



**Migrations & Développement
International Solidarity Organization**



**5th Global Forum
on Migration and Development (GFMD)**

*“International Workshop on the contribution of migrant associations
to the development”*

Taroudannt / Taliouine, 20-21-22 september 2011.

“The workshop on the “Contribution of Migrant Associations to Development” that our association, “Migrations & Développement” has welcomed on the 20th -21st -22nd of September in the Moroccan Atlas has brought together governments from 20 different regions (Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde Islands, China, Comoros, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Haiti, Germany, India, Morocco, Nigeria, Poland, Senegal, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, USA, Zimbabwe). Organized under the Swiss Presidency and the French and Moroccan Co-presidency, this event enabled to all of the representatives to exchange with some actors of the territory (villagers, migrants, co-operators, elected locals, public authorities) and with migrant associations acting in different regions of Morocco or established in other European countries, about the practices realized by migrants of the region since 25 years.

The main objective of the workshop was to elaborate public policies recommendations to support migrant actions towards the development of their country of origin, based on the information collected in the Moroccan Atlas and Anti-Atlas: during 3 days, Taroudant and the villages around Taliouine have been the global centre of migration and development!

This international meeting constitutes *recognition* of the work realized by our association during more than 25 years, and, we are proud of its success. **Especially, the principles structuring our work have been recognized**: different methods of contribution to development from migrants, participation of actors (including migrants) as an essential basis for development, importance of the coordination between actions and the role of organizations such as M&D, necessary long term vision and flexibility of politics supporting migrant actions.

The success of this event constitutes a *great encouragement* to continue and expand our work to support migrants and villager’s projects in the infrastructures, economic actions and local governance. All these actions include professional training. During the workshop, **M&D has announced the will to create an *International School dedicated to local development and sustainable Co-development*** related to the academic environment, opened to actors of development at a national Moroccan level but also, at an international level: Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal, Mali... Strong qualified actors are needed everywhere: elected people, co-operators, coordinators of associations acting for development, administration officials, and migrants acting for the development of their country of origin...

The current crisis is extending the social links in Europe and weakening migrant populations. In this context, it is important to show that they are continuing to act for development along with their country of origin. Another look to migration!

Jacques Ould Aoudia,
Président of « Migrations & Développement »,
September 2011

This Workshop has been organized in three times:

On the 20st of September in Taroudannt, where the Governor of the Province welcomed the organizers and the participants.

The workshop was then organized on the 21st of September in villages of the Atlas and the Anti-Atlas, around Taliouine, according to 3 thematic sessions, where the participants exchanged on:

- During the 1st session, the **Infrastructures** developed with migrants,
- During the 2nd session, the **Economic activities** and the role of migrants,
- During the 3rd session, **Local Governance** at a local scale and at the rural district scale.

On the 22nd of September, the participants met at the “Maison du Développement” in Taliouine, where the lessons of the three sessions have been discussed and where the summary of the work have been presented.

The documents above recount these different steps and present a vision of the actions realized by “Migrations & Développement” with the implication of migrants acting for the development of their region.

In this document, will be presented:

A presentation of the association “Migrations & Développement”

Part 1: Rural infrastructures and sustainable Environnement

Part 2: Income Generating Activites

Part 3: Local Governance

Part 4: Youth and exchanges / Education / Development training

Part 5: gender and development

The summary of the Forum presented by the consultant Giulia SINATTI,

Summary of the study into migrant investment in Taroudannt province



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Presentation of the association MIGRATIONS & DEVELOPPEMENT

The actions undertaken by migrants in developing their country of origin is a very wide-ranging social practice which is both long-established and universal. "Migrations & Développement" (M&D), a non-governmental association set up in 1986 by Moroccan migrants working in France, is involved with this social practice.

Open to non-migrants, M&D is an organisation which is rooted in its home territory, the mountainous regions of the Souss Massa Drâa. Adopting a participatory approach which closely involves villagers and migrants, it is now active at all levels of rural development: village infrastructure and environment, the economy and local governance. In this way, the Association has formalised a social practice based on solidarity. As a transnational organisation, it strives to reinforce the links between the destination country and the country of origin by backing the establishment of migrant associations in the North and by encouraging exchanges between youth and local development players both in the South and in the North.

A VERY WIDE-RANGING SOCIAL PRACTICE WHICH COULD BE SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC POLICY

The actions undertaken by migrants in developing their homeland and their region of origin is first and foremost a social practice, based on maintaining solidarity ties across the sea. It is a long-established practice: in the nineteenth century, the Lebanese diaspora would fund the imam or the priest to teach the children in their home villages.

But the contributions made by migrants to development is not to be confused with the kind of public policy which may support them; migrant activity in developing their home regions is essentially private in nature. And the activities are as wide-ranging as the migrations themselves: cash remittances to the family, individual investment in the purchase of a house or in economic activities, but also the transfer of funds to collective projects undertaken by formal (associations) or informal migrant groups. These transfers may be occasional and not continued (sending an ambulance to the village). Or they may be structured on a long-term basis, often ranging from humanitarian actions (sending clothes or educational supplies) to development actions (finance for a community plant). These projects may focus on funding for infrastructure, but they may also take the form of support for economic activities or involvement in local governance as a representative, when retirement age is reached.

The actions undertaken by migrants to help with this development also have an integration aspect in the host country: they raise the profile of immigrants as they accept responsibility for the development of their home country. Often they involve nationals and migrants in international solidarity initiatives. This is particularly true for young members of migrant families, who seek new forms of solidarity with developing countries alongside young nationals. Through decentralized cooperative actions, local authorities are able to seek backing from the migrant association present in their territory to involve themselves in developments which are meaningful to both sides. This means that all these actions tend to bring together societies from the North and the South through authentic cooperative initiatives, where large sections of the populations of the two countries concerned find themselves mobilized alongside the migrants.

Public policy should be able to support these migrant development actions at a variety of levels, both national and local. What is required is the creation of long-term trust-based relationships between public institutions and migrant associations¹, in both the host and origin countries.

The non-governmental association "Migrations & Development", run by Moroccan migrants living in France, is a part of this approach. It has managed to establish this social practice on formal foundations by operating its activities on a professional basis. The support it receives from French and Moroccan institutions is an illustration of public policy in the host and origin country coming to the aid of migrants in the development of their home country.

TOGETHER WITH THE MIGRANTS FROM THE REGION, THE ASSOCIATION "MIGRATIONS & DEVELOPMENT» HAS BEEN WORKING FOR 25 YEARS TO DEVELOP THE TERRITORY AND TO ENCOURAGE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

"Migrations & Développement" (M&D) was set up in 1986 by Moroccan migrants living in France. As natives of the Atlas and Lesser Atlas mountains, these young men, who spoke no French on their arrival, went to work in the steel industry in the South of France. When the factories closed, encouraged by one of their number, Jamal Lahoussaine, they organised themselves and decided to carry out concrete actions to develop their home villages².

A fundamentally poor, drought-prone region

The region, equal in size to Belgium, is poor. Until the 1990s, it was neglected by the authorities - there was no electricity, few roads, few schools, no piped water and no public health centers. It always suffered from a high level of emigration. In the 1960s, the Moroccan authorities signed migration agreements with European countries to meet their labour-force needs. Significant worker recruitment schemes were organized in this region for European industry and mines³. These "pull" factors were reinforced by "push" factors: a serious drought had been ravaging the region since the middle of the 1970s, leading to a significant rural exodus to the cities of Morocco (85 %) and Europe.

When M&D initiated its activities in the mid 1980s, it was striving to raise funds in an informal manner from migrants settled in France, and to invest this money in village infrastructure (electrification and small-scale hydraulic engineering) and then in health and education.

¹ Hein de Haas : *"Engaging Diasporas. How governments and development agencies can support diaspora involvement in the development of origin countries"* June 2006 - IMI - University of Oxford - Oxfam Novib.

² Zakya Daoud, *Marocains des deux rive [Moroccans from both shores]*, Paris, Ed. de l'Atelier, 1997 ; by the same author, *Marocains des deux rives : les immigrés marocains acteurs du développement durable [Moroccans from both shores: Moroccan immigrants active in sustainable development]*, Casablanca, Ed. Paris-Méditerranée, Tarik Editions, 2005. Yves Bourron, *Jamal : Un migrant acteur du développement [Jamal: A migrant player in the field of development]*, Ed. PubliSud, 2011.

³ Natasha Iskander : *"Creative State : Forty Years of Migration and Development Policy in Morocco and Mexico"*, Cornell University Press, 2010. Thomas Lacroix, *Les réseaux marocains du développement*, Les Presses de Sciences-Po, 2005.

An open association, established on a professional basis, and expanding its funding sources

The association is covered by French law, protected by a head-office location agreement⁴ with Morocco, and all who wish to support its actions are free to join. Volunteer French engineers have donated their skills and helped to build links between the NGO and French civil society. With its goal of development, the Association has steadily become more professional and has recruited staff members in both France and Morocco.

A growing addition to the migrant remittances has emerged in the form of money from funding bodies in the North (the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, the French Development Agency [AFD], European funds, private foundations,, plus multilateral funds – FAO, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP) and in Morocco (the Ministries of Social Development, Agriculture, the Interior and National Education, the Social Development Agency [ADS], the Regions, Provinces, and rural districts). As regards the migrants, M&D has expanded its audience by recruiting migrants firmly rooted in French society (businessmen, entrepreneurs) who originally came from the Atlas and Lesser Atlas, and young French people who are the children of Moroccan migrants.

Initially village infrastructures, then economic activities. Actions on local governance have always supported the intervention of the association

M&D activities have evolved in stages. It has now embarked on stage three:

1. For the first 15 years of its existence, M&D backed village infrastructure projects decided on by both villagers and migrants. The initial demands of the villagers focussed on improving their living conditions (electricity, water, health, schools and road surfaces).
2. Very soon, however, a need was observed for the standard of living to be raised. At the start of the new millennium, M&D launched an extensive participatory survey involving all the local players in the Souss Massa Drâa region (Village Associations, migrants, rural districts, local authorities, national drinking water and electricity utilities, academics), to carry out an in-depth diagnosis of the potential resources of the territory with a view to developing economic activities. This participative evaluation of the potential in the region has enabled to establish in 2000 the “Plan d’Action Concerté Taroudannt 2000-2010”
3. The village level proved to be too narrow to tackle these questions. In support of the launch of the District Development Plans (Plans Communaux de Développement - PCD) in 2009 decided upon by the King and covering the whole of the Moroccan territory, M&D threw its weight behind the Rural Districts⁵ which sought its help in the participatory development of the PCD, by injecting its action principles into local governance initiatives and the links between local governance and migrants.

The intakes of training courses are now playing an important role in the activities of the association as the actors become more independent and express the wishes to improve their capacities of comprehension and actions.

This means that M&D is a development NGO wholly associated with a territory - that of the migrants who are its members, where it feels called upon to tackle all aspects of rural development to provide the young with an alternative to migration and to reinforce the attraction of the area.

⁴ Signed between the Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs and M&D, this agreement allows the organisation to operate on Moroccan soil while still retaining its legal status as a French association.

⁵ A rural district includes 20 to 30 villages.

Action firmly based on 3 principles : Participation, Solidarity, Partnership.

M&D has gradually built up a method of operating in the territory of origin based on three action principles, always according to an empirical approach:

- A participatory approach: it is the villagers and the migrants who define the priorities and who fund a percentage of the work. They are established as a "Villagers' Association": M&D sets this as an obligatory condition. M&D takes responsibility for coordination with the other partners (rural districts, local authorities, national and international funding bodies), for social mediation within the village and between the villages, for transferring the skills required, and ensures that the villagers are trained. The villagers themselves develop their own bodies to manage the joint systems which have been created (they have extensive experience in managing irrigation). They are even in a position to charge a suitable price for electricity and water to establish a fund (the village development and solidarity savings fund) which is devoted to new village projects. The interventions on local governance has started at the beginning.
- The principle of solidarity: the collective services (electricity, water, irrigation) must be paid for, but access to these services is guaranteed to all villagers, including the destitute, via mutual aid systems which draw on the traditions of solidarity, natural to the migrants and villagers.
- Partnership with the local authorities: it is not the intention of M&D to replace the State's actions in the region. Within the public policy framework (such as the National Initiative for Human Development [Initiative Nationale pour le Développement Humain [INDH], M&D acts to support the villagers' and migrants' actions, and to articulate them along with State actions, as was the case with the electrification of the villages under the aegis of the national operator, the National Electricity Office.

The application of these principles, particularly that of participation, is producing sustainable results: infrastructure built with M&D support stays in good working order from the start, and in particular, the institutions established (Village Associations, system management bodies) survive after receiving the initial support from the NGO.

Widening the bridges between North and South

As a transnational organisation operating between France and Morocco, M&D works to bring the societies on the two shores closer.

In Europe, M&D strives to support the formation of migrant associations focusing on developing their country of origin. In particular, they support organisations comprising the children of Moroccan migrants who are cautiously seeking to express their attachment to the country of origin of their parents. This work became established on a broader basis in 2010, with the support of the Minister responsible for the Moroccan Community residing abroad, within the framework of a programme designed to train Moroccan association leaders living in France in order to energise diaspora initiatives by streamlining their integration into the host country, while strengthening their bonds with the country of origin. The Moroccan minister has dubbed this programme "Taking root without being uprooted".

Together with the work carried out with the migrants in the North, M&D organises exchanges between the two sides of the Mediterranean and beyond. These are exchanges between local elected individuals (between the mountainous regions of Taliouine and Tiznit in the South, and the Haute-Provence Alps in the North), between researchers (the National Agricultural Research Institute in Agadir and the Mediterranean Agricultural Institute in Montpellier), between NGOs concerned with international solidarity from France, Mali, Mexico and Morocco, with NGOs from Italy focusing on fair trade via 'solidarity tourism' trips with enterprise committees. M&D also organises youth exchange arrangements, mainly for the benefit of the children of migrants, who come to spend some

time in the villages of the Moroccan Atlas to find out about life there and to foster mutual understanding.

"M&D" is a non-profit association under French law, signatory to a head office location agreement with Morocco. Its annual budget is 0.9 million euros.

M&D has 5 staff members in France (in Marseille, location of the M&D head office), 10 staff members in Morocco plus 8 informal school organisers, also on salary. Of the total 23 staff members, 20 are Moroccan (2 from France and 18 from Morocco). Some 15 volunteers, primarily young retirees, are active in the North (mainly in Marseille, Lyon, Paris, Perpignan, and Saint-Etienne). They contribute support and expertise to the staff team.

The Association actions and the role of the migrants are summed up in detail in 5 chapters which elaborate upon and illustrate this introduction:

*File 1: Village Infrastructure and Environnement
Sustainability*

File 2: Income generating Activities.

File 3: Local Governance.

File 4: Youth and Education

File 5: Gender and Development

Subjects for analysis

M&D, the migrants and the State in the departure country: M&D strives to motivate the players as a *catalyst*: it has no brief to cover all the actions undertaken by migrants to develop the region.

Many actions inspired by those realized with M&D have been established by migrants without the intervention of the association. M&D is in favour of independence and initiative on the part of the players (migrants, representatives, private investors), and strives to involve the State in public goods and services.

Migrants and villagers: M&D is careful to ensure that it is the villagers who make the *final decision* on a project. It ensures that the migrants are not tempted to 'take over the village' when they contribute funds. Any development process causes ruptures and so is bound to encounter resistance to change and conflict. M&D is careful not to become involved in local conflicts and seeks to act as a mediator.

Migrants and public policy: As will become clear from a reading of the subject-based chapters, the actions undertaken by the migrants follow a *range of channels*, depending on a very wide range of conditions and systems. In both North and South, public policy designed to support this migrant action should strive to develop long-term *trust-based* relationships with them and the associations they are involved with. M&D has set up relations just like this with the funding bodies, the partners, in France and Morocco.

M&D and development aid: M&D action also challenges the conventional logic of public development aid, in that it is the beneficiaries (villagers first, migrants second) who are in control of the projects, according to *their own logic* (which is not in contradiction to reporting to the funding bodies). This is why M&D does not respond to *invitations to tender*, which often seem to satisfy the funding bodies expectations. M&D issues *proposals* based on all of the requests *made by the people*, and submits a project to the funding bodies for financing. It never changes its projects to obtain funding. M&D asks to be assessed on its long-term results, not on a project-by-project basis, since results develop slowly and often take unusual routes, even if the snowball effect may sometimes speed up developments.

Migrants bring an overlapping approach to development, coming from both sides. Thanks to their knowledge of both cultures, *they are able to act as the bridge between the countries and the middle-men for development.*

Part 1

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Since 1989, building rural infrastructure has been the first line of action adopted by M&D. Why? Because this is the first thing both villagers and migrants ask for. M&D realised that this work on infrastructure with the support of the migrants from the villages (electrifying the villages, piped drinking water, retention dams, irrigation networks, schools, dispensaries, roads, etc.) would provide tangible proof that action was possible. These actions were and still are an excellent school for development and solidarity, particularly as regards learning how to manage shared systems and relations with the authorities, as well as mutual support between the villagers, be they migrants or otherwise.

Here we describe three actions which represent the part played by migrants in building rural infrastructure: electrification, drinking water supply and irrigation.

In its initiative to develop the Souss Massa Drâa region in a rural participative manner, M&D has concentrated for 5 years its efforts for the protection of the environment thanks to two pilot projects: solid waste management and rural drainage.

The young people from migration, aware of the environmental issues are the first one to develop projects concerning solid waste management and drainage.

1. Decentralised Rural Electrification

This project was intended to meet the villagers' demands for access to electricity and to train technicians and association managers in the installation, management and monitoring of the networks established.

Independent operations at the beginning ... until the arrival of the public operator

In 1989, when M&D initiated its actions in the region, barely 10% of the rural population had access to electricity. For a long time, this situation has slowed the development of the territory.

Electrification was the *first request* made by the villagers of the Association. M&D undertook an initial safety-standard-compliant electrification project in the village of Imgoun with the help of some volunteers from the French National Society Electricity of France [EDF]. In the light of the success of this first project, the demand grew, and M&D expanded its actions in the region. It called on large-scale funding bodies, particularly the EU. These funds bolstered the contributions made by migrants to the electrification projects in their villages.

At the end of the 1990s, having witnessed the achievements of M&D and hoping to reduce the time taken to electrify the rural area, the National Electricity Office (Office National d'Electricité - ONE) launched the Global Rural Electrification Programme in collaboration with M&D, the Villagers' Associations and the Provincial Council of Taroudannt. In the wake of this initiative, M&D has undertaken no more rural electrification work since 2006.

Installation in the hands of the villagers and the migrants

The installation of electricity grids begins with a *request from the villagers* via the Villagers' Association (VA) addressed to M&D. M&D then carries out technical, social and financial research together with the villagers. An agreement is signed between the VA and M&D to allocate responsibilities: the share of the work and the funding taken on by the villagers and the migrants, and the duties accepted by M&D regarding funding from the funding bodies. The villagers and the migrants pass the electrification plan and they set to work.

The principle is to fit a meter in every home. The poor will be taken care of by the village group in line with the terms and conditions appropriate to each village. Then, with the help of M&D, the VA works out a management and charging system: and hires a member of the village to take charge of the maintenance of the generator and the collection of charges from the residents.



M&D action in a few figures

From 1989 to 2006, 120 villages have been electrified. Those villages represent 43,000 residents.



Electrification in the village of Aouerst, 2003

A variety of outcomes, in particular: pressure from the migrants has encouraged the public utility to electrify isolated villages

The initial effect of the electrification projects was to encourage the villages to set up Villager Associations for themselves to arrange electrification, support the management of the electric system in the village and , to tackle other development projects.

The cross-subsidisation between rich and poor has reinforced social cohesion between the residents, and has also been a poverty-reduction factor. The living conditions of rural women have improved as regards their time and their working conditions. The time devoted to education, which children previously spent working, has increased.

Residents and migrants have now formed a new image of their home village.

In terms of economic impacts, the young who were involved in the installation of electricity grids have now found work in public works projects or with the electricity. Some of them have even set up

their own businesses. Revenue-generating activities have developed thanks to the improvement in women's working conditions and training actions.

At the environmental scale, the introduction of cookers and electric ovens in some homes has helped ease the pressure on the demand for firewood.

Finally, the electrification of the village has encouraged the public operator ONE (National Energy Organisation) to take action throughout the entire region.

This factor is the *most important outcome*: the migrants had neither the skills nor the means to electrify all the 2,000 villages in the region. Their role is to encourage the public electricity utility to launch its own programmes in this disadvantaged zone.

Partners

Villagers' Associations, migrants, European Union, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rural Districts.

2. Drinking water and drainage

The goal of the actions relating to water is to improve the health situation and ease the burden of work falling on the shoulders of country women and girls by providing access to drinking water and improved drainage.

An endemic drought situation which has deteriorated since 1990

The drought which has affected the Souss Massa Drâa region since the 1970s took a turn for the worse at the end of the 1990s. The disappearance of springs has resulted in the desertification of some villages. It has also seriously damaged agricultural activities. Alerted by requests from a growing number of villages for support using small-scale hydraulic installations (retention dams, shared drinking water springs, irrigations systems, surface water drainage, etc.), M&D launched an emergency anti-drought programme between 2000 and 2004 that has progressively been extended in actions for piped drinking water at a villagers' scale, and from 2004, in actions for environmental drainage.

A high level of migrant involvement in projects which are nevertheless run by the villagers

The M&D *piped drinking water* projects, like all other infrastructure projects, are based on *villager demand* which takes concrete form in their participation in the work and costs. Run by the Villager Associations, these projects are operated in partnership with the Rural Districts, the National Drinking Water Office (Office National d'Eau Potable - ONEP) and the decentralised services of the State. The beneficiary villages were chosen on the basis of a range of criteria: their motivation, their cash involvement or participation and the existence of a Villagers Association active in the field.

As with all electrification projects, the migrants have taken an active part in these piped drinking water operations through their role within the Villager Associations (they come back every summer to spend their leave in their home village) and their financial involvement.

Social/health goals associated with skilling upgrade goals

Eliminating the hard labour involved in accessing water frees up time for women, which is an advantage as regards revenue-generating activities, and gives girls time to go to school. This improves the people's health and social situation.

This also upgrades the management skills of the Villager Associations and the network heads in terms of structuring, strategy definition, the development and implementation of drinking water projects and the improvement of the environment.

M&D action in a few figures

- 27 drinking water networks have been built in 43 villages, representing 27,000 residents

Multiples effects

The supply of drinking water in every home is now guaranteed as a matter of course for humans and livestock. The health of the villagers has improved.

The local players' management skills have improved. The villagers' habits as regards hygiene and resource management have been *upgraded*, and a demand for drainage networks has emerged.

Drainage has meant that the risk of polluting ecosystems and natural environments is reduced.

The M&D actions have led the State to take action in the rural zones with an acceleration of its piped drinking water programme.

3. Irrigation of the "bour" areas

The goal of the action is to turn land into farmland which had become virtually desert-like through drought.

The launch of a project to re-energise the saffron industry

Initiated in 2005, this project was intended to support the saffron industry, saffron being a 'very hungry' crop when it comes to cultivable land (the land has to be rotated every 4 years). In addition to this, the price rise for this spice in 2007, in the wake of the Saffron Festival, now means that investment to return this land back to production is profitable again, and has accelerated demand for irrigable land on the Souktana Plateau.

An important role for migrants in the investment to return land to use, with poverty reduced in the villages

Investment in hydraulic works (the digging of wells, ponds, irrigation channels), undertaken by M&D, has been funded by ADS [Social Development Agency] and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (France). Huge areas in which migrants and villagers have invested for the preparation of this land which has not been farmed for 40 years).

In addition to this, a proportion of this land which could not be irrigated before belongs to other migrants who have leased it to landless villagers, resulting in a considerable reduction in poverty.

M&D action in a few figures

-61 wells have been dug and 14 retention dams, 13 reservoirs, 3 ponds, 5 seguias [river takeoff channels] have been built.

-Creation of networks rendering 520 hectares irrigable with a view to a reinstatement of intensive farming in 3 villages: Imgoun, Aouerst and Aït Youssef.

Immediate economic impacts as the cultivated areas are increased

Increased income for migrant investors and farmers (crops: vegetables, maize and above all saffron), particularly as regards the poor who rent the land leased by the migrants.



Partners

Villagers' Associations, migrants, ADS, Tourism for development, French Minister of the Interior in charge of mutual development.

4. Solid waste management and promotion of renewable energy

The aim of this project is to improve environmental quality in tourist villages via the sustainable management of solid wastes and the promotion of alternative (solar) energy sources.

Awareness of environmental issues increases due to tourist activity in the villages

Every year, a large number of tourists visit the villages in the Souss Massa Drâa region to enjoy the cultural and architectural charms of the Moroccan Atlas and Anti-Atlas zone.

In order to consider tourism as part of a rural development strategy, it is important to take into consideration the environmental dimension, particularly the management of *solid waste*. A diagnostic study commissioned by M&D in 2008 with ADEME support revealed the presence of heaps of plastic materials and batteries, due to the lack of any garbage collection and solid waste treatment

service, and to the villagers' ignorance of the effects of this waste on the environment and their health, and on the quality of the reception extended to the tourists.

For this reason, M&D decided, in collaboration with ADEME and as part of the National Environmental Protection Plan, to launch a *pilot project* for the environmental management of waste in 18 tourist villages in the Souss Massa Drâa region. Since 2010, it has been the intention of M&D, given its involvement in the development process of the District Development Plans, to emphasize the involvement of the elected representatives, with a view to ensuring the continuity of the project and to preserve the regional lifestyle.

When the project started, migrant women and their children played a decisive role in raising the awareness of the villagers on the need to solve the household waste problem in the villages.

Steady expansion of the scale of the waste treatment project

The pilot project entitled "Solidarity based Tourism and Sustainable Co-Development in Morocco" began with the management of waste at a village level with the establishment of women's environmental committees, the organization of "clean-up days" with the children, and the construction of collection points.

Today this has been extended to a District or even Inter-District Level (a Rural District includes some 20 to 30 villages). It has dual goals: firstly to progressively set up a waste treatment and collection 'chain' going from village to Province, and even to the Region; and secondly, to ensure that the waste is ecologically processed through organised collection, selective sorting and evaluation.

Solid waste treatment in biodiversity preservation (reforestation) and the promotion of renewable energy

The project began by raising the awareness of the population, concentrating on women, children and the Informal School organisers, then on the local representatives, in particular via the development of District Development Plans.

Expansion takes place through campaigns which support the establishment of waste collection and treatment systems. The project has been extended to cover the use of renewable energy (solar pumping systems and photovoltaic street lighting) and reforestation. Migrants are financially involved in the reforestation operations of their village by buying plants.

In the long term, the aim is to establish this project on a perpetual basis so that it can be set up in other regions in the south of Morocco.

M&D actions - some figures

-1 diagnostic study of the management of solid waste carried out in **18** mountain villages in the Souss Massa Drâa region,

-1,226 people aware of the impact of waste and the need to produce less of it, of the need to collect and evaluate waste: 22 association leaders, 12 local elected representatives, 7 innkeepers, 8 Informal School organisers, 555 women, 622 children,

-6 waste management committees (3 of which are women's committees) were set up to oversee the cleanliness of their villages and to ensure that women who had made commitments regarding waste collection respected their initiatives,

-4 Environmental Charters and 2 Eco-Citizen Guides have been published in 2 villages,

-4 refuse centres and battery bins were set up (2 as part of the Exchange Workshops) by 5 Villager Associations,

-"Clean-up days" are now organised on a regular basis in the tourist villages and in the villages where Informal Schools have been opened,

-20,000 olive, carob and almond trees have been planted in 10 villages, in partnership with the Villager Associations and the Local Collective representatives (some during the Exchange Workshops).

Beneficiaries

The tourist operators in the 18 villages concerned: migrant innkeepers, village families who run bed-and-breakfasts, craftspeople and cooperatives as well as the villagers themselves. Not forgetting tourist hikers.

Partners

Villager Associations, Rural Districts, migrants, Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie (the Agency for the Environment and Energy Control - ADEME), Scouts de France (French Scouts), Lycée agricole CFA Nature (Agricultural High School), Fondation du Sud (the Foundation of the South), the Ministry of the Interior.

5. Rural drainage

The aim of the installation of drainage systems is to raise the level of health and hygiene in the villages which have been provided with piped drinking water during the new millennium.

The drainage enables to reduce risks of pollution of the ecosystem and natural environment

M&D has run its projects in the same way as its campaigns for building village infrastructure

The methodology of intervention suppose to follow the following steps: Confirmation of villager demand, organisation of different workshops for men, women, children and teachers and involvement of villagers and migrants from the village in financing the villagers' part of the project. Then implementation of technical studies and organisation of the drainage work. The last stage is the establishment of a management system and the training of the village maintenance team.

The demand for drainage only emerged during the second stage. The children of migrants have played an important part in supporting drainage

The *demands* made by the villagers and migrants towards M&D focused on the *pipng of drinking water* into the villages. The installation of reticulated water has given rise to *positive* changes for the populations as far as access to water is concerned. But the lack of a system for removing waste water has contaminated village water tables, which has negatively affected the hygiene and environment in the villages.

In this context, M&D has worked in collaboration with the Taroudannt Province Drainage and Environment Unit on a pilot project entitled "Drainage in villages with pipe water networks". At that time no drainage project had yet been undertaken in the province. Apart from the technical difficulties (low flow rates, difficult topography), the major problem is that the villagers' first request is not concerned with *drainage*. It is only after the reticulated water had caused its negative effects that the villagers lodged their request.

The migrants play an important part by stressing the need for drainage, an example being the drainage network in the village of Assaragh. This project has come about thanks to the action of the migrant youth association "*Youth and Development*" which occurred between 2007 and 2010, and which undertook to raise the awareness of the villagers, to seek funding, and to perform the technical follow-up on the work.

M&D actions - some figures

-2 drainage networks were built in the villages of Tagmoute and Asseragh, and 1 drainage network is currently being built in the village of Ait Iktel, covering 4,100 residents,



*Environmental drainage network in the village of Tagmoute (2011).
Photo on the right: reuse of drainage water to irrigate carob trees.*

Partners

Villager Associations, Rural Districts, migrants and migrant associations, Fondation Ensemble (Together Fund), Fonds Solidarité Eau et Développement Durable Grand Lyon/Veolia (Water and Sustainable Development Solidarity Fund), French Minister of the Interior responsible for Interdependent Development.

Part 2

INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

During its first 10 years of activities, M&D concentrated all its efforts on the village infrastructure. At the end of the 1990s, the question of economic activities was raised: in the wake of a participatory enquiry carried out on the ground in 2000, M&D became involved with supporting income-generating activities. The participatory enquiry defined two broad areas of activity: agricultural produce and rural tourism.

Following the M&D campaign, which led to an increase in the value of agricultural produce, migrants then took to investing in the sector. As far as rural tourism is concerned, it is the migrants themselves who have launched the movement by investing in hotels in their home villages and continuing to make investments, thereby going far beyond the programme launched by M&D.

INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Having focused all of their actions for a decade on building village infrastructure, M&D was faced with the minimal nature of the villagers' income. This caused them to consider the matter of economic activities. M&D then organized a *participatory enquiry* in 1999 covering all the partners in the territory: villager associations, migrants, Rural District representatives, local authorities, public utilities (water and electricity), academics, experts, etc., with a view to assessing the potential resources of the Souss Massa Draâ region.

This enquiry revealed the fact that the rural Taroudannt zone possessed *significant natural and cultural resources*. Once the value of these resources had been established by the local population, they were able to create new economic activities and generate additional income for rural families.

M&D then decided to expand its area of action to encompass local economic development within the framework of the "Taroudannt 2000-2010 Concerted Action Plan). The first stage was to add value to *agricultural activities* focusing on high value-added produce, such as saffron and argan oil, but the survey also revealed the high potential of the territory for *rural tourism*.

1. Upgrading the produce from the land

Unexploited potential

The region possesses important resources in terms of farming expertise in the field of high value-added produce, such as saffron, argan oil, olive oil, almonds, dates, etc. The region is also blessed with extensive biodiversity as regards aromatic and medicinal plants.

However, as is the case in most agricultural areas of the world, these products only provide a low level of income for the farmers, mainly due to produce quality problems, poor peasant farmer organization and the farmers' abilities which leave them vulnerable to fraudulent practices and greedy traders.

Support for the formation of cooperatives ... and the Saffron Festival

The M&D procedure for upgrading the value of farm produce takes its lead from classic rural social development and mutual aid procedures: it involves establishing *cooperatives* to bolster the farmers' negotiation powers in order to obtain the best price for their produce.

M&D provides the cooperative members with support for the legal establishment of the cooperatives and for mobilising technical facilities. The action then concentrates on training the *farmers to achieve quality produce* and to *comply with standards*, as regards both the domestic and export markets.

With the aim of making their product better known, in 2007 M&D launched the *Taliouine Saffron Festival*, now held every year at harvest time (the end of October). Since the first Festival and with the support of the Italian fair trade organisation *AltroMercato*, farmers have been able to export their saffron at a price *three times higher* than that of the local market (rising from 1 to 3 euros per gram). This Festival, which also boosts the value of other produce (argan and olive oil, honey, almonds, has significantly reinforced the strength of the cooperatives in the region.

M&D has supported the participation of producers at a number of national and international events (exhibitions, fairs) to promote local produce.

A very small number of migrants were involved in the launch phase of the cooperatives. However, since the movement started, a considerable proportion of the region's migrants (including retirees) *have invested* in the production of this high value-added produce.

A series of activities focusing on the region's farm produce have been undertaken to upgrade produce value

The "Quality Saffron" project: Saffron is the iconic product of the Taliouine region and the main source of cash income for families. To boost the value of this product and to generate more income for the farmers, M&D teamed up with experts to carry out various land analyses and assessments, as well as training and preparation schemes for local producers. In the light of the studies carried out by M&D, the Ministry of Agriculture has issued an *Appellation d'Origine Protégée* (AOP - Protected Designation of Origin) to defend the value of the produce. A "*Home of Saffron*" has been built in Taliouine to protect the industry.

Oil production: Research has been organised by M&D to help producers improve the quality of their products. M&D has organised exchanges between representatives and cooperative members with the Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur region. The farmers *shared their experience with professionals from the French olive oil industry*.

Argan oil: Taroudannt province is responsible for 53 % of the national argan oil output. M&D has supported an organisation consisting of several *women's groups* to manufacture and market this product. M&D has also taken part in a diagnostic study designed to identify new production techniques to help improve the quality of this traditional Berber product. Argan oil has found a market among customers of the rural tourism industry.

M&D actions – some figures

- In 2007 1 saffron industry study was carried out in partnership with the FAO, together with 1 technical study on Aromatic and Medicinal Plants in 2010,
- 18 saffron cooperatives have been set up since 2007 and 9 argan cooperatives. Support for the establishment of 2 women's aromatic and medicinal plant cooperatives,
- 10 training schemes helping 250 farming cooperative members were organised. 272 producers (including 47 women) were educated about the role of smallholder organisations in the structure of the industry,
- 16 young people, 8 migrants and 8 Moroccans from Morocco, were trained in the business of upgrading the value of farm produce, marketing the produce and quality production (a second session is planned for the 2011 Saffron Festival),
- Support to help 1 saffron cooperative receive the BIO label [Organic certification], and 2 cooperatives to obtain the AOP Saffron-Taliouine AOP label. Support for 4 cooperatives to obtain funding,
- Support for 2 saffron cooperatives to take part in international fair trade events. Support to market around 100 kg of saffron for the benefit of the cooperatives in fair trade networks,
- 1 mutual support store was opened in 2010 in Tafraout with the support of the Amelne Rural District, and 1 more mutual support store to sell farm produce from Taroudannt province is under way,
- 5 workshops on packaging and exhibiting farm produce are under construction at the Cercle de Taliouine and Taznakht Circles,
- High level of involvement of M&D in organising and running the Taliouine Saffron Festival since 2007.

The socio-economic effects are felt throughout the entire Region

Partnerships have been forged with fair trade organisations with positive results for the local economy (higher turnover for producers),

Genuine opportunities are opening up for the young, providing an alternative to migration,

The first cooperatives invested in the purchasing of farm equipment which they hired out to other farmers. Agricultural production and processing techniques improved,

More land brought under cultivation: higher produce prices mean that irrigation investment has become profitable and helped desertified land be farmed once again,

Support for irrigation and processing in the saffron area has meant that a first fair trade market has been set up where producers themselves can market their produce in Europe,

The Saffron Festival has given rise to imitations: an *Almond festival* was established in 2008 in Tafraoute and an *Argan Festival* took place in June 2010 in Taroudannt province,

Raising the value of farm produce is an encouragement to migrants to invest in various projects and sometimes to come back to live in the country.

Partners

Villager associations, Agricultural cooperatives, Rural Districts, Ministry of Agriculture, University of Agadir, Regional Agricultural Produce Value Upgrade Office (Office Régional de Mise en Valeur Agricole - ORMVA), Province of Taroudannt, Slow Food, CTM AltroMercato, FAO, Souss Massa Drâa Region, Montpellier Mediterranean Agricultural Institute, Hassan II Agricultural and Veterinary Institute, French Embassy (SCAC), French Ministry for the Interior responsible for mutual development.

2. Solidarity based Rural Tourism

High tourist potential: solidarity based rural tourism

The province of Taroudannt possesses considerable tourist attractions given its historical, cultural and architectural heritage. This comes with the tradition of hospitality of its people and the energy of the Villager Associations. These resources are to be found within a wide range of different, very beautiful, landscapes.

Despite this potential, tourism is very undeveloped in this region, and is wholly concentrated in the city of Taroudannt in the form of passing tourist trade.

In this context, in 2004 M&D adopted a mutual-support tourism development strategy based on small-scale investment: given the specific nature of the region (few surfaced roads, small villages, strong traditional culture) it was neither possible nor desirable to develop mass tourism.

This strategy found expression in the launch of the Solidarity based Tourism project in the rural region involving 21 tourist villages from several provinces in the Moroccan south. Based on the idea of discovery and exchange focused on the Berber culture, respectful of the inhabitants and the locations, the aim is to promote solidarity based tourism in the rural region as a lever for local development.

Migrant investors have played a key role in opening up rural tourism

Migrants have played a major role in the initiative, as they have invested since the launch of the project in building country inns in their home villages, part of a programme supported by the European Union, the AFD, and the Social Development Agency.

Following an investigation of the territory to identify villages with high tourist potential which could depend on the support of a robust Villager Association (VA), M&D initiated an information campaign aimed at villagers and Moroccan migrant associations in Europe designed to raise their awareness of the benefits to be gained from tourist activity, with benefits for themselves as well as the village.

At the same time, in collaboration with local partners, M&D drafted a *solidarity based Tourism Charter*. Once the Charter had been signed by the VA, the migrant investor and M&D, the building of the inn began along with the supporting activities: training in the hospitality trades, the identification of three 'Tourism Countries' (Rose Country, Argan Country and Saffron Country), promotion campaigns, the establishment of Tourist Information Offices, etc. Test trips were organised to identify hiking routes and to introduce the villagers to the benefits to be gained from tourism.

Confronted with a demand from the villagers for small-scale investment, M&D proposed the establishment of guest houses and bed-and-breakfasts in the residents' homes.

Note: Within the framework of the programme, migrant investors received a subsidy of 25% of the cost of the inn, up to a threshold of 20,000 euros. The major difficulty migrants had to face concerned the weaknesses of land-law of the territory on their villages. Unfortunately, due to these consequences, many investment projects held by migrants haven't been realized.

Villager Associations receive a fee for every night spent in the inns which gives them the opportunity to invest in other development projects.



The inns at Tagourout and Tingert, built by two migrants.

M&D actions- some figures

- 1 study was carried out to identify 25 high tourism potential areas,
- 19 country inns have been built, with a capacity of 318 beds, 4 guest houses in 2 villages have been opened with a capacity of 17 beds,
- 1 district inn has been opened and managed by the Ifri Village Association,
- Total investment in inn building stands at 13.9 million dirham for the inns and 3 million for the guest houses. Average investment per inn is 730,000 dirham, with 75% provided by the migrant,
- Over 100 jobs have been created, 42 direct and 62 indirect,
- 11 young guides to the region have been trained in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, and 6 have been awarded their professional qualification,
- 1 Association of Interdependent Tourism Operatives has been set up in Taliouine for all the professionals in the field (guides, muleteers, hoteliers, etc.),
- 1 Tourist Information Office has been opened in Taliouine and 1 Tourist Information Centre in Tiznit,
- 3 Hiker Footpaths have been created in partnership with the FFRP: 180 km in 13 stages, 160 km in 10 stages and 80 km in 6 stages. 3 small hiking paths have been signposted in the Argan Country.

Economic effects which spread into other sectors. Here too, the migrants have a major part to play

The rural mountain zones of the provinces in question are now open to tourists, particularly hikers; tourism was launched on a basis of solidarity and respect for people and the environment (Rural Tourism Charter).

The nightly fee paid by the tourists to the Villager Associations means that other village projects can be set up. The presence of tourists in the villages allows villagers to market local products directly or via the interdependent shops and/or the Product Houses of the area.

Migrants continue to be involved in promoting the local tourism industry. When the campaign was launched, other inns were opened in the region on the initiative of the migrants, unconnected with the M&D programme: the M&D campaign, run from 2004 to 2009, gave rise to a real surge in investment in rural tourism, thanks to both migrants and non-migrants. Aside from investment in the inns, other migrant investments have been made (transportation companies, tourist guides, businesses, etc.). Migrant investment which was previously made in basic infrastructure steadily *expanded* to include local economic development projects.

Effects on institutions

Institutions such as the ADS or the Ministry for Handicrafts and Tourism are becoming increasingly aware of the rural tourist potential of the region.

Operatives in the tourist industry in *Saffron Country* have set up the "Taliouine Association for the Development of Tourism".



Partners

Villager Associations, migrant investors, Rural Districts, European Union, AFD, Social Development Agency, Ministry of Tourism, Viaggi Solidali, Provinces of Taroudannt, Tiznit, Ouarzazate, El Haouz, the Occupational Training and Labour Promotion Office (Office de la Formation Professionnelle et de la Promotion du Travail - OFPPT), French Ramblers' Federation (Fédération Française de Randonnée Pédestre - FFRP), the ADOMA Foundation, Agadir Hotelier's Institute, Programme Concerté Maroc, Transat, PRIDES Carac'terre, Tourism for Development, Maroc Inédit, the inter-district 'Les Hautes Terres de Provence - Provence High Country' office, Ministry of the Interior.

Part 3

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Since the first interventions which concerned villagers 'infrastructures, the question of local governance was asked. The action started by the constitution of Villagers 'Associations, formal structures which progressively came in addition to the traditional villagers organizations called "jemâa.

Migrants have played an important role in these Villagers' Associations to implement infrastructure projects. Progressively, they have become more involved in Rural Districts as local elected people.

Gradually, the importance to go beyond the village scale became necessary. Since 2010, M&D is supporting the establishment of District Development Plans (DDPs) and follow their implementation. In this context, M&D is striving to ensure that the visibility contributed by these DDPs is an additional attraction to encourage migrants to invest in their home region.

1. THE BATTLE FOR VILLAGERS' ASSOCIATIONS

The action of M&D has evolved, since the end of the 80s, with the democratization movement from the Moroccan society caused by the expansion of the rights to create an association in all sectors. The Moroccan civil society has widely taken advantage of these new liberties to create millions of associations in all sectors, both in the city and the countryside.

For M&D, the *village*, (which includes 200 to 1000 people) has appeared as the relevant place to implement projects. Even if the village is not recognised as an administrative unity for the institutional architecture of Morocco, it remains an essential part for the social life in the rural areas. It is at a village scale that solidarity, confidence, cooperation for local works and traditional parties begin. The village then became a territorial unity for action.

Traditional governance: the jemâa for notable people

Being abandoned for a long time by the central state, this mountainous region has only survived to the difficult climatic conditions thanks to a very strong social organization at a village scale. This social organization has been strengthened by strong traditions constituted around the Berber language. As in many traditional societies, it was managed by an organization, the *jemâa*, only controlled by rich and old men: the notable. The objective of this *jemâa* was to organise the life in the village: parties, agricultural tasks, sorting out minor conflicts. It was closed to young people, women, migrants who were often without land, being the poorest.

The action of M&D: the opening of villager's governance to young people and migrants

Since the beginning, M&D has taken the advantage of the democratic opening offered by the power. It has defended the constitution of Villagers 'Associations to establish projects of development at a village scale. This, supposed a negotiation /confrontation with the notable of the jamal : they had the choice either to create their own Villager's Association, or to let others create Villager's Association without them.

This question has required a lot of energy for M&D at the beginning. As always, it is the success of the projects, (in the case of the electrification) that has encouraged villagers to diffuse all over the region, the creation of these associations next to the jemâa.

The creation of a VA supposed to go through two challenges:

1. **Difficulties inside the village** because the notable often refused the creation of structures opened to young people and migrants. Sometimes, they enabled the creation of a VA and continued to advice elderly people, letting the VA to play the key role for the development of projects. Sometimes, they invested the VA and opened it to new actors. All figures have been presented during this period. However, it is important to notice that the training session of the VA suppose the formalisation of the organization: introducing status, electing members of an office and a president, opening of a bank account.

To support a project of development, one of the conditions proposed by M&D was the constitution of a VA, (established with a contract to define the role of each party). This disposition has largely encouraged the villagers to constitute other VA. It is also important to remember that the "citizen incorporation" of young and elderly people in local governance didn't integrate women. For more information, please consult the chapter concerning "Gender and Development".

2. **The other difficulty concerned local authorities.** Due to a secular culture of submission in view of the state, local authorities have resisted to the application of new legal dispositions authorizing citizen to create associations. Migrants also played an important role at this stage by taking the responsibility to create these VA while living abroad (this methodology prevented them to suffer from the reactions of local authorities). Progressively, the situation became secure with the possibility to create associations and VA in rural areas.

More than 20 years after these battles, the Villagers 'Associations are well established in the Sous Massa Drâa. They still play an important role in the social life of the region. They played an key role in many projects of development supported by M&D and migrants. But, they seem to be limited while dealing with some problems in the territory. The importance to go beyond has been necessary: it is at the scale of Rural Commune (which includes 20 to 30 people) that some questions of development need to be asked.

2. District Development Plans

By being involved in developing these plans, M&D is able to provide Rural Districts in need with the benefit of their experience in participatory planning and their links with the migrants in Europe.

Support for participatory planning, an increasing number of migrants as elected representatives

Within the framework of the 2009 District Charter, the Moroccan government has undertaken a new decentralisation project by setting up District Development Plans (DDPs). The aim of this project is to give the Districts greater power and independence. They are now responsible for planning the development of their territory and finding the means for fulfilling their projects in coordination with the local players and in collaboration with the national development bodies, such as the INDH.

In this context and at the request of a number of Rural Districts in the Souss-Massa-Drâa region, M&D is lending its support to the territorial analyses and participatory planning. The goal is to help these Districts to develop their subsequent DDPs with full independence, thanks to the tools which have already been developed. For several years, an increasing number of migrants have been elected to represent the Rural Districts. They have made a point of including the link between migration and development in their rural strategies. This opening up raises the level of attraction of the territory, particularly as far as migrant investors are concerned.

A procedure which involves migrants and opens up opportunities for investment

During the initial stage, M&D helps the Districts to assess the limitations and potential of their territories and to prioritise needs in line with the expectations of their population. Particular attention is paid to the role of women in this assessment procedure. Meetings *with migrants* are also organised to evaluate their expectations for the social and economic development of their District, but also to debate their position within Local Governance Authorities following the adoption in 2011 of the new Moroccan Constitution.

During the second stage, M&D will support certain actions planned in the DDPs which are incorporated into their Rural Co-Development Programme within the Moroccan Atlas (CORIAM).

Thanks to its *transnational* position, M&D makes a particular point of organising migrant associations and local groupings in France and other host countries where the region's migrants live, to contribute to the implementation of the projects included in the DDPs. The establishment of investment plans in the Districts should have the effect of opening up the economic potential for investment. Based on this procedure, which is *territory-based*, M&D will motivate migrant investors to become involved in a range of areas (agriculture, tourism, sale of local products, etc.).

Developing strategic vision skills and player coordination, through the involvement of the migrants

The aim of this action is to upgrade the skills of representatives, officials and local organization committees in territorial analysis and planning, and to develop the culture of cooperation by motivating the Districts to *coordinate* with the players in their territory and the migrants to establish an effective territorial plan. It also hopes to boost international partnerships with local grouping in the host countries of the migrants in the region in the execution of the DDPs.

The participation-based development of the DDPs represents hands-on training in democracy

The action consists of setting up an organisation team and a planning committee in each District, then carrying out surveys among the population and interviews with the decentralised services of the State; cooperation workshops are then arranged with the bodies involved before the drafting of a summary report defining the strategic development directions with action plans for each District.

A wide range of players involved, including migrants who are elected representatives

Local representatives, officials and civil society players (business, cooperatives, associations, etc.) from the 25 Districts of Tiznit Province and the 5 Districts of Taroudannt Province. These representatives include internal migrants and migrants who have returned from abroad to live in Morocco.

M&D actions - some figures

- 1 organization team and 1 planning committee have been set up and trained in territorial analysis and participatory planning in each District. 1 quantitative database has been set up in each District,
- 2 networks of associations have been established in 2 Districts and are backed by M&D,
- 125 people (representatives, association members and officials) from 30 Districts have been trained in territorial analysis and territorial planning development (8 of whom are women),
- 2 tours prospecting for exchange-workshops for young migrants in the Districts, 2 experience exchange missions dealing with local north-south and south-south governance, and 15 cooperation workshops for representatives, local populations, association heads and migrants have been organised,
- 3 projects arising from DDPs are in progress.

While waiting for social and economic spinoffs, the effects on institutions

This new method of developing District policy helps bolster local democracy and the culture of *coordination* between local decision-makers, and to involve migrants in local development. It is also an opportunity to unite these decision-makers in the light of the analyses of District development, with a view to developing *a shared* vision.

Partners

Tiznit and Taroudannt Provinces, 30 Districts (including 29 Rural Districts and 1 Urban District: Taliouine), French Minister of the Interior responsible for interdependent development, French Development Agency, Migrant Associations (in both Morocco and Europe), migrant investors, local French groupings (the Community of the District of Ecrins, etc.).

Part 4

YOUTH/ EDUCATION /DEVELOPMENT

TRAINING

M&D has become involved in youth education campaigns through a number of projects. In Morocco, these campaigns involve the establishment of Informal Schools and awareness-raising initiatives about child labour. Migrants are occasionally involved in education by building schools. To build a bridge between North and South, M&D supports the organisation of Exchange Workshop Forums focusing specifically on young French people with migrant parents.

1. Informal Schools (ISs)

Adapting education to the rural context

In the isolated villages of the Souss Massa Draâ region, the educational system is incapable of fulfilling the educational expectations of all members of the population.

In order to guarantee education for all, in 1998 the Moroccan Minister for National Education initiated a "*Special Program for the Education of Disadvantaged Rural Populations in South Morocco*", based on collaboration between government and non-government bodies. Within this framework, M&D has set up a network of Informal Schools (ISs) where basic school education is *adapted* to the rural situation.

Progressively, M&D has expanded access to these schools to *adult women* keen to take literacy courses and has turned them into environmental education centres, following training of the teachers.

An occasional activity carried out by the migrants:

building or fitting out a school

These Informal Schools are mainly devoted to teaching literacy through a programme which provides basic education, in addition to activities adapted to their environment. In this context, M&D has adopted an active teaching procedure based on exchanges between pupils and organisers in collaboration with the village families. The teachers/organisers, who receive an allowance from the Moroccan Ministry of National education, are housed and fed by the villagers.

Migrant actions in the educational field sometimes take the form of building or fitting out schools in their home village (the schools in the villages of Ouzzane and Tagourout, for example). However, the migrants are largely unwilling to take responsibility for regular operating expenses in the long term, such as paying the salary of a teacher.

The campaign against child labour

should be included as an aspect of other approaches

In 2005, M&D also launched an action programme in partnership with the International Labour Office (ILO). The aim of this three-year programme was to raise the awareness of civil society to the campaign against child labour. Over 40 villages across 4 Rural Districts in the Province were the beneficiaries of this project.

This programme formed part of projects concerned with the supply of *piped drinking water*: access to water in the home means that children are now free from having to fetch the family's water from a well or spring.

M&D action overlapping within the villages: educators are also agents for development

After carrying out surveys in the villages to discover which factors motivated the villagers to educate their children, M&D focused on the task of mobilising both parents and children. M&D recruited teachers to work in the villages, as well as a coordinator. Follow-up was taken care of by M&D: balance sheet of actions undertaken, workshops to monitor the progress of children and adults, etc.

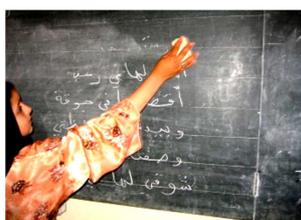
As a part of their teaching duties, the teachers undertook overlapping tasks for M&D as part of development projects within the village (for ex.: raising awareness of the need to protect the environment, and the like).

Beneficiaries

Children unable to attend school in the normal way, aged between 8 and 16, and particularly young girls who were overwhelmingly illiterate; children under 8 (young pre-school Berber speakers needing to learn Arabic); and finally, adults motivated by the desire to learn (particularly women).

M&D actions - some figures

- Over 4,000 people, mostly children, benefited from the IS programme (figures up to 2007),
- The pupils in the Informal Schools reached the equivalent level of normal schools twice as quickly (survey by the Ministry of National Education),
- 70% of the beneficiaries of the project are girls,
- 29 informal classes were set up or organised,
- 1 Informal School was incorporated into the formal schools network.



Partners

Ministry of Education, Villager Associations, migrants, GREF (Groupement des retraités éducateurs sans frontières - Organisation of Retired Teachers Without Borders), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior.

2. Youth Exchange Workshops

The aim of this activity is to establish sustainable cultural links between young people in France and Morocco while changing their perception of North/South relations. It also intends to facilitate the social and occupational inclusion of young people from disadvantaged suburbs in France.

Building bridges between societies of origin and host societies through the young; helping to establish the social inclusion of young French people in difficulty

For over 17 years, M&D has been helping to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Morocco and France by means of Youth Workshops and cultural exchanges. These projects, which are tools supporting development and international cooperation, help to emphasise the value of the cultural and human wealth of the two countries.

This activity is meant mainly (although not exclusively) for young people whose parents were migrants. During the Exchange Workshops, the young people become involved in establishing a small village infrastructure under the technical supervision of villagers.

M&D places emphasis on education: the involvement of the young should help them to realise their potential and to awaken within them a desire to carry out an occupational project.

Careful preparation for the workshop, in both France and Morocco

M&D acts upstream in preparing the workshops in France (education and development initiatives, information about the context, the framework of the campaign through preparatory meetings, etc.) and in Morocco (awareness-raising for the villagers, logistical preparations).

The villagers take care of the reception of the youngsters and carry out the organisation of the workshops. The youngsters raise their own and external funds for their travel costs and to purchase the equipment they will need for the event. M&D has built environmental protection activity workshops into the organisation via a partnership signed with ADEME in 2008 (reforestation, environmental awareness raising, etc.).

M&D ensures that these workshops run smoothly by acting as referees between the youngsters and the villagers if need be: it does not run the workshops itself, but acts in support of the group leaders.

Until 2004, the number of young people with migrant parents attending these workshops was considerable; the proportion fell sharply after that date following the freezing of some sources of social funding.

M&D actions - some figures

- 59 Exchange Workshops and 7 educational exchanges have been realised between 2000 and 2010,
- 716 youngsters and their leaders were welcomed into over 70 villages of the Souss Massa Draâ,
- Each group contains an average of 12 youngsters. The Exchange Workshop generally runs for 10 days.

Effects in the villages

The young villagers come to understand the differences between European and Moroccan culture: villagers who emigrated had to tackle many obstacles upon arrival in France. The myth of a Europe open to all and a land of easy wealth fades, to be replaced by a view much closer to reality, including unemployment, the problems of social inclusion and so on.

Small-scale infrastructure projects were undertaken in a number of villages in the Souss Massa Drâa region (irrigation canals, toilet blocks, etc.).

Thinking about environmental matters developed (the establishment of women's committees on cleanliness, the creation of voluntary deposit points for garbage, reforestation, etc.). The cooperation initiative has been maintained between some of the villages and various structures/youth groups in the North.

Partners

ADEME (Agence pour le Développement et la Maîtrise des Energies renouvelables - Agency for the Development and Control of Renewable Energy), ACSE (Agence pour la cohésion sociale et l'égalité des chances - Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunity), Lycée CFA Nature de la Roche-sur-Yon (Secondary School), Scouts et Guides de France (Scouts and Guides of France), Associations for the social inclusion of young migrants in France, Villager Associations and rural families, ADDAP 13, Ministry of the Interior and many others.

Part 5

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

M&D displays a very high level of involvement as far as women are concerned and a desire to see them involved at every stage in development projects, while supporting the levels of economic independence they have achieved. This process can be witnessed in two areas: support for economic projects undertaken by women and support for the inclusion of women in local governance.

The part played by migrant women is significant due to their support for the independence of women living in the villages. This part does not stop at sending money: they also contribute their social behaviour patterns when it comes to matters of birth, education, health.

INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES FOR RURAL WOMEN AND THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

M&D and the migrants are working to improve the economic situation of the women in the region. This material improvement goes hand-in-hand with recognising the status of women in the villages and in the District, where they have the right to play a part in local development.

Where gender is concerned, the approach adopted based on empirical experience is to involve women in initiatives and project management as a matter of course, to take account of the action taken by women on the ground and to provide a high level of support. At the same time, M&D is fully aware of the restrictions on an aggressive reversal of patterns which evolved in a different era.

Like everywhere else in the world, women from the countryside have a heavy burden to bear

The inadequacy of basic infrastructure (such as water) and the difficulty of accessing social services mean that the living conditions of rural women are particularly tough. For a long time, this reality has hindered women's efforts to develop income-generating activities, since they are required to both care for the home and perform a large part of the farm work, not forgetting their forced labour of collecting water and firewood. In addition to this, women have traditionally been excluded from the governance structures of the village and the District.



Country women are playing a major role in development

By the end of the 1990s, M&D had set up various initiatives with them in mind: producing and marketing processed farm produce and handicrafts. These actions also had an impact in terms of supporting women's acceptance of responsibility in the Villager Associations (see below).

Promoting women through economic activity

The goal of the M&D campaign was to provide women with opportunities to become involved in the economic circuit by setting up structures which would generate income. They were also helped to learn the basic skills needed to manage and develop their structures (associations, cooperatives), as well as family law (Moudawana), the District Charter and other areas such as the environment and rural tourism. The mainstay of this process is the provision of mutual support between village women and female migrants.

The migrant women regularly send money to their villages to subsidise the family's basic needs (health, education), but the cash is also intended to support initiatives designed to upgrade female training and independence in the villages.

The effects of this programme take the form of the 'women's houses' and cooperatives

Women's houses: The creation of women's houses represents an initial significant step in the improvement of the status of women. This involves supporting their initiatives in comfortable communal spaces where they can learn to read and write, as well as acquiring a range of occupational skills (hygiene, hospitality, cooking) and developing an awareness of the facts regarding health-related, social and environmental matters.

In Assaragh, migrant women from the "Youth and Development" association have agreed to bear the costs for half of the teacher's salary.

Women's cooperatives: These cooperatives are an extension of the economic and social independence which started in the women's houses. The activities undertaken focus on supporting the production of argan oil, saffron, honey, capers, aromatic plants, embroidery, carpets and the like. Migrant women also play an important part in this field by seeking outlets in Europe for the products created by the country women.

M&D actions - some figures

-348 country women are currently involved in support initiatives for women's houses and women's cooperatives,

-5 women's argan oil cooperatives with 200 members, 3 women's saffron cooperatives (150 members) and 2 women's aromatic plant cooperatives (120 members), have been set up,

-4 women's houses have been established. 9 women's groups with hundreds of women and young girl members have been founded. These groups have received 100 sewing machines plus sewing equipment,

-The migrants have marketed over 100 litres of argan oil through family networks in France.

Economic, social and societal impacts: "It isn't only money that the migrants contribute!"

Women's incomes have risen; organised women's groups are receiving higher levels of funding to manage their activities; micro-projects are being launched.

Women are becoming part of the overall development process in their region. While still obliged to tackle the outlets problem, they are becoming financially more independent, which boosts the importance of their role in the life of their society: as presidents of women's associations or village cooperatives, they can access village governance structures (see box).

Their living conditions have improved. And the level of their migration to Moroccan cities or abroad has fallen.

During their regular summer holidays, migrant women make a very important contribution to their villager counterparts. Thanks to their know-how, their new ideas and their two-culture experience, they lie at the heart of the social and societal developments taking place in the Atlas and Lesser Atlas mountains: fewer children, a new attitude to the education of girls, to health, to economic independence, and so on.

How is the part played by women in village governance to be boosted?



In the locally governed rural regions of Morocco, the villagers have possessed a decision-making structure known as the *Jema'â* for centuries. These are village assemblies whose members have traditionally been the significant members of the community (men, the old, the wealthy⁶).

From the very start, the condition set by M&D for its support for any village projects was the establishment of a "Villager Association" (VA), as distinct from the traditional *Jema'â*. The VA was in fact opened up to other village members, often not without difficulty. The Villager Association included both the young and migrants⁷. But women were still largely excluded from the management of the VAs.

Following a few failed efforts, M&D sidestepped the problem: the membership of women in this decision-making body would automatically depend on their involvement in a village women's association or cooperative. This meant that women became involved in the village decision-making structure as delegates of the women's structures.

Partners

Entraide Nationale (National Mutual Aid), OFPPT (Office de la Formation Professionnelle et de la Promotion du Travail - the Office for Occupational Training and Employment Promotion), French Ministry of the Interior, Viaggi Solidali (Italian association for fair and responsible tourism), CCAS (Caisse Centrale d'Activités Sociales du Personnel de l'EDF - Central EDF Staff Social Activities Fund), Migrants and Migrant Associations in France.

⁶ It should be borne in mind that the taxation-qualified right to vote in Europe was reserved for men who were of age, wealthy and educated. It was steadily extended to cover the whole population. French women did not get the vote until 1945.

⁷ The relationships between the *Jema'â* and the VAs are very varied. In the most favourable cases, the VA will have been set up alongside the *Jema'â* which will have continued to operate with a fine mutual understanding, as a Council of Elders, to help eradicate conflicts or to provide advice for solving difficult problems. In other cases the *Jema'â* and the VA have found themselves in conflict, and the ways in which this has been resolved and developed has produced different solutions depending on the way the village has approached it.

SUMMARY REPORT by Giulia Sinatti

WORKSHOP ON “CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS ASSOCIATIONS TO DEVELOPMENT”

Taroudannt / Taliouine (Morocco) 20-22 September 2011

- Organised and hosted by:* Government of Morocco (Ministère chargé de la Communauté Résidente à l’Etranger)
- In collaboration with:* Swiss GFMD Chair, Government of France (Ministère de l’Intérieur, de l’Outre-mer, des Collectivités Locales et de l’Immigration), ICMPD, « Migrations & Développement » (M&D), Moroccan migrant organisation)
- Supported by (funding):* Governments of Switzerland, France and Netherlands
- Workshop Chair:* Markus Reisle
- Workshop Coordinators:* Markus Reisle (CH), Mohammed Bernoussi (MOR), Kacim Kellal (F), Monica Zanette (ICMPD), Jamal Lahoussain (M&D)
- Migration expert:* Dr. Giulia Sinatti (Consultant)
- Rapporteurs:* Dr. Mohamed Kachani (Université Mohammed V, Rabat), Dr. Hassan Behalima (Université IbnZohr, Agadir), Abderazzak El Hajri (Ministère du Développement Social de la Famille et de la Solidarité, Rabat)
- Note takers:* Sarah Schlaeger (ICMPD), Daria Huss (ICMPD)
- Participants:* Governments of Morocco, France, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Poland, UK, Tunisia, Algeria, Senegal, Niger, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Comoros, Haiti, USA, India and China; civil society and migrant organisations from Morocco, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Egypt and Algeria; academia; international organisations
- Total number of participants:* 65 (+ local participants)

Introduction: the Workshop in the GFMD Context

This workshop focused on the contributions that migrant associations can bring to development and falls under Cluster III of the GFMD 2011 Thematic Programme on “Tools for Evidence-based Migration and Development Policies,” Sub-theme 2 on “Impact Assessments of Migration and Development Policies.” Previous GFMD meetings and the activities of Working Groups on ‘Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development’ and on ‘Policy Coherence, Data and Research’ all highlighted the importance of data and information for the definition of evidence-based policies. Migrant associations are understood as civic actors that engage in initiatives that are collective in nature and they figure prominently in many migration and development policies and programmes that offer them capacity building and concrete support for their projects. This workshop therefore aimed at deepening knowledge about key factors impacting on the success of migrant associations’

contributions to development, and at analysing how governments respond to their actions in order to identify the most effective forms of cooperation.

Hosted by the Government of Morocco in collaboration with the Swiss GFMD Chair, the Government of France, ICMPD and Migration et Développement (M&D), this workshop brought together different stakeholders to discuss the issues above and identify key findings ahead of the GFMD 2011 Concluding Debate. The event was designed in a highly innovative way that encouraged exchange and discussion among participants on the basis of a case-study approach. During the workshop insight was offered into the activities of various Moroccan migrant associations, including visits to the actual sites of project implementation of M&D, a migrant organisation that has been active in the Atlas mountain region for more than 25 years. The field visits offered concrete examples to animate plenary discussions, during which an agreement was reached on the overall workshop conclusions. This report draws on the oral presentations made during the workshop and on the contents of discussions with all participants. Bringing decision-makers to the field to jointly discuss with migrant associations the key factors of success in their mutual collaboration was an important challenge that this workshop accepted to face and represents its most original achievement. By choosing the actions of migrant associations as a point of departure and examine how these concrete experiences can inform governmental policy-making processes in migration and development (rather than vice-versa), the event adopted a truly bottom-up approach. A state-led and intergovernmental initiative, the GFMD has promoted from the beginning an active involvement also of civil society organisations, a commitment that this event further testifies.

1. Discussion and Key Outcomes of the Workshop

Departing from the specific cases observed locally, the workshop produced outcomes that are nonetheless general in reach. Extracting common lessons across extremely diverse contexts, however, imposes some limitations: rather than reaching a unitary agreement on ‘what contributions migrant associations bring to development’ and ‘which forms of collaboration with government actors are most successful’, the workshop identified five generally valid ‘core principles’ that are illustrated below.

i) Migrant associations bring multiple contributions to / play multiple roles in development.

The contributions of migrant associations distinguish themselves from other migrant contributions to development because they are organised group actions that qualify as *civic* efforts and result in *collective* benefits for local communities. These contributions are extremely diversified across and within national contexts, depending on:

a) What the local development needs are in communities of origin. Contributions of migrant associations to a development agenda are enhanced when also other local actors engage in the promotion of economic growth (e.g. through individual and/or private investment).

b) The capacities of migrant associations to respond to those needs. Migrant associations can play extremely diversified *roles* in promoting development. In some cases, migrant associations may be weak and require mobilising in order for them to actively contribute to homeland development. In other cases, hometown or village associations emerge out of migrant communities that engage spontaneously in the implementation of local small-scale projects. At times, highly professional migrant organisations develop with the ability to act as brokers between home communities and actors at different levels, and to generate spin-off effects by further encouraging the involvement of individual migrants or smaller migrant associations. In addition, network alliances of migrant associations might be established, for instance to give a unitary voice to migrant concerns and/or exchange individual experiences.

A number of characterising features of the migrant population (un-skilled/skilled individuals, urban/rural origin, critical mass and concentration of significant numbers of people from origin communities in specific places of destination, age and generation of migrants, duration of a migration flow, etc.) are some of the endogenous elements shaping the propensity to establish associations and affecting their strength in undertaking concrete initiatives. In addition to these elements, two other important factors influence the shape of migrant associations and the role they can ultimately play in development: leadership (often meaning the presence of individuals with outstanding charisma and an ability to mobilise others) and time (as engagement and progress in the actions of migrant associations unfold over considerable periods of time).

ii) Solidarity is the motor of migrant associations' initiatives, making the local scale the most appropriate level for their intervention.

The engagement of migrants towards their country of origin is largely spontaneous and motivated by an emotional attachment with the homeland. This translates into solidarity bonds and a drive towards mutual support, as core values justifying mobilisation. Migrant associations are an expression of collective rather than private action and are therefore in a better position to channel this engagement towards actual development outcomes. They allow to structure individual efforts around concrete communal projects. The emotional nature of migrants' attachment to their countries of origin means it is at its strongest towards families, loved ones and home communities. Many migrant associations are rooted in such local realities: village and hometown associations support their territories of origin by investing in a personal manner. These migrant associations have a strong personal stake in local development. Solidarity links tend to be stronger among first generation migrants, especially when they originate from communities that suffer from particularly disadvantaged conditions. Organising themselves in the form of an association, these migrants are in a position to mobilise other migrants who have weaker links with particular local communities. This is, for instance, the case of second and third generation or of highly skilled migrants who are more likely to engage in development when concrete programmes reach out to them. The above indicates that migration and development should be viewed as a process of solidarity-based development in which migrant associations are one of many actors, with a specific potential to link local realities in countries of origin and of destination. Thanks to a double engagement in both contexts, migrant associations can promote transnational actions by building bridges and allowing the mobilisation of technical and financial resources as well as relevant social networks.

iii) Effective actions of migrant associations must be rooted in local ownership.

Recognising the importance of the local scale of intervention is in line with the broader shift towards a human approach to development, based on the idea of self-development achieved by the actors, for the actors, with the actors. Development is not possible without the direct involvement of the people it concerns and *participatory methodologies* are being increasingly experimented to *enhance* local ownership, and *boost trust and confidence* between the parties. Concrete tools may include formal as well as informal consultations with relevant actors, aiming at shared definitions of development needs, priorities and solutions. Being rooted in such dynamics strongly enhances the success of migrant associations' actions and avoids them being received as an external imposition. Alongside civil society and local authorities, migrant associations are increasingly acknowledged as one of the concerned stakeholders in participatory development processes. Thanks to their positioning as both members and outsiders of local communities, migrant associations can play a key role in promoting change, which is an essential ingredient for development. They can bring political capital to alter local situations and make room for innovation; because they are also part of families and communities, people might listen to them more easily. The liveliness of civil society in communities of origin and its capacity to respond to these stimulations can, however, hamper or facilitate the efforts of migrant associations. The views of migrant associations, moreover, may not correspond to those of other local stakeholders. Negotiating shared development goals is not a linear

process. In local civil society it requires rupture of existing practices and established interests, which may generate resistance, competition and conflict. Local authorities might even perceive their power as being threatened. Securing the formal support of local institutions, however, can provide local initiatives with greater legitimacy vis-à-vis non-local actors and might encourage the engagement of external donors in the country of immigration. Many decentralised cooperation partnerships emerge out of similar conditions. In the case of weak migrant associations, local authorities may also take the lead in reaching out to their own migrant communities, stimulating their organisation in the form of associations, channelling otherwise private and scattered contributions of migrants, and inviting migrants to provide access to their overseas networks for the benefit of communal development goals. Participatory methodologies must be adopted not only in countries of origin, but also in countries of destination.

iv) Collaboration and synergy between actors at all levels is required to enhance coherence between local and global.

Migrant associations' actions and local development efforts do not take place in isolation from the broader context around them, which is essential in framing what can and cannot be accomplished. Civil society mobilisation alone is not sufficient, but needs to be acknowledged and recognised by institutional actors. Through their public policies, governments in home and host countries play an important and necessary role in emplacing conducive environments: they can support the actions of migrant associations through institutional and policy frameworks both at local and at national level. Local authorities can boost the development potential of migrant associations' contributions when these are channelled into institutionalised processes, for instance through the signing of conventions that commit both parties to the pursuit of shared goals, or by creating favourable legal and administrative conditions for the interventions of migrant associations. Central governments can also enhance migrant contributions for development by emplacing decentralised policy frameworks that identify general development aims and priorities whilst also encouraging bottom-up initiatives to emerge. Legal and bureaucratic procedures required for the establishment of associations also influence the degree of active engagement among civil society. Through these and other measures, authorities can facilitate the alignment of locally rooted migrant initiatives with regional and national development needs and efforts. Attempts to gear migrant associations' contributions towards broader development goals set at the regional and national level must not force migrants' initiatives into rigid formats, or this will come at the cost of losing local ownership.

Achieving genuine *complementarity* between bottom-up and national initiatives in a *holistic and integrative approach*, however, requires a high degree of day-to-day *coordination and synergy* between actors at all levels. This is not a trivial pursuit and a catalyst is needed that can encourage dialogue between the actors rooted in particular localities and of key development players at the regional, national and international level. There is no 'one model fits all' as to who can and should play this facilitating role, which can only be assessed on a case-to-case basis according to the strengths and weaknesses of the various actors on the scene.

v) Migrant associations ensure long-term commitment, which is necessary for development to produce an impact.

While inscribing local development efforts supported by migrant associations into a larger picture of regional and national policies and programmes is essential, it is still not sufficient to guarantee positive impacts. Development is a lengthy process that requires modifying existing systems in order to produce positive changes in the lives of people (e.g. empowering women, boosting economic sectors, etc.). This is unlikely to be achieved within the time-constrained logics of policies and programmes. Migrants engage spontaneously towards their country of origin and for as long as there is migration this commitment will remain. Their emotional attachment translates into a *life-long dedication* to homeland development that ensures continuity of efforts in the long-term. This is

fundamental in order to: allow the necessary time for processes of change to take effect as responses of local authorities and communities may not be immediate; build *trustful* relations between relevant actors that emerge through continuity of interaction; facilitate follow up and sustainability of single interventions. By engaging in the promotion of homeland development over considerable periods of time, migrant associations are also important knowledge producers. Many migrant associations are unaware of this, whilst others make knowledge sharing a part of their mission, in order to replicate positive experiences elsewhere.

vi) Conclusion

A number of general recommendations derive from the discussion and key outcomes of the workshop. Migrants engage spontaneously towards their home countries and their associations are a privileged actor that can help channel individual and collective engagements for the benefit of local development. Governments have an important responsibility in setting the framework that can enable the efforts of migrant associations to contribute to a broader development agenda in their countries of origin. To this aim:

- Central governments and local authorities in countries of origin must actively regard migration as one of the pillars of their formal development policies. Given the locally rooted nature of migrants' spontaneous engagement towards their home communities, this is best achieved through decentralised development mechanisms in which migrants are acknowledged as one of the key actors to be consulted and engaged in local development initiatives. *Decentralised* development enhances local ownership, however it also requires measures to ensure that the contributions of migrant associations feed *coherently* into regional/national development plans.
- The pursuit of an involvement of migrant associations in development must not become a goal per se, detached from development. Migrant associations may be linked to countries and areas that do not present the highest development priorities. Putting the action of migrant associations at the service of development requires identifying where a match exists between diaspora activism and local development needs, and making choices of contexts in which to ensure in depth, full and continuous support.
- Home and host governments must acknowledge the fact that migrant associations have extremely diverse capacities and aims and respond to this by emplacing flexible schemes for collaboration. This may range from encouraging the establishment of migrant associations where they are weak, providing direct support to the small-scale actions of existing migrant associations, engaging in dialogue with larger migrant structures such as networks and umbrella organisations.
- For large institutional actors such as home and host governments collaborating with migrant associations often poses a challenge. Whenever possible, they prefer to identify migrant associations with technical and political potential to grow into professional actors, with whom they engage in long-term collaboration regarding them more as 'partners' than 'recipients'. The support of central and local governments at both ends of the migration trail is fundamental in allowing certain associations to establish themselves as professional actors, a process that needs considerable time to develop as it requires building trust between institutional actors and migrant associations. Governments' concern to collaborate with larger interlocutors is legitimate, however it requires the definition of clear, sound and transparent criteria for the selection of certain migrant associations over others. These selection criteria must also allow to visualise how

professionalization affects the migrant-initiated nature of the organisation (e.g. how linkages with local realities are affected, effects of a geographic expansion of intervention areas to localities that are not only those of migrant origin, etc.).

7 October 2011

Dr. Giulia SINATTI (Consultante)

Summary



STUDY INTO MIGRANT INVESTMENT IN “TAROUDANNT PROVINCE”

Province of Taroudannt

*(provisional version of the study)
September 15, 2011*

*The persons listed below all contributed to collecting the data and drafting the report: Dean **Hassan Benhalima**, Mr **Mohamed Ben Attou**, authorised teacher in the Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Ibn Zohr University, Agadir, Mr **Mustapha Aït Tirri**, lecturer, Ibn Zohr University, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Mr **Mohamed Charef**, Higher Education Teacher at Ibn Zohr University, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, with support from Mr **Abdallah Aït Kechech** and Mrs **Hanane Houchimi** of the Plan High Commission, with technical support from Mr **Farid Ouidder**, field researchers supervisor with the participation of the following students from the Master's course in Migration and Sustainable Development as researchers: **Larbi Ait Toumach, Mohamed Babakhoya, Rachid Elkaihal, Said Boumata, Hakim Nayt Abdellah, Ali Boujaafar, Lahcen Ameziane, Mohamed Moumad, Zhour chabali, Dalila Chelh, Asmae Nour Elyakine, Hamid Jamour.***

The summary is based on the introduction and general conclusion of the study. It, too, is provisional.

Introduction.

One fact becomes clear at the outset: Morocco can no longer assume that emigration is a transient side-effect. Emigration exists as a *structural component* of the development of the economy, society and the way in which the national territory is organised. Since the beginning of the twentieth century Morocco has undergone significant waves of migration, with varying rates and differing timetables. All 16 administrative regions of the Kingdom have played their part in this process, regardless of their geographical location, their history, their size, and their economic resources. These migrations, both international and intra-national, are now the source of interest extending far beyond the administrative and national borders, becoming a subject of negotiation between North and South. The evidence and tracks of the emigrants to be found at local, regional and national levels have become a central question and an important issue in the social, economic, cultural and political life of most departure and destination countries.

The contradictory contribution of migration and conditions governing its optimisation.

One of the main factors suggested by emigrant countries to explain their migration policy is still the cash remittances supplied by the emigrants, even if reference is made to the problems of unemployment and financial aid to the families of the emigrants. Certainly the financial contributions

pointed to as a matter of course have been an undoubted factor for socio-economic progress for a wide range of poor families, particularly in the inland regions with formerly stable populations under high demographic pressure, like the Lesser Atlas, the Rif and the oases. But while this cash input may contribute to local development, it may also tend to destabilise society and break down the economy, as has been the case in the eastern Rif, where it has boosted the rural exodus to the cities and led to a burdensome surplus of unnecessary consumer goods or investment in low-yielding projects (FADLOULLAH, A & BERRADA, A. 1990, BERRIANE, M. 1999). In other words, the cash sums generated can only be *effective if they are integrated within the framework of a partnership and participatory strategy*, aimed at well-thought-out and concerted local and regional development, one which involves the emigrants and their associations as players in this development.

Likewise, relationships between local and emigrant policies do not follow a one-way track. They may also become rooted in the destination or residence countries and investment in other cities and other regions, with the risk that they become detached from their place of origin. Negative effects may arise along with this process: increasing imbalance between rural and urban zones, increased speculation in land tenure, loss of skills, degradation and deterioration of rural cultural heritage and the like.

Transfers made by the migrants are not only financial.

The impact made by the migrants on the development of their country of origin is not restricted to their cash remittances. They also transfer their know-how, their qualifications, and their experience of lifestyles in their host country. The relationship between the migrant and local development is complex, because it has political, economic, social, cultural and legal aspects, and involves players in the country of origin as well as transit and host countries. The case of the eastern Rif and the Souss as the first Moroccan sources of emigration is interesting in this respect. Even though the effects of international migration have been analysed for these regions, there is still very little research which looks at the relationship of migrants to the local development of their home regions via the association movement and transnational NGOs, such as "Migrations and Development" (Migrations & Développement - M&D) which is active in the central west area of the Kingdom.

Articulation between migration, development and civil society.

Our proposal is therefore both unique and essential in the present context, that of the INDH [National Human Development Initiative] and the increasing number of local initiatives and joint actions. The nature of the situation in respect of the *articulation between migration, development and civil society calls for study and analysis*. Everything seems to suggest that the number of migratory re-investment operations has grown steadily since the nineteen-nineties, particularly in the Souss Massa Draa region, where there are a large number of associations (nearly 8000) and they are well established in the local and regional landscape, particularly in Taroudant province, the general context of our study.

Convergence between the practice of solidarity among migrants and public policy in the host countries.

For some years now, we have been witnessing a kind of *convergence* between a mutual aid/solidarity approach, which is well entrenched in the region and based on strong territorial, cultural and family bonds, and a willingness on the part of the immigration countries to become involved, as support for the economic re-establishment of the migrants in their country of origin, by jointly funding job-creation and revenue generating micro-projects, which also tend to anchor potential migration candidates in their homeland. Planned in the middle of the nineteen-seventies, the twin *migration and joint-development* approach is a French initiative, ultimately becoming European, and today attracts a good deal of interest at the international level.

Real estate investment is the most easily visible aspect of migrant investment.

If the involvement of the MREs [Marocains Résidents à l'Étranger - Moroccans Resident Abroad] in the region of origin is to be seen in the field of real-estate investment, this is not always the case in other areas of activity. The scientific literature limits the bulk of the investments made by emigrants to the sectors known as "unproductive", such as construction or trade (BERRIANE, M. 1999). There are various reasons for this situation:

- Firstly is the fact that real estate is one of the priorities for migrants, and statistically *the most visible investment* because of the involvement of banking organisations and property promoters.
- In contrast, the visibility of other investments is more difficult to perceive, since when it comes to designing or funding their projects, migrants do not necessarily work via administrative, professional or credit structures specialising in this area, such as banks, Regional Investment Centres (Centres Régionaux d'Investissement - CRIs), Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services, of Agriculture or Craft, very often preferring to commit their own funds and hence favouring the informal system. In addition, many operations are organised in the actual village, and given the difficulties involved in collecting statistics in the rural world, they seldom show up in official statistics.

Urban investment is most often the priority.

There is also the fact that emigrant or former emigrant investment activities very often display a marked preference for urban areas, perhaps because of the lack of public infrastructure in rural zones (roads, social/educational installations), or possibly to make the most of better investment and living conditions. We do, however, spotlight interesting initiatives designed to upgrade the value of local potential in the rural environment. Because of this, the behaviour of these players (taken in the double meaning of individual or group agents) increasingly tends to favour the establishment of local development micro-projects.

Migrant investment in the Taliouine country.

The Moroccans Resident Abroad (MREs) from the "Taliouine country" invest large sums in the land of their origin, usually in various economic sectors, such as rural tourism, businesses and services, plus agriculture, mainly for the promotion of local produce (saffron, almonds, olive oil, argan oil, aromatic plants, etc.), thus acting as pioneers and innovators. For example, the increase in saffron production through the expansion of the cultivated plots in this area and the multiplication of the number of saffron cooperatives (20 in all) are basically due to the remittances from the migrants, urged in this direction by an in-depth initiative run by M&D, the migrants themselves and the local players, which made possible the passing of the first "Protected Appellation of Origin" law (AOP) thanks to the National "Green Morocco" Programme and the involvement of the INDH. This particular spice, saffron, which has enjoyed its own festival every year since 2007, should continue to be the flagship product of this area, one which is able to promote the other produce from the region, not forgetting rural tourism in particular. The success of this productive investment, which has a very high added value for the growers, was recently honoured by the opening by his Majesty King Mohammed VI, on January 13 2011 of the "House of Saffron" in Taliouine.

Our study will therefore strive to focus *on the position occupied by these migrants or former migrants in the process of raising the value of their area of origin*, as players capable of exercising power to lead at the local level. Our approach will also tackle the impact of one of the oldest, most dynamic and most iconic transnational associations of the Souss Mass Draa region, "Migrations & Développement". Set up in 1986, this NGO concentrates on an integrated rural development process which it has run for a number of years, mainly in the Atlas and oasis zones of the centre-west of Morocco, included in the triangle formed by the three regional centres, Agadir, Marrakech and

Ouarzazate. For reasons of convenience, our work will be based on the Taliouine Circle (Taroudant Province) and a part of Aguinane District (in the north of Tata Province), the whole sector being located at the juncture of the ranges of the Higher Atlas and the Lesser Atlas.

The attachment of migrants to their home region is a powerful lever for action.

This zone, essentially surviving by subsistence agriculture, is afflicted by naturally difficult conditions, such as its land-locked position, the restricted extent of the agricultural land and endemic drought. It is one of the regions of Morocco where Human Development Indicators are at their lowest. Because of this, it has been a traditional source of emigration to the north of the country and abroad. Despite all these constraints, exacerbated by lack of facilities, good governance and measures suitable for channelling investment, the emergence of a new generation of enterprising migrants with a strong bond to the "country", will turn this situation on its head, leading this country from a status as restrictive and repellent to one of a territory open to the modernisation of its socio-economic structures, and attractive, thanks to the way it has developed from within.

(.....)

Conclusion

Clearly, this attempt to lay the foundations of a study into the question of international emigration and its socio-economic effects in the Taliouine country could only arrive at some preliminary conclusions, and further research will be needed to expand them.

The phenomenon of migration from Taliouine for foreign destinations has been in place for nearly half a century now. In the initial stage and up to the mid-nineteen-seventies, migration was temporary. But that trend steadily changed, with increased permanence in the host country, accompanied by mobility from both sides, which occurred in the wake of the family reunion policy. After the establishment of M&D (1986) and in the framework of the restrictions imposed on emigration by the European countries and the development of joint-development policies to encourage repatriation and to dissuade potential emigrants, a question arose: *will it be possible for emigrants and repatriates to take a part in the development of their region of origin, given their occupational experience, their savings and the network of relationships?* In other words, would they be able to implement development actions focusing on connecting their territory to the outside world, building facilities and upgrading the value of the heritage, with the aim of creating jobs and revenue for marginalised families and the jobless young. In this case international migration will have positive effects on the migrants themselves and the villagers.

Migrants are taking part in the development in their region of origin.

The study we undertook has revealed that this challenge has been accepted, shown in the successful re-establishment of migrants in the socio-economic life of the Taliouine lands. *These migrants have managed to set off a thoroughgoing development dynamic* with a sustainable approach. It could be interesting at the conclusion of this study to identify how local potential has been capitalised on by the migrants and their organisational structures in such a way as to contribute to the local development of the region. In this respect, stress must be placed on the fact that there was nothing in the nature of this neglected outback Atlas territory which predestined it to gain the position it now occupies in the Souss Massa Draa region as a source of original initiative and multiple projects.

This dynamic came to life in the mid-nineteen-eighties driven by two main players, the migrants/repatriates and the organisational fabric, mainly M&D. In actual fact, a large number of

migrants living mainly in France were closely involved, either by funding M&D actions, or by organising private projects of local interest. It was on this participation that the rural promotion action was based, an action with a high level of social involvement run by M&D and focusing on the following priorities (M&D 2007):

- Installation of facilities meeting the villagers' basic needs;
- Transfer of knowledge and skills;
- Upgrading the value of local resources, creating Revenue Generating Activities (RGAs), and protecting the environment.

The principles behind this development strategy, principles which underpin its sustainability, are as follows:

- In the first place, an awareness of the human, natural and patrimonial wealth available in the territory and how to raise their value, to be achieved by resuscitating traditional skills, shared solidarity values and community work, and by consolidating the opening up the rural society by improving education and capitalising on the accumulated experience of the migrants;
- The fact that local development was taken on by the residents and the migrants themselves;
- The establishment of a participative and partnership-based approach.

The part played by M&D in launching this dynamic was significant, thanks to its contribution by mobilising a network, people and synergy channels between actors, by coordination actions, hands-on management, organisation, training, backing and help, follow-up, assessment and other factors, in the actions run by the migrants in the local economy affecting areas as wide-ranging as agriculture, real estate, commerce, tourism and services, showing the mental attitude which underpinned this vision of local development in the Taliouine region. This would never have gotten off the ground without partnerships and without support of public authorities, local groups, state organisations and various national institutions (INDH, Mohamed V Foundation, ADS, etc.) plus international bodies.

In fact the migrants and their association have disrupted the rules and customs. The outcome has been that the migrants have made community work, group solidarity and the value of the land the order of the day.

The importance of cultural and territorial attachment.

It is these cultural and territorial roots which lie behind the level of the investments made by the migrants in Taliouine country. In the first place it represents highly *location-based investment*, which is more generally orientated towards the rural zones rather than the urban areas (as in the eastern Rif where 9/10 of emigrant projects are concentrated on the city of Nador and 1/10 on the province). The investment also focuses first on agriculture (69 % of the projects), that is, the productive sector. This interest in *agriculture spotlights* firstly the products of the region, particularly saffron, a high value-added product. Thanks to M&D and the migrants' spirit of enterprise *saffron has come back into its own in the country*. Output is steadily rising, improving the smallholders' daily lives. The producers have organised themselves into a saffron-farmers' cooperative and have begun to work on grouping villages together, concerned with a volunteer and joint effort to seek quality, improving the worth of the land. The passing of the first *Protected Appellation of Origin (AOP)* law, and above all the opening of the "House of Saffron" by HM the King is the crowning glory to this local initiative. Along with agriculture, migrants are striving to diversify their activities, with a view to reducing the risks of their investments. For this reason they have made the agricultural sector a fulcrum for their extra-agricultural activities by investing in real estate and land (31% of projects) as a second sector of their investments (unlike Tiznit province where real estate holds 1st place with 2/3 of the investment). Commerce, *tourism and services* bring up the rear and naturally derive from the

aforementioned leading sectors. The solidarity based *tourism sector* is an innovative and key investment field, given the rich patrimonial and natural resources to be found in Saffron Country.

Diversification, complementarity and minimising risk.

This leads us to assume that investment in Taliouine country obeys a logic of diversification, complementarity and risk minimisation. However, observations suggest that some investment projects *cannot be forced to respond* to a need for financial profitability. In this regard, stress must be placed on the fact that the commitment made by a group of migrants is not necessarily based on the consideration of economic reasons alone, given that social issues, associated with attachment to the home environment, play a part in motivating choices and involvement in projects. In other words, the reasons for making investments and involvement in Taliouine country are based on a heartfelt desire on the part of the migrants to promote and upgrade their country, seeking in this way to achieve social *recognition and legitimacy as a source of pride and self-confidence*. Distance from the country of origin because of emigration certainly plays a part in this perception of the human and cultural wealth of the country, and the powerful draw of the homeland in comparison with other regional, national and international levels.

This repatriation buttresses the spiritual bonds of the migrants with the land of their ancestors and becomes a primordial re-energising element. "Here I feel that I live, fully integrated within an intact environment, far from the bustle and pollution of Paris. Once I had retired I found that here I was seeing everything more clearly than ever in my life, with my own folk, feeling more useful than ever. Here are my roots, and it is my duty to hand them down to my grandchildren. In order to achieve this, hand in hand with my comrades, I must raise the awareness of our people, preserve and strengthen the bonds with our country", we were told by an 82 year-old retired migrant.

What we are witnessing in this development experience is a form of rehabilitation of the fringes via the migrants' initiatives. This makes for a kind of back-flip, or even a total reversal, turning country seen as repellent and unattractive into a land of allure, thanks to its human, historical, cultural and environmental riches.

The best expression of the success of this experience is the development of solidarity based tourism and the involvement of migrants and repatriates to build a bridge between the two shores, theirs and that of their destination country.