



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Engaging Bangladesh diaspora in national development

# Outline

Bangladeshi diaspora in the world

Best practices for diaspora engagement

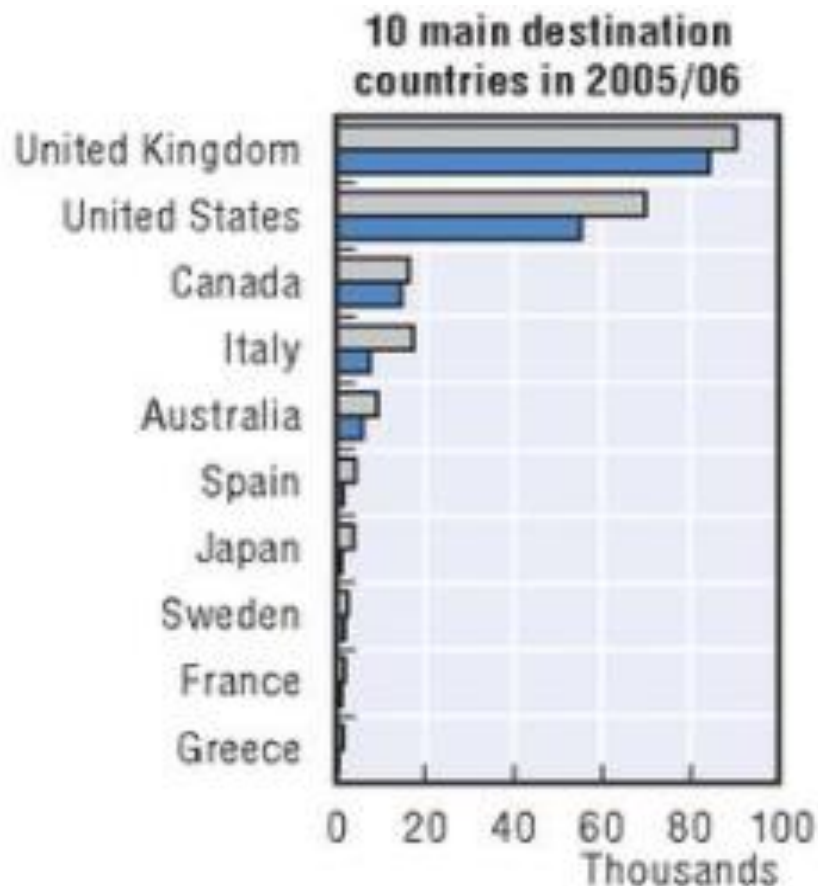
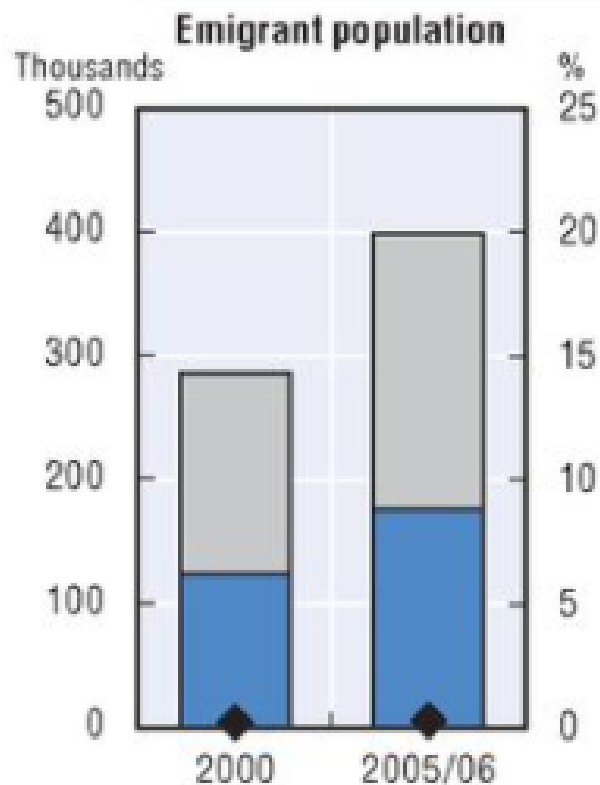
# Bangladeshi diaspora in the world

*...Diaspora are “members of ethnic and national communities, who have left, but maintain links with, their homelands.”*

*Different from the term “migrants” Diaspora are expatriate populations abroad or born abroad and may be citizens of their countries of residence...*

# Bangladeshi diaspora in the world

- Over 4 million Bangladesh-born emigrants. At least 10% live in OECD countries



■ Women   ■ Men   ◆ Share among total population 15+ (%)

# Bangladeshi diaspora in the world

Emigrant population: persons born in Bangladesh living in OECD countries (2005/06):

Population 15+	Men	Women	Total
Emigrant population (thousands)	222.3	176.1	398.5
15 – 24 %	13.0	15.7	14.2
26 – 64 %	80.3	79.8	80.1
65+ %	6.7	4.5	5.7
Low educated	33.2	43.3	37.7
Highly educated	43.7	30.4	37.8
Total emigration rates %	0.4	0.4	0.4
Emigration rates of the highly educated %	4.1	3.2	3.7

Source: OECD

# Bangladeshi diaspora in the world

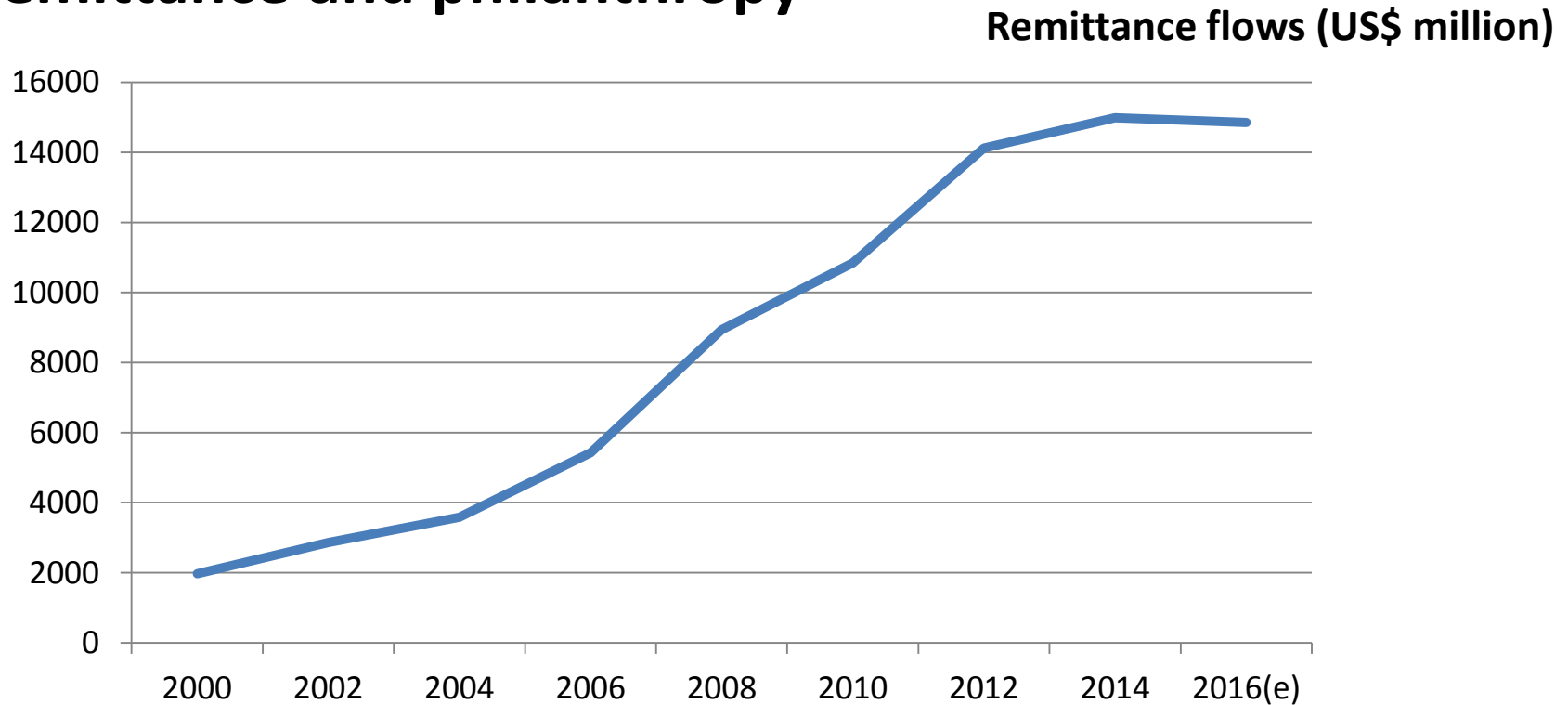
Emigrant population: labour market indicators (2005/06):

Population 15 – 64	Men	Women	Total
Employment – population ratio %	76.8	30.9	56.4
Unemployment rate %	8.4	15.1	10.1
Participation rate %	83.8	36.4	62.7
Employment rates of highly educated %	90.9	58.6	79.2
Unemployment rates of highly educated %	4.6	11.3	6.4
Highly educated in low and medium skilled jobs	50.1	52.1	50.6

*Source: OECD*

# Bangladeshi diaspora in the world

## Remittance and philanthropy



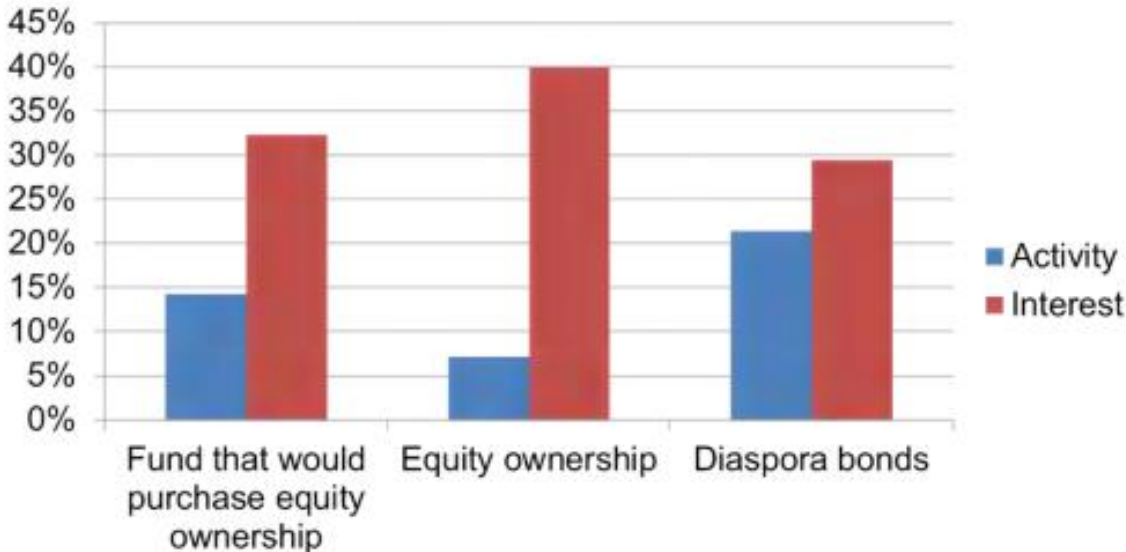
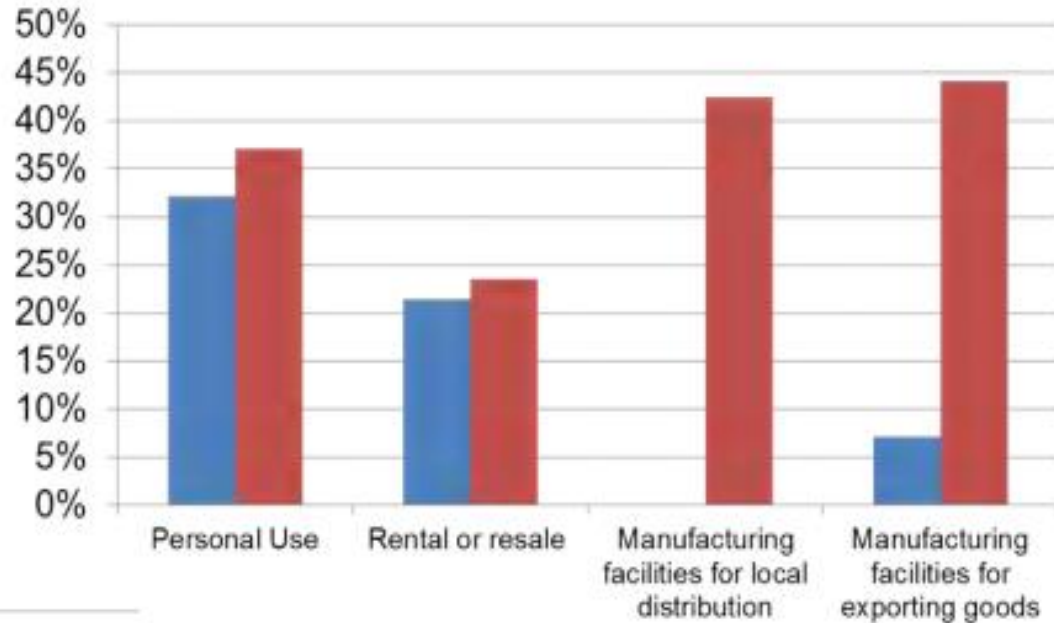
*Source: World Bank*

Average annual contribution of US Bangladeshi diaspora to charities in Bangladesh: US\$3,930. (USAID study 2015)

# Bangladeshi diaspora in the world

## Business & investment

Gaps in interest vs activity



Source: USAID study 2015



# Best practices for diaspora engagement

Strategies for diaspora engagement in national development can be categorized as:

**Remittances / Diaspora Philanthropy**

**Business Networks**

**Academic Networks**

**Institutional Twinning Initiatives**

**Diasporas as Practitioners/Technical Advisors**

# Best practices for diaspora engagement

## Remittances / Diaspora Philanthropy

*“Remittances are monetary transfers that a migrant sends to her/his country of origin, and are often one of the major contributions of Diaspora to the country of origin”*

UNDP Lebanon has an initiative called “ **Live Lebanon**” to mobilize Lebanese Diaspora contribution in support of local development in the most deprived areas of Lebanon.



# Best practices for diaspora engagement

- **Live Lebanon** focuses its efforts and funds into projects that are catalysts for economic and community development in underprivileged and underdeveloped Lebanese communities.
- An online platform, **Live Lebanon** ([www.livelebanon.org](http://www.livelebanon.org)) has been created for the purpose of engaging Lebanese expatriates, providing them with an opportunity to donate money online to support and follow local community and development projects.

# Best practices for diaspora engagement

## **Business Networks**

- *Diaspora business networks serve to match local entrepreneurs with their diaspora counterparts who then offer advice on how to start a business and reach the global market.*
- *These networks help to increase the flow of international trade and foreign investment to the countries of origin and at the same time foster local entrepreneurship and create long term alliances with Diaspora entities.*
- *The activities of these network organizations vary from business networking events, educational exchange trips, cross-border partnership programmes in priority economic sectors, seminars and mentorship programmes.*

# Best practices for diaspora engagement

*The **Business Advisory Circle (BAC)** is a network of individuals and institutions that can provide business advice and serve as mentors to prospective entrepreneurs.*

Creating a favorable business investment environment for diaspora:

- Policy Development
- Business development assistance and linking
- Fostering business and trade knowledge sharing (round-table discussions, conferences, etc.)

Estimated up to 80% of FDI into **China** is from its diaspora networks  
(UNCTAD 2012).

# Best practices for diaspora engagement

## **Academic Networks**

*Opportunities for diaspora and local academics to meet and discuss research, exchange ideas and establish academic connections.*

### **Colombia's Red Caldas**

Established by the Colombian Institute for the Development of Science and Technology.

- Links members of scientific Diaspora with scientific and technological projects in their country of origin.
- The network has many accomplishments, including the formulation and implementation of public policies and the development of human resources in science and technology.
- Regular conferences, scholarships, and projects help to mobilize researchers and foster communication among them, and even encourage researchers to return to Colombia.

# Best practices for diaspora engagement

## **Institutional Twinning Initiatives**

*Diaspora communities can be connected via organized contacts across national borders. The twinning of cities/municipalities is a popular approach.*

*The novelty in municipality twinning is the interest on the part of communities with substantial immigrant populations in twinning with municipalities that are large and/or recent source of immigrants.*

# Best practices for diaspora engagement

## **Municipal Twinning in the Netherlands**

Dutch municipalities have established relations with local governments in source countries such as Turkey, Suriname and Morocco. At present, there are some 39 **Diaspora-focused** municipal twinning initiatives in Netherlands.

Two primary objectives of city twinning:

- **City-to-city partnerships:** These are projects that focus on strengthening local governance especially with regard to waste management and education. *(the municipality of Zeist advises its partner municipality in Berkane, Morocco, on how to improve waste management)*
- **Stimulate economic development :** A number of municipalities link their chambers of commerce and/or specific industries to those in other cities. *(Rotterdam established economic partnerships with Nador, Morocco, and Istanbul, Turkey, and tapped into the Rotterdam Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce to support economic development in both partner municipalities)*



# Best practices for diaspora engagement

## Engaging Diasporas as Practitioners

Attract Diasporas back to their country of origin as practitioners via permanent, temporary, and even “virtual” return.

- The Government of **Eritrea** encourages its Diaspora members to come back and provide medical services ranging from supporting medical schools to providing treatment and conducting surgeries, studies and research.
- The Government of **China** provides incentive for highly skilled professionals to return for a few years incl. higher pay and research grants. Mentor programs have encouraged innovation and technology upgrading.

# Best practices for diaspora engagement

**UNDP has long supported an initiative called TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals).**

- Facilitates short-term Diaspora volunteer/pro bono consultancies ranging from six weeks to six months.
- TOKTEN consultants engage in tasks that international consultants might otherwise perform
- TOKTEN consultants collect daily allowances, travel expenses and receive medical insurance.

# Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre

**Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre**, a not for profit public private initiative of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry was established in 2007 with a mandate of:

- Promoting Overseas Indian investments into India and facilitate business partnerships.
- Establishing and maintaining a diaspora Knowledge Network.
- Function as a clearing house for all investment related information.
- Assisting States in India to project investment opportunities to Overseas Indians; and
- To provide a host of advisory services to PIO's and NRI's.

# Best practices for diaspora engagement

## **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in India**

Celebrated annually on 9 January to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community to development of India. Ongoing since 2003, hosted by Ministry of External Affairs.

- Forum for networking, experience sharing and discussing key issues (eg. accelerating tourism, investment opportunities, support services to emigrants).
- Individuals honored with prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Award to appreciate their role in India's growth.
- Recently added youth event to promote innovation.

<https://pbdindia.gov.in/>



Thank you.