



Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria

MAPPING OF NIGERIAN HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTH AFRICA

20 MAY 2014



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International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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by
Dr William Muhwava and Prof Patrick Chiroro
Impact Research International

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANNID	All Nigerian Nationals in the Diaspora
AU	African Union
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NIDO	Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation
NNVS	Nigerian National Volunteer Service
NUSA	Nigerian Union South Africa
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mapping exercise of Nigerian diaspora in South Africa has been undertaken within the framework of the 10th European Development Fund project “Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria”. The mapping exercise was conducted by Impact Research International and managed by IOM South Africa in collaboration with IOM Nigeria, the key implementing partner of the project.

Through networks of Nigerians in South Africa, potential respondents were identified and e-mails and telephone calls were made. An online survey system was established. Eventually, face-to-face interviews were conducted. A total of 536 respondents were interviewed. In addition, four focus group discussions and 11 key informant interviews were completed.

The research has confirmed that there are Nigerian professionals in almost all sectors of the economy in South Africa. However, there are also non-professionals who are working in various jobs in South Africa. The Nigerians in South Africa span across all demographic profiles, with males and females; all age groups and different marital status and socioeconomic profiles. While some of the migrants have moved with their families, others have left their families in Nigeria. Almost 90 per cent of those interviewed were born in Nigeria and over 85 per cent still hold the Nigerian nationality.

The educational profile of those interviewed shows a high concentration with first degrees (50%), and about 40 per cent with postgraduate degrees. Although the survey was intended to purposely select professionals, it is important to note the high number of Nigerians with undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in such a small sample. More than 50 per cent are working and 31 per cent are both working and studying. This shows great determination of the Nigerian diaspora population to advance themselves. The survey shows that the Nigerian professionals are spread across all different sectors of the economy in South Africa.

It is clear that the trend of Nigerians migrating to South Africa has been increasing over time and indications are that this is still continuing. The increasing migration trend has created an opportunity to harness the potential resources of this group.

Over 75 per cent of the respondents visit Nigeria at times. Only 6 per cent visit Nigeria more than once a year and 29 per cent visit once a year. The rest visit Nigeria less frequently. Most of the people stay for less than a month on such visits. Almost two thirds go to Nigeria to visit families and friends. However, about 13 per cent go to Nigeria for business purposes, mainly trading.

Almost 95 per cent of those interviewed are keeping close contact with families and friends. They talk to them regularly and get update on news from home also regularly. About 80 per cent of the people in diaspora use telephones, including cell phones, to talk to their family members. Communication via telephone or cell phone might be the most preferred method by the diaspora population because hearing the voices of family members and friends makes the diaspora feel that they are still closely connected to their home. Most of the people are kept abreast of the events at home by reading news online.

Almost two thirds are willing to go back to and settle in Nigeria at some time in the future. However, most of those who want to return want to do so after five years. This, they say, will allow them to accumulate enough resources either to start their own business or to sustain them once they have resettled in their native land.

Both professionals and non-professionals are making significant amounts of money that help them to sustain their families, relatives and friends in Nigeria. Almost three quarters of the respondents have ever sent money back to Nigeria since their arrival in South Africa. Almost half of these have sent money to parents and another fifth have sent to other dependents at home. The remittances are sent to Nigeria almost on a monthly basis. Almost two thirds send between USD 100 and USD 500.

Nearly 50 per cent of the interviewees have property in Nigeria, while 29 per cent have investment in the country. Almost three quarters of those interviewed are interested in investing in Nigeria. Also, 57 per cent are interested in contributing or donating to development projects in Nigeria.

While we observed a willingness from the participants to contribute to investment and development in Nigeria, several factors have been ascertained that might discourage them from transferring their knowledge and skills, and from participating in rebuilding their country of origin. Particularly, we found that corruption, political patronage, security risks, high costs of living, low wages, and inadequate or lack of infrastructure, coupled with the complex and unpredictable political climate, are key factors that may potentially hinder the Nigerian diaspora from contributing to their country.

This data clearly illustrates that respondents are willing to be involved in the development of their country in different ways. It also shows that due to the advancement of technology, particularly the Internet, there are many different strategies and ways that can enable the diaspora professionals to participate in knowledge and skills transfer projects.

Several recommendations can be drawn from the study. First, the findings indicate that the majority of the participants in this survey are willing to take part in both short- and long-term knowledge and skills transfer projects. Thus, the Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS) needs to create a pool of such schemes to be readily available. Thus, in Nigeria institutions that need to receive skills transfers are identified and a database of job vacancies needs to be established. In South Africa, a database of diaspora members with skills will need to be developed to match them to the needs in Nigeria.

Secondly, systems that will ensure that investment and donations by the diaspora population are safe need to be put in place. There should be high levels of transparency in the way the resources from the diaspora are used. In addition, the Government should consider putting mechanisms in place to guarantee the personal safety of those involved in skills transfer projects or those working in remote areas.

In summary, all the concerns raised by the interviewees should be attended to. These include corruption, political patronage, security, access to credit and lack of infrastructure. In summary, the participants will only be involved once they are assured that their investments and donations will be secure in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nigeria has been on top of the list of remittance recipient countries in Africa for the past three years. The Central Bank of Nigeria indicated, for instance, that remittances through the banking system increased from USD 2.7 billion in 2004 to USD 6.5 billion in 2005, USD 10.5 billion in 2006 and USD 18 billion in 2007. In 2012, USD 21 billion remittances were received, accounting for about 90 per cent increase between 2004 and 2012.

In an effort to engage the Nigerian diaspora, the Government has established a House Committee on Diaspora and started several initiatives aimed at promoting partnership with the Nigerian diaspora, notably the sponsorship to establish the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO) as a vehicle for mobilizing Nigerians abroad for the development process at home as well as the creation of the Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS) to give the Nigerian professionals in the diaspora the space and formal platform within which to volunteer their skills. The unavailability of reliable data on the number, locations and distribution of the Nigerian diaspora has posed a challenge to the NNVS, as it has been unable to effectively support the temporary return of qualified nationals.

1.2 Objective of the Survey

The survey is designed to elicit more information about Nigerians living abroad, including their aspirations in the context of contributing to national development and willingness to invest in Nigeria. The results of the exercise will be used to inform the development of diaspora-friendly policies and legislation that will aim to make it easier for the Nigerian diaspora to play a meaningful role in the national development processes.

1.2.1 Aim of the Survey

To help maximize the development impact of migration and the resources of the diaspora community, members of the Nigerian diaspora have been asked to participate in the survey, which aims to gather information regarding the demographics, professional profiles, available resources, interests and experiences of Nigerians living abroad.

1.2.2 Expected Outcome and the Incentive

The results of this survey will provide policymakers, researchers, institutions and individuals with information that will aid the formation of effective national development strategies. In addition, it will serve Nigerian individuals living abroad by:

- providing an opportunity for individual diaspora members in various geographic locations to share relevant up-to-date information;
- improving information-sharing among and between members of the Nigeria diaspora;
- strengthening existing Nigerian diaspora networks and associations;
- providing opportunities for the Nigerian diaspora to contribute to national development; and
- creating a foundation for the development of future programmes and the promotion of policies that make it easier, more convenient and less expensive for the Nigerian diaspora to contribute to rebuilding the country.

The focus of the survey was on collecting information on:

- the number of Nigerian health professionals employed in the health sector in South Africa by employment category/specialization (namely, nurse, general practitioner, dentist and pharmacist) and by place of study (i.e. in Nigeria, in South Africa or elsewhere);
- the number of Nigerian education professionals employed in the education sector in South Africa by employment category/specialization (i.e. high school and university) and by place of study (i.e. in Nigeria, in South Africa or elsewhere);
- the sociodemographic characteristics of Nigerian health and education professionals employed in the health and education sectors in South Africa (including age, sex and marital status);
- the migration patterns between Nigeria and South Africa, and trends relating to the Nigerian health and education professionals employed in the health and education sectors in South Africa (answering questions such as: When did they come to South Africa? Where do they live in South Africa (geographic location – urban or rural)? Are there clusters of Nigerians in certain geographical areas? Is it permanent migration or temporary?);
- understanding how Nigerian workers are contributing to the development of their home country, by identifying the areas of interest of Nigerian health and education workers to contribute to development (answering questions such as: Are they interested in clinical work, teaching, health planning or exchange programs? Will they be interested in returning temporarily or permanently? Under what conditions? If not, why not? What are the challenges anticipated and the possible recommendations?); and
- analysis of Nigerian diaspora associations and other key contacts where Nigerian diaspora are found, including health and education professional organizations.

For purposes of this survey, *Nigerian diaspora member* is defined as:

- a person of Nigerian origin that has resided outside Nigeria for five years or more and is still there;
- a person born to Nigerians abroad (second-generation migrant);
- a person of Nigerian origin who continuously shows willingness to contribute to the development in Nigeria, which shall not include students and people that have returned to Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Contextualizing Migration

Migration involves “movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State, either voluntarily or involuntarily with an intent to stay permanently or temporarily. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and cause; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification.” It is intrinsically a human phenomenon borne out of the inherent nature of human beings to better the quality of their lives in different dimensions. International migration is important in the current global context of the mobility of human capital around the world between developing and developed countries, especially in relation to its impact on development.

The *World Migration Report 2013* identifies four migration pathways that are instructive in understanding the movement of human capital around different parts of the world. These are South–North migration, North–North migration, South–South migration and North–South migration (IOM, 2013). While a focus on migration along the South–North pathway has dominated migration discussions and policy debates over the years mainly as a result of the brain drain nexus, this report highlights what has become a new aspect of the focus on international migration. This pays attention to the importance of the South–South migration pattern and, in the 2013 report, an emphasis on the need to pay attention to the North–South pathway, which is gradually becoming important in the literature.

It must be said, however, that the focus of this particular review is on the other important aspect of migration within and among South–South countries, with a special focus on the movement of skilled professionals from Nigeria to South Africa. Ratha and Shaw (2007) highlights that over 47 per cent of all global migration is happening among countries within the global South. Although the concepts of “global South” and “global North” continue to be debated on at the conceptual and theoretical levels, focus on migration along countries within this socioeconomic region is very important, considering recent drives to tap the wealth of diaspora skills and resources. This is with a focus on contributing to (human) development in their countries of origin, as well as the continent. Within the African context, therefore, it becomes imperative to harness these potentials to promote developmental strides in the continent, something which may be said to be responsible for the definition of the African diaspora in terms of people of African descent who are interested in contributing to Africa’s development.

2.2 Africa and the Migration Debacle

As the brain drain literature shows, Africa has lost many of its highly skilled professionals to more developed economies like the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Germany, Italy, Australia and Saudi Arabia. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Economic Commission for Africa estimates show that since 1999 Africa has lost over one third of its human capital, including qualified medical doctors, university lecturers, engineers and other professionals. The height of such losses is highlighted by Soumana (2002:25): “It is estimated that one third of the most highly qualified African nationals live outside their country of origin, mainly in Western Europe and North America. That means that there are about 200,000 professionals abroad. Meanwhile, more than 300,000 expatriates are working on the continent in technical assistance programmes.” These droves of highly skilled professionals, especially from the health and education sectors, emigrated from the continent towards these more established economies because of a number of factors – some pushing and others pulling. In fact, many scholars tend to blame massive recruitment drives for health workers (especially nurses) in the United Kingdom and even the United States for the massive outflow of medical professionals and nurses from the continent while the sector back in the countries of origin bear the negative externalities that follow (Dovlo, 2003; Soumana, 2002; Hagopian et al., 2005).

Aderanti Adepaju highlights two noteworthy trends in relation to the emigration of professionals from Nigeria and South Africa towards more developed countries in the North. They are: (1) the impact of the structural adjustments in countries like Nigeria on the high emigration rate since the 1980s; and (2) the impact of the end to apartheid in South Africa on the loss of skilled professionals to other developed nations like Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom (Adepaju, 2003, 2006). Although the former is also highlighted broadly in the literature on the roots of emigration and brain drain in Nigeria, it is still important to note that these play important roles in understanding the extenuating circumstances that account for the massive outflow of important human capital from the shores of the African continent towards other economies. These also help in understanding how to reach out to the African diaspora in the drive towards mitigating the effects of the brain drain emphasis of international migration by harnessing the potentials of African diaspora into development strides in the continent.

The South–North migration dynamics has been said to be the impetus behind the “near-elitist” definitions of the African diaspora by the African Union (AU) and the World Bank. These definitions appear to focus only on the skilled professionals who are based outside the continent but neglect those within the continent who also are very important in all ramifications – skills transfer, remittances and investment. In fact, Crush (2011) identifies five reasons why these definitions must incorporate professionals, especially within African (and “South”) countries:

- Africa is the most important destination for most African migrants.
- Many African migrants are searching for better economic opportunities to help reduce poverty.
- These migrants contribute to development at home and in host countries (co-development).
- These migrants have personal and economic networks (regionally and globally).
- These migrants include skilled professionals who earn a lot of money and send remittances back to their home countries.

Thus, a definition that does not take cognizance of these migrants within the continent remains incomplete.

In this light, IOM defines diaspora as “individuals and members of networks, associations and communities who have left their country of origin, but maintain links with their homeland.” In this view, the concept is used to cover more settled expatriate communities, migrant workers based abroad temporarily, expatriates with the nationality of the host country, dual nationals, and second-/third-generation migrants. This definition draws from (and improves) the AU definition, which states that the “African diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship or nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union” (AU, 2005).

The more recent focus within IOM on South–South migration has become very important because: it recognizes that more and more Africans are heading towards African countries; that they also contribute immensely to remittances back to their home countries; and that many a time their contribution is not well captured in literature even when they play significant roles in terms of brain circulation/circular migration as well as co-development (Crush, 2011; Adepaju, 2006). In this regard, South Africa has also been identified as one important destination country currently popular among African migrants largely as a result of its relatively strong and stable economy. In fact, many skilled professionals are said to be moving away from more advanced countries in the North and situating themselves down in South Africa because of this trend.

As highlighted by Crush (2011) and Adepaju (2006), South Africa is characterized by the inflow of migrants and the outflow of emigrants. It is also a transit country for many migrants who seek a better future in the West but many a time they tend to remain here in the long run. Migrants’ redirection of the movement towards South Africa, as in the many cases in the North, is driven mostly by factors such as better opportunities, an agreeable environment and the mere reason that it is closer to home (IOM, 2013:31). It can thus be said that this relatively new focus on South–South migration is based on the fact that many African migrants see African countries as easier to access, to live in and to actualize (even) the dreams of a better life which the West has promised. So it serves as an alternative, or substitute in many cases, to travelling outside the continent towards the more developed economies that have become more and more difficult to gain access to, particularly in the current global financial crisis.

The importance of South Africa cannot therefore be overemphasized especially within the frameworks of one of the four migration pathways identified in the *World Migration Report 2013*. Within this framework, the Nigerian diaspora in South Africa become typical exemplifiers of the whole South–South migration dynamics. However, it must be clear who belongs to the class of the Nigerian diaspora within the context of this paper. They include:

- persons of Nigerian origin who have resided outside Nigeria for five years or more and still live abroad;
- such persons may also be born to Nigerians abroad (including other African countries) – second-generation migrants; and
- such persons must not be students and people who have returned to Nigeria but those who continuously show willingness to contribute to development in Nigeria.

2.3 Nigeria and the Issue of International Migration

Although emigration from Nigeria to other parts of the world is not new, an escalation point (and the application of the brain drain discourse) has been traced to the 1980s as a result of the state of the Nigerian economy during this period (Adepoju, 2003). It was a period of the slump in crude oil prices and the country was mired in debt; hence, the imposition of huge aid conditionality by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in a bid to stabilize the economy and ensure that the country is able to pay its debts (Akinrinade and Ogen, 2011). Thus, the huge cuts experienced in the budget affected many sectors, including, but not limited to, the health and education sectors. Thus, skilled professionals began to search for better days outside the shores of Nigeria.

A quick survey of the brain drain literature shows that droves of Nigerian professionals could be found in different parts of the developed world plying their trade. For example, in 2005 it was estimated that roughly 40 per cent of all sub-Saharan African country physicians employed in the United States were trained in Nigeria (Astor et al., 2005). In fact, these scholars insist that according to the “National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) of incoming residents in 2002, Nigeria sent more medical graduates to the United States than any other African country” (NRMP, 2002, in Astor et al., 2005:2493). It is also claimed that there are about 5 million Nigerians living abroad, even though this data is not confirmed since the statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development suggest an estimate of about 1.2 million, whereas the Ministry of External Affairs brings it up to about 20 million residents in Europe and the United States (Akinrinade and Ogen, 2011:74). One thing that is sure in all of these is the fact that so many Nigerians reside outside the country and on the continent. Many of these people are highly skilled academics, medical practitioners and other professionals who are contributing immensely to the development of the economies wherein they are domiciled.

The influx of Nigerian skilled professionals into South Africa was traced back to the apartheid era by Adepoju (2003). This emigration process emanated from the backdrop of terrible conditions back home, as a handful of Nigerian academics came into the country through clandestine means and were actively involved in teaching within the homelands (Adepoju, 2003). At the end of the apartheid, however, and with the huge emigration crisis that hit the new democratic South Africa, there were a lot of skilled vacancies to be filled, and professionals from different parts were recruited to fill them. Hence, doctors came in from Cuba, and highly skilled professionals also came in from West Africa, especially Ghana and Nigeria (Adepoju, 2003).

In essence, therefore, Nigerians (and other African migrants) saw in South Africa a new haven for a relatively better achievement of life goals in response to the sociopolitical and economic hiccups within the (Nigerian) system. It is also within this status quo that Nigeria is said to have lost so many professionals to the global North and even to South Africa and other developing economies in the South such as Saudi Arabia.

2.4 Factors Responsible for Emigration

Emigration gains impetus as a result of a number of social, economic and political conditions. These factors have been classified into two main categories known as the push and pull factors, which may be responsible for the movement of skilled professionals from their countries of origin to other countries. Push factors refer to those external forces that tend to “push” individuals into making a choice of leaving the country for a better future. Many a time such factors could determine if these individuals would survive in the environment or not, and their choice to move on could be what is needed to safeguard their security. Ratha and Shaw (2007) identify income, proximity and networks as major drivers of migration from developing countries to industrial countries, while Soumana (2002) argues that “migrants leave one country for another as a result of strong attractions associated with differentials in

living condition, opportunities for professional advancement and the existence of an environment that is conducive to peace and security.” Other factors that account for migration could be issues of war and security, famine and drought; hence, the *World Migration Report's* (2013) position that not all migrants move out of their home countries out of their own volition because many migrants “do not choose to move but are forced to flee their homes against their will” – these include “refugees escaping persecution, people devastated by conflicts and natural disaster or victims of trafficking.”

Pull factors, on the other hand, have to do more with the opportunities presented or perceived from the more developed economies that help individuals make up their minds to leave their countries of origin towards other countries. Some of these may include better standards of living, issues of security and stability of economy, better job pay or incentives and so on. These are attractive factors that persuade individuals and groups to emigrate out of their home countries.

Although debates abound in relation to the strengths of these theories, thus leading some scholars to propose a behaviourist approach to understanding people’s choices in leaving the country of origin towards a better run socioeconomic and political system, one thing still remains. The fact is that these factors that impact people’s decisions remain and are strong.

2.5 Nigerian Diaspora and Development

The interconnection between the diaspora community and development has been analysed in terms of a threefold diaspora and development interdependence nexus as proposed by Mohan (2002). It involves development “in”, through and “by” the diaspora. In other words, development in and through the diaspora involves those benefits that accrue to a host country as a result of the activities of the diaspora domiciled and working within such a country through their works and expertise. Development by the diaspora involves active strides taken by the diaspora, which benefits the development of their countries of origin (Akinrinade and Ogen, 2011). Contributing to the host country is mainly a legal responsibility, considering that their expertise is procured for that purpose. However, contributing to developmental strides that benefit the country of origin is, in most cases, a social and moral obligation taken up by the diaspora community because of a deeper connection with their home countries.

The role of the diaspora or their propensity as catalysts for development within their host countries and also their countries of origin is recognized; hence, attempts by governments to incorporate the diaspora into different developmental drives. This is also to mitigate the long-term externalities of the brain drain syndrome and turn it into brain gain for the continent. It is within this regard that the AU defines the African diaspora in terms of people of African descent who are interested in contributing to Africa’s development. In the same vein, the Nigerian diaspora may be described as people of Nigerian descent working and living outside the country who are interested in contributing to the development of the country.

An extremely important aspect of diaspora contribution to development in their countries of origin has been identified as the remittances they send back home. Remittances are transformed into a variety of developmental capacities such as physical capital development and entrepreneurship, education, health, insurance, information and communication technology (ICT), financial access and security. In fact, remittances have become very important, especially in relation to the reduction of poverty and inequality in countries of origin.

2.6 Remittances and the Nigerian Diaspora

Remittance is an important aspect of diaspora relationship with their countries of origin. This can be in the form of cash transfers, transfer of goods, investment in property and physical capital, and many more. The importance of remittances has been identified by the World Bank and the African Development Bank in their outlook on the macroeconomic and microlevel impacts of remittances to recipient countries (Ratha et al., 2011). At the macro level, it was seen to be helpful in stabilizing the economy, improving credit worthiness for sovereign debt and improving foreign exchange. In terms of the microlevel impact, this was mainly measured by the overall impact on poverty and inequality through the different uses of remittances. These include investments in physical capital and entrepreneurship, improvement in education, contribution to health care of recipients, provision of insurance and security against shocks, and provision of ICT and of access to finance especially through banks which are used by the diaspora to send remittances.

It is reckoned that there have been steady increases in the remittances into Africa since 1999. In fact, between 1990 and 2010, the flows of remittances into Africa quadrupled, “reaching nearly USD 40 billion in 2010”, which was “equivalent to 2.6 per cent of Africa’s gross national product in 2009” (Ratha et al., 2011). Although a huge percentage of these remittances came from the North, a reasonable percentage also came from the South, and this was in spite of the dearth of record keeping and available data as a result of the preponderance of informal transactions due to high costs of transferring money especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Among African countries, Nigeria is said to be the recipient of the highest diaspora remittances. It is the fifth highest-ranked country among the comity of developing countries, and this speaks volume for the capacity of the diaspora to contribute more to developing the country. According to the research conducted by Olatuyi et al. (2013) for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration, “Nigeria received USD 19 billion [out of the USD 325.5 billion received by developing countries in 2011], making it the only African country in the top ten international remittance recipients in the world.” In fact, the Central Bank of Nigeria estimates that as at February 2013, about USD 21 billion was received in Nigeria, thus making remittance inflows into Nigeria a huge phenomenon.

The uses of remittances vary in a number of ways, and these also are informed by the intentions of senders. But remittances to Nigeria by the Nigerian diaspora are utilized mainly for family upkeep, investment in landed property and investment in transportation business. They are also used to pay for debts or loans incurred upon travelling, to support the education expenses of their siblings and extended family members, to support entrepreneurship (small and medium-scale business) among relatives, and to secure health services for parents and other family members (Olatuyi, Awoyinka and Adeniyi, 2013; Akinrinade and Ogen, 2011; Adepoju, 2006). All these show that a lot of money and indeed potential lie out there among Nigerians outside the country – potential that has the capacity to contribute meaningfully to improving the developmental strides in the country.

It is against this backdrop that networks of the Nigerian diaspora are being engaged and encouraged by the Government to contribute towards the country’s development. In different parts of the world, Nigerian diaspora networks have emerged such as Home Town Associations (HTAs), expatriates networks as well as university alumni networks (Olatuyi, Awoyinka and Adeniyi, 2013; Akinrinade and Ogen, 2011). Some of them are already involved in promoting human development by “supporting economic and social development and employment policies in their countries” by “taking responsibility for schools, health care and education in the communities back home with spillover benefits into the transportation, tourism and construction sectors.” In fact, “many professional migrants are engaged in philanthropy and transfer of technology and skills, and creating enterprises” (Olatuyi, Awoyinka and Adeniyi, 2013:8).

It must be said that most of these physical and “intellectual” remittances by the Nigerian diaspora are not coordinated since different groups embark on different aspects of giving back and contributing to Nigeria’s development. However, the Government of Nigeria established NIDO and the NNVS to assist in dialoguing with the diaspora and harnessing their potential for more coordinated developmental strides. It follows then that the establishment of NIDO meant that the Government did not just focus “its hopes on individual Nigerians abroad to invest in Nigeria, [but that] Nigerian diaspora organizations are also ascribed a role in running and sustaining development projects” (Akinrinade and Ogen, 2011:81). With a network of branches in Nigerian embassies abroad, NIDO aims at bringing about dialogue with the Nigerian diaspora and harness the known potential towards enhancing development in Nigeria.

2.7 Nigerian Diaspora in South Africa

Statistics on the Nigerian diaspora in South Africa are largely non-existent, and this makes it difficult to adequately establish the skills profiles of Nigerians in South Africa. However, one thing that is certain is that within the education and the health sectors (as well as other sectors), there is a huge number of Nigerian professionals plying their trade and making their mark. This is because the major universities in South Africa (such as the University of Cape Town, the University of Witwatersrand, the University of Pretoria, the University of Kwazulu Natal, the University of Johannesburg, the University of Stellenbosch, Monash University, the University of Venda, the University of the Western Cape, the University of Limpopo and various others) have Nigerians in the major departments as professors, associate professors, senior lecturers, lecturers and associate lecturers. The same can be said of doctors and nurses at different hospitals as well as those working as general practitioners for different medical aid providers. These

Nigerians are resident all around South Africa in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban and other cities in the Limpopo province, among others.

While a lot is not known about these professionals, the ACP research, which focused on 200 participants of Nigerian origin in Ghana and South Africa, helps shed a bit of light as to the state of Nigerians in South Africa. According to the research, over 70 per cent of Nigerian participants migrated to the two countries mentioned because of economic factors. This implies that South Africa's economy is a relatively suitable substitute or alternative to the more developed economies, as it provides migrants an environment conducive to their business and professional ventures. The report also showed that over 80 per cent of Nigerians who participated in the study in Ghana and South Africa were gainfully employed; over 90 per cent were employed in their fields of expertise. It, therefore, follows that they participate actively in the economic activities in these countries. Many of these migrants continually travel to Nigeria at least on an annual basis, and they also send remittances back home for family upkeep, personal investments and family obligations. The report, however, notes that students did not send remittances and that the categories of remittance recipients included parents, siblings and extended family members; only 10 per cent of entire remittances were sent into community organizations (Olatuyi, Awoyinka and Adeniyi, 2013).

The report also highlights survival strategies among a number of Nigerians, the importance and the role of networks and hometown associations in the integration of new migrants, and the importance of protecting the interest of different networks of Nigerians within South Africa. It also shows the level of interaction between migrants and the Nigerian Embassy, and highlights the views among migrants, especially those in South Africa, on the level of neglect that the Nigerian citizens experienced from the Nigerian Embassy.

What could be drawn from this report is that the contribution of Nigerian diaspora to development back home remains enormous. In South Africa, they contribute a great deal to the economy, too, with their active participation in specific professional disciplines within the different sectors, thus helping to boost the employment rate; however, this is taken for granted, as there is a dearth of data on Nigerian professionals in South Africa. It thus implies that identifying these professionals would be very important in order to engage them more adequately in more collaboration towards the development of Nigeria.

In all, therefore, the importance of the focus on international migration within countries in the global South cannot be overemphasized especially in terms of the contribution of the diaspora in these countries towards the development in their home countries. With the rising levels of remittances from the diaspora communities in these countries in different forms – cash, in-kind, investments, contributions to education and health needs, entrepreneurship and skills transfer – the place of these diaspora who were previously considered loss to their countries is being re-thought and re-theorized along the path of brain gain. This is more evident in the different strides being taken by the Government to incorporate them into development projects for the good of the country.

In this light, therefore, it becomes imperative for a proper and adequate grasp of the nature of the available human capital residing outside the shores of Nigeria, and since it would be too much to presume that these professionals will abandon the environment that suits their professional and economic needs and return to Nigeria, their skills and resources could be harnessed to prop up the development goals of the Nigerian State. However, to achieve this, it is imperative to know who these professionals are and the variety of skilled professions available and amenable to the development goals of the Nigerian State. This is at the core of the research on mapping Nigerian professionals in the health and education sectors in South Africa.

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview

Multiple data collection methods were used because of the different mediums that were needed to reach the eligible respondents. First, some introductory meetings were held with the most prominent Nigerian association presidents and staff at the Consulate, in order to obtain lists of Nigerians living in South Africa. The lists obtained formed the basis of the sampling frame. The following instruments were used for primary data collection.

3.1.1 Questionnaire Survey

A standard questionnaire was used. The NNVS, in partnership with other government institutions, agreed on a standard questionnaire which was to be used for the mapping process in all participating countries. The following strategies were used to collect information from individual survey respondents.

- **Telephone interviews:** Through this method, call centre agents phoned potential respondents and asked for few minutes of their time to complete the questionnaire. The agents set an appointment if the respondent was not available for an immediate interview. The telephone interview took an average of about 15–20 minutes, depending on the respondent. Other respondents took longer and elaborated more than the questions demanded. The additional responses gathered from all those who elaborated more when asked questions were included at the end of the questionnaire. The level of response for the telephone interviews was low, so another method was also applied.
- **SurveyMonkey.com:** Since the response rate by telephone interview was very low, an online survey on SurveyMonkey.com was used. The research team subscribed to the site and created an electronic survey link, which was sent to respondents. Prior e-mails were sent to respondents, explaining the survey and requesting for their participation. The data was downloaded from SurveyMonkey and exported to Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). This online survey programme has been designed in a way that it enables the Impact Research International (IRI) to send reminder e-mails to those that have not responded without inserting e-mail addresses again. The system automatically selects people that have not responded and sends reminders without including respondents who have already completed the questionnaire. The licence of SurveyMonkey was purchased for a period of one month and expired on 7 February 2014. It was decided that it should not be renewed because there were very few returns from this method. A total of 18 completed questionnaires were recorded and received from SurveyMonkey. Despite prior notice or information, the response rate was low. In order to understand the reasons for the low completion rate using SurveyMonkey, some respondents were interviewed on their perceptions about online completion and SurveyMonkey. Most of the respondents thought it looked like a hoax when someone received an e-mail requesting to answer a questionnaire online.
- **Face-to-face interviews:** When the above methods yielded only 78 completed questionnaires, it was decided to use the traditional interview technique – the face-to-face interview. Three teams consisting of only Nigerians were deployed in Gauteng, Durban and Cape Town. Most of the respondents were identified using the snowball approach. This would involve visiting institutions like universities, churches and health facilities, and identifying any Nigerians working there; thereafter, they would be asked to identify other Nigerians they know in the area or at the same institution working in the education and health sectors.
- **Other methods:** One research assistant was sent to places where Nigerian professionals usually go to, such as the Nigerian General Consulate in Johannesburg, and distributed some questionnaires. The questionnaires were placed at the reception for respondents to complete.

3.1.2 Focus Group Discussions

Four focus group discussions were conducted in two sites. In Gauteng, three focus group discussions were conducted. The first group in Gauteng was composed of influential people who were selected from associations, universities and other institutions. Two other focus group discussions were conducted in Gauteng and one was done in Durban.

Focus group discussions were a necessary form of data collection that enabled us to acquire more detailed information on the Nigerians in South Africa, as it allowed the participants to discuss the issues comprehensively. To ensure maximum participation and overcome any language barriers, all the focus group discussions were conducted by Nigerians in a language that most of the participants were comfortable with.

3.1.3 Key Informant Interviews

In-depth interviews were conducted with key informants drawn from various Nigerian diaspora organizations. During the initial planning meetings, a discussion was held with the staff at the Consulate in Johannesburg. The Consul General gave us some insights on the subject of Nigerians in diaspora. We also had discussions with the Presidents of NIDO, the Nigerian Union South Africa (NUSA) and others. While the majority of these were conducted in Gauteng, some were conducted via telephone, with other contact people who were identified in Cape Town and Durban.

3.2 Geographical Area of the Survey

The distribution of respondents by geographic area is presented in Table 1. An attempt was made to cover the main provinces of South Africa, as it is known that Nigerians are found in these places.

Table 1: Respondent distribution by province

	Number	%
Western Cape	30	5.6
KwaZulu-Natal	67	12.5
Eastern Cape	60	11.2
Free State	47	8.8
Gauteng	260	48.5
Limpopo	23	4.3
Mpumalanga	22	4.1
North West	27	5.0
Total	536	100.0

The sample covered all the provinces of South Africa except Northern Cape. The largest proportion of the respondents was drawn from Gauteng. This is mainly because the highest concentration of the Nigerian associations that were used to identify the respondents has good coverage in Gauteng.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

As indicated earlier, the snowball sampling technique was used, whereby potential respondents were identified through convenience sampling, that is, through their membership to Nigerian associations or their workplaces, while others were identified through their acquaintances that could then be contacted and included in the study.

The initial sample size was 400, mainly from the health and education sectors, and also representing both sex groups.

3.4 Data Analysis

The quantitative data analysis was done in SPSS. In most cases, cross-tabulations were done and the stratification variables used were sex and age. Where appropriate, graphs were used for visual representation.

Qualitative data was analysed using a technique known as content analysis, thus enabling the researchers to identify core themes from the data.

3.5 Limitations of the Research

The absence of the number and distribution of Nigerians in South Africa precluded us from designing a sample that would be representative of the demographic, spatial distribution and other factors. In order to apply probability sampling, there is a need to have a sampling frame, where the units will be drawn from. Thus, the results could not be extrapolated to a wider population of Nigerian diaspora in South Africa.

Secondly, it was not possible to obtain information from those who refused to participate in the survey, so it would be difficult to infer whether these would be statistically different from those who participated in the survey.

Thirdly, because of the sensitive nature of the questions, some were not completed and hence there are varying sample sizes for the questions. However, most of the questions had over 90 per cent completion rate.

Quantitative Results

Abstract:

This chapter presents the quantitative results from the individual questionnaires that collected data from the Nigerian diaspora in South Africa. The research covered 536 respondents. The sample characteristics showed that 29 per cent of the respondents are single, while 63 per cent are married. The educational profile of the respondents shows a high concentration with bachelor's degrees (50%), and about 40 per cent with postgraduate degrees. Almost two thirds visit Nigeria on a regular basis, mainly to see families and friends. Also, there is constant contact between people in the diaspora and those in Nigeria through social media. Both professionals and non-professionals are making significant amounts of money, which help them to sustain their families, relatives and friends in Nigeria. Almost three quarters of the respondents have ever sent money back to Nigeria since their arrival in South Africa. Almost half of these have sent money to parents and another fifth have sent to other dependents at home. Almost two thirds would want to go back to and invest in Nigeria. The majority of the participants in this survey are willing to take part in both short- and long-term knowledge and skills transfer projects. However, major factors such as corruption, political patronage, security risks, high costs of living, low wages and inadequate or lack of infrastructure, coupled with the complex and unpredictable political climate, may potentially hinder the contribution of the Nigerian diaspora.

4.1 Background Characteristics

The questionnaire collected sociodemographic information of the respondents during the research and the following variables were included: sex, age, birth place, marital status, nationality, geographic location and the duration of stay or residence in South Africa. In Table 2, the demographic variables, age and sex are presented.

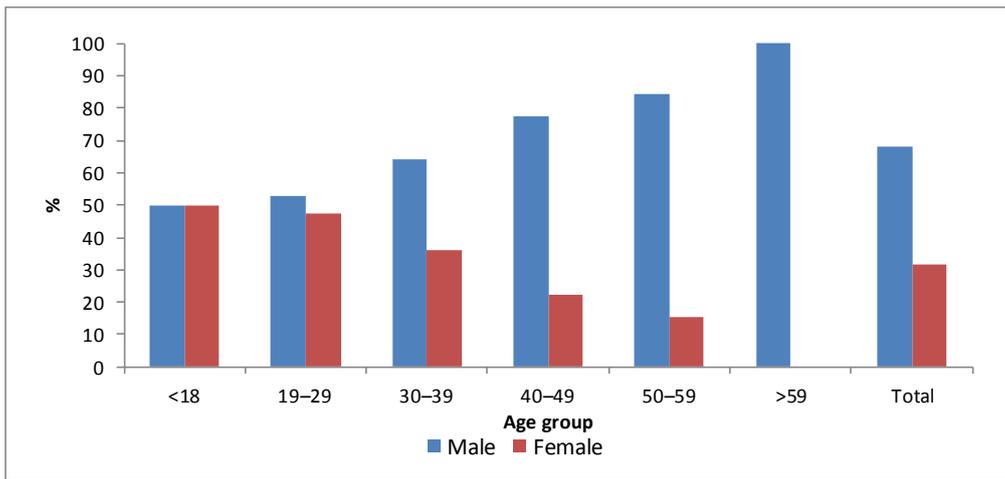
Table 2: Number and percentage of respondent by age and sex

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<18	4	1.1	4	2.5	8	1.6
19–29	41	11.6	37	22.7	78	15.1
30–39	140	39.8	79	48.5	219	42.5
40–49	125	35.5	36	22.1	161	31.3
50–59	38	10.8	7	4.3	45	8.7
>59	4	1.1	0	0.0	4	0.8
Total	352	100.0	163	100.0	515	100.0
Not stated					21	

In total, 536 people were interviewed. However, 21 respondents did not provide their age or sex.

In Figure 1, the distribution by sex and age is presented. While the calculations in Table 2 present column percentages, the proportions in Figure 1 are row percentage. Thus, in Figure 1, the results reflect what proportions in each age group are males or females. This presentation helps to show the distribution and representation by sex.

Figure 1: Distribution of sample by sex and age



In total, 68 per cent of those interviewed were male and 32 per cent were female. In almost all age groups, there were more males interviewed than females, except those under 18 years. In the 19–29 age group, 53 per cent males and 47 per cent females were interviewed. However, in the older age groups, the disparities are greater. For example, in the 30–39 age group, 64 per cent males and 36 per cent females were interviewed; while in the 40–49 age group, 78 per cent males and 22 per cent females were interviewed. In the 50–59 age group, 84 per cent males and 16 per cent females were interviewed. However, in the >59 age group, only males were interviewed.

In Table 3, respondent distribution by marital status is presented, categorized by age and sex.

Table 3: Respondent marital status by age and sex

	Marital status						
	Single	Married	Unmarried but committed	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Other
Age of respondent (n=523)							
<18	62.5	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5
19–29	75.3	19.8	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
30–39	34.7	59.0	0.5	1.4	2.7	1.4	0.5
40–49	5.6	83.9	0.0	4.3	5.0	1.2	0.0
50–59	0.0	93.6	0.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0
>59	25.0	50.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sex of respondent (n=518)							
Male	27.5	66.6	0.6	2.8	1.4	0.8	0.3
Female	33.3	54.9	1.9	1.2	6.2	1.9	0.6
Total	29.3	62.9	1.0	2.3	2.9	1.2	0.4

Overall, 29 per cent of the respondents are single, while 63 per cent are married. However, there is 1 per cent who are not married but in a committed relationship, 2 per cent who are separated, 3 per cent who are divorced, 1 per cent who are widowed and less than 1 per cent in other unspecified relationships.

It is important to note that among those who are 18 years and younger, 25 per cent are married while 63 per cent are single. Also, among the 19- to 29-year-olds, 20 per cent are married, while 75 per cent are single. The proportions that are married increase with age and are almost universal at 50–59 years old category. Conversely, the proportion that is single decreases with age.

The pattern of marital status by sex is similar. Almost 33 per cent of the females reported that they are single compared with 28 per cent of the males. Conversely, about two thirds of the males reported being married compared with 55 per cent of the females. It is also important to note that 6 per cent of the females reported being divorced.

In Table 4, the number of children is presented, categorized by age and sex.

Table 4: Respondent distribution by number of children

	Number of children						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	>5
Age of respondent (n=514)							
<18	14.3	57.1	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
19–29	22.8	55.7	13.9	5.1	2.5	0.0	0.0
30–39	6.9	33.6	25.3	23.0	8.3	1.8	.9
40–49	1.2	7.5	19.3	34.2	25.5	9.9	2.5
50–59	0.0	0.0	6.5	21.7	41.3	21.7	8.7
>59	0.0	0.0	50.0	25.0	0.0	25.0	0.0
Sex of respondent (n=506)							
Male	7.6	22.4	21.5	24.1	16.3	5.8	2.3
Female	6.2	34.0	16.0	22.2	14.2	6.2	1.2
Total	7.1	26.1	19.8	23.5	15.6	5.9	2.0

As expected, the number of children is higher in older age groups.

The respondents were asked about their levels of education, too. Education is an important measure of human capital. The results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Highest level of education attained by sex

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
No education	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.2
Primary	1	0.3	1	0.6	2	0.4
Secondary	17	4.9	13	8.1	30	5.9
University (BA/BSc)	169	48.7	101	63.1	270	53.3
University (MA)	108	31.1	36	22.5	144	28.4
University (PhD)	52	15.0	8	5.0	60	11.8
Total	347	100.0	160	100.0	507	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

Overall, very few respondents indicated no educational attainment. However, 6 per cent reported that they have secondary education, while 53 per cent have an undergraduate degree. Twenty-eight per cent reported that they have a master's degree and 12 per cent have a doctor's degree. The patterns are similar for males and females. For both sexes, the highest proportion has undergraduate degrees. It is interesting to note that about 39 per cent have postgraduate degrees.

The respondents were asked about their professions. Results are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Professional categories

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Accounting/Finance/Banking	17	4.9	12	7.4	29	5.7
Administration	9	2.6	9	5.6	18	3.6
Media/Advertising/Entertainment	8	2.3	1	0.6	9	1.8
Customer service	3	0.9	2	1.2	5	1.0
Community services	3	0.9	0	—	3	0.6
Construction	7	2.0	2	1.2	9	1.8
Consultancy/Corporate strategy	14	4.1	3	1.9	17	3.4
Education/Training	141	41.0	59	36.4	200	39.5
Engineering	24	7.0	4	2.5	28	5.5
Government	1	0.3	1	0.6	2	0.4
Health care/Medical	33	9.6	26	16.0	59	11.7
Hospitality/Tourism	1	0.3	1	0.6	2	0.4
Human resource/Recruitment	9	2.6	3	1.9	12	2.4
IT/Technology	7	2.0	3	1.9	10	2.0
Insurance/Legal	28	8.1	22	13.6	50	9.9
Manufacturing	1	0.3	0	—	1	0.2
Mining	5	1.5	3	1.9	8	1.6
Retail	7	2.0	2	1.2	9	1.8
Transport	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.2
Sales	8	2.3	2	1.2	10	2.0
Science	17	4.9	3	1.9	20	4.0
Sports	0	0.0	2	1.2	2	0.4
Other, please specify	1	0.3	1	0.6	2	0.4
Total	344	100.0	162	100.0	506	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

As the survey was targeted to obtain respondents in the education and health sectors, there are therefore high proportions in these sectors. However, both male and female respondents are in various professions.

The current employment statuses of respondents are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Current employment status

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Working now	190	55.6	64	40.8	254	50.9
Working and studying	99	28.9	55	35.0	154	30.9
Schooling	24	7.0	23	14.6	47	9.4
Worked before but not now	21	6.1	15	9.6	36	7.2
Other, please specify	8	2.3	0	—	8	1.6
Total	342	100.0	157	100.0	499	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

Slightly more than half (50.9%) of both male and female respondents reported that they are currently working. Almost 56 per cent of the males and nearly 41 per cent of the females reported that they are currently working. Almost 31 per cent are currently working and studying.

Table 8: Distribution of average annual income

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
No income	46	13.9	30	19.9	76	15.8
<USD 10,000	75	22.7	46	30.5	121	25.2
USD 10,000–20,000	59	17.9	26	17.2	85	17.7
USD 20,000–30,000	23	7.0	5	3.3	28	5.8
USD 30,000–40,000	15	4.5	4	2.6	19	4.0
USD 40,000–50,000	8	2.4	3	2.0	11	2.3
USD 50,000–60,000	4	1.2	1	0.7	5	1.0
USD 60,000–70,000	4	1.2	1	0.7	5	1.0
USD 70,000–100,000	11	3.3	2	1.3	13	2.7
>USD 100,000	5	1.5	1	0.7	6	1.2
No response	80	24.2	32	21.2	112	23.3
Total	330	100.0	151	100.0	481	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

About 23 per cent did not want to disclose their annual income. Almost 16 per cent reported that they were not earning an income. A slightly higher proportion of females than males reported not having an income. A quarter of the respondents reported earning less than USD 10,000 per annum. The proportion of females earning less than USD 10,000 is higher than that of males. About 17 per cent are earning between USD 10,000 and USD 20,000. There are almost equal proportions of males and females earning between USD 10,000 and USD 20,000. About 6 per cent earn between USD 20,000 and USD 30,000. Four per cent earn between USD 30,000 and USD 40,000 and about 2 per cent earn between USD 40,000 and USD 50,000. The proportion earning more than USD 50,000 is only 6 per cent.

Table 9: Respondent distribution by country of birth

	Number	%
Nigeria	510	95.1
Ghana	3	0.6
South Sudan	1	0.2
South Africa	2	0.4
France	1	0.2
Canada	1	0.2
United Kingdom	3	0.6
United States	2	0.4
Other, please specify	1	0.2
Not stated	12	2.2
Total	536	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

About 95 per cent of respondents were born in Nigeria. Less than 1 per cent were born in South Africa, indicating that 99 per cent were migrants into South Africa. Only 5 per cent were born in another country.

Table 10: Respondent distribution by country of current nationality

	Number	%
Nigerian	457	85.3
South African	42	7.8
Sudanese	1	0.2
British	6	1.1
Canadian	1	0.2
Dual citizenship	17	3.2
Not stated	12	2.2
Total	536	100.0

It is clear that most of the respondents still hold their Nigerian nationality. Almost 85 per cent of the respondents reported that they are still Nigerian nationals. However, almost 8 per cent now hold the South African nationality. Only about 3 per cent reported having dual nationality.

Table 11: Respondent distribution by country of current residence

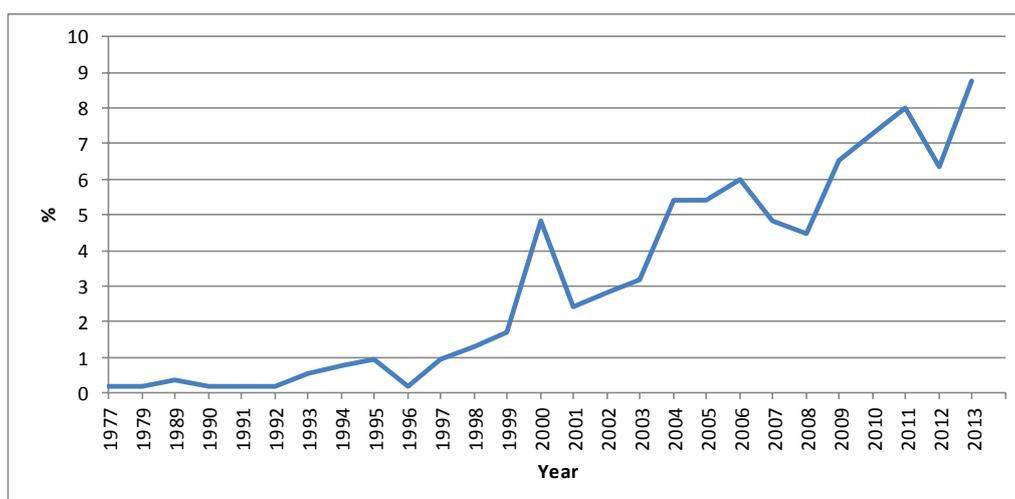
	Number	%
Ghana	1	0.2
Nigeria	2	0.4
South Africa	492	91.8
South Sudan	18	3.4
Canada	1	0.2
United Kingdom	1	0.2
United States	2	0.4
Other, please specify	1	0.2
Not stated	18	3.4
Total	536	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

Most of the respondents are currently residing in South Africa. Nearly 92 per cent reported that they are residents in South Africa. A small proportion, about 3 per cent reported that they are residents in South Sudan.

A comparison of Tables 10 and 11 indicates that there are more dual citizens than reported. This is probably because those reporting current South African citizenship have dual citizenship.

Figure 2: Respondent distribution by year of migration from Nigeria



There has been a gradual increasing trend in the number of migrants from Nigeria to South Africa over the years. From 1996 onwards, there has been an increasing trend.

Table 12: Reasons for migrating from Nigeria

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Never lived in Nigeria	3	0.9	2	1.2	5	1.0
Education	138	41.2	64	40.0	202	40.8
Employment/Business	145	43.3	47	29.4	192	38.8
Political asylum	12	3.6	1	0.6	13	2.6
Moved with family	25	7.5	32	20.0	57	11.5
Marriage	3	0.9	12	7.5	15	3.0
Other, please specify	9	2.7	2	1.2	11	2.2
Total	335	100.0	160	100.0	495	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

Almost 41 per cent of respondents reported that they migrated from Nigeria for educational purposes. The pattern is similar for both males and females. Nearly 39 per cent indicated that they left Nigeria for employment or business purposes. However, it is important to note that about 43 per cent of males reported leaving Nigeria for employment or business compared with around 29 per cent of females. Almost 12 per cent reported that they moved from Nigeria to accompany their families. Only 8 per cent of males reported moving with family compared with 20 per cent of females. Almost 3 per cent indicated that they left Nigeria for political reasons or to seek political asylum. Only 3 per cent indicated that they migrated from Nigeria to get married.

Table 13: Nationality of respondent and nationality of spouse among those who are married

	Nationality of spouse/long-term partner						Total
	Nigerian	South African	British	US citizen	Not married	Other, please specify	
Nigerian	70.6	17.2	0.5	0.8	8.5	2.4	100.0
South African	61.1	30.6	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	100.0
British	50.0	16.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Canadian	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dual citizenship	62.5	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	100.0
Total	69.1	18.5	0.9	0.9	8.0	2.5	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

Among those with Nigerian nationality, nearly 71 per cent have spouses who are Nigerian, about 17 per cent have spouses who are South African, while almost 9 per cent are not married. Among Nigerians with South African nationality, about 61 per cent have Nigerian spouses, while nearly 31 per cent have South African spouses and about 8 per cent are not married.

Respondents were asked if they were living in South Africa with any of their families. The results are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: Respondents who have family members living with them

	Number	%
None	317	59.1
Spouse	157	29.3
Children	153	28.5
Parents	43	8.0
Other relatives	67	12.5

About 59 per cent of the respondents reported that they are not living with any family members. However, about 29 per cent reported that they are living with their spouses. Also, almost 29 per cent reported they are living with their children. Only 8 per cent reported that they are living with their parents. Almost 13 per cent reported that they are living with other relatives.

Respondents were asked if any of their family members were still living in Nigeria. The results are presented in Table 15.

Table 15: Respondents with family members living in Nigeria

	Number	%
Spouse	43	8.0
Children	48	9.0
Parents	365	68.1
Other relatives	182	34.0

Eight per cent of those who are married indicated that their spouses still live in Nigeria. Nine per cent reported that they have children living in Nigeria. Almost two thirds reported that their parents are living in Nigeria. About a third reported having other relatives living in Nigeria.

4.2 Movement Profile

Travel between the host and home countries was asked in the survey. This was important to establish the link between the diaspora with families and friends back in Nigeria. First, respondents were asked how frequently they visited Nigeria. The results are presented in Table 16.

Table 16: Frequency of visiting Nigeria

	Number	Valid %
Never	128	25.1
1–3 months	6	1.2
4–6 months	7	1.4
Twice a year	20	3.9
More than once a year	61	12.0
Once every year	148	29.1
Once every 2 years	74	14.5
Once every 3–4 years	43	8.4
Once every 5 years	16	3.1
Once every 10 years	6	1.2
Total	509	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

Overall, about 25 per cent of respondents have never returned to Nigeria after they migrated. About 4 per cent visit Nigeria at least twice a year. Twelve per cent travel to their country of origin more than once a year, while about 29 per cent travel to Nigeria once a year. Thus, almost 46 per cent of respondents travel to Nigeria regularly. Almost 15 per cent travel to their country of origin once every two years. Another 8 per cent visit their country of origin every three to four years. About 3 per cent reported that they visit Nigeria once every five years. Only about 1 per cent indicated that they visit Nigeria once every 10 years.

Among those who usually visit Nigeria, they were asked about the average duration of their stay on such visits. The results are presented in Table 17.

Table 17: Duration of stay in Nigeria at each visit

	Number	Valid %
Less than 1 week	11	2.8
1–2 weeks	167	43.0
3–4 weeks	135	34.8
1–2 months	60	15.5
3–6 months	13	3.4
More than 1 year	2	0.5
Total	388	100.0

Forty-three per cent of those who visit Nigeria stay for 1–2 weeks, while nearly 35 per cent indicated that they stay for 3–4 weeks and nearly 3 per cent stay for less than a week. Almost 16 per cent stay for about 1–2 months. Only 3 per cent reported that they stay for 3–6 months. Only two people among those who visit Nigeria indicated that they stay for more than a year.

It is important to check whether the people who visit Nigeria frequently are more likely to stay for shorter durations, or whether those who go to Nigeria infrequently are likely to stay long when they visit. The results are presented in Table 18.

Table 18: Duration of stay during a visit in Nigeria by frequency of visits

	Duration of stay in Nigeria during visits					
	Less than 1 week	1–2 weeks	3–4 weeks	1–2 months	3–6 months	More than 1 year
1–3 months	0.0	50.0	16.7	33.3	0.0	0.0
4–6 months	14.3	57.1	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0
Twice a year	5.0	30.0	35.0	20.0	10.0	0.0
More than once a year	5.1	54.2	23.7	15.3	1.7	0.0
Once every year	2.1	38.6	39.3	15.2	4.8	0.0
Once every 2 years	1.4	39.2	37.8	20.3	0.0	1.4
Once every 3 years	2.4	50.0	35.7	9.5	2.4	0.0
Once every 5 years	0.0	43.8	37.5	18.8	0.0	0.0
Once every 10 years	0.0	66.7	16.7	0.0	16.7	0.0

The results presented in Table 18 show that there are no statistical differences in duration of stay between those who visit Nigeria frequently and those who go infrequently. It is interesting to note that almost three quarters of both frequent and infrequent visitors stay for less than a month.

From the perspective of migration, there are push and pull factors that motivate people to move. With this in mind, Table 19 explores the reasons of respondents for visiting their country of origin. It should be noted that respondents were allowed to choose more than one response.

Table 19: Reasons for visiting Nigeria

	Number	%
Holiday	123	28.4
Visit family and friends	290	68.4
Business	55	13.5
Education	9	2.2

The largest proportion of respondents visit Nigeria to see families and friends. About 68 per cent indicated this reason. Another 28 per cent reported that they visit Nigeria for holidays, while almost 14 per cent go to Nigeria for business. Only 2 per cent indicated that they visit Nigeria for education.

Respondents were asked about their intention to return permanently to Nigeria in the future. Results are presented in Table 20.

Table 20: Respondents who intend to return permanently to Nigeria

	Number	%
Yes	333	62.1
No	157	29.3
Total	490	91.4
Not stated	46	8.6
Grand total	536	100.0

Of all respondents, about 62 per cent reported that they would want to return to Nigeria on a permanent basis in the future, while about 29 per cent do not intend to go back. Almost 9 per cent of the respondents did not respond to this question.

Among those who intend to return to Nigeria, they were asked how soon they expected to return. Results are presented in Table 21.

Table 21: Time frame before the intended permanent return to Nigeria

	Number	%
In the next 6 months	9	2.7
In 6 months to 1 year	18	5.4
In 2–5 years	125	37.4
In more than 5 years	182	54.5
Total	334	100.0

Among those who intend to go back to Nigeria permanently, more than half would want to go after five years or more. About 37 per cent would want to go back after 2–5 years. Only 5 per cent and 3 per cent would want to go back permanently to Nigeria in six months to one year and in the next months, respectively.

Table 22: Reasons for intending to permanently return to Nigeria

	Number	Valid %
No reason	114	33.4
Continuous stay not favourable	21	6.2
To establish business	171	50.1
To marry and settle down	35	10.3
Total	341	100.0

Almost half of those intending to return to Nigeria on a permanent basis in the future, about 50 per cent would want to go and establish business. Another 33 per cent indicated that there was no reason why they would intend to go back to Nigeria. About 10 per cent reported that they would want to go back to Nigeria to marry and settle down. Also, about 6 per cent indicated that continuous stay in the diaspora was not favourable.

4.3 Contact with Nigeria

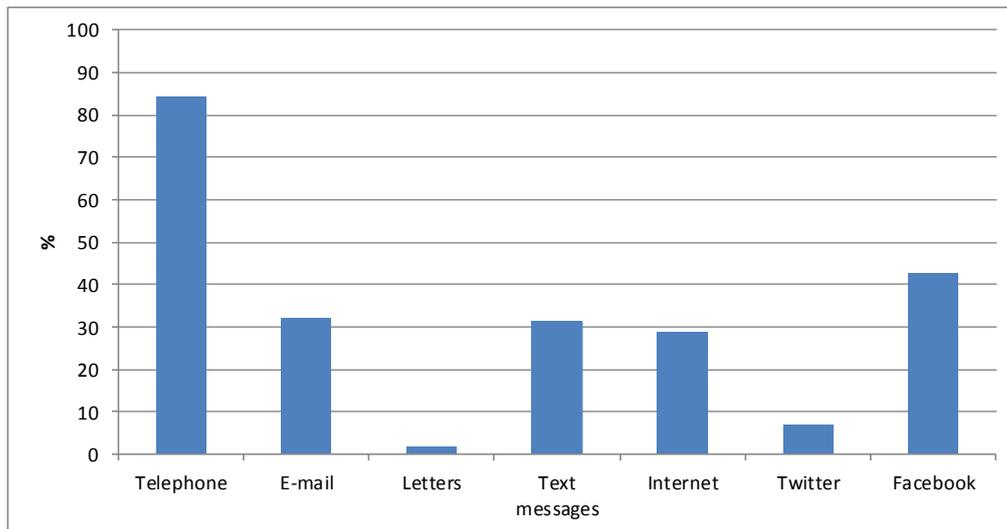
In order to ascertain whether the people in the diaspora are maintaining contacts with the people in the country of origin, a series of questions were asked on contact with people back home. This is particularly important as regular contact ensures that the people in the diaspora are abreast with development in the country of origin. Respondents were asked whether they maintain contact with families and friends in Nigeria and about the channels of communication they use. The results are presented in Table 23.

Table 23: Maintaining contact with families and friends in Nigeria

	Number	%
Yes	489	95.9
No	21	4.1
Total	510	100.0

Almost 96 per cent of the respondents who answered this question indicated that they maintain contact with families and friends in Nigeria.

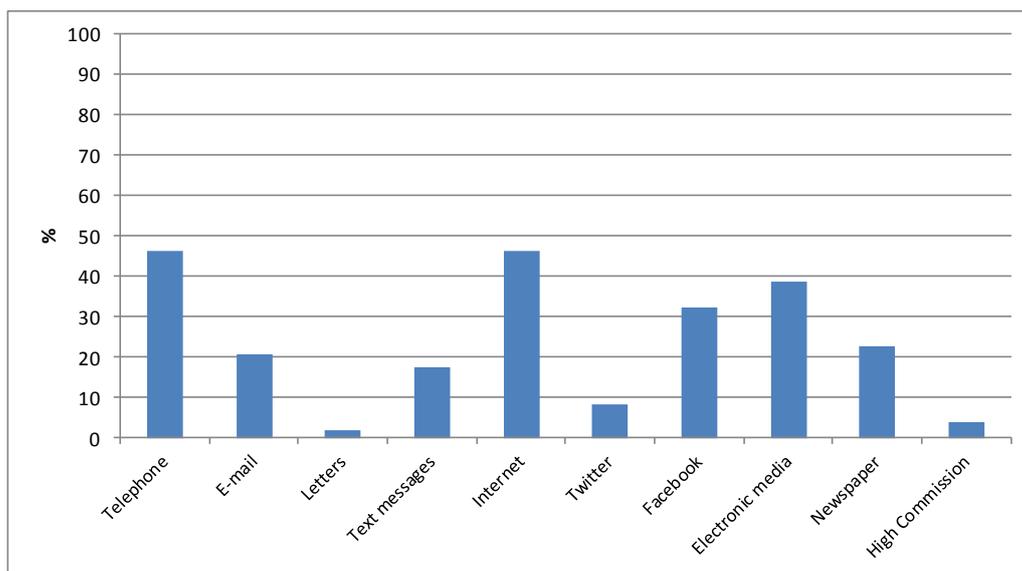
Figure 3: Various means of communication with families and friends in Nigeria



The popular means of communicating with families and friends in Nigeria is the telephone. Almost 84 per cent reported that they use the telephone to communicate. Facebook is the second most popular means of communication, as used by about 42 per cent of respondents. About 32 per cent send e-mails, while 31 per cent send text messages. About 29 per cent use the Internet. However, only 2 per cent write letters, while 7 per cent use Twitter.

Respondents were also asked how they get information on what is happening in Nigeria. The results are presented in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Means of getting information on what is happening in Nigeria



The most prominent medium for getting information on what is happening in Nigeria are the telephone and the Internet. About 46 per cent and 47 per cent reported that they get information through the telephone and the Internet, respectively. About 39 per cent get information from electronic media, while 32 per cent get information through Facebook. Twenty-three per cent read newspapers. Almost a fifth reported that they get information through e-mails and 8 per cent through Twitter. Only 4 per cent indicated that they get the information from the High Commission.

4.4 Remittances and Donations

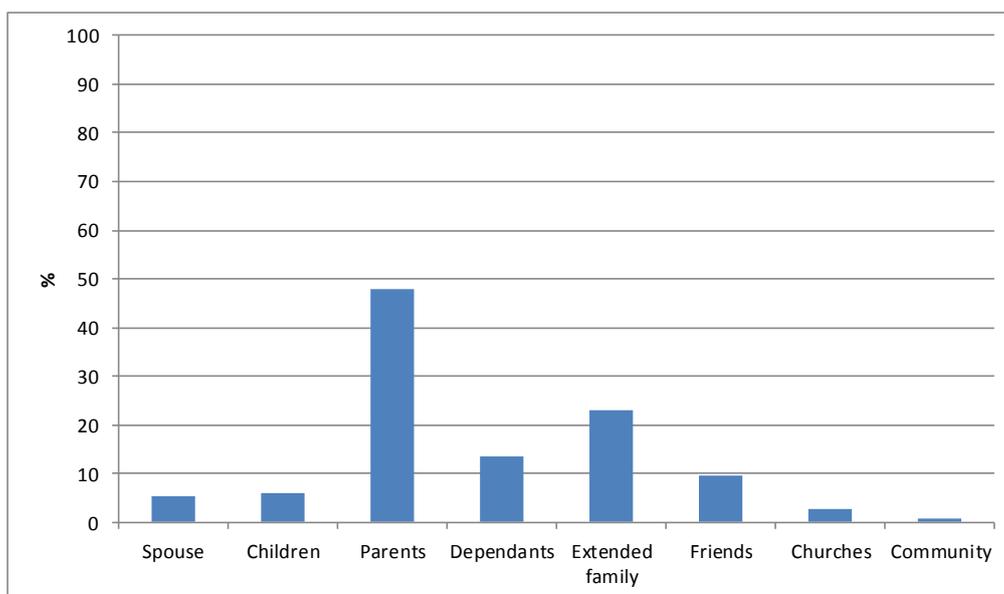
Evidence shows that Nigerians living abroad are making significant financial contributions towards the upkeep of their families in Nigeria. In an attempt to examine the prevalence of remittances and their impact, the survey included questions about this. Table 24 shows the results about the responses to the question: Since being in the country of current residence, have you ever sent remittances to family members or friends in Nigeria?

Table 24: Sending remittances to families or friends Nigeria

	Number	%
Yes	357	72.6
No	135	27.4
Total	492	100.0

It is important to note that 44 respondents did not answer the question. Among those who answered the question, nearly 73 per cent reported that they have sent remittances to family members or friends in Nigeria. However, slightly over a quarter have never sent remittances to Nigeria.

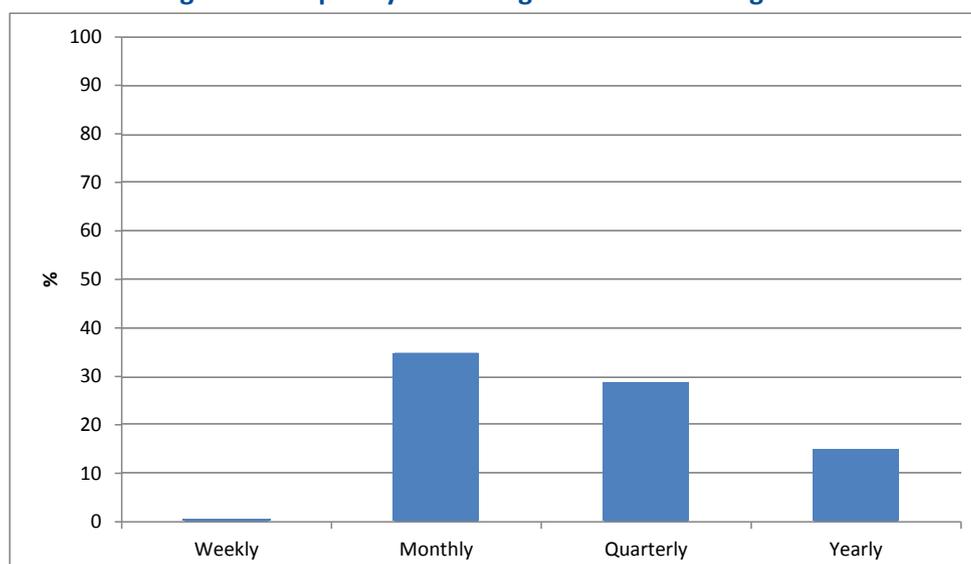
Figure 5: Recipients of remittances



About 48 per cent of respondents have sent remittances to Nigeria, which is the highest proportion. About 23 per cent have sent remittances to their extended families and 13 per cent have sent remittances to other dependants. Only 10 per cent have sent money to friends and 6 per cent to children. Only 5 per cent have sent money to their spouses. Very few people have sent money to institutions like churches and communities.

In Figure 6, the frequency of sending remittances to Nigeria by the respondents is presented.

Figure 6: Frequency of sending remittances to Nigeria



About one third of the respondents who send money or goods home indicated that they do so on a monthly basis. About 29 per cent send money or goods on a quarterly basis, while 15 per cent send money and goods on a yearly basis. There were other 50 respondents who gave other responses, for example, they send money when it is required and when they have extra money.

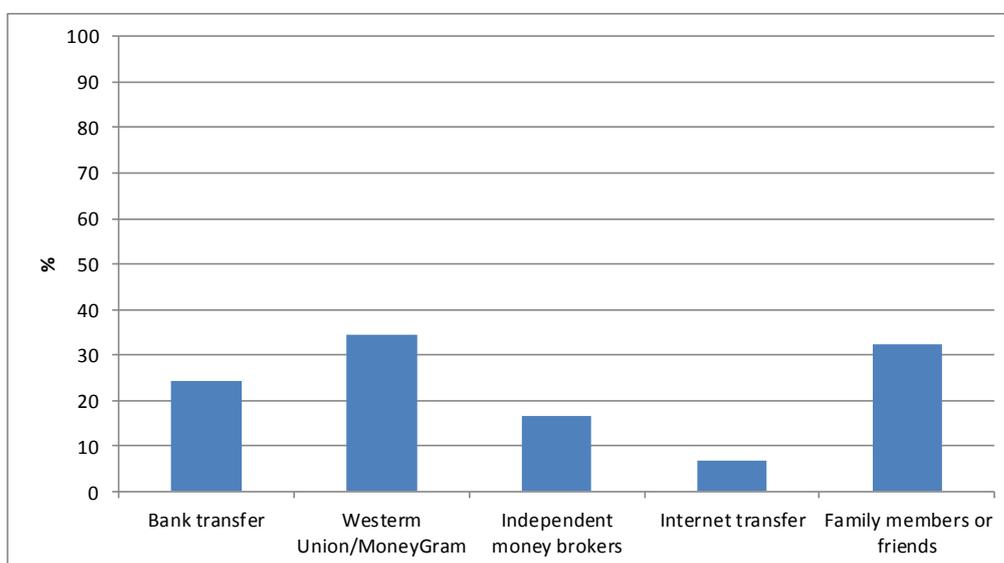
Respondents were asked how much money or goods they send home on average per transaction. The amounts of money sent per transaction are presented in Table 25.

Table 25: Amount of money sent to Nigeria as remittances

	Number	%
<USD 100	43	14.3
USD 100–300	133	44.3
USD 300–500	64	21.3
USD 500–1,000	36	12.0
USD 1,000–2,500	11	3.7
USD 2,500–5,000	10	3.3
>USD 10,000	3	1.0
Total	300	100.0

The largest proportion of those who send money to Nigeria reported that they send between USD 100 and USD 300 per transaction. About 44 per cent reported sending between USD 100 and USD 300 per transaction. Around 21 per cent reported sending between USD 300 and USD 500 per transaction. Fourteen per cent reported that they send less than USD 100 per transaction. Only 4 per cent indicated that they send USD 1,000 to USD 2,500. About 3 per cent send between USD 2,500 and USD 5,000. Also, 1 per cent indicated that they are sending more than USD 10,000 per transaction.

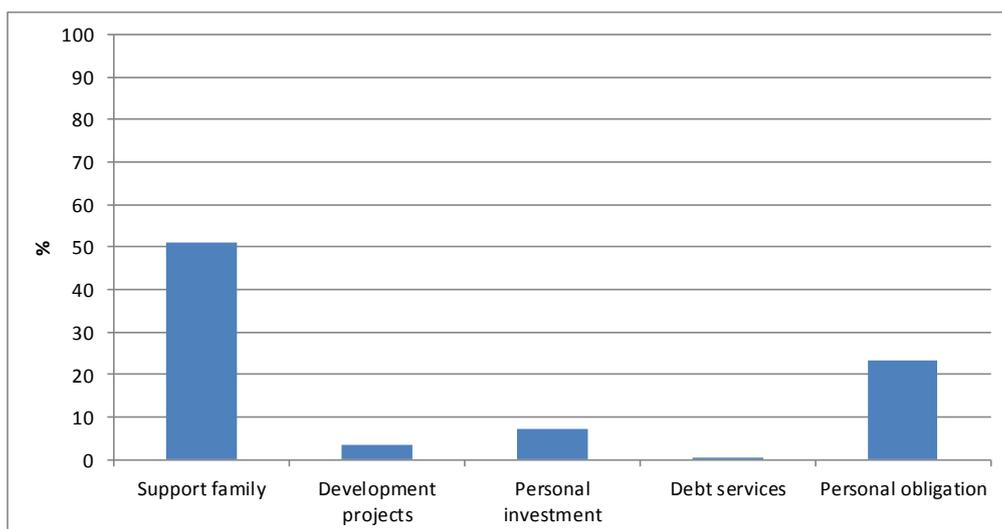
Figure 7: Methods of sending remittances to Nigeria



Almost two thirds indicated that they use Western Union or MoneyGram and another 32 per cent reported that they send the money through family members or friends who travel to Nigeria. About 24 per cent use bank transfers and 17 per cent use independent money brokers. Only 7 per cent use Internet transfers.

The reasons for sending remittances to Nigeria are presented in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Reasons for sending remittances to Nigeria



Almost 50 per cent reported that they send money to Nigeria to support their families and friends. About one quarter reported that they send the money because of personal obligations. Almost 7 per cent indicated that they send money for personal investment, and 4 per cent send money for development projects. Less than 1 per cent send money to pay debts.

Table 27: Cost of sending remittances

	Number	%
Nothing	82	27.9
<USD 1	5	1.7
USD 1–5	27	9.2
USD 6–10	64	21.8
USD 11–25	45	15.3
USD 26–50	19	6.5
USD 51–100	29	9.9
>USD 100	23	7.8
Total	294	100.0

Note: Numbers may not be exact due to rounding.

Almost 28 per cent reported that they send money to Nigeria at no cost. Nearly 2 per cent reported that it costs them less than a dollar to send money to Nigeria. About 9 per cent reported that it costs them between USD 1 and USD 5. Almost 22 per cent reported that it costs them between USD 6 and USD 10. About 15 per cent reported that it costs them between USD 11 and USD 25. Nearly 7 per cent reported that it costs them between USD 26 and USD 50. Almost 10 per cent reported that it costs them between USD 51 and USD 100. About 8 per cent reported that it costs them over USD 100.

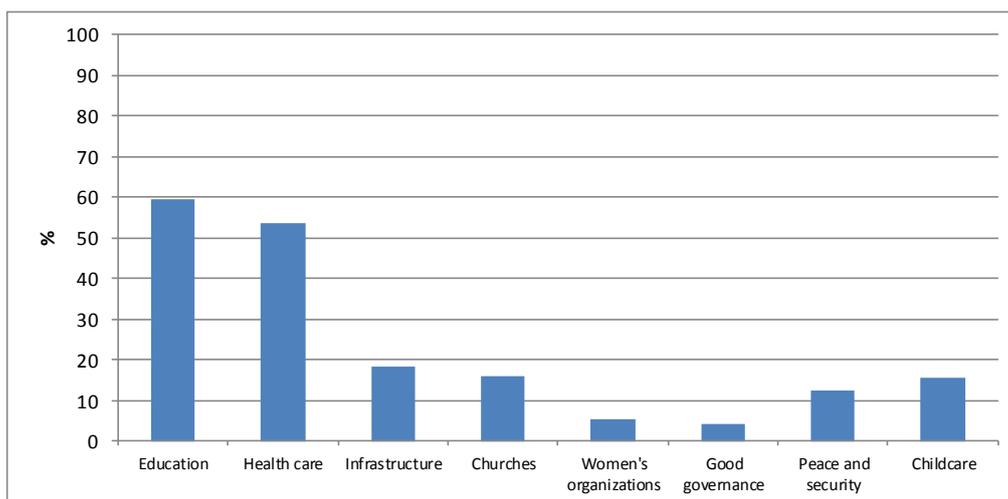
Respondents were also asked if they believed the money or goods they sent would contribute to development back home.

Table 28: Respondents who believe remittances contribute to development

	Number	Valid %
Yes	280	81.2
No	65	18.8
Total	345	100.0

Around 81 per cent of respondents believe that their remittances to Nigeria boost the development of the country. However, nearly 19 per cent do not believe that their remittances a positive impact on development back home.

Figure 9: Areas where remittances contribute



Almost 60 per cent of respondents reported that their remittances to Nigeria contribute mainly to education. About 54 per cent reported that their remittances contribute to health care. Eighteen per cent said that their remittances help in infrastructural development. Also, 16 per cent reported that their remittances contribute to development of churches and another 16 per cent reported that their remittances help in childcare. The areas of contribution mentioned in the “other” category include the following:

- Business development
- Care for dependants
- Community projects
- General well-being
- Gifts and donations to families and friends
- Nigeria’s economy
- Support for the family

Most of the reasons mentioned above related mainly to maintaining the general welfare of the family.

4.5 National Development or Investment

An assessment of whether people in the diaspora were making any investment or development in Nigeria was included in the survey. In terms of investment, respondents were asked whether they – as individuals or as part of a group buying capital goods including machinery, technology, land, or property (buying or building property) to increase wealth or achieve financial gain – had invested in their country of origin. First, respondents were asked if they had any property in Nigeria. The results are presented in Table 27.

Table 29: Respondents’ property ownership in Nigeria

	Number	%
Yes	241	48.7
No	254	51.3
Total	495	100.0

Around 51 per cent of respondents do not have any property in Nigeria. Almost 49 per cent have some property in Nigeria.

Table 30 shows whether respondents have any private investment in Nigeria.

Table 30: Private investment ownership in Nigeria

	Number	Valid %
Yes	144	29.1
No	350	70.9
Total	494	100.0

Only 29 per cent of respondents have some private investment in Nigeria. Conversely, almost 71 per cent do not have any private investment in Nigeria.

Table 31 shows the results of respondents' interest and lack of interest in investing in Nigeria.

Table 31: Respondents' interest and lack of interest in investing in Nigeria

	Number	Valid %
Yes	373	75.1
No	124	24.9
Total	497	100.0

Three quarters of those who answered the question are interested in investing in Nigeria, while one quarter of them are not interested in investing in Nigeria.

Table 32 shows the sectors in Nigeria in which respondents are interested in investing.

Table 32: Respondents' interest in investing in Nigeria by investment sector

	Number	%
Manufacturing	54	13.1
Financial services	30	7.3
Agriculture/Horticulture	76	18.4
Transport	46	11.2
Mining	16	3.9
Supplying	46	11.2
Buying or selling	93	22.6
Petroleum products	50	12.1
Tourism	41	10.0
Energy	21	5.1
Health	69	16.7
Education	99	24.0
Communication	24	5.8

Respondents are interested in investing in varied sectors. The highest proportions are interested in investing in education and in buying or selling. In this respect, 24 per cent are interested in education, while nearly 23 per cent are interested in buying or selling.

Other areas mentioned by some of the respondents are as follows:

- Aviation
- Building and construction
- Design
- Engineering
- Franchise of a new foreign service
- Housing project
- Consultancy
- IT services
- Cinema business
- Non-governmental organization
- Elderly home care
- Property
- Security
- Services, such as restaurants, salons and others
- Soap making
- Sports

These were identified mainly by respondents working in these sectors, as they have expertise in these fields and would want to start their own businesses.

Table 33 presents respondents' interest and lack of interest in contributing or donating to development projects in Nigeria.

Table 33: Respondents' interest and lack of interest in contributing or donating to development projects in Nigeria

	Number	Valid %
Yes	268	56.5
No	206	43.5
Total	474	100.0

Almost 57 per cent of respondents are interested in contributing or donating to development projects in Nigeria. Conversely, almost 44 per cent are not interested in contributing or donating to development projects in Nigeria.

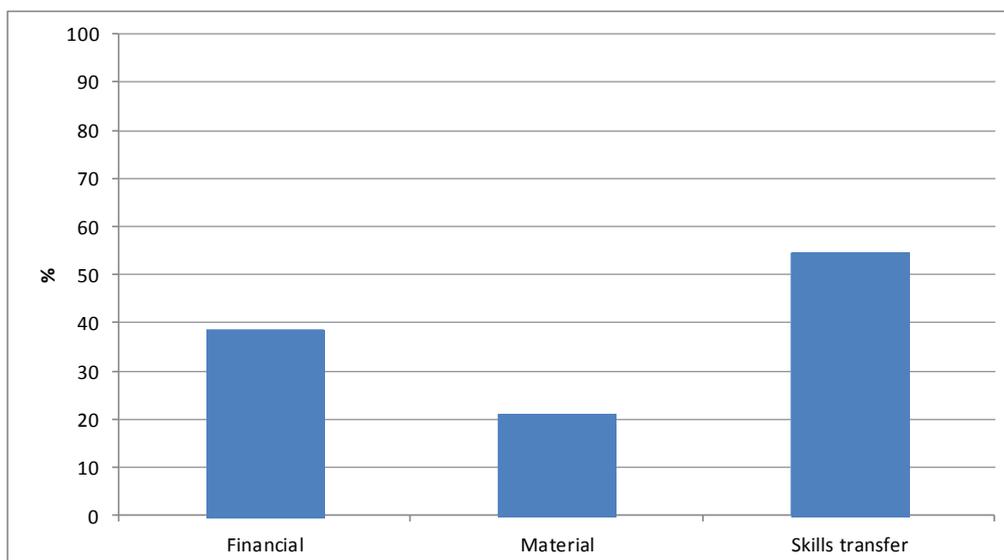
Table 34 shows the development projects that the respondents are interested in supporting.

Table 34: Projects that respondents would like to support

	Number	%
Education	180	33.6
Health care	138	25.7
Infrastructure development	80	14.9
Faith-based organizations	71	13.3
Women's associations	23	4.3
Good governance	62	11.6
Peace and security	65	12.1
Childcare	106	19.8
Microfinance	33	6.2

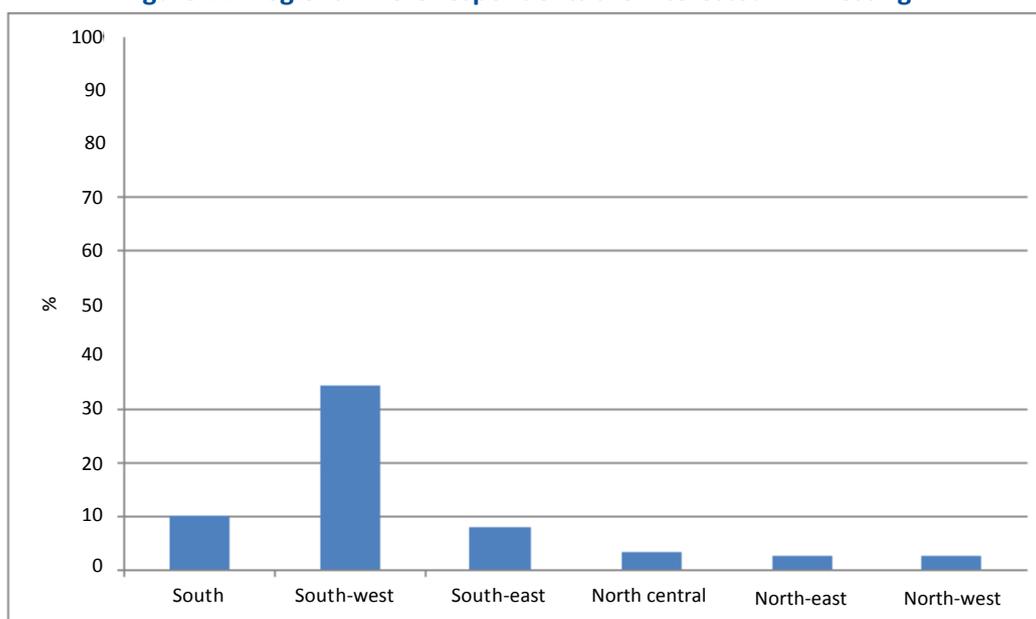
The development projects that respondents are interested in supporting are varied. Almost 34 per cent are interested in supporting educational projects, nearly 26 per cent are interested in health care, almost 15 per cent are interested in infrastructure development, 13 per cent would like to support faith-based organizations, about 4 per cent are interested in helping women's organizations, around 12 per cent would support projects related to good governance, 12 per cent are interested in peace and security, almost 20 per cent would support childcare and 6 per cent would help microfinance initiatives.

Figure 10: Types of contribution to be provided



Almost 55 per cent are interested in providing skills transfer, while nearly 39 per cent would want to contribute financially and 21 per cent would want to provide material support.

Figure 11: Regions where respondents are interested in investing



Almost 40 per cent are interested in investing in the development of all parts of Nigeria, while 10 per cent would want to invest in the development of the South region, almost 35 per cent would like to support the development of the south-west, around 8 per cent would want to help in developing the south-east, 3 per cent would like to support the development of the north central region, nearly 3 per cent would like to help in developing the north-east and 3 per cent would like to invest in the development of the north-west.

Table 35: Respondent perception of barriers to their contribution to national development

	Number	%
Yes	113	38.0
No	109	36.7
Not sure	75	25.3
Total	297	100.0

Thirty-eight per cent of respondents indicated that there exist some barriers that could hinder them from contributing to national development, while almost 37 per cent reported that there are no barriers, and 25 per cent were not sure.

Table 36 shows the types of barrier to their contribution to national development.

Table 36: Types of barrier

	Number	%
Financial constraints	62	52.1
Work commitments	8	6.7
Political/Legal	37	31.1
Other	12	10.1
Total	119	100.0

For about 52 of respondents, financial constraints are the main barriers to their contribution to national development. About 31 per cent reported political or legal factors as the main barriers, while 10 per cent mentioned other reasons and 7 per cent mentioned work commitments. Security concerns were mentioned under the “other” category.

4.6 Diaspora Networks

To understand the diaspora’s activities and engagement among themselves in South Africa, respondents were asked to indicate the diaspora networks they belong to.

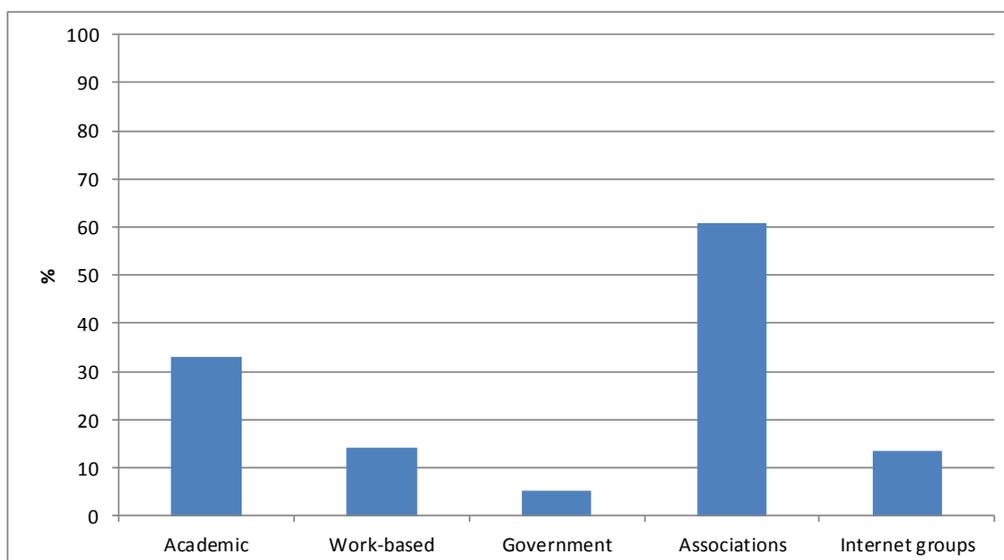
Table 37: Diaspora network affiliation

	Number	Valid %
Yes	160	34.3
No	306	65.7
Total	466	100.0

Among the 466 respondents who answered this question, around 34 per cent reported that they belong to a diaspora network. Conversely, about two thirds of respondents do not belong to any network.

Among those who belong to diaspora networks, they were asked what types of organization they belong to. Results are presented in Figure 12.

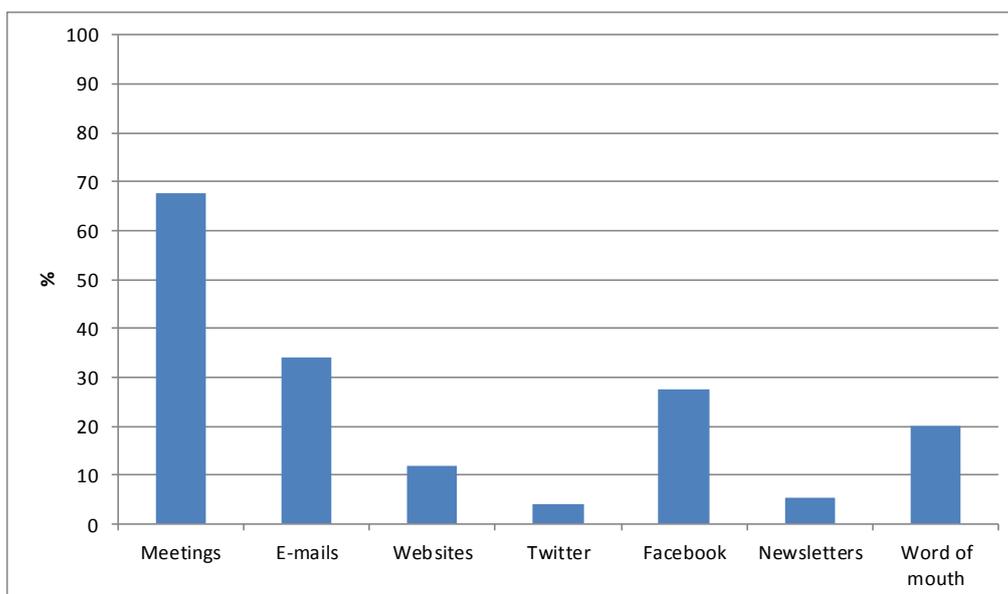
Figure 12: Diaspora network affiliation by type



Almost 61 per cent of respondents who belong to diaspora networks indicated that they are members of associations. About a third are members of academic networks, while 14 per cent are members of work-based networks, 14 per cent are members of Internet-based social networking groups and 5 per cent are members of government associations.

Figure 13 shows the means by which information is shared among members of the diaspora networks.

Figure 13: Methods of communicating with members in the network



Most of the information is shared at meetings. About two thirds of members of networks indicated that information is shared during meetings. About a third reported that information is shared by e-mails, 28 per cent share information through Facebook, 20 per cent by word of mouth, 12 per cent on websites, 5 per cent through newsletters and 4 per cent through Twitter.

In Table 38, the frequency of meetings of diaspora network members is presented. This reflects how often these associations share information.

Table 38: Frequency of meetings of diaspora network members

	Number	Valid %
Weekly	10	6.9
Every 2 weeks	11	11.1
Monthly	98	68.1
Quarterly	15	10.4
Every 6 months	1	0.7
Yearly	4	2.8

About 68 per cent of diaspora network members meet every month. However, almost 7 per cent reported that they meet weekly and 11 per cent meet every two weeks. About 10 per cent reported that they meet once every quarter, almost 1 per cent meets every six months, while nearly 3 per cent meet once a year.

Respondents were asked if their networks had focal persons. Results are presented in Table 39.

Table 39: Presence of focal persons of diaspora networks

	Number	%
Yes	100	74.1
No	35	25.9
Total	135	100.0

Almost three quarters of respondents indicated that their associations had focal persons. In order to engage more people in the future, these focal people would act as useful contact points.

To determine those who would be willing to participate in projects for Nigerian diaspora, respondents were asked if they would be willing to be contacted again to receive additional information on the projects. Results are presented in Table 40.

Table 40: Respondents' willingness to receive additional information about projects for Nigerian diaspora in the future

	Number	Valid %
Yes	225	57.7
No	130	33.3
Not sure	35	9.0
Total	390	100.0

Almost 58 per cent reported that they would be interested in receiving additional information about projects for Nigerian diaspora in the future, while about 33 per cent were not interested and 9 per cent were not sure. However, 215 respondents provided their contact details.

To determine those who would be willing to participate in further discussions on diaspora projects through focus group discussions, respondents were asked about their willingness to be contacted again to receive additional information on focus group discussions. Results are presented in Table 41.

Table 41: Respondents' willingness to be contacted for participation in focus group discussions

	Number	%
Yes	171	48.0
No	151	42.4
Not sure	34	9.6
Total	356	100.0

About 180 people did not respond to this question. Among those who responded, 48 per cent indicated that they would want to be contacted for additional information on focus group discussions. However, almost 10 per cent were not sure.

Qualitative Results

Abstract:

The study managed to identify various associations of Nigerians in South Africa. Despite the number of Nigerians in South Africa being estimated to be large, the associations have very few registered members. Nigerians do not join these associations mainly because of lack of trust and they see no material benefits in belonging to such associations. Few Nigerians in South Africa have registered with the Consulate or the High Commission. The issue of the inaccessibility and attitude of the Nigerian Embassy staff was highlighted as one of the barriers to registration. There are a couple of people who indicated that they were currently investing in Nigeria. In all focus group discussions, there was almost an equal split between those who want to invest in Nigeria and those who do not. However, the Nigerians in the diaspora still have concerns about security of their investments in Nigeria. Corruption in the form of bribing officials to process documents and instances in which free equipment and other donated resources being diverted from intended beneficiaries, stolen or sold on by local staff were reported. Some of the people feel that they lack financial resources to embark on large investments, and banks are not helping them because they are denied financial security by these institutions.

5.1 Membership to Nigerian Associations

There are various Nigerian associations in South Africa. Some are formal, others are informal. Formal associations are those that have constitutions and paid-up membership. Informal associations are mainly those where there is no formal membership but people gather socially and discuss issues. The main formal associations that are well-known include the NIDO and the NUSA.

Those are usually referred to as umbrella organizations. However, our discussion with the NIDO President revealed that the organization is more concentrated in the Gauteng area. This is because of the history of the organization, which has shifted to coordinating the activities of affiliate associations. However, NIDO has other affiliate associations in various provinces.

There are a number of regional associations of Nigerians that were mentioned in the interviews. The following were identified:

- Yoruba Organization in South Africa
- Anambra State Union
- Arewa Consultative Forum
- Enugu State Union
- Ibo Community Organization
- Ohaneze N'digbo in South Africa
- Ishan Club

While these organizations have an ethnic focus, they also have a mixture of professionals and non-professionals.

The Nigerian Doctors Forum (NDF) was the only well-known professional organization. Basically, the NDF conducts some functions and invites a wide-spectrum of Nigerians in South Africa.

While the aforementioned groups are well-known and based in the provinces, there are some that are just based locally in the main town of South Africa. For example, one participant indicated that:

I have heard of them, in East London there is a Nigerian Teachers Forum, I know of another one in Bloemfontein as well but am not sure what they are called. In other words, what I am saying is there are so many associations around South Africa for Nigerians. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

There are also informal groups of Nigerians, which are mainly composed of friends and acquaintances who meet informally to discuss issues affecting them and what is happening at home. The following quotations illustrate this issue:

No, it does not have a name. We just meet when we are all not busy. In other words, we are not obliged to meet at given times or places, it's all out of choice. The group involves people from south-west Nigeria. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Maybe it's because of the way I came to South Africa. I came and met this group from home who I now call friends or brothers and we as friends have a platform where we discuss about our problems and problems back home and all other stuff that arises. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Also, now with the wide availability of the Internet, some groups use this. One of the most notable is Nigerians in South Africa Facebook Forum. According to one member:

Yeah, I can only talk about the forum on Facebook. You can easily access it and it has about 5500 names and it's called Nigerians in South Africa Facebook Forum. (Focus group discussion participant, Pretoria)

As indicated in the quantitative component, about a third of Nigerians in South Africa belong to associations and forums. During the focus group discussions, it was ascertained that some of the diaspora belong to these while others do not. In almost all the focus groups, it is evident that people who belong to diaspora networks are far fewer than those who are not registered.

Among those who are not part of the associations, skepticism is one of the main reasons why some of them do not join associations. The skepticism arises from Nigerians not trusting each other, especially in operationalizing some of the issues that are suggested at these forums. As expressed by one participant:

There are so many Nigerian forums I have heard of. I have been invited to one of them but was a bit skeptical and still skeptical about joining them because, I know my fellow countryman like planning things and not take action so I always feel it's waste of time. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Some presume that the issues discussed by some of these associations are of little or no consequences:

The other thing why we are not part of the associations for me is I have never been invited, in some of these organizations you don't just go and ask to join. And these processes of trying to first find out what the group is all about and their aims and goals and what you would need to join – that's a lot of time wasted doing that. We came to work for money, not spend time discussing things that won't help us in the long run. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Some of the participants indicated that they did not find or realize any social or economic benefits in joining some of these associations.

The main reason is we, as Nigerians, we get so busy to be part of any association so it boils down to personal choice. I personally don't see any use of being part of a Nigerian association for any reason. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

In order to keep a register, the Consulate in Johannesburg has attempted to register all Nigerians living in South Africa. They opened an online registration system, but unfortunately fewer than 100 people have registered. Although the website for online registration is still active, there are no recent additions of people who are registering. According to the staff at the Consulate:

Nigerians are very skeptical people. They are suspicious when the authorities ask them to register. They think possibly we want to introduce some form of tax. Moreover, some of them might be in South Africa illegally or by some other means, and they do not want any link with authorities. (Consulate Official, Johannesburg)

5.2 Involvement in Development and Investment or Trade Initiatives in Nigeria

There are a couple of people who indicated that they were currently investing in Nigeria. In all focus groups discussions, there was almost an equal split between those who would like to invest in Nigeria and those who would not. For example, in all the focus group discussions with an average of 10 people, only about four or five people stated that they were currently involved in development or investment in Nigeria. Most notable was a Nigerian company in South Africa that was setting up a plastic manufacturing plant. According to the owner of the company:

We identified the need of this company and we have just bought equipment which has been shipped to Nigeria. The essence of setting up business in Nigeria is to identify where there is a gap. We are faced with all these problems which your participants are mentioning, but we are Nigerians and we know how to deal with each other. (Key informant, Johannesburg)

One participant indicated that he was involved in a youth development programme in Nigeria.

Actually, I was involved in a development programme. It's a youth development programme. So when I came here as well, I was able to continue with the same programme. It's a very simple concept, we empower youth through musical knowledge so we give them musical lessons because way back home I was privileged to have that musical education. (Focus group discussion participant, Pretoria)

However, there were participants who indicated that they had been involved in development projects, but for various reasons they had stopped. The following example highlights this point.

We gathered some books from universities in South Africa and we approached the High Commission to assist in the shipment. We could not get money for shipping the books. The High Commission was not even prepared to help with sending the books to Nigeria or even clear them when they get to Nigeria. We still have the stacks of books in our garages. (Key informant, Johannesburg)

The issue of the inaccessibility and attitude of the Nigerian Embassy staff was highlighted as one of the major hindrances to Nigerians in the diaspora willing to work with government departments. According to one informant:

The High Commission should be our small Nigeria in South Africa. We should be able to engage with the staff there so that they can assist us. But when we get there, we are unwelcome. They do not even invite us to their functions. The last time our Nigerian President came to South Africa, we were not invited. So, why would they need our help in developing the country? (Key informant, Johannesburg)

Respondents are willing to be involved in the development of their country through other innovative ways. Due to the advancement of technologies, particularly the Internet, there are many different strategies and ways that can enable the diaspora professionals to participate in knowledge and skills transfer projects. One participant even indicated that lecturers at various universities in South Africa can deliver lectures through tele- or videoconferencing.

With technology this advanced, we do not even need to go to Nigeria for lecturing, we can just connect to students in a lecture room through videoconference and I deliver the lecture. (Key informant, Pretoria)

5.3 Constraint to Investing in Nigeria

Corruption has been cited as the most serious problem faced by Nigerians in the diaspora when they try to invest in Nigeria. The following quotations exemplify some of the sentiments expressed by some interviewees.

Some people will take that thing you have given for free, put a mark on it when it gets home and collect money and put in their pocket. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Monkey dey work, baboon dey chop. [This is a Nigerian expression in pigeon English referring to a scenario where a person does all the work while another earns all the credit due to such a work without having really done anything progressive towards it.] (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Corruption is a very big issue among Nigerians. I cannot say all Nigerians but among Nigerians everywhere both in the diaspora and outside the diaspora. I feel that the Government has to sincerely look into the issue of corruption. With corruption, I think we have to start orienting ourselves to believing in doing things the right way and avoid shortcuts. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Our port system is full of bureaucracy and that prevents a lot of Nigerians from taking export direct to Nigeria. Sometimes people opt to send consignments to neighbouring countries instead, like Ghana, just to avoid this unnecessary bureaucracy that Nigerian ports face. To clear goods in Nigeria, you have to bribe your way through and besides the charges for clearance are also very high. The Government is also not helping much, as sometimes you will discover that the port or airport will declare certain goods as disbanded just for them to make money out of you. (Focus group discussion participant, Johannesburg)

Cases in which free equipment and other donated resources being diverted from intended beneficiaries, stolen or sold on by local staff were reported.

Political connection was also cited as one of the barriers. Participants noted that one needs to be connected to influential political persons if they wanted to succeed.

In Nigeria you really have to be connected in order to get your things done. Politics plays a vital role in terms of investments. You have to be politically active in order for you to be recognized and then you can easily assist in terms of set-up and all. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Security issues are a threat to development in Nigeria. Security issues take many forms as identified by the participants. First, the participants noted personal safety as their main priority if they had to go and work in remote parts of Nigeria. One Nigerian doctor gave an example where a group of Nigerian doctors were ambushed and robbed when they were working in some remote parts of Nigeria. Participants mentioned that there are some places in Nigeria where they would need police escorts if they have to work there as volunteers.

Second, security of property is another main problem. Participants indicated that their main fear is that businesses are likely to be robbed if they are doing well. As indicated by one participant:

Nigeria, besides corruption from top officials and all, it is not safe to place an operation in Nigeria because you can lose it just like that without even knowing how. So it's either you keep it small in that way no one will mind your operations, but then you would ask yourself, why remain small when you can grow? And why grow when you can lose everything? The answer to these two questions to me is why bother investing at home, it's pointless. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Access to credit is one of the main problems, too. Participants indicated that money to start a business is usually scarce, and people would want to borrow from financial institutions. The main challenge faced by people in the diaspora is that they cannot borrow money in host countries because usually they do not have the requisite documents. They cannot borrow from banks in Nigeria because they are not residents there and at times they do not even have collaterals there.

I think that one of the major constraints that one can have in engaging in developmental activities in Nigeria is access to credit and entrepreneurs like me, I face such problems because you cannot just walk into the bank and access credit as compared to here and that hampers a lot of progress. (Focus group discussion participant, Pretoria)

Lack of infrastructure like roads, electricity and other facilities is another major hindrance. People in the diaspora would want these facilities to be improved. Participants gave examples of infrastructure problems such as poor road infrastructure, intermittent power supply, unreliable water sources for both domestic and industrial use, and open drainage systems.

If you look at infrastructure, it's another thing which is quite important to entrepreneurs as well as lack of electricity. Slowly, they are improving on the roads network. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

I will start by mentioning about electricity, which is a big concern for all us in the diaspora if we have to go back home and invest. So if there is no electricity, that means business has to operate on diesel and fuel and that means the cost of production becomes very high. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

The cost of land to develop was mentioned as being prohibitively high for anyone wanting to establish a business in Nigeria. The examples below show the magnitude of the problem.

The other problem members face in involving themselves in the developmental projects is because if you live here in South Africa and you only work legitimately, then you cannot have the kind of money to set up a business in Nigeria because for example, to set up a business in Abuja, one needs not less than 100 million naira. For example, if one needs to rent space for business like this one, they will ask about 33,000 naira per month and they will ask a down payment of three years in advance to the landlord. So the first setback is COST. (Focus group discussion participant, Johannesburg)

Nigeria is relatively expensive in terms of living especially in places like Abuja, which we call the rich man's land because it is very expensive to live there. For accommodation, one has to pay a lot. Then yes we have fuel problems even if we produce fuel it is still costly. When there is a shortage there is no control and just 1 litre could cost you about 450 naira. In short, Nigeria is not a friendly investment country especially for the poor. (Focus group discussion participant, Johannesburg)

Some people indicated that they had bad experiences in Nigeria and these had discouraged them from considering investing there. An example below was provided by one participant.

I have never involved myself in any developmental projects in Nigeria all because I was pissed off. I should have had my PhD completed in Nigeria, but due to some factors, ugly things that happened I just felt I needed to go outside the shore of Nigeria in order to have a better education, which I am enjoying here now. So I have no activity back home in Nigeria because of my bad experience. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Excise duty on imported machinery for starting industrial operations was also mentioned as too high. Some participants mentioned that if one is importing such machinery, the tax authorities make it so difficult to clear the goods and one ends up paying bribes.

Apart from the factors mentioned earlier, participants noted that although the Government has systems, these are hardly operational as government officials use State machinery to make themselves rich. According to one participant:

These government officials use their positions to enrich themselves. The State institutions have no means of monitoring what the officials are doing. It is painful to pay a bribe to someone and know the money is not helping the nation but an individual. The whole system is bad from the top to the bottom. (Key informant, Johannesburg)

5.4 Intention to Return to Nigeria

There are people in the diaspora who are interested in investing and developing Nigeria, as the following statements show:

For me, back home in Nigeria, my major interest is real estate, and I have my own knowledge of investment in that field in Nigeria, so in future I would like to be more involved in real estate. That is my interest. (Focus group discussion participant, Pretoria)

One participant summed it all by saying that “Home is home”. Another one stated: “I believe every one wouldn’t want to retire still in a foreign land, I say I will go back home”.

However, there are others who are adamant to go back to Nigeria. One participant indicated that they are learning from those who have attempted to go back.

The only thing I am learning from those who go and come back is to never go because those who think of going they would have learned from someone who failed and go there to try and rectify that but fail as well. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

5.5 Measures Needed for Investment or Development Activities in Nigeria

In all the focus group discussions, the issue of microfinance was raised as the necessary precondition for people to invest. As indicated earlier, start-up capital for business is difficult to obtain. People in the diaspora might have brilliant ideas because of their exposure but are constrained by lack of capital.

I think the Government should also support the people by introducing microfinance initiatives which can help people to diversify their business opportunities. (Key informant, Pretoria)

Among female respondents, there is a strong feeling that gender issues are not taken into consideration, especially in development.

Females in Nigeria are always underestimated and overlooked so why would I want to be part of a system where my efforts can never be seen or be of concern to anyone. Once that mindset changes, then we can walk tall as women to try and make a mark. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Other participants suggested that a proper system to handle donations and clear them with Customs should be established. For example, there are lecturers and teachers who are working in academic institutions in South Africa where books and equipment are decommissioned after a year or two of use. Through the High Commission, these can be collected and shipped to Nigeria for use in poorly resourced academic institutions.

Infrastructure has to be fixed if Nigeria has to appeal to its citizens who have lived abroad to come and invest in the country. Roads have to be built, potable water has to be provided and electricity supply has to be improved.

They have to put in place this infrastructure thing first especially electricity. Electricity is the basis of anything. Eighty per cent of the Nigerian population is in the informal sector. If one runs a hair salon or restaurant, one need not less than two power generators and the cost of that generator would take an average person out of business. People are a local government of their own, yet government should have been doing all these things for them. When you build a house, you have to create your own road to your house including drainage. There is no water supply; you also have to sink your own borehole. So every household is a government on its own. It's time for the Government to get serious and start looking after people. (Key informant, Johannesburg)

Security has to be improved, too. Diaspora people who go to work in remote rural areas should be provided with security. There can be organized ways where people can come as teams and they are escorted to places where their services are needed.

My request is for Government to look into the police service. Most policemen in Nigeria harass people without concrete reasons and they don't like to be challenged because there is no law which supports citizens against harassment. The same police force in Nigeria is also very corrupt. So where do you think they derive all this? It's from the top that's why the Government itself doesn't care about people. (Focus group discussion participant, Johannesburg)

The political situation in Nigeria should allow people in the diaspora to vote. The political platform in Nigeria should be leveled and the voices of the people in the diaspora should be heard. In the same vein that the contribution of the people in the diaspora is required in development, then this should apply to political participation by the diaspora population.

You heard that none of us would like to go and invest back home for all the reasons that were mentioned earlier on. That should probably give you an idea as to how the Nigerians in the diaspora look at this issue. We are talking about Nigerians like us, we are talking about us, we represent them so in short, and unless something is done politically, then we are not investing. I say this because politics affects everything from infrastructure, education and economy. Once this has been sorted then everything will follow. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Accountability of government institutions was also cited as one of the fundamental requirements which will promote the active participation of people in the diaspora. For example, participants would want to see that materials and equipment donated should reach the intended people and this does not end up benefitting individuals.

In summary, most of the participants in the study indicated that they are keenly waiting to see whether the results of this study will yield any positive results.

The Government of Nigeria should be open to views or comments that we bring forward. You can search the Internet. Nigerians all over the world have a positive say to the Government, but because the Government turns a blind eye that is why you hear us saying we are not going back home soon or we don't want to invest because we are not going to survive the hostile political business situation back home. If we can be given a chance to express our views like you have done now on this study, hoping that these findings will be shared with our Government, believe me when I say people will have a positive mindset about how things are back home. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

If only the Nigerian Government should admit that Nigerians in the diaspora are a valuable asset to the country's economy by so encouraging investments and to be in a position to directly monitor such investments without corrupting them, I am telling you it will turn that country around because money will still remain in Nigeria and help drive development. Infrastructure has to be fixed as well. (Focus group discussion participant, Durban)

Thus, Nigerians in the diaspora would want to see improvements in all the sectors they have identified for them to actively participate in investment and development in the country.

Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Discussion

There is wealth of expertise among Nigerians in South Africa. During the data collection process, it was established that Nigerians are occupying high professional posts at almost every university in South Africa. Also, there are Nigerian teachers in all provinces, and in most hospitals there are Nigerian nurses and doctors. While the exact number of Nigerian professionals in the education and health fields in South Africa could not be established, there is rudimentary evidence that the number is quite substantial.

While Nigerian associations exist, very few of them subscribe to these. The main reason is the lack of trust among each other. However, only a third of those interviewed belong to any Nigerian associations. Thus, most of the Nigerians in South Africa can only be reached through some informal networks or friends. However, most of them read online news about Nigeria. So, these are good platforms for posting information that will have wider availability to Nigerians in the diaspora.

Connection between the Nigerians in diaspora and their home country has been shown to be strong. Almost all the respondents indicated that they have maintained contact with their families and friends, with regular visits to Nigeria. Almost three quarters send remittances to Nigeria, mainly to support parents and other family members.

The findings indicate that the majority of participants in this research are eager and ready to be involved in both short- and long-term knowledge and skills transfer projects. Thus, there needs to be a pool of such schemes readily available.

However, the Nigerians in the diaspora still have concerns about security of their investments in Nigeria. Corruption, for instance in the form of bribing officials to process documents, and instances in which free equipment and other donated resources being diverted from intended beneficiaries, stolen or sold on by local staff were reported. Some of the people feel that they lack financial resources to embark on large investments, and banks are not helping them as the diaspora are denied financial security by these institutions.

6.2 Conclusion

The research has shown that there are well-experienced Nigerian professionals working in South Africa. Members of the diaspora who took part in this survey were employed in all sectors of the economy and have varied experience. In order to achieve the objectives of the 10th European Development Fund project, it is crucial to attract the right professional members of the diaspora. To achieve this, there is a requirement for the host and home country authorities to develop and devise diaspora-friendly policy frameworks that can systematically identify and recruit the legitimate and valuable resources of the diaspora, and that will enable them to participate in designing and delivering knowledge and skills transfer projects.

The study has demonstrated that through remittances, there is a strong financial attachment between the diaspora and their country of origin. Their financial support is contributing to the well-being of family members, and is used as investment in human capital by paying school and university fees in their country of origin.

Also, there is evidence that individuals are involved in a number of past and ongoing diaspora initiatives. Some individuals are already involved in initiatives to develop their communities, albeit at small scales. These people volunteer at their own expense, organize groups or missions, and travel to Nigeria during their annual leave. Also, there seemed to be a lack of cohesiveness, with a number of fragmented, individualized initiatives, and sometimes an overlap of efforts, and even competition to some extent. These initiatives need a coordinated approach.

6.3 Recommendations

If the programme to engage those in the diaspora to participate in investment and development has to have an effect, various factors have to be taken into account both at host and home countries.

A. Host country

- First and foremost, the project should be widely publicized so that it reaches all professionals working even in remote parts of South Africa. It is acknowledged that some Nigerians are working in hospitals and schools in rural areas. The Consulate and the High Commission should be actively involved in publicizing the project.
- An online portal has been created with a registration component. There is a need for raising awareness of its existence using diaspora associations to encourage people to register on www.nnvsdiasporanigerians.org. The Consulate and the High Commission should be actively involved in publicizing the registration process. To avoid suspicion, the database should be compiled by an independent institution and its use clearly explained.
- In the database, a categorization needs to be made to identify those willing to go on long-term and short-term engagements, given that the vast majority of respondents are employed on a permanent basis or are engaged in some studies. The information will include periods and duration of availability.
- The diaspora networks and associations need to be actively involved in the project. First, there is a need for these associations to publicize themselves, so that they can increase their membership. Second, they can be used to mobilize people in South Africa.
- Also, professional associations like the Nigeria Doctors Forum need to be included. These have the potential to offer specialized skills and can also mobilize its members to be engaged as teams, which will be cost-effective.
- Setting up a desk either at the Consulate or the High Commission in South Africa to coordinate the activities will develop an over-arching strategy to coordinate efforts, enhance collaboration and share learning. It is acknowledged that there are numerous initiatives, but efforts are fragmented and individualized. Thus, working through this office would minimize unnecessary duplication of effort and enhance sustainability and impact. It is important that the projects implemented through this office are done transparently.
- There are those who cannot travel to Nigeria but are willing to participate and are prepared to offer cyberspace or Web-based learning. For example, in the current digitization age, expertise can be transferred by creating thoughtful and tailored Web-based teaching and learning programmes that can include a combination of audio, video, graphics and text (e.g. educational webcasts, podcasts, webinars, teleconferencing, e-mentoring or coaching). Facilities can be provided where those interested can prepare and deliver these teaching and learning materials.
- An all-inclusive event to launch the project in South Africa should be done. This will give the Nigerians in South Africa the opportunity to engage the NNVS officials on the project.

B. Home country

- The NNVS should come up with a directory of investment opportunities in Nigeria. These directories should be available on the Internet and at all diplomat missions.
- The NNVS should identify institutions in Nigeria that need skills transfer and communicate these to the Consulate and the High Commission in South Africa so that they can be well publicized.
- The NNVS should monitor in-country diaspora activity, articulate requests for skills where shortages arise and match diaspora personnel to existing needs. It should also promote relations and collaboration between professionals abroad and their in-country counterparts.
- Administrative and logistical support should be put in place. Accommodation and local transport should be available.
- Platforms for engaging in other spheres like politics should be created. Once the people in the diaspora see that their voices are heard and they are allowed to vote, then they are likely to engage in other activities like investment and development.

C. Policy issues

- Host and home authorities, as well as international organizations such as the European Union and IOM and its partners, should develop and enact an appropriate and strategic diaspora-friendly knowledge and skills policy framework. This framework would accomplish the following: (i) purposefully recognize the legitimate and valuable resources of the diaspora professionals' and (ii) permit the educated and skilled professionals to participate in designing and delivering future knowledge and skills transfer projects that can turn brain drain into brain gain, creating culture of coordination, communication and collaboration between all stakeholders.
- A package needs to be worked out on the assistance which people involved in voluntary work will be supported. For example, flights, local transport, accommodation and living allowances should be included in the package.

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