledge, investments in real estate, and investments in physical assets. Apart from this, members of the diaspora contribute to the economic development of Kenya through exchange programs, trade and business, culture heritage, training and education programs, sports activities, and by providing social and legal support among others. The findings of the study indicated that members of the diaspora have mainly contributed to the economic development of Kenya through monetary remittances.

Despite this, the findings of the study indicated that the contribution of the members of the diaspora to the economic development of Kenya are not recognized by Kenyan embassies in various countries or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, it is recognized by organizations, associations, and agencies that bring members of the diaspora together. The findings of the study indicated that the government is in the process of engaging these organizations, associations, and agencies to encourage members of the diaspora to contribute to the economic development agenda of the country. Engagements have been done through meetings with representatives of the embassies, conferences, exhibitions, social media, and forums. Engagements have also been made through organizations, associations, and agencies. Through instruments such as the strategic plan of the ministry, bilateral agreements, diaspora diplomacy document, and sharing of important information, the government has increased engagement with members of the diaspora for purposes of economic development.

6.1.2 Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Increasing Remittances and Promoting Investment Opportunities

The findings of the study have indicated that over 3 million Kenyans live and work abroad. As a result of this, the Kenyan government has formed the International Job and Diaspora Office. One of the main functions of this office is to facilitate an increase of diaspora remittances by members of the diaspora. Recent statistics indicate that annual diaspora remittances to Kenya reach \$1 billion. Increased diaspora remittances can have an impact on the economic growth of Kenya, by influencing the GDP. As a result of this, the government of Kenya has implemented various efforts to increase diaspora remittances including collaborating with different bodies to reduce the cost of remittances, developing a consular service to address the various needs of

Kenyans abroad, creating products that promote direct remittances to Kenya for economic development purposes, and implementing faster methods of remitting money back home. Further, the government of Kenya has implemented various measures that are aimed at increasing investment opportunities in Kenya. These measures include enlightening members of the diaspora on the investment opportunities that are available in the country, protecting the interests of members of the diaspora, and providing information about investment opportunities. Through this strategy, the government of Kenya has created an avenue for tapping into the large Kenyan diaspora to achieve national development interests.

6.1.3 Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in the Utilization of Diasporas' Skills

The findings of the study indicated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken measures to exploit diaspora skills from Kenyans living abroad. A diaspora web portal and skills database has been created for Kenyans living abroad. This portal has made it easier for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to communicate with members of the diaspora. To access the portal, individuals must input their personal information, which can be used by the ministry to exploit various avenues for the utilization of diasporas' skills. This database is active in different countries including the United States, United Kingdom, China, Japan, Europe, and South Africa. Findings indicate that more people are continuing to register on this portal, and as such, will provide an opportunity for the effective utilization of diaspora skills.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 Policy Recommendations

The study recommends that a framework for ensuring continuous dialogue with members of the diaspora be implemented. This is mainly because of the mistrust that has existed between the Kenyan government and members of the diaspora. The limited effort by the government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to create a platform for maintaining dialogue with members of the diaspora has contributed to this mistrust. As a result of this, the implementation of a framework for constructive dialogue will create a common ground through which engagement with members of the diaspora can be improved.

The study recommends that the government, through the National Treasury, formulates investment-friendly policies. The forming of these policies requires cooperation between the government and banks. This will ensure that banks create favorable accounts for members of the diaspora. As a result of this, they will be encouraged to remit money back home. One way in which these accounts can be made favorable is by offering friendly rates and enabling foreign exchange. The Central Bank of Kenya should contribute to the process of ensuring that remitting money back home is easy. This will ensure that there is an upward trend in foreign remittances. The Central Bank of Kenya various financial products that target members of the diaspora such as diaspora bonds. Banks in Kenya are already collaborating with remittance service providers to increase the amount of money sent back home. The government and banks should also embrace platforms such as M-Pesa that has allowed for the direct transfer of money.

The study recommends that voting rights be given to members of the diaspora. The voting rights of members of the diaspora is already protected under Citizenship and Immigration Act of 2011. Extending voting rights to members of the diaspora will strengthen engagement as it will increase their role as citizens of Kenya and will allow for political representation. The voting

rights build trust as more Kenyans will be willing to invest back home. In the past election, members of the diaspora were allowed to vote. This trend will increase the involvement of members of the diaspora in the affairs of the country.

The study recommends that the role of consular services in different missions be increased as a way of promoting engagements with Kenya. One way in which this can be done is by hiring additional staff to work in countries with a higher concentration of Kenyans. This will ensure that the different issues faced by members of the diaspora are addressed.

The study recommends the implementation of dual citizenship for members of the diaspora. The current constitution allows individuals to have dual citizenship, but the process of implementation has been low. Dual citizenship can ensure that members of the diaspora have a link to their home countries. This can encourage them to be involved in investment, trade, and technology transfer among others.

The study recommends the implementation of a framework for ensuring that members of the diaspora participate in national development. One way in which this can be done is by increase productive ventures to encourage members of the diaspora to remit money back home. The government should develop initiatives that target members of the diaspora in collaboration with missions abroad. For example, public private partnerships with members of the diaspora have proved to be successful.

6.2.2 Academic Recommendations

The other recommendation is the need to develop a comprehensive database for members of the diaspora. This will not only ensure that members of the diaspora have access to important information, but will also increase engagement. This database can be used to determine opportunities that are available for achieving national interests. It will allow for the determination of the skills that members of the diaspora can contribute to the home country.

The study recommends that the number of diaspora facilities in countries where Kenyans are located be increased. The purpose of this is to build relationships and increase engagement with members of the diaspora. Such facilities can perform different functions including educating Kenyans on issues such as investments and promoting the culture of the country. Coupled with this is the need to establish organizations for ensuring that diaspora skills are transferred back home. This will ensure that the intellectual capital of diasporas is effectively utilized.

Organizations should also provide consultations for members of the diaspora on best practices and efforts that the government is putting in place to support them.

The study recommends that further research should be done on this field. Presently, as at 2021, there are limited studies on how the government can increase remittances, create investment opportunities, exploit the skills of the members of the diaspora, and create employment opportunities among others.

6.3 Areas of Further Studies

There is need for further research on Kenya's involvement in diaspora diplomacy in East Africa and the African region. This is mainly because of the ties that exist between Kenya and other African countries. With this study, ways of enhancing development in East Africa and Africa can be determined.

Considering the limitations, I faced while conducting this research during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was unable to go deeper in data acquisition, for example, I did not manage to interview any of the Kenyan Ambassadors living in other countries across the world. This would have greatly contributed to my research which leads me to confirming that there is more research that can be done on this particular topic. That considered, further research should be conducted on the effective policies that can contribute to the achievement of national interests in Kenya using diaspora diplomacy.

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Appendices**Appendix 1: Consent Form****Serial:.....**

I am student studying at the University of Nairobi and pursuing a Master's degree in diplomacy and international studies. It is an academic requirement to collect data as part of this research study. This interview guide is aimed at collecting information regarding the role of diaspora diplomacy in achieving Kenya's national interests, with a specific focus on economic development. The data collected will be used for academic purposes only.

Signed Consent.....

Appendix II: Key Informant Interview Guide

Section A: Respondent Profile

1. Gender? Male Female
2. Age? Below 30 years 30-39 years 40-49 years Above 50 years
3. Education Level? Secondary Tertiary College Undergraduate
Postgraduate Other

4. Which department do you work in?

.....
.....

5. What is your job in the department?

6. Do you understand what diplomacy means? Yes No

7. Do you understand what diaspora diplomacy means? Yes No

Section B: The Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Promoting Economic Development in Africa

8. Do you think there is a relationship between diaspora diplomacy and economic development? Yes No

If yes, what is the relationship?

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9. What are the ways in which members of the diaspora contribute economic development of Kenya?

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10. Can Kenya's economy improve through the diaspora diplomacy?

Yes

No

Section C: The Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Increasing Foreign Remittances and Promoting Investment Opportunities in Kenya

11. Do you believe that diaspora diplomacy can increase foreign remittances and promote investment opportunities in Kenya?

Yes No

If yes, how can this happen?

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12. Are foreign remittances increasing in Kenya? Yes No

13. What are the reasons for the increase of foreign remittances to Kenya?

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14. Does the government of Kenya provide enough investment opportunities for members of the diaspora? Yes No

15. How can the government increase investments in the country?

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16. What kinds of investment opportunities can be provided for diaspora members?

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17. Have enough institutions been created to encourage the diaspora community to invest back home? Yes No

Section D: Role of Diaspora Diplomacy in Promoting the Utilization of the Diaspora Community Skills in Kenya

18. Do you know who diasporas are? Yes No

19. Has the diaspora increased the knowledge and skills of diasporas?
Yes No

20. How has the government created a conducive environment for harnessing diaspora skills and knowledge?

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Thank you for your time



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