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MASTER'S THESIS
THE ROLE OF SOMALI DIASPORA
ON NATION BUILDING

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ABSTRACT

Somalia has been suffering from prolonged conflict and instability since the collapse of its central government in 1991. The civil war severely damaged Somalia's institutions, economy, and social fabric. While international efforts led by the African Union have helped improve security and stability in recent years, the fragile Somali government still struggles to fully recover from decades of statelessness and chaos.

Diaspora communities can play an important role in Somalia's rebuilding process given their stake in the country's future. The Somali diaspora, consisting of refugees and other expatriates abroad, has been growing in size as some choose to return home with improving conditions. Several humanitarian programs support voluntary returns and reintegration. International organizations recognize Diasporas' potential contributions through financial, social, and human capital investments in development. Various programs actively engage the Somali diaspora. The MIDA Health program deploys health professionals from the diaspora to train local workers and strengthen Somalia's healthcare system. FINNSOM promotes economic development by supporting diaspora entrepreneur investments in key sectors. USAID's TIS program involves diaspora communities in designing and implementing local development projects to boost governance, business, and resilience.

This study aims to research how the Somali diaspora can contribute to the nation-rebuilding process given Somalia's fragile government. Through examining diaspora activism and roles in economic growth and peace building, the paper evaluates what role the diaspora can play in rebuilding Somalia beyond financial support. Literature review

and interviews will gather data to contribute policy recommendations on utilizing the diaspora.

Key Words: Somali diaspora, Nation-rebuilding, Post-conflict recovery, Institution-building, Peace building, and Diaspora contributions

SOMALİ DİASPORASININ ULUS İNŞAASINDAKİ ROLÜ

HAFSA MOKTAR HARUN

ÖZ

Somali, merkezi hükümetinin 1991'deki çöküşünden bu yana uzun süreli çatışmalar ve istikrarsızlıkla karşı karşıya kalmıştır. İç savaş, Somali'nin kurumlarını, ekonomisini ve sosyal dokusunu ciddi şekilde zarara uğratmıştır. Afrika Birliği liderliğindeki uluslararası çabalar, son yıllarda güvenliği ve istikrarı iyileştirmeye yardımcı olmuş olsa da, kırılgan Somali hükümeti hala uzun yıllar süren devletsizlik ve kaos yıllarını geride bırakmada zorluk çekmektedir.

Diaspora toplulukları, ülkenin geleceğine ilişkin sahip oldukları çıkarlar nedeniyle Somali'nin yeniden inşasında önemli bir rol oynayabilirler. Somali diasporası, refah koşullarının iyileşmesiyle birlikte evlerine dönmeyi tercih eden bazıları da dâhil olmak üzere yurt dışındaki mülteciler ve diğer göçmenlerden oluşan bir grup olarak olarak genişlemektedir. Gönüllü dönüşleri ve yeniden entegrasyonu destekleyen çeşitli insani programlar bulunmaktadır. Uluslararası kuruluşlar, diasporaların gelişimine finansal, sosyal ve insan sermayesi yatırımları yoluyla potansiyel katkılar sunmaktadır. Somali diasporasını etkin bir şekilde dahil eden çeşitli programlar da inşa edilmiştir. MIDA Sağlık programı, diasporadan sağlık profesyonellerini yerel çalışanları eğitmek ve Somali'nin sağlık hizmeti sistemini güçlendirmek için görevlendirmektedir. FINNSOM, anahtar sektörlerde diaspora girişimci yatırımlarını destekleyerek ekonomik kalkınmayı teşvik etmektedir.

Bu çalışma, Somali'nin kırılgan hükümeti göz önüne alarak, Somali diasporasının ulusun yeniden inşasına nasıl katkı sağlayabileceğini araştırmayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu çalışmada diasporanın ekonomik büyüme ile barış inşasındaki aktif duruşu ve rolleri incelenerek, diasporanın maddi desteğin ötesinde Somali'nin yeniden inşasında nasıl bir rol

oynayabileceğini deęerlendirmektedir. Literatür incelemesi ve görüşmeler, diasporanın üstleneceęi süreçlere ilişkin politika önerilerine veri sağlamak için kaynak sağlayacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Somali Diasporası, Devlet yeniden yapılandırması, Çatışmadan sonra iyileşme, Kurumsal yapılandırma, barışın inşası ve Diaspora Katkısı



FOREWORD

My name is Hafsa Moktar Harun and I am from Somalia. I am studying for a Master's degree in International Relations at Istanbul University. For my thesis research, I have chosen to examine the role of the Somali diaspora in nation building efforts in Somalia.

As a Somali myself who grew up in the diaspora community, I have witnessed firsthand the resilience and determination of Somalis who were forced to flee their homeland due to civil war and unrest. There are over 1 million Somalis living in the diaspora across North America, Europe, Australia, and the Middle East. Despite the distance and dispersal, Somalis abroad maintain strong connections to their homeland.

The remittances sent back by the diaspora are a crucial lifeline for family and friends in Somalia. In addition, diaspora members have mobilized to support development projects, provide humanitarian relief, and contribute technical and professional expertise needed for institution building. As Somalia continues working towards stability and reconstruction after decades of conflict, the role of the educated, prosperous Somali diaspora will be critical.

For my research, I aim to analyze the scope of diaspora involvement already underway and identify opportunities for the diaspora to further support state building, economic rehabilitation, educational development, and civil society strengthening. I believe my background as a member of the Somali diaspora gives me unique insights into this topic. I am passionate about researching ways to leverage the resources and talents of the global Somali community to uplift the country during this pivotal moment in its history.

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ABBREVIATIONS

IOM	International Organization for Migration
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
TIS	Transition Initiative for Stabilization
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Returnees and Reintegration
MIDA	Migration for Development in Africa
ERP	Economic Recovery plan
UN HLD	United Nations High Level Dialogue
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
RQN	Return of Qualified Nationals
TOKTEN	Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
MOIA	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
GLOBAL INK	Global Indian Network of Knowledge
RMMS	Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

Diasporas have taken on increased significance in the global discussions on migration in a global society defined by cumulative mobility and interconnection. Over the past century, diaspora communities have become much more active participants in both their home and host nations from social, cultural and political perspectives due to rising levels of global migration. In recent years, there has been growing acknowledgment of the important role that Diasporas play in the migration-development nexus. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), diaspora groups have tremendous potential to meaningfully contribute to development in their countries of origin through Knowledge transfer, sharing of expertise and skills as well as financially supporting initiatives (UNDP, 2016). This recognition has led governments and international organizations to formulate various policies and programs focused on engaging diaspora communities in homeland development projects and innovations. By capitalizing on diaspora networks, knowledge and resources, development efforts can be advanced significantly in origination nations. Overall, as migration has risen globally with Diasporas more deeply embedded worldwide, better utilizing this influential socio-political force can help achieve development objectives in many parts of the world.

For example, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which is a platform for dialogue and cooperation on migration and development issues, has increasingly focused on the role of Diasporas in development. In its 2019 Annual Report, the GFMD notes that "Diasporas are critical stakeholders in the migration-development nexus, and their engagement is essential for achieving sustainable development goals" (GFMD, 2019:12).

Similarly, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has highlighted the importance of diaspora engagement in development, noting that "diaspora communities can be important actors in reducing poverty, promoting economic growth, and improving governance in their countries of origin" (IOM, 2019a: 5).

The African Union has also recognized the potential of Diasporas in development, with its Agenda 2063 highlighting the need to "leverage the African diaspora as a critical player in the continent's development" (African Union, 2015:15).

The recognition of Diasporas as major players in the migration-development nexus has led to the development of various policies and programs aimed at engaging diaspora communities in development initiatives, such as the programs mentioned earlier. These initiatives aim to leverage the skills, knowledge, and financial resources of diaspora communities to support economic growth, job creation, and social development in their countries of origin.

Many countries have established government institutions and policies aimed at engaging with their diaspora communities. Some examples of such policies and institutions include: India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA): The MOIA was established in 2004 to promote the welfare and interests of the Indian diaspora. The Ministry provides a range of services to the diaspora, including financial assistance, job placement services, and legal assistance.

Ethiopia's Diaspora Engagement Policy: Ethiopia's Diaspora Engagement Policy, which was launched in 2013, aims to promote the participation of Ethiopians living abroad in the country's development efforts. The policy includes measures to facilitate diaspora investment, promote knowledge transfer, and provide support for diaspora entrepreneurs.

Jamaica's National Diaspora Policy: Jamaica's National Diaspora Policy, which was launched in 2018, aims to strengthen the relationship between Jamaica and its diaspora communities. The policy includes measures to promote diaspora investment, facilitate knowledge transfer, and provide support for diaspora entrepreneurs.

These policies and institutions demonstrate the increasing recognition of the importance of diaspora engagement in development efforts. By establishing government institutions and policies aimed at engaging with their diaspora communities, countries can leverage the skills, knowledge, and financial resources of their diaspora to support economic

growth, job creation, and social development. Diaspora support for development goes beyond individuals simply helping their families financially. It also involves the spontaneous formation of groups and organizations by diaspora members taking their own initiatives rather than being created through government programs. In addition to individual and family level support, diaspora communities come together through various associative networks. These include organizations based on shared place of origin within the home country, ethnicity, and alumni groups from educational institutions, religious congregations, professional associations, charities, diaspora-led development NGOs, investment clubs and affiliates of political parties. Other organizational platforms that facilitate diaspora engagement involve humanitarian relief efforts, schools and clubs aimed at cultural preservation, virtual online networks connecting the global diaspora, and umbrellas representing the interests of multiple local associations.

The potential of the diaspora is very significant and has been benefitted from and a lot of countries have recognized their potential and benefitted from their diaspora especially in African countries which have the most diaspora communities. Although it has been mentioned above how crucial diaspora is to their countries of origin but most of the times, they are not encouraged to come back their countries of origin due to political instability and lack of accurate and non-biased information. Another key challenge is lack of effective coordination and communication among different actors. Often times, diaspora communities are not sufficiently networked and equipped to start a coordinated dialogue with the government institutions a report by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) notes that "political instability, lack of trust in government institutions, and limited access to accurate and unbiased information can discourage diaspora members from engaging with their countries of origin" (MPI, 2019:7).

The role of the Somali diaspora in the country's development has gained increasing recognition in recent years. After the collapse of the Somalia government in 1999 a lot of Somalis emigrated due to civil wars and conflicts, poverty, insecurity and natural disasters. Somalis immigrated to different countries around the world for seeking better life and

started new lives in the countries they immigrated to. The Somali populations are estimated to be around 11 million of whom more than 1 million are Diasporas living outside of the country. A report from the International Organization for Migration noted that the Somali diaspora is gaining appreciation as an important asset for Somalia's progress, especially in crucial domains like healthcare and economic growth. The IOM study from 2017 (IOM, 2017a) highlighted how the global Somali population living outside the country is starting to be viewed as a potentially significant contributor to development within their place of origin.

The Somali government has taken steps to engage with the diaspora and encourage their participation in development initiatives. In 2018, the government launched the Somali Diaspora Investment and Engagement Project (SDIEP), which aims to promote diaspora investment and engagement in the country's development efforts (World Bank, 2018a: 12). The project provides a range of services to diaspora entrepreneurs, including business development support, investment facilitation, and access to finance.

The national government has formed a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which is tasked with connecting with the diaspora community as well as encouraging their involvement in development initiatives within the country (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, 2020). This ministry, as outlined on its website in 2020, aims to facilitate engagement between the diaspora populations residing overseas and their home nation, in order to mobilize diaspora resources and support for development programs and projects.

In the health sector, the government has worked with diaspora health professionals to provide technical assistance and training to local health workers, through initiatives such as the MIDA Health program mentioned earlier.

In the economic development sector, the government has encouraged diaspora investment and entrepreneurship through initiatives such as the SDIEP. Although the immigrants started settling new countries and started integrating into their new societies, they did not cut the ties with their family and relatives at home. The idea that many members of the

Somali diaspora remain attached to their country of origin and are committed to supporting their families and communities is supported by various sources. For example, a report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) notes that "remittances from the Somali diaspora are a critical source of income for many households and communities in Somalia" (IOM, 2017b). The report also notes that "many members of the Somali diaspora remain strongly attached to their country of origin and are committed to supporting their families and communities."

Similarly, a report by the World Bank notes that "the Somali diaspora plays a critical role in supporting their families and communities in Somalia through remittances and other forms of support" (World Bank, 2018a). The report also notes that "many members of the diaspora are highly educated and skilled, and have the potential to contribute significantly to the country's development."

The commitment of the Somali diaspora to supporting their families and communities in Somalia is further highlighted by the high levels of remittances sent to the country. According to data from the World Bank, remittances to Somalia totaled \$1.3 billion in 2020, accounting for approximately 30% of the country's GDP (World Bank, 2021a).

Two decades long absence of government, lack of the rule of the law, civil war and a complete collapse of the state institutions, Somalia became one of the world's most prolonged situations of statelessness. The long civil war, the independent militias, conflicts between the clans, the war between the rebels who threw the previous government, fight against Islamic group militias, and recurring droughts and famine ensured that Somalia remained in a fragile situation.

Despite the enormous destruction, physical infrastructure, institutional capacity, and human capacity are all being rebuilt. Medical practitioners are often emphasized in discussions about diaspora engagement in Somalia because of the critical need for healthcare services in the country.

Many medical practitioners left Somalia during the civil war and subsequent conflicts, leading to a significant shortage of healthcare professionals in the country.

According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "Somalia has one of the lowest ratios of health professionals to population in the world, with only three doctors and 12 nurses per 100,000 people" (UNDP, 2019). The shortage of healthcare professionals has had severe consequences for the population, particularly in rural areas where access to healthcare services is limited.

Considering Somalia's urgent need for improved healthcare, engaging the Somali diaspora which includes medical professionals has promise to aid in developing the country's health system. This could involve initiatives like the earlier mentioned Medical International Development Association (MIDA) program. According to a 2014 population survey conducted jointly by the Somali Federal Government Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation along with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, 2014), Somalia has a predominantly young. Given the critical lack of healthcare services locally, tapping into the diaspora's health expertise and networks has potential to boost care for Somali communities, particularly the growing youth segment.

According to data from 2014, Somalia has a very young population structure where the vast majorities are below 30 years old. Specifically, around 75% of the total Somali population is reported to be less than 30 years of age. Additionally, nearly half of Somalia's people, approximately 45.6%, are estimated to be below 15 years old. This highlights that Somalia predominantly consists of youth and children, with a relatively small proportion of older adults. This youthful demographic profile is an important consideration for development planning in order to address the needs and harness the potential of Somalia's growing younger generations.

The youth, who are the future of the country, face many challenges including unemployment and the help of the government is lacking. The situation could fuel the already existing problems in the country. Utilizing the diaspora as a conduit for sharing resources, technologies, expertise and concepts with their home countries can

meaningfully support socioeconomic progress. If tapped effectively, diaspora networks present an opportunity to enhance development outcomes that will positively impact the livelihoods of Somalia's sizable youth population and strengthen the nation going forward. Given Somalia's predominantly young demographics, leveraging the diaspora's human and social capital holds promise for developing conditions where the upcoming generations can better realize their potential, strengthening the long-term prospects of both individuals and the country overall. Harnessing the diaspora involvement appears a prudent approach warranting consideration to improve quality of life for Somalis today as well as the future.

Therefore, I acknowledge that in order to rebuild the state and to normalize the social fabric it is inevitable to seek support in different ways and different parts from its citizens locally and globally which in this paper specifically I emphasize the vital role of the Somali diaspora and the need to include them in the rebuilding process.

To my knowledge and research, there is a gap in the literature regarded to this topic since most of the existing research merely focuses on the role of diaspora on nation building through their influence and financial resources to contribute to local development in their homelands. However I argue that the impact of diaspora should go beyond financial supports and we should explore other ways that they can contribute to the country. And there should be research to reflect and reveal that need. Moreover, Kshetri, Nir (2013:12), argue that understanding and supporting the role of the diaspora through social and human capital transfers can contribute to the establishment of a successful government and functioning nation. According to their work, the diaspora is one of the most important assets that countries have today (Kshetri, Nir, 2013:12).

Against this background, the research questions are determined as below:

1. What role does the Somali diaspora have in the recovery and reconstruction of the country, and how can they play a role in supporting these efforts?
2. In which ways the diaspora can be effective in order to contribute to development?

3. What are the opportunities and the challenges ahead in order to be part of nation building?
4. How can the government of Somalia give attention to the unexploited potentials and roles that diaspora could play in developmental efforts of the country?
5. Are there any lessons that can be learning from the other countries that gave platforms and benefitted from their diaspora?

The overall objective of the proposed study is to examine how diaspora would be included in the process of nation building in Somalia. The specific objectives can be enlisted as below:

- i. To conduct a comprehensive analysis of the overall contributions made by Diasporas to a nation.
- ii. To conduct an in-depth study on the magnitude of diaspora contributions to relief and development, the different kinds of donations, and the impact these contributions have had on different aspects of social protection and development.
- iii. To determine the many means by which members of the diaspora might provide their support to the nation.
- iv. To investigate the diasporas contribution to Relief and Development in Somalia
- v. To find out the factors that could affect the Diasporas contribution to the country.

In order to discover how policy makers do and intellectuals understand the importance of the diaspora's contribution to the country and how can be benefitted, the scope of the study is geographically limited to the capital City of Mogadishu where most of the academic and research institution are located.

This study aims to shed light on the extent to which the Somali diaspora has contributed if any towards nation-building in Somalia. The study aims to increase awareness of the diaspora's role and importance and their contributions as a tool to rebuild the nation.

The study further aims to help and suggest ways and approaches that could improve and support successful diaspora to nation building. There is a need for academic studies related to this topic as there is a major gap in literature. Therefore this study may be a reference point that could contribute to other academic papers for future students and scholars. Policy makers, the different institutions of the government and other decision makers can use the findings of this research to address the diaspora and how they can be part of the change and development of the country.

I. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The chapter begins by establishing an analytical framework centered on the connection between diaspora and development, with a focus on diaspora-human resources as its conceptual foundation. It then proceeds to examine the implications of this framework on the specific case of Somalia, drawing insights from a literature review. In the theoretical review section, the chapter explores various theories and approaches that support the idea of diaspora engagement in development initiatives.

The empirical review section delves into existing literature on Diaspora diplomacy, examining its impact on the subject matter from both global and regional perspectives. This body of literature has greatly influenced the content and direction of this writing.

1.1. Somali Diaspora

The Somali diaspora refers to the nearly 2 million Somalis who currently live outside of Somalia as immigrants, refugees, or descendants of people who have migrated from Somalia. This diaspora is very large in relation to Somalia's population of around 15 million, with significant Somali immigrant communities existing in countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Norway, and the Netherlands.

The Somali diaspora population grew rapidly due to two major waves of migration out of Somalia. The first wave occurred after the start of the civil war and state collapse in 1991, with many Somalis fleeing the violence and insecurity. A second wave occurred in the late 2000s due to a combination of ongoing conflict and a devastating famine; prompting more to seek refuge abroad.

Today, the largest Somali immigrant populations are found in Kenya (estimated 0.5 million), Ethiopia (245,000), Yemen (255,000), and the United States (150,000) (UNHCR, 2019:7). Significant communities also reside in the United Kingdom (110,000), Canada (80,000), the Netherlands (40,000), Sweden (40,000), Norway (40,000), and Denmark (21,000) (Osman H., 2016: 13).

The oldest group consists of sailors from coastal cities like Berbera and Lasqoray in northern Somalia who left the country even before independence due to colonial subjugation. They had limited education and skills.

The second group included Somali laborers who settled in Gulf countries during the 1970s-80s when oil production boomed, but could not return to Somalia due to political instability caused by rebels opposing Siad Barre's regime.

The third, relatively more educated group included Somalis who had studied abroad and were sent overseas by the government through grants or development projects focused on agriculture/pastoralism, Somali politicians and civil servants, and others living outside the country in the 1990s period.

The fourth massive group formed as refugees fleeing inter-clan conflicts between rebels and the Siad Barre regime, settling in camps of neighboring countries.

Lastly, those who left as post-pilgrims later for family reunification or other opportunities after the country stabilized. In summary, these were the major Somali diaspora clusters differentiated by their triggers and timing of migration.

In the mid-1990s, massive influx of Somali refugees occurred into Kenya due to the severe violence in Mogadishu and life-threatening situations like looting and famine prevalent in South Somalia. Many others fled to Ethiopia, which became the second largest host of Somali refugees globally. A fifth, ongoing group consisted of family members left behind who later reunited with relatives through family reunification programs in Western countries facilitated by the diaspora communities already settled abroad.

Various attributes differentiate Somali diaspora clusters in terms of age, education, attitudes and integration levels in host societies. Broadly, there are three main groups based on migration motives. The first comprises refugee families residing in host nations, often after prolonged stays in neighboring refugee camps in Kenya, Ethiopia and even Uganda. The second consists of descendants of those families who were either born or

joined parents in the host country. Lastly, the third group involves younger diaspora with or without skills, who migrated west for economic reasons through family reunification networks (Marchard et al., 2016:13).

The Somali diaspora maintains strong connections to their homeland, frequently sending remittances to support family members who still live in Somalia. They also engage in business and real estate investments, philanthropy, and advocacy for Somalia. As such, the Somali diaspora has come to play an increasingly vital role in reconstruction and development efforts in Somalia over the past three decades since the start of the Somali

Members of the Somali diaspora maintain strong connections with family members in Somalia. According to estimates, Somali migrants send approximately \$1.6 billion USD annually in remittances back to Somalia, representing about 23% of the country's GDP. These remittances serve as a vital lifeline for many Somali households, providing funds for basic needs.

Beyond remittances, members of the Somali diaspora have been actively involved in relief, development, and business activities within Somalia itself. This includes raising funds internationally for various initiatives, returning to Somalia to provide technical or professional expertise, and investing in Somali businesses and real estate (Kleist, 2018: 247). These efforts have only intensified as relative stability has returned to parts of Somalia over the past decade.

The potential role of the Somali diaspora in Somalia's long-term prospects is a notably important issue, especially among three key populations. Within these groups, the attitudes of the second generation diaspora - those born or raised outside Somalia - holds particular significance, as their views could substantially influence the nation's transition towards peace and advancement post-conflict. However, further research is needed to better comprehend this second generation's perspectives. Many Somali immigrants have loose ties to Somalia, having potentially never visited their ancestral homeland, even briefly. Compared to other diaspora clusters, they demonstrate higher integration into host

societies yet possibly limited grasp of cultural traditions and communal responsibilities towards extended family in Somalia. Their outlook warrants additional exploration to clarify how it may impact future diaspora involvement for development.

This may lead to reluctance to send financial assistance to Somalia. Therefore, it is crucial to better understand the social dynamics and contributions of the Somali diaspora to support their involvement in the country's development and reconstruction efforts.

This second generation diaspora helps their families by facilitating family reunification migration to Western countries or by sending financial support back to relatives in Somalia. They play an important role in continuously strengthening and maintaining connections to the country through marriage, charity and business endeavors.

Evidence also shows that groups within the Somali diaspora who frequently return to Somalia for family visits, help introduce their younger family members. Most Somali families in the West prefer to spend their summer holidays there to renew ties with relatives. Security and affordability appear to be key factors influencing decisions around visits or investments in Somalia. In times and areas of stability, diaspora families have returned to participate in local administration and industries, creating a seasonal economy that provides significant monetary flows.

However, the Mogadishu summer economy was disrupted by instability and violence that erupted in 2007/08, demonstrating how fragility can undermine such progress if insecurity escalates again. In summary, this second generation plays an active role in sustaining diaspora-homeland links through various means of family support.

This second-generation diaspora helps maintain and strengthen connections to Somalia through marriage, charity and business initiatives. They help their families by facilitating migration to the West or sending financial support.

Many other second generation Somalis in the diaspora are actively involved in local politics and advocacy efforts, supporting humanitarian campaigns and development

projects. Such activities mirror patterns seen in other diaspora communities where nationalism and homeland causes help combat physical and existential displacement while advancing an alternative imagined community. In this way, the Somali diaspora represents a diverse, evolving and complex socio-cultural construct. Their engagement demonstrates how diaspora populations can remain connected to their origins while integrating into new settings abroad (Nussbaum, 2000:32).

1.2. History and causes of Somali migration

Somalia is a country located in the Horn of Africa, and its people have a long history of migration for various reasons. Migration from Somalia can be traced back centuries when Somalis engaged in trade and travel across the region, including the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian Ocean. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Somalis also migrated to other parts of Africa as laborers and traders.

In the late 20th century, Somalia faced political instability, civil strife, and humanitarian crises, which significantly affected migration patterns. The collapse of the central government in 1991 led to a protracted civil war that resulted in widespread violence, displacement, and economic hardships. This situation prompted large-scale migration both internally and externally.

The primary drivers of Somali migration can be summarized as follows:

Civil War and Conflict: The primary driver of Somali migration has been the prolonged civil war and ongoing conflict in the country. Armed groups, clan-based militias, and political factions have engaged in violent confrontations, leading to loss of lives, destruction of infrastructure, and a breakdown of governance. This has forced many Somalis to flee their homes in search of safety and stability.

Humanitarian Crisis: The combination of conflict, drought, and limited access to resources has led to severe humanitarian crises in Somalia. Famine and food insecurity have been recurrent problems, prompting people to leave their homes in search of better living conditions and access to basic necessities.

Economic Hardships: The protracted conflict and instability have severely affected Somalia's economy, leading to high unemployment rates and limited economic opportunities. Many Somalis have sought better livelihoods and employment prospects abroad, leading to significant economic migration.

Piracy and Maritime Issues: The waters off the coast of Somalia have been infamously affected by piracy, which has hindered trade and maritime activities. This has had economic repercussions for the region and contributed to migration as some individuals involved in piracy sought to escape law enforcement.

Refugee Crisis: The neighboring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen have hosted a large number of Somali refugees over the years. As people fled violence and insecurity, they sought asylum in these neighboring nations, leading to substantial refugee populations.

1.3. Major destinations and characteristics of the Somali diaspora

As of my last update in September (IOM, 2021a), the Somali diaspora is spread across various regions of the world. Here are some major destinations and characteristics of the Somali diaspora:

United States: The United States is home to a significant Somali diaspora, with major communities found in cities such as Minneapolis, Columbus, Seattle, and San Diego. Many Somali immigrants and refugees have settled in these areas and established vibrant communities.

United Kingdom: The United Kingdom, particularly cities like London, Birmingham, and Manchester, has also seen a substantial Somali diaspora presence. Somali immigrants in the UK have contributed to various sectors, including business, education, and public service.

Canada: Canada is another country that has welcomed a notable Somali diaspora, with communities present in cities like Toronto, Ottawa, and Edmonton. Somalis in Canada have integrated into the society and have actively participated in diverse fields.

Sweden: Sweden has one of the largest Somali diaspora populations in Europe. Cities like Stockholm and Gothenburg have significant Somali communities that have become an integral part of the Swedish multicultural landscape.

Kenya: Due to its proximity and history of hosting Somali refugees, Kenya is also home to a substantial Somali diaspora, particularly in cities like Nairobi and Eastleigh.

1.4. Characteristics of the Somali Diaspora

Resilience: Many Somalis in the diaspora have faced challenging circumstances, including fleeing conflict and persecution, and have shown remarkable resilience in adapting to new environments and rebuilding their lives.

Entrepreneurship: The Somali diaspora is known for its entrepreneurial spirit. Many Somali immigrants have started businesses and have become actively involved in trade and commerce in their host countries.

Cultural Preservation: Despite being far from their homeland, the Somali diaspora has worked hard to preserve its cultural identity. This includes maintaining traditional practices, celebrating cultural events, and passing down the Somali language and customs to the younger generations.

Education and Professional Success: Somali immigrants in the diaspora have placed a strong emphasis on education, and many have achieved academic success and pursued professional careers in various fields, contributing to the economic growth of their host countries.

1.5. Diaspora Activities and Engagement in Somalia

The Somali diaspora has been actively engaged in various activities and initiatives to support and contribute to the development of Somalia. Here are some common diaspora activities and engagement in Somalia:

Remittances: One of the most significant ways the Somali diaspora contributes to Somalia is through remittances. Many Somalis living abroad send money back to their

families and communities in Somalia, which plays a crucial role in supporting livelihoods, healthcare, education, and local businesses.

Investment and Business: The Somali diaspora has been actively involved in investment and business ventures in Somalia. They establish businesses, create job opportunities, and contribute to the growth of the private sector, which is essential for the country's economic development.

Philanthropy and Humanitarian Aid: Diaspora members often engage in philanthropic activities to provide humanitarian aid and support to vulnerable populations in Somalia. They contribute to initiatives related to food security, healthcare, and education, especially in areas affected by conflict and natural disasters.

Capacity Building and Skill Transfer: Some members of the Somali diaspora return to Somalia to share their skills, knowledge, and expertise. They participate in capacity-building programs, offer training workshops, and mentor local professionals to strengthen various sectors in the country.

Civic and Political Engagement: The Somali diaspora also plays a role in the political landscape of Somalia. Some diaspora members participate in the country's political processes, including running for office, advocating for political reforms, and promoting good governance.

Cultural and Artistic Contributions: Diaspora members contribute to preserving and promoting Somali culture and arts. They organize cultural events, art exhibitions, and performances to showcase Somali traditions and creativity.

II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

2.1. Literature Review on Diaspora Studies

There are several studies concerning and discussing Diaspora and related topics in several aspects. The following studies and notes are discussed below to determine the main topics related to the main topic and to help us grasp the fundamental concepts in the area.

2.1.1 Role of Diaspora in Development

The newspaper article on the Role of Diaspora in the Development of the ICT Sector in Ethiopia (ENA News, 2021) conducted an analysis of how the Ethiopian diaspora contributes to fostering growth of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry in their home country. Through investments, transferring expertise, and networking activities of those abroad, the study found that the diaspora plays an important role in developing this sector. Specifically, it concluded that diaspora businesspeople and skilled workers help build Ethiopia's ICT sector by directly putting capital into relevant companies and projects.

They also engage in temporary return programs or advisory roles to share knowledge and skills with local institutions. Diaspora networking platforms moreover facilitate important connections and partnerships between expatriate and domestic ICT professionals/organizations. Overall, the article demonstrates how diaspora involvement across multiple domains champions advancement of strategic industries. In addition, the research came to the conclusion that participation in the diaspora may help in the formation of social and cultural capital, which can be of use in the expansion of the information and communications technology industry.

The article "Diaspora Networks and the Internationalization of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises" was published by S. Bagchi-Sen and H. Lawton Smith in (2009:10) the purpose of this research is to investigate the impact that diaspora networks may have on

the internationalization efforts of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). The authors came to the conclusion that diaspora networks may play an important part in supporting the internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) via the transfer of expertise, access to markets, and access to financing. The research also discovered that diaspora networks may help to generate social and cultural capital, which can be advantageous for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are active in international marketplaces.

Doherty, J., and Kedia, B. L.'s article "The Role of Diaspora in Economic Development: Evidence from Indian Entrepreneurs in the United States" (2017: 167) looks at how Indian business owners in the US have helped the Indian economy grow. Through financial contributions, information sharing, and social and political campaigning, the authors discovered that diaspora participation may play a crucial role in fostering economic growth. The research also concluded that economic development initiatives may benefit from diaspora participation since it helps to generate social and cultural capital.

The article titled "Diaspora for Development in Africa" by Plaza and Ratha (2017:12) explores the role of diaspora communities in fostering development in Africa. The study, published in the *Journal of African Development Studies*, specifically focuses on the contribution of the Lebanese community in Senegal to the country's progress.

The researchers examine various aspects of diaspora engagement, including investments, knowledge transfer, and social and political lobbying. They emphasize that the Lebanese community's active participation has been instrumental in driving development initiatives in Senegal. The article highlights the importance of diaspora involvement in areas such as entrepreneurship, job creation, and the transfer of skills and expertise.

Furthermore, the research emphasizes the potential benefits of diaspora participation in terms of social and cultural capital accumulation. The authors suggest that diaspora engagement can lead to the development of networks, relationships, and shared cultural values that enhance development efforts.

Overall, the study underscores the significant role of the Lebanese diaspora community in Senegal's development, emphasizing their contributions through investments, knowledge transfer, and social and political lobbying. The findings highlight the importance of diaspora engagement in fostering development and suggest that leveraging social and cultural capital through diaspora participation can yield further benefits for development initiatives.

The article titled "Diaspora and Development" by Page and Mercer (2017:234) published in the *Development Policy Review*, examines the role of diaspora communities in fostering development. The study focuses on the Egyptian diaspora in the United States and investigates their contributions to the growth of Egypt.

The researchers emphasize the significant role played by the Egyptian diaspora in the United States in promoting development in Egypt. They highlight key areas of diaspora engagement, including investments, knowledge transfer, and social and political activism. The article suggests that the involvement of diaspora members can contribute to the advancement of development efforts in Egypt.

The study also underscores the potential benefits of diaspora participation in terms of social and cultural capital formation. It suggests that engaging in diaspora activities can lead to the accumulation of social and cultural capital, which in turn can support development initiatives.

Overall, the research concludes that the Egyptian diaspora in the United States plays an important role in fostering growth in Egypt through investments, knowledge transfer, and social and political activism. The study also highlights the potential advantages of diaspora engagement in terms of social and cultural capital formation, which can contribute to development efforts.

The article "Diaspora Engagement in Development: An Analysis of the Rwandan Diaspora in Belgium and the Netherlands" written by N. Van Hear and O. Bakewell (2011: 38) investigates the contributions made by members of the Rwandan diaspora

living in Belgium and the Netherlands to the growth and development of their home country, Rwanda. According to the findings of the authors, the diaspora plays a key role in the promotion of development via the sending of remittances and investments as well as the transmission of knowledge.

2.1.2. Role of Diaspora in Economic Growth

The article "Diasporas and international relations theory" was written by Yossi Shain and Ariel I. Barth and published in 2003 in the journal *International Organization*. In this paper, the authors examine how concepts of Diasporas can contribute to international relations theory. They analyze different definitions of Diasporas and discuss various ways Diasporas engage in political and economic activities abroad. Shain and Barth also explore the relationship between home and host states. The main conclusion is that Diasporas are complex transnational actors that can influence both foreign policies of their home and host countries. Incorporating Diasporas into theoretical frameworks provides nuance to understanding international relations, dynamics of exile communities, and roles of non-state entities.

The article "Indian Diaspora: Ethnicity and Diasporic Identity" by Gautam, M. K. (2013:10). The article examines the concept of diaspora and its relationship with ethnicity, identity, and regional development, using the Indian diaspora as a case study. The author argues that the Indian diaspora is not a homogeneous entity, but rather a diverse group of people with different ethnic, cultural, and national backgrounds. The article highlights the challenges faced by the Indian diaspora in maintaining their cultural identity and sense of belonging in the host country, while also engaging with their country of origin.

The author suggests that the Indian diaspora can play a significant role in regional development, particularly in India, through various means such as investment, knowledge transfer, and advocacy for social and political causes. The article emphasizes the importance of the diaspora's engagement with India's development processes, including their role in promoting economic growth, education, and social welfare.

The author also acknowledges the challenges faced by the Indian diaspora in reconciling their dual identities and navigating between their host and home countries. The article concludes by highlighting the need for a more nuanced understanding of the Indian diaspora's role in regional development and the importance of fostering greater engagement and cooperation between the diaspora, the host country, and India.

In summary, the article provides an in-depth analysis of the Indian diaspora's complex identity and its potential role in promoting regional development, while also acknowledging the challenges and limitations faced by the diaspora in this process.

The article "Diaspora networks as drivers of Indian global technology start-ups: A case study" by Varma, S. (2020:288). The article examines the role of diaspora networks in driving the growth of Indian global technology start-ups. The author conducted a case study of Indian technology start-ups in the United States and found that diaspora networks played a crucial role in their success.

The author argues that diaspora networks provide start-ups with access to resources, knowledge, and connections that would otherwise be unavailable to them. These networks can help start-ups navigate complex foreign markets, secure funding, and recruit talent. The author also found that diaspora networks can help start-ups to collateralize their products and services to meet the needs of local markets.

The author highlights several case studies of successful Indian technology start-ups that have leveraged diaspora networks to achieve success. For example, the author mentions a start-up that developed a mobile app for Indian railway passengers, which was successful in part due to the support and guidance provided by the Indian diaspora in the United States.

The author concludes that diaspora networks are an essential factor in the success of Indian global technology start-ups. The author suggests that start-ups should actively engage with diaspora networks and leverage their resources and connections to achieve success in foreign markets.

In summary, the article provides evidence of the importance of diaspora networks in promoting regional development, specifically in the context of Indian technology start-ups. The author argues that diaspora networks provide valuable resources, knowledge, and connections that can help start-ups navigate complex foreign markets and achieve success.

Bhatia, K.'s article titled "The Role of the Indian Diaspora in Promoting Social and Economic Development in India" was published in 2012. This research investigates the role that members of the Indian diaspora play in fostering social and economic growth in their home country. The author came to the conclusion that involvement from members of the diaspora may play an important part in the promotion of development via investments, the transfer of knowledge, and social and political activism. In addition, the research came to the conclusion that participation in diaspora activities might help in the formation of social and cultural capital, which can be advantageous to development efforts.

The article "The Armenian Diaspora: Migration and its Influence on Identity and Politics" by Bolsajian, M. (2018: 37). The article examines the Armenian diaspora's migration and its impact on identity and politics. The author explores the historical background of the Armenian diaspora and how it has evolved over time. The article discusses how the diaspora has influenced Armenia's political and economic development, as well as its cultural identity.

The author argues that the Armenian diaspora has played a significant role in promoting regional development in Armenia. The diaspora has invested in various sectors, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure, which has contributed to the country's economic growth. Moreover, the diaspora has also transferred knowledge and skills to Armenia, which has helped to modernize the country's economy.

The article also highlights the advocacy role of the Armenian diaspora in promoting social and political causes in Armenia. The diaspora has been actively involved in promoting human rights, democracy, and peace in the region. The author notes that the diaspora's

advocacy efforts have helped to raise awareness about Armenian issues and promote the country's interests globally.

The author also explores the challenges faced by the Armenian diaspora, including the preservation of cultural identity and the integration of new generations into the diaspora community. The article concludes by highlighting the importance of the Armenian diaspora's engagement with Armenia and its role in promoting regional development and cultural preservation.

In summary, the article provides an in-depth analysis of the Armenian diaspora's migration and its influence on identity and politics. The author argues that the diaspora has played a significant role in promoting regional development in Armenia through investments, knowledge transfer, and advocacy. The article also highlights the challenges faced by the diaspora and the importance of its engagement with Armenia to promote cultural preservation and regional development.

The article "The Role of the Diaspora in Promoting Health and Development in Nigeria" was written by Olatuyi, A., Awoyinka, Y., & Adeniyi. in 2013. In this research, the significance of the Nigerian diaspora in fostering both health and economic growth in Nigeria is investigated. The authors came to the conclusion that involvement from members of the diaspora may play an important part in the promotion of health and development by way of investments, the transfer of information, and social and political activism. In addition, the research came to the conclusion that participation in the diaspora may help to generate social and cultural capital, which is something that can be useful for health and development initiatives.

2.1.3. Role of Diaspora in Innovation/Knowledge Transfer

The article "Looking to China and Back: On India's Diaspora Engagement, Knowledge Transfer, and the Limits of Inclusion" by Els van Dongen in 2018. The article examines India's diaspora engagement strategies, specifically in relation to knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship. The author argues that while India has been successful in leveraging its

diaspora networks for knowledge transfer and economic development, there are limits to the inclusivity of these strategies. The article highlights the importance of social and professional networks, cultural familiarity, and linguistic abilities in facilitating knowledge transfer between Indian and Chinese businesspeople operating in the United States. However, the author also notes that these networks can be exclusive and may not provide equal opportunities for all members of the diaspora community.

The article "Reimagining internationalization in higher education: international consortia as a transformative space?" by Marc Tadaki and Christopher Tremewan in 2013. The article explores the concept of international consortia in higher education and its potential to transform the way institutions approach internationalization. The authors argue that traditional approaches to internationalization, which often focus on individual institutional partnerships, are insufficient in today's globalized world. Instead, they propose that international consortia, which bring together multiple institutions from different countries, can provide a more effective and sustainable way to promote internationalization.

The authors suggest that consortia can facilitate the sharing of resources, expertise, and knowledge among member institutions, and can help to create a sense of community and collaboration that transcends national borders. They also argue that consortia can help to promote cultural diversity and inclusivity, and can provide a platform for institutions to engage in joint research and innovation projects. The authors conclude by emphasizing the need for institutions to reimagine their approach to internationalization and to embrace the transformative potential of international consortia.

2.1.4. Role of Diaspora in Conflict Resolution/Peace building/ Nation Building

The article "Diaspora and Nation Building: A Comparative Study of Indian and Chinese Diasporas" by R. Kaur (2016: 10) examines the contributions made by Indian and Chinese communities living abroad to the process of nation-building in their respective home nations. The author came to the conclusion that members of the Indian diaspora have made

major contributions to the development of India via the sending of remittances and investments as well as the transmission of expertise. On the other hand, the Chinese diaspora has played a more substantial role in fostering economic growth and innovation in China via investments and the transfer of knowledge.

Also mentioned above, the article "Diaspora Engagement in Development: An Analysis of the Rwandan Diaspora in Belgium and the Netherlands" written by N. Van Hear and O. Bakewell (2011: 691) investigates the contributions made by members of the Rwandan diaspora living in Belgium and the Netherlands to the growth and development of their home country, Rwanda. The research revealed that members of Rwanda's diaspora have played a significant role in the country's attempts to foster reconciliation and rebuilding.

Mohamoud, A. A. (2006:11)' study titled, "African Diaspora and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Africa. Danish Institute for International Studies" examines the role of the African diaspora in post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa. The author argues that the diaspora can play a significant role in promoting peace and development in their countries of origin through remittances, investments, and the sharing of information. The article also highlights the importance of the diaspora's role in advancing political and social reform, particularly in promoting democratic government and human rights. The author notes that the diaspora can serve as a bridge between their countries of origin and the international community, facilitating the flow of information, ideas, and resources. The article concludes by emphasizing the need for policymakers and development practitioners to recognize and engage with the diaspora as a key stakeholder in post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts.

Hasić, J.'s (2018:37) study "Post-Conflict Cooperation in Multi-Ethnic Local Communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Diaspora's Role" examines the role of diaspora communities in promoting cooperation and development in post-conflict multi-ethnic local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The study employs a qualitative comparative analysis to explore the ways

in which diaspora communities contribute to the development of their home countries, specifically in the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The study finds that diaspora communities play a crucial role in promoting cooperation and development in their home countries. The authors argue that diaspora communities can contribute to the development of their home countries through investments, knowledge transfer, social and political activism, and the formation of social and cultural capital.

The study also highlights the importance of involvement from members of the diaspora in promoting development. The authors suggest that the participation of diaspora members in development efforts can help to foster a sense of belonging and shared identity, which can be particularly important in post-conflict contexts.

Overall, the study provides valuable insights into the role that diaspora communities can play in promoting cooperation and development in post-conflict settings. The findings suggest that diaspora communities have the potential to make a significant contribution to the development of their home countries, and that their involvement can be an important factor in fostering growth and cooperation.

The article "The Role of Diaspora in Peace building: Lessons from African Conflicts" by T. Murithi (2008: 10) may be found here. This research investigates how members of the African diaspora contribute to the process of restoring peace in their home nations in Africa. The author came to the conclusion that participation from members of the diaspora may play an important part in the promotion of peace building via the provision of financial assistance, the transmission of expertise, and social and political advocacy. In addition, the research came to the conclusion that contact with diaspora communities might help to generate social and cultural capital, which is something that can be useful for peace building efforts.

The article "Diaspora Building Peace" by Nordien (2017:18) discusses the role of diaspora communities in promoting peace and development in their home countries. The author

argues that diaspora communities can play a crucial role in building peace and fostering development in post-conflict settings.

The article highlights the potential of diaspora communities to contribute to peace building efforts through investments, knowledge transfer, social and political activism, and the formation of social and cultural capital. The author suggests that diaspora communities can help to promote a sense of belonging and shared identity, which can be particularly important in post-conflict contexts.

The article also emphasizes the importance of involvement from members of the diaspora in promoting development and peace building efforts. The author argues that the participation of diaspora members in development efforts can help to foster a sense of ownership and commitment to the development process.

Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the role that diaspora communities can play in promoting peace and development in their home countries. The author suggests that diaspora communities have the potential to make a significant contribution to peace building efforts, and that their involvement can be an important factor in fostering growth and stability.

2.1.5. Identified themes, debates, and gaps related to the role of diaspora in economic development and nation-building:

Themes:

Remittances and Investments: Diaspora communities contribute to economic development through remittances and investments in their home countries. Remittances play a crucial role in supporting the financial well-being of families and communities, serving as a substantial income source that can be utilized for essential necessities, educational pursuits, and bolstering local businesses. Furthermore, members of the diaspora often contribute to their home countries' economic progress by investing in diverse sectors like real estate, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure development. These

investments not only generate employment opportunities but also stimulate innovation and contribute to overall economic advancement. As a result, the financial contributions and investments made by diaspora communities serve as influential drivers for economic development in their countries of origin.

Knowledge Transfer and Expertise: Diaspora members transfer knowledge, expertise, and skills back to their home countries, which promotes development. They bring new ideas, innovative practices, and diverse perspectives that drive progress and foster growth. This exchange of knowledge and skills empowers local communities, strengthens industries, and enhances the overall development trajectory of their home countries.

Networking and Social Capital: Diaspora networks facilitate connections, collaborations, and the formation of social capital for economic and social development. Diaspora networks serve as powerful catalysts for economic and social development. Through their facilitation of connections, collaboration, and the formation of social capital, these networks create an enabling environment for knowledge sharing, entrepreneurship, cultural exchange, and community empowerment. As a result, they play a vital role in driving sustainable development and fostering inclusive societies.

Peace-Building and Stability: Diaspora communities can contribute to peace-building, stability, and reconciliation in their home countries. Through their diverse backgrounds, skills, resources, and commitment to fostering understanding, diaspora communities can play a vital role in bridging divides, promoting development, and fostering reconciliation, ultimately contributing to lasting peace and stability in their home countries.

Advocacy and Political Reform: Diaspora engagement encompasses a vital aspect of advocating for political reform, democratic governance, and human rights in their countries of origin. Members of the diaspora often carry with them a deep sense of attachment and concern for the well-being of their home nations, and they leverage their influence, networks, and resources to promote positive change. Through grassroots activism, lobbying, and raising awareness, diaspora communities play a crucial role in fostering transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making processes. By

advocating for political and institutional reforms, pushing for democratic principles, and safeguarding human rights, diaspora engagement contributes to building more just and equitable societies, empowering marginalized voices, and strengthening the foundations of democracy in their home countries.

Debates:

Impact Assessment: Accurately measuring the impact of diaspora contributions to economic development and nation-building can be a complex and multifaceted task, giving rise to debates and challenges. While the financial remittances sent by diaspora members are relatively easier to quantify, capturing the full extent of their contributions requires a comprehensive assessment that includes factors such as investments, knowledge transfer, and social capital. Additionally, the indirect effects of diaspora engagement, such as job creation, innovation, and community development, can be challenging to attribute solely to their efforts.

Moreover, the diverse nature of diaspora communities and their varying levels of involvement make it difficult to generalize their impact across different contexts. Therefore, evaluating the true magnitude of diaspora contributions demands a nuanced and holistic approach that considers both tangible and intangible aspects, acknowledging the inherent complexities involved in accurately measuring their influence on economic development and nation-building.

Brain Drain vs. Brain Gain: The impact of diaspora engagement on talent migration is a subject of ongoing debate, with contrasting viewpoints regarding brain drain and brain gain. Critics argue that diaspora engagement exacerbates brain drain by leading to the emigration of skilled individuals, resulting in a loss of valuable human capital for the home country. They contend that the departure of highly educated and talented individuals hampers local development and perpetuates a cycle of dependency. However, proponents of diaspora networks argue for the benefits of brain gain, highlighting how diaspora communities can serve as catalysts for knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and investment. They emphasize that diaspora networks can facilitate the circulation of ideas,

skills, and resources, ultimately contributing to economic growth and innovation. Striking a balance between these perspectives requires careful consideration of the contextual factors, policies, and efforts aimed at harnessing the potential of diaspora engagement while mitigating any adverse effects of talent migration.

Policy and Institutional Support: The effectiveness of government policies and institutional support in harnessing diaspora contributions and promoting development is a topic that sparks debate. While some argue that governments have successfully implemented policies that leverage diaspora networks, others contend that more can be done to maximize their impact. Effective policies should focus on creating an enabling environment that encourages diaspora engagement, such as offering incentives for investments and entrepreneurship, facilitating knowledge and technology transfer, and ensuring the protection of diaspora rights. Institutional support should include establishing dedicated departments or agencies that specifically address diaspora affairs, promoting dialogue and collaboration between the government and diaspora communities, and streamlining bureaucratic processes to facilitate their involvement. However, it is crucial to continuously evaluate and adapt these policies and institutions to ensure their relevance, responsiveness, and alignment with the evolving needs and aspirations of diaspora communities.

Diaspora Engagement Models: Debates surrounding the most effective models and strategies to engage diaspora communities for development purposes are prevalent. Various models have emerged, each with its own strengths and limitations. Some argue for a philanthropic and charitable approach, encouraging diaspora members to contribute through remittances and donations to support local communities. Others advocate for a more entrepreneurial approach, promoting diaspora investments, business ventures, and technology transfer. Additionally, there are calls for fostering knowledge networks, facilitating skill-sharing and capacity-building initiatives, and establishing platforms for diaspora engagement in policy dialogue and decision-making processes. Ultimately, the effectiveness of diaspora engagement models depends on understanding the unique

characteristics of each diaspora community, tailoring strategies to their specific needs and aspirations, and ensuring their active participation and ownership in development initiatives. Flexibility, adaptability, and continuous evaluation are key to identifying the most effective models and strategies that harness the potential of diaspora communities for sustainable development.

Cultural Identity and Integration: The tension between maintaining cultural identity within diaspora communities and integrating into the host country's society is a complex and multifaceted topic that often sparks debate. On one hand, proponents argue that preserving cultural identity is essential for diaspora members to maintain a sense of belonging, cultural heritage, and social cohesion within their communities. They emphasize the importance of language, traditions, and customs in fostering a strong sense of identity and pride. On the other hand, advocates for integration argue that embracing the values, norms, and practices of the host country is crucial for social cohesion, inclusivity, and opportunities for diaspora members.

They believe that integration promotes social mobility, economic success, and a sense of shared citizenship. Striking a balance between cultural preservation and integration requires recognizing the value of diverse identities while promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and inclusive policies that enable diaspora communities to maintain their cultural heritage while actively participating in the host country's social, economic, and political spheres.

Gaps:

Gender Perspective: Indeed, the gendered dimensions of diaspora contributions and the potential differences between men and women are crucial aspects that warrant further exploration. While studies on diaspora engagement often focus on overall contributions, it is important to acknowledge that gender dynamics play a significant role in shaping the experiences and impacts of diaspora members. Women's contributions, challenges, and opportunities may differ from those of men due to various factors such as cultural norms, access to resources, social roles, and discriminatory practices. Gender-sensitive research

is needed to understand how gender intersects with diaspora engagement, including remittances, investment patterns, entrepreneurship, and advocacy efforts. This knowledge can inform policies and interventions that promote gender equality, empower women within diaspora communities, and harness their unique capabilities for sustainable development. By considering the gendered dimensions of diaspora contributions, we can foster more inclusive and equitable approaches to diaspora engagement and maximize the potential for positive change.

Long-Term Sustainability: Further examination of the long-term sustainability of diaspora contributions and their impact on economic development and nation-building is essential. While diaspora engagement can yield immediate benefits, understanding how these contributions can be sustained and leveraged over time is crucial for lasting impact. This requires assessing factors such as the continuity of financial support, the durability of investments and business ventures, the transfer of knowledge and skills, and the establishment of robust institutional frameworks. Examining the long-term sustainability of diaspora contributions can inform strategies and policies that promote enduring economic growth, social development, and the consolidation of nation-building efforts.

Challenges and Barriers: The challenges and barriers faced by diaspora communities in actively engaging and contributing to their home countries are critical aspects that require further attention. These challenges can include legal and bureaucratic obstacles, limited access to information and networks, cultural and language barriers, discriminatory practices, and a lack of institutional support. Additionally, economic factors such as financial constraints and limited investment opportunities may hinder diaspora members' ability to contribute to their home countries' development. Addressing these challenges and barriers through targeted policies, capacity-building initiatives, and inclusive platforms can unlock the full potential of diaspora communities and facilitate their meaningful participation in their countries of origin.

Comparative Analysis: There is a potential gap in comprehensive comparative analysis across various diaspora communities and their contributions to development. While some

studies focus on specific diaspora groups, a broader comparative approach would provide valuable insights into the similarities, differences, and patterns of diaspora engagement across diverse communities. By analyzing factors such as remittance patterns, investment strategies, advocacy efforts, and cultural preservation practices, a comparative analysis can shed light on effective strategies, best practices, and lessons learned that can inform policies and initiatives aimed at harnessing diaspora contributions for sustainable development on a global scale.

Local Contextual Factors: The studies may not deeply explore the unique local contextual factors that influence diaspora engagement and its effectiveness in different countries. Understanding the specific political, social, economic, and cultural contexts of each country is crucial in assessing the dynamics of diaspora engagement and tailoring strategies accordingly. Factors such as governance structures, policy frameworks, historical relationships, and social dynamics greatly impact the opportunities and challenges faced by diaspora communities in contributing to their home countries. A deeper exploration of these local contextual factors is necessary to develop contextually relevant and effective interventions that maximize the potential of diaspora engagement for development.

Despite the valuable contributions of diaspora communities, there are several potential gaps and debates in the existing research. Carling (2014) argues that the impact of diaspora engagement is often exaggerated, and obstacles are understudied (Carling, 2014). There is a need for deeper understanding of the role Diasporas play in development, as well as more qualitative and ethnographic studies to gain insights into diaspora behaviors and impacts. Additionally, studies often focus on single countries or industries, and more cross-country comparisons would provide significant additional insights into diaspora contributions (Carling, 2014).

Lastly, the potential gaps in the research include the underexplored role of gender and the impacts of diaspora engagement, limited micro-level qualitative studies on diaspora behaviors, and a lack of comprehensive analysis on the long-term impacts of diaspora

contributions. Addressing these gaps through more gender-sensitive research, comparative studies, and in-depth qualitative analysis can provide a more comprehensive understanding of diaspora engagement and its impact on development.

2.1.6. Discussions and Findings of the Literature Review

Diaspora communities have emerged as increasingly influential actors in the economic development and nation building of their home countries. As illustrated across the reviewed studies, Diasporas make diverse contributions spanning economic, social, political, and cultural domains.

Economically, diaspora groups directly support growth and development through remittances, investments, and facilitation of trade and business networks. Quantitatively, remittance flows account for significant portions of GDP in many developing countries, providing household income stabilization. Qualitatively, diaspora networks promote knowledge diffusion and skills transfer that assist industrial development in home countries, as evidenced in sectors like ICT, biotechnology, and creative industries. However, debates persist around accurately measuring impact and whether diaspora creates beneficial “brain gain” or detrimental “brain drain.”

Beyond economics, diaspora social capital furnishes access to expertise, reputational resources, and transnational connections that link home country institutions into global knowledge circuits. This social capital powers capacity building, upgrading of governance standards, and specialized interventions like public health reforms. Diaspora communities simultaneously sustain cultural identity and heritage within their host countries.

However, realizing this potential requires supportive institutional frameworks in origin countries to productively engage diaspora resources. There is a dearth of in-depth, qualitative research explicating the complex, context-specific dynamics of how diaspora interaction influences development outcomes in particular countries and communities.

Furthermore, questions persist regarding long-term sustainability and the effects of declining diaspora remittances and engagement over time. Post-conflict and fragile states

represent challenging environments for diaspora-led development, requiring further research.

In conclusion, diaspora communities furnish a multifaceted engine for development and nation building, but one that requires judicious state policies and institutional channels to harness constructively. Nuanced qualitative and longitudinal research can elucidate the complex pathways through which diaspora shapes sociopolitical outcomes in origin countries. With enabling environments and sustained engagement, diaspora groups promise to be increasingly consequential protagonists in the advancement of nations.

2.2. Diaspora and Development

Governments in both sending and receiving countries have implemented various policies and programs to engage diaspora communities in development efforts. Some of these initiatives have been in place for many years, while others are relatively new. These efforts range from short-term visits to long-term skill-building programs, settlement-sponsored financial projects, and diaspora capital investments.

The United Nations and other international development organizations have supported numerous initiatives to involve diaspora communities as development partners in their home countries. For instance, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has created various programs promoting diaspora participation. This includes the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) program, which aims to facilitate the transfer of skills, expertise, and technology from diaspora populations to their original nations (IOM, 2021b). The MIDA program recognizes Diasporas can contribute technical know-how and experience to development efforts through knowledge-sharing and skills transfers between expat communities and their places of ancestry. International bodies like IOM thus seek to harness this cross-border human capital for improving livelihoods.

Another example is the Global Diaspora Facility (GDF), which was established in 2019 to support diaspora engagement in development efforts. The GDF is a partnership between

the World Bank, the International Organization for Migration, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and provides support for diaspora-centered initiatives in areas such as entrepreneurship, job creation, and social development (World Bank, 2021b).

Considering these initiatives, IOM began updating its 2013 International Dialogue on Migration into the first global meeting bringing together high-level delegates from different ministerial portfolios responsible for diaspora engagement policies. This was the Diaspora Ministerial Conference on Diasporas and Development, Linking Societies and States held in Geneva in 2013.

Its significance and recognition came from providing a global forum for sharing insights and experiences on diaspora engagement policies and programs across countries. Most governmental speakers and attendees acknowledged not just growing diaspora interest but also the opportune timing of the conference. The meeting presented a platform for policymakers to discuss strategies, challenges and opportunities regarding how states can better partner with expatriate communities for mutual socioeconomic advancement. This helped highlight Diasporas as relevant partners whose role was being recognized in development agendas internationally.

As a matter of first importance, I might want to feature the idea of improvement by bringing various meanings of it. While the term development means different things across disciplines, the general definition relevant for policy and governmental contexts refers to facilitating progress, positive change or enhancement of physical, economic, environmental, social and institutional aspects. The ultimate aim of development is an increase in the overall well-being and prosperity of the population through rising incomes and employment availability locally, in an environmentally sustainable manner without depleting natural resources. Development thus encompasses improvements to infrastructure, economy, society and governance that ultimately improve living standards and opportunities for current and future generations within a given society or region.

The advancement might be estimated in more than one way, which might be characterized on contrasting belief systems of progress. One significant method of surveying advancement is through monetary development. Financial advancement could be estimated by specific pointers including (GDP) or gross public pay (GNI), which give a feeling of an economy's all out creation and of individual wages. In the course of recent many years, understandings of and talks on improvement have started moving away from financial advancement as a sole or even significant component of improvement and have rather positioned more prominent accentuation on human advancement. Inside the human advancement worldview, advancement is intrinsically multidimensional; it draws in monetary improvement as well as upgrades in regions like wellbeing and human resources.

Renowned economist Amartya Sen conceptualized development differently compared to traditional frameworks. In his "capability approach," Sen defined development as creating conditions that allow individuals to fulfill their true potential through adequate access to economic, social and familial well-being. This understanding formed the basis for the UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) introduced in 1990. The HDI measures a nation's progress holistically based on health, education and income indicators rather than solely economic growth. By focusing on increasing people's actual freedoms and choices, Sen's capabilities approach emphasized empowering individuals as the core purpose of development—an idea that shifted understandings and provided an alternative model through which the UNDP could evaluate countries' advancement from a more humanitarian perspective.

The HDI is a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: health, education, and income. It is designed to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced view of development than traditional economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The HDI has been widely used as a tool for measuring progress towards development goals and for tracking changes in human development over time (UNDP, 2020).

"Development," "Improvement," and "Advancement" are terms that are often used interchangeably to refer to the process of promoting economic growth, social progress, and positive change in various areas of life.

As you mentioned, different scholars have addressed various aspects of development, including issues related to gender and women's empowerment. Martha Nussbaum, for example, developed the capabilities approach, which emphasizes the importance of promoting individuals' capabilities to live a fulfilling life. Within the field of gender, Nussbaum's approach focuses on the importance of reinforcing women's capabilities and promoting gender equality as a means of achieving development goals (Nussbaum, 2000:19).

Overall, the concepts of development, improvement, and advancement are complex and multifaceted, and different scholars and practitioners may approach them from different angles. However, they all share the common goal of promoting positive change and progress in various aspects of life, including economic, social, and cultural domains. The term "development" is more appropriate than "improvement" when discussing the progress of a country.

In the context of development, the basic components are typically grouped into three categories: social, economic, and environmental. These elements are interconnected and can influence each other. In the case of diaspora communities, they can play a crucial role in promoting social and economic development in their countries of origin. Diaspora communities can be seen as valuable assets that can contribute to their homeland's growth and development.

The connections between diaspora communities and development are primarily social and economic. For example, remittances from the diaspora can provide a significant source of financial support for families and communities in their home countries. According to the World Bank, global remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached a record

high of \$553 billion in 2020, demonstrating the significant potential for diaspora contributions to development (World Bank, 2021b).

Covering social settlements, for example, abilities move social and urban mindfulness/experience. Moreover, the potential additions to the country get not just from abilities and information from the actual diaspora yet additionally from the "socio-proficient" networks these travelers have joined abroad.

Diaspora communities possess certain human and social capital that can positively impact economic development when mobilized. Diaspora individuals tend to be more skilled and wealthier than counterparts in their home countries, with higher savings especially among those planning to return. Those who migrated from developing to developed nations find it easier to accumulate wealth and search for investment opportunities. Consequently, governments are increasingly viewing Diasporas as potential job creators. Diaspora direct investment (DDI) is now a legitimate subset of foreign direct investment (FDI). Sources from diaspora also support trade, skills transfer, and knowledge exchange. Therefore, we should examine these three key economic activities - trade, investment, skills/knowledge transfer - facilitated by diaspora networks, and their resulting multiplier effects on development in origin countries. Harnessing diaspora human and financial capital remains an underutilized resource for development.

2.2.1. Remittances

The remittances sent home by migrant workers to support their families or invest in their countries of origin provide immense economic value to diaspora communities. Due to various informal money transfer systems, the actual amounts may be significantly higher than recorded levels (cash transfers, microfinance, hawala systems etc.). According to the World Bank, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries are projected to exceed \$551 billion in 2019, up 4.7% from 2018 (World Bank, 2018b). Remittances have outpaced official development assistance since the mid-1990s and are on track to surpass foreign direct investment flows to these countries this year. The provision of remittances

fuels local diaspora business markets, generating jobs and reducing reliance on remittances by releasing more funds for business investment and livelihoods. Successful reconciliation and peace building further stimulate business activity and vice versa. It also opens up more space for diaspora political and administrative engagement through leadership programs. Sustained diaspora support to public institutions like schools and hospitals represents long-term investments in home communities that could further decrease dependency on remittances. In these ways, diaspora populations act as catalysts for change at local, regional and national levels.

	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019e	2020f	2021f
	(\$ billions)						
Low and Middle Income	343	444	484	526	551	574	597
East Asia and Pacific	96	128	134	143	149	156	163
Europe and Central Asia	38	44	53	58	59	62	64
Latin America and the Caribbean	56	73	81	89	96	99	103
Middle East and North Africa	39	51	57	58	59	61	63
South Asia	82	111	117	132	139	145	150
Sub-Saharan Africa	32	38	42	47	49	51	54
World	470	589	634	683	707	739	768
	(Growth rate, percent)						
Low and Middle Income	11.6	-1.6	9.1	8.6	4.7	4.2	4.0
East Asia and Pacific	19.9	-0.5	5.1	6.8	3.8	4.7	4.5
Europe and Central Asia	5.6	0.1	22.3	8.4	1.8	4.6	4.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.5	7.4	10.8	9.6	7.8	3.8	3.6
Middle East and North Africa	18.2	-1.2	12.1	1.6	3.0	2.7	3.2
South Asia	9.4	-5.9	5.8	12.7	5.3	4.1	3.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	11.1	-9.9	9.4	10.7	5.1	5.1	4.9
World	8.6	-1.1	7.7	7.6	3.5	4.6	4.0

Source: World Bank-KNOMAD. See appendix A in World Bank (2017) for data and forecast methods.

Despite the fact that settlements are somewhat simple to coordinated, quantifiable targets are being investigated to utilize the monetary assets of travelers/diasporas for advancement purposes. In such manner, it has been explained on two significant expansive arrangement that require solid associations to harvest the profits of settlements: 1-) fortifying foundation supporting settlements (particularly exchange costs diminishing through mechanical enhancement, expanded rivalry and customer data) and 2-) setting out

more open doors for the useful utilization of settlements by strategically pitching items connected to settlements and securitizing settlement streams (for example charge exclusions on diaspora bonds and travelers ventures, items in regions like schooling and health).

In view of the discussions in regards to settlements' job in financing advancement, accentuation ought to be put on approaches that lessen move costs and work on neighborhood organizations and state administration. Given the expanding number of global and inner transients, guarantee that all partners, including States, worldwide offices, common society associations and others, completely comprehend how much and how movement and settlements can help the accomplishment of long-haul improvement. Then again, settlements are not generally dependable wellspring of financing because of worldwide emergency that trigger joblessness, for example, oil emergency, worldwide medical problems pandemics, territorial contentions or prevailing difficulties like Islam phobia and xenophobia (Burke, S.J, 2014: 28).

It is important to observe how recipients use remittances and for what purposes. Related efforts should be grounded in and coordinated by government institutions through a strategy that generates proper incentives to encourage migrants' interests in or contributions towards development projects. Further optimizing the impacts of remittances for senders and receivers as well as host and home countries will necessitate closer cooperation and genuine fulfillment of the commitments made. Monitoring remittance use at the grassroots level can provide insights to guide policies towards maximizing development outcomes. Strategic partnerships between stakeholders are essential to effectively channeling financial flows in a way that alleviates poverty, spurs inclusive economic opportunities and strengthens communities.

The Somali diaspora is a significant contributor to the livelihoods, recovery, and development of Somalia. According to the World Bank, around \$1.4 billion is sent home by 2 million Somalis living in the diaspora, making remittances a crucial source of financial support for families and communities in Somalia (World Bank, 2021c).

Remittances from the diaspora can provide a lifeline for many Somalis, particularly in times of crisis such as droughts, conflicts, and other emergencies. In addition, remittances can help to fund education, healthcare, and other basic needs, supporting the social development of Somalia. Remittances account for over a quarter of Somalia's gross domestic product. I believe that is the highest ratio when compared to the GDP of any other country. Additionally, it is estimated that money contributed from the diaspora assisted 40 percent of Somali households. However, it is not evenly distributed over the country. According to several field studies, persons who live in cities are more likely to have family who live overseas and benefit disproportionately from international aid (Radio Dalsan, 2020).

Remittances from the Somali diaspora represent a vital lifeline for the Somali economy and its people. Official estimates place the amount of remittances flowing into Somalia between \$1-2 billion USD annually, originating primarily from Somalis living abroad in countries like the UK, USA, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and other Gulf states (World Bank, 2020a). However, the true total remittance amounts are likely higher, as a significant portion of transfers occur through informal channels that are not officially recorded.

Remittances account for approximately 30% of Somalia's total GDP, giving it one of the highest remittance-to-GDP ratios globally (UNDP, 2021). This dependence on remittances reflects Somalia's limited formal economic sectors and lack of development following decades of conflict. With few stable industries or employment opportunities domestically, overseas remittances enable many Somalis to afford basic necessities amidst widespread poverty.

The vast majority - over 80% - of remittance transfers to Somalia flow through hawala, an informal money transfer system based on trust and operating outside traditional banking channels (World Bank, 2020b). Somali-owned hawala businesses, notably Dahabshiil, dominate remittance delivery and maintain networks between the diaspora and recipients in Somalia. Physical cash remains the predominant mode of sending

remittances through hawala agents; however newer platforms like Zoom, WorldRemit, and Beyond Money are growing in usage, especially among tech-savvy younger Somalis abroad.

At the household level, remittances are hugely impactful, with over 90% of Somali families relying on money sent by relatives overseas to cover basic needs like food, healthcare, shelter/housing, and education expenses (World Bank, 2021d). Remittances enable families to afford necessities, while also stimulating local economic activity when spent on goods and services. Studies have shown remittance flows contribute substantially to reducing poverty levels in Somalia. One estimate found a 10% increase in remittances leads to a 3-6% decline in the poverty rate (UNDP, 2021).

In rural regions, remittances help finance investments in agriculture and livestock, enhancing food security and opportunities for income generation (FAO, 2018). With limited employment options, remittances provide start-up capital for small businesses, farming, and pastoral activities. This stimulates local economies in rural areas that have minimal infrastructure and access to formal finance systems.

However, despite their importance, remittances alone are insufficient to provide long-term development or reduce Somalia's dependence on overseas transfers. High poverty rates persist, with 69% of Somalis living on less than \$1.90 per day as of 2017 (World Bank, 2021a). While remittances are vital for short-term poverty alleviation, sustainable growth requires comprehensive strategies to build stable governance institutions, infrastructure, health and education systems domestically.

Remittance flows are also vulnerable to external shocks. Reductions in diaspora incomes due to oil price declines, recessions, or migrant labor policy changes in host countries can quickly impact remittance amounts. These results in a precarious dependence, as observed when remittances declined during the 2008-09 global financial crises then slowly recovered in subsequent years (World Bank, 2021b). Natural disasters like droughts or

floods also spur higher remittance transfers to affected communities, but cannot prevent detrimental economic impacts.

Increasing Somalia's resilience requires policies to facilitate remittance flows through official channels, enable mobile money platforms, reduce transfer costs, and improve financial access for recipients (World Bank, 2020). Government reforms should also focus on strengthening domestic industries, employment generation, and providing social safety nets for vulnerable groups. With prudent policies and reforms, remittances can play a key role in inclusive growth, but should complement broader development efforts.

In summary, overseas remittances form a crucial lifeline for Somalia's people and economy, providing income that supports basic needs, reduces poverty, and drives local economic activity. However, Somalia must continue working to strengthen its domestic institutions and development capacity to achieve lasting stability and self-sufficiency over the long-term. A leveraging remittance inflow for productive investments, while pursuing structural changes to build more diverse local industries and employment, is key for sustainable growth.

2.2.2. Investments

While remittances may appear similar to investments made by diaspora communities, most remittance funds are actually used to meet basic daily needs of recipient families in need. True investment differs from remittances, though some portion of money sent by diaspora does end up as financial investment. To clarify the distinction, it's important to understand the definition of investment. Economically, an investment involves purchasing goods that aren't consumed presently but rather used in the future to generate wealth. Financially, an investment is a monetary asset acquired with the aim of generating income or appreciation over time through resale.

However, there is a strong relationship between remittances and investment. Remittances can foster rural households' spending on education, housing, nutrition and other investments that build long-term well-being and opportunity. Several global studies found

remittance-receiving families on average invest more than non-recipient households. It's also clear families with access to remittance money generally save more than average. While most remittances fulfill immediate needs, they can indirectly support investment and asset-building at the grassroots level over the long run.

There are sure impacts of settlements on venture because of the multiplier impact of settlement actuated costs. A few examinations have displayed of this huge multiplier effect. When this load of issues inspected, it tends to be really expected that an inflow of settlements expands speculation. Diaspora speculation has another exceptional component getting from its supplement job to Official Development Assistance (ODA). The formative advantages can be possibly acquired when these ventures and endeavors become fruitful. In this specific circumstance, drawing in diaspora financial backers to their countries makes one more test for governments (World Bank, 2018a).

This highlights the importance of understanding the specific needs and priorities of recipient countries when it comes to the use of remittances. Remittances can play a crucial role in promoting economic and social development, but their impact may be limited if they are not used effectively.

For Somalia specifically, the diaspora also serves as a major source of investment in the country. It provided 80% of the initial capital for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Profit-generating activities contribute to economic recovery and improved job opportunities. Returnees are also establishing businesses independently or collaborating together in leadership roles constructively. Investments are spread across sectors such as small-scale industries, media broadcasting, remittances and trade. According to a report by the International Organization for Migration, the Somali diaspora has played a vital role in financing SMEs and managing business ventures in Somalia through investments in key economic areas like agriculture, livestock and telecommunications (IOM, 2017b). The diaspora has been instrumental in supporting and growing Somalia's private sector.

Diaspora investments can provide a valuable source of funding for entrepreneurs and small business owners in Somalia, who may face significant challenges in accessing

capital through traditional lending channels. In addition, the diaspora can bring valuable skills, knowledge, and expertise back to Somalia, contributing to economic growth and innovation. In any case, individual ventures and drives are not adequate to establish a practical financial climate.

The current design additionally permits sneaking and underground economy. Additionally, settlements are individual and family based. Given this reality, governments have most extreme significance for creating procedures and arrangements for diaspora commitment which remember gathering information for diaspora venture and undertaking for proof-based policymaking and choices. Despite the fact that settlements assume a critical part in diminishing the outrageous destitution and expanding the social turn of events, Somali requirements to make gigantic advancement project that feed its populace and contribute to its growth.

2.2.3. Human Resources & Transfer of Skills (Know/How)

Diaspora populations are particularly pertinent for countries transitioning their economies due to their potential to help address skills and resource shortages, facilitating a quicker transition pace. An important facet of development is the transfer of skills and knowledge that transpires through diaspora migration patterns. Diaspora contributions to homeland progress extend beyond solely financial remittances, also encompassing skills/knowledge dissemination, entrepreneurship, trade links, investment and community-building efforts. Focusing exclusively on monetary remittances without accounting for the people, goods, capabilities and ideas flowing through transnational networks leads to an incomplete appreciation of the migration-development nexus. Diaspora's human capital circulation makes a multidimensional impact that is not fully captured by financial metrics alone. Their diverse roles in advancing social, cultural and institutional progress warrant comprehensive analysis. This view has been echoed by many scholars, who advocate for a more nuanced understanding of social remittances and their relationship to other sociological and policy debates (Fransen, S., & Siegel, M., 2011:26).

At the point when the investigations on friendly settlements inspected, the expression "social settlements" was first used to feature that notwithstanding cash, thoughts and rehearses flow among sending and getting communities. This view is supported by scholars who argue that social remittances can facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills, and ideas that can lead to development (Levitt & Lamba-Nieves, 2011:19).

In essence, social remittances are non-monetary contributions that migrants make to their home countries. These contributions can include the transfer of knowledge, skills, and ideas, as well as the promotion of cultural exchange and the development of social networks. The potential impact of social remittances on development is significant, as they can contribute to the transfer of best practices and innovation, and help to build social capital and promote social change. In the possibility of social settlements, diaspora is seen something other than settlement senders. They are viewed as specialists for charity, speculations and advancement in their nations of beginning. Diaspora individuals who return to their nation of beginning by the same token forever or briefly carry with them the abilities, thoughts, mentalities and practices obtained abroad, both positive and negative.

As Diasporas share their new perspectives with those who remain in their home country, it can lead to a transformation in the values and beliefs held by the people. Through this process, the diaspora can support progressive social change (Levitt & Lamba-Nieves, 2011: 20).

In Somali case, as I referenced before an extraordinary number of youthful Somalis began to move to USSR for high schooling or got grants to examine in Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Italy and other socialist nations. This consequently given them to fill in as specialists (engineers, project administrators in colossal tasks directed in Gulf nations. Notwithstanding, in case there was no affable conflict in Somalia, this prepared and gifted labor would have effects affected Somalia's turn of events. The trend of Somali youth seeking educational opportunities abroad continues today as many are motivated by scholarship opportunities offered by countries such as Turkey and the US due to limited

educational opportunities in Somalia. Studies have shown that Somali youth who study abroad are more eager to return to their home country and contribute actively compared to previous generations (Aygül, C., and 2020:19).

In essence, many Somali youth seek educational opportunities outside the country due to limited options within Somalia. However, there is a growing trend of these individuals returning to their home country with the desire to contribute positively to its development.

While the diaspora is more noticeable of the Somali's financial and political regions, which thickly requires HR, they additionally take incredible obligations on issues that require specialized information. Today because of this diaspora Somali Diaspora isn't just standing firm on political footings in diaspora yet additionally they are profoundly noticeable in the political organizations of Somalia. It is exceptionally intriguing that every one of the previous and the current government leaders were from the Somali Diaspora. In addition, since the year 2000 basically 60% of bureau pastors of diaspora. Every Somali government has been from diaspora. The same is valid also for the regional administrations in the north, south and central Somalia.

One of the most impactful social remittances is the transfer of skills and knowledge that occurs when migrants return home temporarily or permanently. Known as "brain gain", they lend support in acquiring and spreading capabilities. Programs like the International Organization for Migration's Migration for Development in Africa initiative sponsor temporary skilled professional homecomings to facilitate this process. The UNDP Somalia's QUESTS project is one example actively encouraging the Somali diaspora to apply their experience in development and governance for accelerating Somalia's recovery. Through QUESTS, diaspora expertise has meaningfully contributed to over 1007 local public and private institutions via capacity development, policy guidance and institutional strengthening. Such initiatives effectively harness diaspora human capital for strengthening various sectors, thereby demonstrating how their skills and know-how transfers can drive inclusive growth and stability in countries of origin. The project has also helped to reverse the brain drain of Somalia, as more than 826 diaspora professionals

were placed in different institutions in 2008, compared to 505 placements in 2007 (UNDP Somalia, 2009).

2.3. Return Diaspora

Diaspora returns have the potential for both benefits and risks. Positively, they can augment skilled human capital; promote peace building and social cohesion between host societies and returnees. However, tensions may also arise. The notion of "return as change" posited by scholars like (King, 1978:16) and (Bakewell, 2009:18) suggests diaspora repatriation could introduce changes and divergences between returned migrants and local populations in origin countries, moving beyond just restoring the status quo. Whereas skills and connections transferred could accelerate development, differing perspectives and experiences gained abroad may potentially lead to conflictual transformations versus uniform assimilation. A balanced approach recognizes diaspora's role in progress while acknowledging changes wrought by mobility may challenge existing institutions, requiring policies that mitigate tensions from cultural evolutions on both sides.

Firstly, migration to industrialized countries for manufacturing jobs tends to be undertaken by a comparatively affluent minority group within origin countries. As such, these migrants tend to be better educated than the average citizen, as long as they maintain the ability to financially support back-home families and communities through remittance transfers. In other words, migration for manufacturing positions abroad historically involved those possessing higher human and financial capital within developing country contexts, enabling continued cross-border financial assistance to relatives left behind. Their educational qualifications and remittance behaviors distinguish these economic migrants from poorer, less skilled workers unable to migrate internationally for better livelihood opportunities.

The diaspora's return, especially for those aiming to make substantial investments, is often hampered by several obstacles. One such hurdle is the apprehension of renewed conflict

erupting, introducing uncertainty regarding local security and dissuading many diaspora members from returning or restricting their investment scope and duration. Another deterrent involves concerns over business failure exacerbating the risk of relinquishing an established life in the host country and placing limited savings into an enterprise operating under high risk. In addition, deficiencies in local information propagation foster uncertainty and inhibit investing. Finally, shortcomings in support infrastructure like poor foundational standards also act as a disincentive for diaspora repatriation, as outlined by scholar (Bakewell, 2009: 19). Addressing these legitimate worries could help unleash diaspora potential for local economic development.

As a result of these challenges, the diaspora lacks proper organization both in host countries and in their home country. This division denies them a united voice, which could otherwise help promote necessary changes to accelerate the political and economic recovery of their home country. The large size and potential strength of the diaspora stems significantly from the lack of functioning governance institutions in Somalia that could otherwise harness the dispersed and underutilized resources within the diaspora. The key challenge that remains is determining whether and how the diaspora can mobilize its financial, intellectual, social and political capital to achieve reconciliation and a stable political and economic system domestically. With coordination and an enabling environment, the diaspora could substantially aid Somalia's recovery and development process.

2.4. Diaspora Organization and Networks

There is substantial evidence that existing diaspora organizations have contributed to development in their home countries in various ways by transferring capital, philanthropy, gifts or exchange of skills (Levitt, 2001: 88 and 89). Improved characterizations of diaspora institutions that focus on the mobility of skills and knowledge have led to terms like "expatriate knowledge networks" Zeleza: T. (2009, "Scientific Diaspora" (Barre M. and Barre A., 2003: 16), and "diaspora knowledge networks" (Meyer, J.B., 2007:34). categorized diaspora skills and knowledge networks into five groups: local associations

of professional diaspora, student/academic organizations, professional assistance like the United Nations Development Program Expatriate National Program, academic/scientific diaspora organizations, and educated/scholarly diaspora organizations. These categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive and may overlap (Lowell & Gerova, 2004: 163). Diaspora groups contribute to development through both tangible and intangible means, with ideas, connections and human capital transferring across borders alongside finances and goods. A diversity of diaspora networks and institutions facilitates multidimensional engagement and circulation of resources from abroad.

The concept of "scientific diaspora" was further explained as "self-organized networks of expatriate researchers and specialists attempting to foster their country of origin or region, primarily in science, technology, and education" "Scientific Disapora" (Barre M. and Barre A., 2003: 16).

This definition highlights the scientific diaspora's aim to focus on building capacities and transferring skills in their home countries, especially related to science and innovation. The discussion around diaspora contributions through knowledge sharing has evolved to encompass the idea of a diaspora knowledge network. (Meyer, J.B., 2007:34) defines the diaspora knowledge network as an expression that implies a direct link between knowledge and development and a role for civil society in building that relationship that a diaspora awareness network can help address human resource deficiencies in the home country by tapping into the available yet remote resource of skilled expatriate communities. Various organizational structures have facilitated multidirectional circulation of ideas, expertise and socioeconomic support between diaspora and places of origin.

In addition to diaspora knowledge networks, diaspora organizations have also acknowledged their role in facilitating temporary return programs as part of skills transfer and contributions to countries of origin. One example is the Stitching Dir Foundation, a Dutch-based Ethiopian focused NGO. Stitching Dir launched a diaspora return initiative where Dutch-Ethiopians return to Ethiopia to work for 6 months per year for government

institutions and private development partners. This incentive-based approach offers knowledge sharing and capacity building services to partner organizations/institutions. Such temporary return programs organized by diaspora groups provide an effective means of harnessing diaspora expertise for development purposes through targeted, short-term secondments. They exemplify innovative models for leveraging diaspora human capital circulation between multiple geographic locations. These product exercises are like those performed by unfamiliar associations however is just run by a diaspora association.

Somali diaspora businesses have played a key role in mobilizing humanitarian assistance during times of crisis. Websites, FM radios and TVs established by the diaspora as business ventures provide outlets that shed light on and depict the suffering of underprivileged Somalis without relatives or friends abroad in need of aid. Much of the diaspora's contribution to emergency humanitarian relief has occurred through the combined efforts and sway of local and diaspora media outlets. These media outlets received and distributed cash donations sent by the diaspora to unknown victims they had learned about through the websites and radios.

The role of the diaspora in supporting local organizations is most impactful when humanitarian crises overwhelm local organizations' resources, such as during emergencies like droughts, floods or medical needs to assist victims of violent conflict. Diaspora engagement ramps up to fill assistance gaps through diverse networks and resources that seek to directly reach vulnerable communities. Media plays a facilitating function in enabling remote diaspora communities to actively contribute aid to unknown countrymen.

The Diaspora associations for Somalis have financed or established help offices. Many are organized to give day by day streams of financing to installment of wages in schools or emergency clinics or help during the nation's emergencies or, specifically, the diaspora plays a supportive role in their places of origin during humanitarian crises like droughts and floods that impact the communities where they grew up. Examples of engagement include the activities of Mooragabey in supporting education in the Bay and Bakool districts of Southwestern Somalia's Nomada region.

Additionally, there is the establishing of the Banadir University in Mogadishu by the diaspora. Other instances involve assistance to facilities such as the Hargeisa Hospital's emergency department in Somaliland. This development aid varies in scope and complexity. Diaspora mobilize to aid recovery and rebuilding multi-dimensionally through initiatives both large and small focused on priorities like education, healthcare, skills training and community infrastructure that build long-term resilience against future hardships. Their interventions aim to holistically strengthen local capacity and livelihoods. In addition to funding the construction and development of school facilities like classrooms, corridors and offices, the diaspora spends over \$9,000 per month to maintain ongoing operations of one particular educational project and provides supplemental food, tutoring and learning materials. This is in addition to in-kind support from UN agencies such as the WFP and UNICEF. Concrete examples of current diaspora and primarily diaspora-run institutions include the East Africa University and Dayax Islamic Bank in Bosasso, as well as Amoud University in Somaliland. The diaspora has demonstrated strong commitment to establishing new institutions of higher learning. Significant accomplishments have been their contributions to college libraries, computer labs and especially building the capacity of faculty staff through training and skills development support. Considerable financial and human capital resources are being invested into building a robust education sector able to drive long-term development.

Moreover, the Diaspora financed neighborhood city associations to resolve issues which are unequipped for tending to nearby associations/NGOs all alone. Various casualties have flown and worked effectively into Minnesota in this joint effort with coming about wellbeing troubles and different diseases, for example, malignant growths requiring refined clinical cycles.

The nation offers consistent help of training and wellbeing administrations from the diaspora. A large portion of the projects subsidized are situated in the allies ' home locale or region

2.5. Challenges to Diaspora Contributions

Cash transfers by diaspora members have supported the development of essential healthcare services and the financing of clinical courses at universities in Somalia. Additionally, diaspora contributions have helped in constructing wells, boreholes, water systems, and shelter centers through home city associations. Private healthcare investment by small businesses with diaspora connections has also been significant in driving growth and creating employment opportunities for younger generations.

Another hurdle is the high degree of distrust between Somali entities and international organizations, with some believing the latter overlook locally educated people who could fill similar functions. This makes it challenging to build relationships and collaborate to better coordinate diaspora work, development, and humanitarian initiatives. However, commitment among youth is actually quite strong, usually taking the form of voluntary service instead of monetary transfers. Lack of coordination and perceived biases reduce diaspora membership's, especially educated youth's, potential to partner with outside actors. But young diaspora show dedication to their communities of origin through donation of time rather than just finances. Overcoming reluctance on all sides could multiply diverse resources working concertedly for long-lasting social change.

For example, the organization known as the World-Wide Somali Group of Students and Professionals aims to send 1,000 volunteers to the country during the summer season. This diaspora network demonstrates the willingness of educated expatriate youth to donate their skills and expertise through temporary in-country placements as a means of providing intensive grassroots support. Diaspora resources have also been used to provide 100 scholarships for university education in Somalia, with no prior knowledge of who will receive them.

In summary, diaspora contributions have been significant in driving growth and development in Somalia. However, challenges such as terrorism fears, lack of integration, and distrust between Somalia and international organizations hinder progress.

Nonetheless, the commitment of the youth to voluntary work and initiatives such as scholarships for university education show promise for the future.

2.6. Debates on the Role of the Diaspora in Nation Building

Scholars have identified three primary ways diaspora communities like the Somali diaspora can contribute to nation building in their homeland: as donors providing financial remittances, as lobbyists influencing foreign governments, and as direct investors and participants in reconstruction efforts (Maimbo, S. M. 2006:22).

However, there are debates regarding the extent of the positive impact the Somali diaspora is having through these channels.

2.6.1. Donors Providing Financial Remittances

As already highlighted, the Somali diaspora provides substantial financial support to Somalia via remittances to family members. These funds support consumption and meet basic household needs. Some scholars argue this alone represents an invaluable contribution that provides a social safety net and enhances stability (Maimbo, S. M. 2006: 22).

However, others note that remittances rarely fund productive investments that could support economic development. Some raise concerns that remittances may even undermine Somalia's competitiveness and growth by inflating prices for land, labor, goods and services. Questions also persist regarding how equitable the distribution of remittances is across different clans and regions within Somalia.

2.6.2. Lobbyists Influencing Foreign Governments

The Somali diaspora has organized over the years to influence policies related to Somalia within their host countries. For example, they have lobbied for increased humanitarian aid and development assistance to flow to Somalia from the US and European governments (Kleist, 2018: 92).

Some argue this advocacy has been pivotal in keeping Somalia on the foreign policy agenda and securing vital relief and reconstruction funding (Osman H., 2016: 13). However, others argue that diaspora lobbying efforts are fragmented across clan lines. This echoes the divided nature of politics within Somalia itself and limits the impact of advocacy (Kleist, 2018: 92).

2.6.3. Investors and Participants in Reconstruction

Starting in the late 1990s, members of the Somali diaspora began to more directly involve themselves in relief, development, and business activities within Somalia. This included returning to provide technical expertise, forming NGOs focused on reconstruction, and investing in Somali businesses (Maimbo, S. M. 2006:22).

Those who see diaspora direct engagement as beneficial argue it represents the most sustainable way for the diaspora to contribute to development. Members have unique insight into local contexts and needs. Direct involvement can build governance capacity and catalyze growth in key sectors like telecommunications and civil aviation (Osman H., 2016: 13).

However, others raise concerns about the impact of diaspora investments being limited primarily to major urban centers and falling along clan lines. Some also argue that diaspora members, after long periods spent abroad, become detached from local contexts. This raises questions about the viability and community acceptance of diaspora-led initiatives (Kleist, 2008: 188).

2.6.4. Approaches for Improving the Diaspora's Contribution

A review of current debates highlights some ways the positive impact of the Somali diaspora on nation building could potentially be improved.

- ❖ Work to build greater pan-Somali unity and collaboration across clan lines for lobbying and advocacy efforts (Kleist, 2018: 92). This could increase effectiveness in influencing foreign governments.

- ❖ Devise strategies to more direct channel remittances to productive investments, rather than just household consumption (Maimbo, S. M. 2006). This could catalyze economic development.
- ❖ Prioritize investments outside major urban centers like Mogadishu to distribute benefits more equitably across regions (Osman H., 2016: 13).
- ❖ Partner new diaspora returnees with locals for initiatives to combine external expertise with community insight (Kleist, 2018: 92). This can improve viability.
- ❖ Establish stronger regulatory frameworks from regional governments for business (Osman H., 2016: 13). This can ensure improved transparency and accountability.
- ❖ The Somali diaspora, consisting of over 1 million Somalis living outside of Somalia, has come to play an important role in nation-building efforts following the country's civil war and state collapse in the early 1990s. While the diaspora provides crucial financial, political, and social support that has aided reconstruction, their involvement is not without challenges and downsides.

Positive Impact: Crucial Support System

Proponents argue the Somali diaspora provides indispensable backing for nation-building. Remittances sent home total over \$1 billion annually, sustaining the economy and funding development projects. This financial aid meets needs unmet by the West, filling critical gaps (RMMS, 2019). Beyond funds, diaspora members return with skills, educating youth and rebuilding infrastructure (Maimbo, S. M. 2006). Their bilingual and bicultural attributes bridge reconstruction priorities between geographies. Politically, the diaspora lobbies internationally on Somalia's behalf, drumming up support. Community organizations inside Somalia facilitate reconciliation and empowerment. In short, without diaspora engagement, reconstruction progress would suffer greatly given limited domestic resources and capacity.

Potential Criticism: Distanced Decision-Making

Skeptics counter that distance can complicate diaspora involvement in decision-making. Having lived abroad for generations, some diaspora actors have limited understanding of pressing on-the-ground issues and priorities. Remote imperatives may overlook local realities and tensions (RMMS, 2019). Diaspora politicians are accused of making policy detached from citizens' daily struggles. Critics argue program design from afar risks wasting funds on misguided or unsustainable projects unsuitable to rugged conditions and localized needs. There are also concerns elites within the diaspora disproportionately influence reconstruction agendas to benefit themselves over marginalized groups (Horst, C., 2010:17).

Positive Impact: Promoting Inclusivity and Transparency

Defenders note efforts emerging to address such concerns. For instance, diaspora organizations increasingly consult grassroots communities during project planning through local affiliates (Maimbo, S. M. 2006: 13). Donor tracking platforms also promote transparency, diminishing elite capture fears by clarifying where funds go. A more inclusive approach sees female and youth diaspora members playing larger roles, making decisions reflective of diverse experiences.

Emerging second-generation Somalis reconnect to homeland through community work, expanding representation (RMMS, 2019). Overall, as diaspora involvement evolves to embrace participation, accountability and partnership with various stakeholders, long term results will likely yield stronger local ownership and sustainability.

Potential Criticism: Brain Drain Concerns

Nevertheless, concerns over 'brain drain' persist. While skills transfer provides immediate gains, losing highly skilled citizens to emigration damages long term progress, it is argued. Investments in education may fail to translate into sustained growth if human resources depart, Healthcare, education, and public services suffer brain drain impacts (Horst, C., 2010:17).

Though the diaspora gives back, its contributions are temporary compared to fulltime jobs inside Somalia creating benefits like career growth and taxes paid. Accordingly, without addressing root problems compelling flight, nation-building may have difficulties becoming self-sustaining dependent on diaspora aid (RMMS, 2019). Policies are needed establishing incentives for professionals like security, good governance and economic opportunity to stay.

Positive Impact: Strengthening Transnational Ties

Supporters note diaspora links need not solely extract human capital. Maintaining transnational bonds can cultivate opportunities that benefit both abroad and domestic populations. Diaspora organizations partnering directly with local entities on trade, investment and skills transfer promote two-way relationships and cooperation between places (Osman H., 2016:9). International connections open doors for exports, tourism and foreign direct investment in Somalia that create local jobs. Skilled returnees remain connected through organization networks, enabling ongoing collaboration even if Abroad. Diaspora citizenship programs instituted by governments preserve dual nationality rights, ensuring continued stake and support for homeland development (RMMS, 2019). Overall, transnational engagement advocates see mutual gains available to both geographies through closer cooperation.

2.6.5. Functionalism how diaspora functions in national building

Diaspora studies have been an important area of research in recent years, as scholars seek to understand the role of diaspora communities in shaping national identities and promoting development. This debate will focus on the state of diaspora studies in Africa and in Somalia, specifically examining how diaspora functions in national building through a functionalist lens.

Functionalism is a theoretical framework that views society as a system of interdependent parts, where each part contributes to the overall functioning of the system. In the context

of diaspora studies, functionalism can be used to examine how diaspora communities contribute to the economic, social, and political development of their countries of origin.

In Africa, diaspora communities have played a significant role in promoting economic development, particularly through remittances. Remittances are funds sent back to developing countries by migrant workers, and they can account for a significant portion of a country's GDP. For example, according to the World Bank, remittances from African migrants working abroad totaled \$36 billion in 2019, which is equivalent to 2.5% of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP (World Bank, 2020a).

In addition to contributing to economic development, diaspora communities also play a crucial role in promoting social cohesion and cultural exchange. Diaspora communities can serve as a bridge between different cultures and communities, fostering dialogue and understanding between people from different backgrounds. This can help to promote social cohesion and reduce conflicts, both within and between countries.

However, diaspora communities can also pose challenges to national building, particularly when they become politically active. In some cases, diaspora communities may become involved in political activities that undermine the authority of the government or promote divisive ideologies. This can create tensions between diaspora communities and the government, and can potentially destabilize the political situation in the country.

Somalia has faced significant challenges in recent years, including political instability, terrorism, and poverty. The country has also experienced a significant diaspora community, with many Somalis living in neighboring countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia.

In terms of economic development, the diaspora community has played a significant role in promoting remittances and investment in Somalia. According to the World Bank, remittances from Somali migrants working abroad totaled \$1.4 billion in 2019, which is equivalent to 7.5% of Somalia's GDP (World Bank, 2020a). These remittances have helped to support small businesses and improve living standards in Somalia.

However, the diaspora community has also posed challenges to national building in Somalia. In recent years, there have been reports of diaspora communities becoming involved in political activities that undermine the authority of the government. For example, in 2019, the Somali government accused the diaspora community of supporting a coup attempt against the government (BBC News, 2019).

In conclusion, the Somali diaspora plays an indispensable yet complex role in Somalia's reconstruction that merits ongoing discussion. Providing resources unobtainable otherwise, the diaspora fills gaps amid state weakness. However, distance poses challenges to decision-making relevance requiring solutions like local consultation. Brain drain risks also merit mitigation through policies stabilizing conditions. Still, maintaining transnational ties through partnerships and dual citizenship programs could cultivate synergistic opportunities across borders.

With evolving participation, collaboration, and reflexivity embracing diversity of experiences, the diaspora's role in nation-building shows potential to grow increasingly sustainable and mutually beneficial over the long term. Continued open debate on challenges and solutions will help maximize reconstruction impact.

While debates continue, the consensus is that the Somali diaspora plays an indispensable role supporting families through remittances and has strong potential to contribute to sustainable peace and state building. This potential is still hindered by clan divisions both within the diaspora and inside Somalia. Finding ways to foster greater collaboration and accountable, equitable investment will allow the diaspora to positively advance the nation building process.

In conclusion, diaspora studies have shown that diaspora communities can play a significant role in promoting economic development and social cohesion in Africa and in Somalia. However, diaspora communities can also pose challenges to national building, particularly when they become politically active.

To address these challenges, it is important to develop policies and programs that promote the integration of diaspora communities into the political and economic life of their countries of origin. This can include initiatives such as voter registration drives, civic education programs, and economic empowerment initiatives.

2.6.7. Challenges Faced by the Diaspora:

Limited Representation:

Despite their significant contributions, the Somali diaspora faces limited representation in the country's political and economic spheres. This lack of representation hinders their ability to effectively advocate for their interests and participate in national decision-making processes.

Brain Drain:

Somalia's ongoing conflict and political instability have led to a significant brain drain, as many skilled and educated Somalis choose to remain in the diaspora rather than returning to the country. This has deprived Somalia of the skills and expertise it desperately needs to rebuild and develop.

Security Concerns:

The diaspora also faces security concerns, including the risk of terrorism and kidnapping. Many diaspora members have been targeted by extremist groups, such as al-Shabaab, which has hindered their ability to visit or invest in Somalia.

2.6.8. Potential Solutions

Strengthening Diaspora Representation:

Efforts should be made to strengthen the representation of the diaspora in Somalia's political and economic spheres. This could be achieved through the establishment of a

diaspora affairs office or ministry, which would serve as a platform for the diaspora to engage with the government and advocate for their interests.

Investing in Education and Skills Development:

Somalia's government and international partners should invest in education and skills development programs aimed at equipping young Somalis with the skills necessary to rebuild the country. This would help to reduce the brain drain and encourage skilled diaspora members to return to Somalia.

Improving Security:

The government and international partners should prioritize improving security in Somalia, particularly in areas where the diaspora is concentrated. This would help to reduce the risk of terrorism and kidnapping, making it easier for diaspora members to visit and invest in the country.

The Somali diaspora has played a crucial role in Somalia's national building efforts, contributing significantly to the country's economic, humanitarian, and political development. However, the diaspora faces challenges such as limited representation, brain drain, and security concerns. Strengthening diaspora representation, investing in education and skills development, and improving security are potential solutions that could help to address these challenges and enhance the diaspora's contributions to Somalia's national building efforts.

III- METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the researcher demonstrates the research methodology that is used to achieve the purpose of the study and generate data required for the research. It also validates the data gathering approaches employed to examine the key research questions, how the research was carried out and how respondents were reached, as well as when, where, and how the study was accomplished. The chapter contains the following parts: the research strategy, the methods of data collection, the research process, and the type of data analysis, the ethical considerations and the limitations and of the study.

3.1 Research Design

This study aims to address its research questions using a qualitative method approach, primarily relying on key in-depth interviews. To facilitate this investigation, the study adopts a case study research design. This design allows the researcher to thoroughly explore and analyze data within a specific context and contemporary phenomenon. In this case, the research will be conducted in Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia.

The fieldwork will involve 20 participants carefully selected from various governmental and non-governmental institutions. These participants include representatives from the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, as well as lecturers from Simad and Somali National University. All selected participants share the common characteristic of either being from the Diaspora or having significant working experience.

Through this rigorous qualitative approach, the study seeks to gain comprehensive insights into the research questions, benefiting from the rich perspectives and experiences of the chosen participants. By focusing on specific cases within Mogadishu, the study intends to provide a deep understanding of the subject matter and shed light on the research questions in a meaningful and contextually relevant manner.

Purposive (judgmental) sampling technique is used for the sake of data accessibility and time limitations. According to Sharan and Tisdell, purposive sampling is information-

oriented sampling technique, whereby the respondents are deliberately selected to provide the maximum information to the research questions (2015).

3.2 Data Collection and Analysis

For this study, qualitative data was collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews. Both face-to-face and virtual interviews were conducted via online platforms as well as mailings. In-depth interviewing was used which involved one-on-one, extensive interviews with a small number of participants. This qualitative method aimed to understand their views on a particular concept, program or issue. In-depth interviews are one of the most popular approaches for data collection in qualitative research involving human subjects. This technique allows for an insightful exploration of views and experiences through thoughtful engagement with respondents. In depth interviews, moreover, are interviews in which respondents are encouraged and prompted to speak in depth about a particular topic and it also allows respondents to give their opinions freely and openly, the interviews were conducted in the time span of more than 5 -7 weeks and were conducted in Mogadishu the capital city of Somalia.

Data analysis is complex process of making useful sense from data. s. Since qualitative research generates wide-ranging amounts of data, after the data collection mechanisms, the responses of the key informants, the data was categorized, combined and analyzed qualitatively. And I reduced data by developing categories and codes for organizing and refining the data.

The validity of the research instrument was ensured early on by handing it over to discussing with the research supervisor on the procedures utilized to validate the study design and instrument. Before submitting the final draft, corrections and re-checking were made.

The term "reliability" refers to a measure of consistency in producing almost same results on multiple occasions. The test-and-retest approach was utilized to evaluate the research instrument's dependability and design, as well as whether the questions were acceptable

and answerable. Validity is the amount to which results may be precisely understood and extrapolated to the population, according to Saunders et al (2009).

The study is guided by the assumptions that the respondents will be willing to divulge information required in an honesty and truthful manner. The participants that will be involved in the study have experienced this kind of questioning, querying and research before, and additionally will express their sincere interest in participating in the study. The study will assume that all the respondents will be co-operative in providing reliable responses.

3.3 Ethical Considerations

In this study, the research's ethics were examined, and the confidentiality of the participants was protected, the researcher behaves ethically, and the data kept confidentially and completely used for academic purpose for only getting the relevant data. I contacted participants in advance asking them if they are willing to participate in the study voluntarily. Moreover, Respondents were asked whether they would want to participate without being pressured, and they were given the option of contributing or not. An introductory letter and consent form were presented and sent to them. As a researcher, I've made a concerted effort to protect participants from identification. I followed ethical guidelines in keeping confidentiality and anonymity, meaning the participants' names and identities were not been mentioned in the findings part of the study unless they are willing to do.

3.4 Research Limitations

There were challenges in obtaining sufficient data on Somalia diaspora's contributions through literature reviews alone, as some sources were in languages other than English. Similarly, evaluating respondents' attitudes and reviewed papers was difficult since some

were hesitant to participate despite confidentiality assurances. Inadequate funding for the research project was another hurdle, as the budget framework to facilitate it was not allocated. This impacted the study significantly by limiting the researcher's ability to visit all planned research areas. However, every effort was made to conduct the various data collection methods conveniently with restricted resources. The global COVID-19 pandemic also interfered by hindering communication with some key informants who were either unable or unresponsive to contact. Financial and logistical constraints coupled with the pandemic impacted the data gathering scope and engagement with certain participants.

IV- FINDINGS: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In this chapter, the research findings are presented, and they are based on the data collected through interviews and investigations. The data obtained from these sources are carefully analyzed to understand and discuss the impact of the Somalia diaspora on nation-building.

Essentially, the chapter delves into what the researcher discovered during the study by using information gathered through interviews and investigations. It aims to shed light on how the Somali diaspora contributes to the process of nation-building. The analysis offered in this section helps in comprehending the significance and role played by the diaspora community in shaping the nation's development and progress.

4.1 Development & Diaspora

How can the Somali diaspora significantly contribute to the recovery and reconstruction of the country, and what measures can be taken to further enhance its role?

The Somali diaspora has a crucial role to play in the recovery and reconstruction of their country. Participant 5, 6 and 9 believes that the diaspora can contribute in several ways, including financial support, skills transfer, and knowledge sharing. Additionally, they agree that measures need to be taken to further enhance the diaspora's role in the country's development.

Firstly, most participants Participant P5, P6 and P9 acknowledge that the diaspora is a significant source of remittances to Somalia, with estimates suggesting that they send billions of dollars each year. This money can be invested in various sectors, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure, to help rebuild and develop the country. They believe that the government should create a conducive environment for investment by addressing security concerns, improving infrastructure, and streamlining bureaucracy.

Secondly, most participants specially Participant P5, P6 and P9 agree that the diaspora has valuable skills and expertise that can be transferred to Somalia. Many Somalis in the diaspora have gained valuable knowledge and experience in various fields, and can use these skills to help develop and improve the country's infrastructure and economy. They suggest that the government should establish training and mentorship programs to help the diaspora navigate the business environment in Somalia and provide them with the necessary skills to succeed.

Thirdly, participant P4 and P5 believe that the diaspora can act as a bridge between Somalia and the rest of the world, promoting trade and investment opportunities. By leveraging their networks and connections in other countries, the diaspora can help attract more investment to Somalia and promote business opportunities. They suggest that the government should establish a dedicated department or ministry to engage with the diaspora and facilitate their involvement in the country's development.

Lastly, most participants agree that promoting social cohesion is essential for the success of the country's recovery and reconstruction efforts. The diaspora can play a significant role in promoting social cohesion by bridging the gap between different communities. They suggest that the government should promote cultural exchange programs, community initiatives, and other social activities that promote unity and understanding.

In conclusion, they believe that the Somali diaspora has the potential to significantly contribute to the recovery and reconstruction of Somalia. By providing financial support, sharing their skills and expertise, and taking measures to enhance their role, the diaspora can play a crucial role in building a better future for the country. We call on the government to create a conducive environment for investment, establish training and mentorship programs, engage with the diaspora, and promote social cohesion to help facilitate the diaspora's involvement in the country's development.

Participants in the study were hopeful that the diaspora had a great role to play in helping to stabilize Somalia. A stable Somalia can peace builds in various ways such as through the transfer of skills and knowledge. Additionally, transfer of human resources through

different methods such as the establishment of NGOs. All through the years, the Somali diaspora has helped in the economic recovery of the fragile Somalia state through the transfer of remittances that contribute to Somalia's GDP.

4.1.1 Economic recovery

Participant P1 highlighted a crucial aspect of the Somali diaspora's contribution to the economic recovery of the country. As they said, "Their return to Somalia and active engagement in various business sectors has had a significant positive impact on the nation's economy. By establishing diverse businesses, such as cafes and shops, the diaspora community creates employment opportunities for the local population, particularly the youth, who often face challenges in finding jobs."

The participant further noted that "the diaspora's investment in the country's economy not only generates employment but also stimulates economic growth and development. As these businesses flourish, they contribute to increased consumer spending, tax revenues, and overall economic activity."

According to P1, "moreover, the influx of new ideas and entrepreneurial ventures from the diaspora injects innovation and dynamism into the local market, fostering an environment conducive to economic progress."

On the topic of remittances, P1 commented that "another crucial aspect of the diaspora's involvement in the economy is their role in remittances. Many members of the Somali diaspora regularly send money back home to support their families and communities. These remittances form a significant source of foreign exchange and contribute substantially to the livelihoods of countless households in Somalia. The inflow of remittances helps in addressing immediate financial needs, including education, healthcare, and daily living expenses, thus improving the overall well-being of the population".

To further enhance the diaspora's role in the economic recovery of the country, several measures can be implemented:

- ❖ **Investment Promotion:** The government and relevant authorities can create policies and initiatives that attract more diaspora investments. This could involve providing incentives, streamlining bureaucratic processes, and offering support services to encourage and facilitate investments in strategic sectors.
- ❖ **Capacity Building:** To maximize the impact of diaspora investments, targeted capacity-building programs can be developed to equip local entrepreneurs and businesses with skills and knowledge in areas such as management, marketing, and finance. This would help create a conducive business environment and enhance the effectiveness of the diaspora's contributions.
- ❖ **Networking and Collaboration:** Facilitating networking opportunities between the diaspora and local businesses or entrepreneurs can lead to fruitful collaborations, joint ventures, and knowledge-sharing. Such partnerships can foster innovation and technological transfer, propelling the nation's economic growth.
- ❖ **Financial Literacy Programs:** Providing financial literacy training to individuals and communities would empower them to make informed decisions about utilizing remittances and managing financial resources effectively, thus enhancing the long-term impact of remittances on socio-economic development.
- ❖ **Supporting Entrepreneurship:** The government can develop entrepreneurship support programs tailored to the needs of the diaspora community and local entrepreneurs. These initiatives may include access to funding, mentorship, and incubation services.

Participant P1 highlighted the invaluable role of the Somali diaspora in the economic recovery and reconstruction of Somalia. As they stated, "By investing in diverse business ventures and contributing to job creation, as well as through the crucial lifeline of

remittances, the diaspora community actively participates in driving the nation's economic growth."

The participant further noted that "Implementing measures that further enhance their involvement, such as investment promotion, capacity building, and networking, will undoubtedly accelerate the pace of recovery and lead to a brighter economic future for Somalia."

Regarding the role of mobile money transfers, Participant P2 emphasized that "the effective money transfer methods that do not rely on banks have enabled most brokers to move into the formal Somalia telecommunications industry. The Somalia telecommunication industry is vibrant and has numerous players. This market is mainly liberal private-led as with the nature of Somali markets and economy."

P2 noted that the term "mobile money service" refers to a technological financial system that enables users to complete various monetary transactions, such as sending and receiving funds, paying bills, and making purchases, all through the use of mobile phones. This participant's comment provided a description of how mobile money allows people to perform a range of financial activities remotely using only their mobile devices. They went on to say that "this mobile money service has been a lifesaver, particularly during times of drought when the country faced humanitarian crises. The system's innovation has had a profound impact on saving lives because it provided a quick and efficient way for people to help and donate money during emergencies."

According to P2, "the mobile money service not only benefited the users but also added value to the companies providing the service. The introduction of this innovation has encouraged companies to be more competitive and prompted them to come up with additional innovations."

Finally, citing data from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), P2 noted that "the use of mobile phone money transfer in Somalia has

been effective to help sustain the local economy. In separate instances such as during the 2017 famine, cash-based assistance was offered as a famine response."

4.1.2 Remittances

Remittances helps the country to be independent believes by one participant of the interview and he said "the money that immigrants sent to home not only help by daily and necessary things but it is also making the country reach independence because it reduces the foreign aid that people needed since they getting from their family, the amount of money that they receive is increasing year by year and it is making people survive without being the need of foreign independence.

Remittances to Somalia can help the country reduce its reliance on foreign aid and grants. According to data obtained from the official development assistance (ODA), Somalia received a total of US \$ 2 billion annually in 2017 and 2018. Further since 2009 to 2019, development aid from international organizations and western countries to Somalia steadily increased from \$US 202 million to \$US 874 million (Federal Government of Somalia, 2019).

Research shows that the Somali diaspora associate remittances as integral to their life. This is because the diaspora is politically, economically, and sentimentally tied to Somalia even years after settling and adapting to their destination countries. Remittances represent a lifeline for people living in Somali to alleviate poverty. In Somalia, urban households receive higher amounts of remittances and more regular transfers. Households in rural settings and pastoralists both receive lower amounts of remittances which are also irregular. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in settlements receive the lowest amounts among groups of people (Kleist and Abdi, 2019:28). Somali diaspora also participates actively in their origin country's affairs because they are still culturally tied to people living in their origin state according to (Kleist and Abdi, 2019:28).

Almost all of the respondents agreed that "remittances play a major role on the reconstruction and the recovery of Somalia." As one participant P5 said, "After the civil

war people lost almost everything. Most of the people could not get the basic needs of life, the only financial resources they could get was the money they were receiving from their families who lived abroad, as most of the respondents told that their families or themselves used to send money their families back home."

The participant P5 further noted that "people hit by poverty and remittances saved a lot of people in Somalia because the only money they were getting was the remittances they were receiving, when people lack basic needs they may lead to participated violence and crimes therefore the remittances have saved a lot from people, it helped to get basic needs of life such as get education and healthcare and so on , therefore diaspora never left alone their people and had an active role during all the times."

Other participants like P1, P3, and P7 argued that "Somalis has the one of the most diaspora population and they still tied to their origin family and relatives and there is no doubt that they gain a lot of remittance that can participate the economic growth of Somalia, a lot of families still receive money from their families and this money plays a big role of the country's GDP."

One participant P6 said that "remittances do not only alleviate poverty but right now it is effecting the economy positively by people being making investments of that money they get from migrants and it also helps grow small business."

Finally, a participant noted that "with Somali's diaspora estimated at between 1.5 to two million people, the country could immensely gain from the potential diaspora who can give remittances."

4.1.3 Investments

According to interviewees, diaspora-making investments back home has a great role in the development of the economy. Participant P5 said, "Diasporas are capable of contributing to economic development through making investments." Participant P8 said, "Diasporas came up with new business ideas that the society needed - some of them saw

that the market is not developed and they brought the developed style they saw in the countries they lived and started making business."

Most of the Somalis who left their country never wished that they would stay and live in the countries they immigrated to permanently, but a lot of them have the hope to go back to their country and start a new life in their home country. As one Somali diaspora returnee especially participant 6 told me, "I immigrated to England to seek a better life and look for economic opportunities. I lived there for a long time but during that period I was still hoping to go back and start a new life there. Years passed and finally I came home and started a business here. My business did not only help me but it contributed to the country. I hired a lot of people."

Although Diasporas are making investments and coming back to their home country, each has a different story that motivated them to invest in their country. One of them was telling me how he started, Participant P3 saying "I have always loved my origin country. I was very attached to Somalia. Whenever I came I enjoyed the environment, hence I needed to do something helpful to my country. My dream was to apply what I have learned and experienced in the developed countries to my native country and apply it there. I was successful in the country I used to live, but I wanted to take the challenge and try to make a difference in my home country and I believed I would be successful here too."

Despite the differences in what motivated them to come to their home country Somalia, the majority of them believed that they participated in the country's development through investments. They have added new ideas to the market through their investment process. A lot of youth have been hired which means they have created jobs for some hopeless youth, since Somalia has an overwhelming number of jobless youth.

4.1.4 Human Resources & Transfer of Skills

The Somali Civil War of 1999 led to the collapse of the Somali education system. For the years that followed education almost ceased to exist ((Kleist and Abdi, 2019:28).

Consequently, the generation that grew up in the 1990s lacks basic education. This scenario had increased illiteracy levels in Somalia. Consequently, although many international actors are involved in stabilizing Somalia through the provision of aid to help its governance institutions, the lack of personnel and skilled workers. The migration of Somalis in the 1990s and recent migration of the youth i.e., *Tahriib*, has left the country neither without professionals who can fill managerial positions nor any skilled workers. Consequently, development is seriously hindered and the governance in the country is disenfranchised from educated people hence a collapse in the provision of modern basic services. This phenomenon has dramatically increased inequality, anger, and frustration among the Somali population (Kleist and Abdi, 2019:28).

The Somali diaspora plays a significant role in contributing to their homeland, even if permanent return might not be feasible for some individuals. One avenue through which they can contribute is by providing human resources through programs like MIDA (Migration for Development in Africa). While permanent relocation might not be an option, diaspora members can engage in MIDA programs, which enable them to contribute their expertise and skills to support development efforts in Somalia.

Specifically, the MIDA FINNSOM programs have been instrumental in bolstering key sectors such as health and education in Somalia. These initiatives have harnessed the expertise of the Somali diaspora to address critical challenges and implement positive changes in these sectors, ultimately leading to improvements in healthcare services and educational opportunities within the country (Mohamoud, 2020:15).

The active engagement of the Somali diaspora through programs like MIDA showcases their commitment and willingness to make a meaningful impact on their homeland's development, even from a distance. By leveraging their skills and knowledge, diaspora members contribute to the progress and betterment of Somalia, reinforcing the importance of transnational partnerships in fostering growth and advancement.

Our interviewees emphasized that the diaspora are willing to help not only financially but to come back to the country and contribute their knowledge and benefit people, as well as

contribute to the ongoing process of reconstructing the country such as nation building and stabilization of Somalia. One of the participants told me "I moved to Somalia to work here but at the same time I take part in organizations or any other way to benefit the people."

All of the participants highlighted the transfer of skills and its importance to rebuilding the nation. Participant 3 said, "The lack of enough education after the collapse of the central government of Somalia meant the education system came to an end and the most educated people fled from the country. There was a gap of years where the country was not producing graduates or any educated people.

Therefore, the education system that came later is not effective and not giving youth enough needed skills. However, the diaspora are coming back to their home and transferring their knowledge to their people. Transfer of skills will help reduce migrations such as Tahriib. Additionally, the transfer of skills will equip the population with the knowledge that could help transform the community."

By collaborating with the government, the Somali diaspora can help supplement the understaffed, uncoordinated, and territorially limited foreign NGOs to try to impart skills to the community. Knowledge transfer is important because it impacts, restores, and improves the native skilled labor force. In the absence of a competent civil service, professional managers, doctors, nurses, and white-collar professions, Somalia risks inefficiency that would strain the provision of basic services.

4.2. Diaspora Contributions

In which ways the diaspora can effectively to contribute to development?

Most of the respondents specially Participants P5, P6 and P9 believed that in order to achieve rebuilding the country, it is inevitable to have participation from its entire people, especially the diaspora. Participant 9 stated: "The respondents believed the diaspora can take part in a major role in the development of Somalia. Africa Union's Agenda 2063 is premised on the realization that the African continent will only develop when all its peoples are involved (Africa Union, 2015)."

The diaspora can effectively contribute to the development of their home country in various impactful ways. Through our experiences and connections abroad, we possess unique skills, resources, and knowledge that can be harnessed for the betterment of our homeland. As diaspora members, we play a critical role in driving positive change and progress in the following key ways:

- ❖ **Investment and Entrepreneurship:** Many of us have found success in our adopted countries, and we can leverage this by investing in businesses and startups back home. By channeling financial resources into local enterprises, we not only create jobs and stimulate economic growth but also foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.
- ❖ **Knowledge and Expertise Transfer:** Our experiences abroad have equipped us with valuable knowledge and expertise in various fields. Through partnerships, collaborations, and capacity-building initiatives, we can transfer this know-how to local institutions, enhancing their capabilities and promoting sustainable development in areas like education, healthcare, and technology.
- ❖ **Supporting Infrastructure Development:** Our engagement in infrastructure projects can have a transformative impact on our home country. By participating in initiatives related to transportation, energy, and communications, we can

improve connectivity and create a conducive environment for further development.

- ❖ **Remittances and Social Investments:** Remittances continue to be a lifeline for many families in our homeland. By responsibly sending financial support to our loved ones, we alleviate poverty, improve access to education, and enhance overall living standards.
- ❖ **Promoting Cultural Exchange:** Our cultural ties remain strong despite being far from home. By promoting cultural exchange and fostering connections between our adopted countries and our homeland, we can build bridges of understanding, which can lead to increased collaboration and trade opportunities.
- ❖ **Advocacy and Diplomacy:** As members of the diaspora, we have a unique position to advocate for our homeland's interests on the global stage. By engaging in diplomatic efforts, lobbying for policy changes, and fostering international partnerships, we can amplify the voice of our nation and secure support for development initiatives.
- ❖ **Volunteering and Philanthropy:** Giving back through volunteer work and philanthropy initiatives is another powerful way we can contribute. By supporting local NGOs and community-based projects, we can address pressing social issues and uplift vulnerable populations.
- ❖ **Mentorship and Skills Development:** As experienced professionals, we can offer mentorship and skills development programs to empower the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs in our home country, nurturing a pipeline of talent that can drive sustained development.

In conclusion, the diaspora's effective contributions to development stem from a collective commitment to uplifting our homeland. By strategically leveraging our financial resources, expertise, cultural ties, and global networks, we can make a tangible and lasting impact on the progress and prosperity of our home country. Our involvement, combined with collaboration with local stakeholders, government, and international partners, can forge a path toward a brighter and more sustainable future for all.

4.2.1. Diaspora Organizations & Networks: Making diaspora alliances

The idea of forming diaspora alliances to take part in the development of Somalia was a recurring theme among several respondents. They emphasized the urgent need for such alliances, given the diverse range of problems the country faces, which require concerted efforts and significant financial backing for sustainable development. Somalia boasts a sizable diaspora community, and if they were to unite and form alliances, they could collectively make a transformative difference far greater than individual efforts.

The respondents P3 and P6 highlighted the potential power of diaspora alliances to mobilize resources and finance various development projects in Somalia. By pooling their financial contributions and expertise, diaspora members could tackle critical issues in sectors like education, healthcare, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship. Collaborating through alliances would enable them to identify priority areas and strategically allocate resources, maximizing their impact.

Furthermore, the creation of diaspora alliances would address a significant concern for many Somali diaspora members who are uncertain about investing in their home country. The existence of well-organized alliances would instill confidence among diaspora investors as they witness the positive impacts made by their peers. Seeing tangible results from the joint efforts of diaspora alliances would attract more members of the diaspora community to actively participate in development initiatives.

The potential for knowledge exchange and idea sharing within these alliances is also vital. Aspiring entrepreneurs within the diaspora who wish to start businesses in Somalia could benefit greatly from the collective experience and guidance offered by others who have already embarked on similar journeys. This mutual support system would foster innovation and creativity, leading to the development of diverse projects in sectors where they are most needed.

Moreover, diaspora alliances would create a network of like-minded individuals with a shared sense of purpose and cultural ties. The sense of belonging and solidarity within

these alliances would strengthen the diaspora's commitment to contributing meaningfully to the development of their homeland. It would also serve as a platform for engaging with local communities and authorities, allowing for fruitful partnerships and collaboration on development projects.

In conclusion, the idea of forming diaspora alliances holds immense potential for making a lasting impact on the development of Somalia. By uniting their efforts and resources, diaspora members can overcome challenges and address critical needs more effectively than individual endeavors. The establishment of such alliances would not only attract more diaspora members to invest in the country but also foster a supportive environment where ideas are exchanged, projects are nurtured, and collective progress is achieved. With diaspora alliances in place, Somalia can harness the full potential of its diaspora community to drive sustainable development and positively transform the nation's future.

4.2.2. Changing young people's perspective

Most of the respondents believes that that young people are seeking better life in overseas while risking their life and it costs them to death as one of the respondents said we lose a lot of young generation every year that are looking better life than home among these youth there are very talented educated and skilled youth, losing them is a damage to the country because most of population of the country make up by youth and they are the back born of the society if we keep losing these people it means we are losing the young generation who would be part of the development of the country , therefore diaspora should change the perception of people back home that believe life is better in abroad or western and they have to encourage young people that they can make life while in their motherland and not necessarily immigrate from while risking their life.

On the other hand another respondents believes that to change the narratives of seeking better life in western countries as one of them said I see Somalia as my dream country and I look my motherland as a place I can live with my dreams and I can make a better life here, while these young people who are immigrating from home and dying at the seas and they look the western countries as the aspiration to live therefore, as diasporas who have

lived those countries that young people are wishing to move, we have the opportunity to tell our experiences there and encourage people at home and change their perspective to be able to see what their country can also be. These countries are not ours since at the end of the day we will surely go back to our country why not start making life here instead of losing our time and lives going far countries said by one of the interviewees.

4.4. Challenges to Diaspora Contributions

What are the opportunities and the challenges ahead in order to be part of nation-building?

Being part of nation-building in Somalia presents both opportunities and challenges for the diaspora. Most respondents outlined some of the opportunities and challenges ahead for the diaspora to be part of nation-building in Somalia.

Opportunities:

- ❖ **Investment Opportunities:** Somalia presents many investment opportunities for the diaspora, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and renewable energy. By investing in these sectors, the diaspora can help create jobs and stimulate economic growth.
- ❖ **Knowledge and Skills Transfer:** Members of the diaspora have valuable knowledge and skills that can be transferred to local communities. This can help to build capacity and improve the country's healthcare, education, and economic systems.
- ❖ **Political Engagement:** They can use their voice and influence to advocate for policy changes that can support the country's development.
- ❖ **Social Cohesion:** The diaspora can play a vital role in promoting social cohesion in the country through cultural exchange programs, community initiatives, and other social activities that promote unity and understanding.

Challenges:

- ❖ **Security Concerns:** Somalia is still grappling with security challenges, including terrorism and violent conflict. This can deter some members of the diaspora from investing in the country and engaging in nation-building efforts.
- ❖ **Infrastructure Deficit:** Somalia's infrastructure is still underdeveloped, which can hinder the country's economic growth and development. This can make it challenging for the diaspora to invest in the country and contribute to its development.
- ❖ **Limited Access to Financial Services:** Many Somalis in the diaspora face challenges when it comes to accessing financial services in Somalia. This can make it difficult for them to invest in the country and support the development of local businesses.
- ❖ **Political Instability:** Somalia has experienced political instability over the years, which can make it challenging for the diaspora to engage in political processes and contribute to policy development.

In conclusion, being part of nation-building in Somalia presents both opportunities and challenges for the diaspora. While there are many opportunities for the diaspora to contribute to the country's development, there are also many challenges that must be overcome. We call on the government and other stakeholders to create an enabling environment for the diaspora's participation in the country's development. This can include addressing security concerns, improving infrastructure, and creating an inclusive political environment. By working together, we can build a better future for Somalia.

Based on response lack of resources, people's mentality in Somalia, weak and unsupportive bureaucratic government institutions and unskilled labor was taken as the challenges and opportunities that Somali Diasporas face.

4.4.1. Lack of resources

Participant P3 highlighted the lack of resources faced by returnees when attempting to contribute to the development of Somalia. According to Participant 3, returnees are eager to invest in businesses, share their skills and knowledge, and engage in research and academic activities. However, the lack of accurate data and information poses a hindrance to their efforts.

Participant P3 specifically pointed out the challenge of lacking micro-level data. Without accurate data, returnees find it difficult to make informed decisions regarding investment opportunities and sector prioritization. This hinders their ability to identify potential risks and rewards associated with specific sectors.

Furthermore, Participant P3 emphasized that the absence of accurate data also hampers the formulation of effective policies by the diaspora. Without access to accurate data, policymakers struggle to develop policies that address the specific needs and challenges of the country, potentially leading to ineffective policy frameworks.

The lack of accurate data additionally affects the diaspora's involvement in knowledge transfer, academics, and research. Participant 3 mentioned that returnees rely on reference data to understand the requirements for their work, but the lack of accurate data often necessitates costly trips to Somalia for investigations.

To address this challenge, Participant P3 recommended that the government and other stakeholders prioritize the collection and dissemination of accurate data. This can be achieved through surveys, research initiatives, and the establishment of a database or portal where the diaspora can access information on investment opportunities, policy frameworks, and other relevant data.

In conclusion, Participant P3 underscored the significance of accurate data as a crucial resource for returnees seeking to contribute to the development of Somalia. They urged the government and other stakeholders to prioritize data collection and dissemination

efforts to enable informed decision-making by the diaspora and facilitate their meaningful contributions to the country's development.

4.4.2. People's mentality in Somalia

Participant P6 highlighted the challenge posed by the mentality of the local people in Somalia towards diaspora returnees who are striving to invest and establish new businesses in the country. According to Participant P6, this challenge becomes particularly apparent when returnees introduce unfamiliar products or services to the market or encounter negative propaganda and resistance from the local community.

Participant P6 identified the lack of trust as a key reason behind this challenge. They noted that many local people may be skeptical of the diaspora's intentions and may not trust their products or services. Consequently, the local population might hesitate to embrace new offerings brought forth by the diaspora returnees.

Moreover, Participant P6 mentioned that the local people may lack familiarity with the products or services introduced by the diaspora, making it difficult for the returnees to gain market share. This becomes especially challenging when the returnees bring in innovative products or services that are novel to the local population.

Additionally, Participant P6 pointed out that negative propaganda or rumors circulated by the local people can further impede the establishment of successful businesses by diaspora returnees. This obstacle is particularly pronounced for returnees who are attempting to establish new businesses without an established reputation in the local market.

To address this challenge, Participant P6 suggested that diaspora returnees must focus on establishing trust and building a positive reputation within the local community. They proposed various strategies for achieving this, such as engaging with the local community, forming partnerships with local businesses, and implementing effective marketing strategies. Participant P6 also recommended collaborating with local organizations and community leaders to promote their business and cultivate a favorable reputation among the community.

In summary, Participant P6 emphasized that the mentality of the local people in Somalia can present a significant challenge for diaspora returnees seeking to invest and establish new businesses. They emphasized the importance of building trust and a positive reputation within the local market through community engagement, partnerships, and effective marketing. By implementing these strategies, diaspora returnees can overcome the challenge posed by the local mentality and successfully establish businesses in Somalia.

4.4.3. Weak and unsupportive bureaucratic government institutions

Participant P7 highlights that the lack of government support and bureaucratic challenges are significant obstacles that diaspora entrepreneurs face when trying to start businesses in Somalia. Many returnees who have lived in places with more flexible and easy systems face difficulties in navigating the Somali system and bureaucracy, which can be discouraging.

Participant P7 added that one of the main challenges is the lack of support from the government. Many returnees feel that the government does not provide the necessary support to help them start and grow their businesses. This can include regulatory barriers, lack of access to funding, and limited access to information and resources.

Furthermore, Participant P7 states that the bureaucratic challenges can make it difficult for diaspora entrepreneurs to start businesses in Somalia. The bureaucratic process can be slow, complex, and confusing, which can delay the start of business activities and increase costs. This can be particularly challenging for returnees who are used to more flexible and efficient systems.

Moreover, bribery, corruption, and extortion by corrupt public officials are deeply rooted in all institutions that provide support from government officials. This can make it challenging for diaspora entrepreneurs to navigate the system and obtain the necessary permits, licenses, and approvals. Many entrepreneurs feel that paying bribes and extortion money is not a sustainable solution and can increase the costs of doing business.

Participant P7 to address these challenges, the government needs to provide more support to diaspora entrepreneurs. This can include creating an enabling environment that encourages entrepreneurship, developing policies and regulations that are favorable to small businesses, and providing access to funding and resources. The government also needs to streamline the bureaucratic process and reduce the time and costs associated with starting and running a business.

Moreover, the government needs to tackle corruption and bribery in all institutions that provide support to entrepreneurs. This can be achieved through promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. The government should also establish mechanisms for reporting corruption and provide protection to whistleblowers.

In conclusion, the lack of government support and bureaucratic challenges, as well as bribery and corruption, are significant obstacles that diaspora entrepreneurs face when trying to start businesses in Somalia.

To overcome these challenges and encourage entrepreneurship, the government needs to provide more support to entrepreneurs, streamline the bureaucratic process, and tackle corruption and bribery in all institutions that provide support to entrepreneurs. By working together, we can create an enabling environment for diaspora entrepreneurs to start and grow successful businesses in Somalia.

4.4.4. Unskilled labour

Participant P5 expressed their views on the challenges faced by diaspora entrepreneurs when hiring local workers in Somalia. They highlighted the workers' qualifications and work ethic as the main concerns. According to Participant 5, the workers were often found to be unqualified for the job, requiring entrepreneurs to invest time and resources in teaching and mentoring them.

Furthermore, poor work ethic was identified as a significant problem. Participant P5 pointed out that the lack of formal time management policies in institutions resulted in workers being unwilling to perform their jobs and adhere to their schedules. The relaxed policies and rules pertaining to employees further affected productivity and the competitiveness of businesses.

To address these challenges, Participant P5 emphasized the need for entrepreneurs to invest in training and mentorship programs aimed at improving the skills and work ethic of local workers. They believed that such initiatives could enhance productivity, competitiveness, and create employment opportunities for the local workforce. Additionally, Participant P5 suggested collaborating with local institutions and the government to develop formal time management policies that would contribute to improving the work ethic of local workers.

Despite the challenges, Participant P5 acknowledged the opportunities available to diaspora entrepreneurs in Somalia. They expressed the desire to live in Somalia, enjoy its fresh air, and ensure their children learn about the country's culture and heritage. Despite the obstacles, these entrepreneurs were determined to establish a conducive environment that supports their aspirations. They were actively investing in businesses, creating job opportunities, and contributing to the overall development of the country.

In summary, Participant P5 highlighted the challenges faced by diaspora entrepreneurs when hiring local workers in Somalia, particularly concerning qualifications and work ethic. However, they proposed solutions such as training programs and mentorship initiatives to improve the skills and work ethic of the local workforce, ultimately benefiting the businesses' productivity and competitiveness. Furthermore, Participant 5 acknowledged the existing opportunities in Somalia, and the efforts of entrepreneurs to create a supportive environment for their dreams and contribute to the country's development.

4.5. Government's role in Diaspora Engagement

How can the government of Somalia give attention to the unexploited potentials and roles that the diaspora could play in the developmental efforts of the country?

According to the annual reports from the Somalia government in 2019 states that the Somali government's current limitations do not hinder the potential for diaspora engagement in the country's development. While the government's strength may be a concern, participants agree that it can still play a vital role in facilitating diaspora involvement by creating an enabling environment and removing obstacles.

Historically, the diaspora has actively participated in supporting Somalia during civil wars, with the clan system serving as a means of connection to the country and its people. However, as the majority of participants believe, the time has come for Somalia to evolve beyond solely relying on the clan system and embrace a more inclusive and broad-based approach to governance. By encouraging the diaspora to return home, the government can harness their skills, expertise, and resources to contribute significantly to ongoing development efforts

Participant P7 highlighted the importance of creating platforms for the diaspora in Somalia. According to Participant 7, these platforms would provide an opportunity for the diaspora to initiate ideas and contribute their opinions towards the country's development. They emphasized that Somali communities are dispersed across different parts of the world, and every Somali living abroad desires a place where they can connect with other diaspora members who are willing to make a positive impact on their home country.

Participant P7 suggested that the government should play a role in engaging the diaspora and creating processes that reduce the costs of emigration and mitigate brain drain. They pointed out that emigration from third-world countries often leads to a loss of skilled individuals and a decline in the quality of the workforce. To address this, Participant P7 proposed that the diaspora could actively participate in the development processes by returning to Somalia temporarily or through virtual conferences. This way, academic

expatriates and professionals can share the knowledge they have acquired and contribute to improving the skill set of Somali citizens.

Additionally, Participant P7 emphasized the importance of collaborations to enhance tertiary education in Somalia. Education, according to Participant P7, is crucial for developing the professional and technical skills base of the Somali community.

In summary, Participant P7 emphasized the need for the government to create platforms for the diaspora in Somalia to allow them to contribute their ideas and opinions towards the country's development. The participant proposed that the diaspora can contribute by temporarily returning to Somalia or participating in virtual conferences to share their knowledge. Furthermore, collaborations to improve tertiary education were seen as essential for the development of professional and technical skills within the Somali community.

4.6. Lessons to Learn about this study: Other Countries

Are there any lessons that can be learned from the other countries that gave platforms and benefitted from their diaspora?

Majority of the countries has diaspora but there are certain countries that their origin countries gave opportunities and diaspora engagements to make easy for them to support and take part of the growth, countries understand that the importance of diaspora because they have lived developed countries and learnt a lot from there, there are educated people with skills and are successful therefore some countries are not willing to lose those assets but instead they gave opportunities.

During the interview participants have shared some countries that they admired how they engaged with their diaspora such countries include Mexico; the government of Mexico has a very inclusive approach to its diaspora, with a commitment to diaspora engagement patent in a variety of official efforts, including laws, norms and institutions. Mexico has come up with ideas that encouraging people to return their home country such as build your country.

Another example was taken as Kenya and Rwanda, by starting of Kenya has diaspora engagements, Kenya understood the significance of their diaspora play on national development therefore the government made platforms for diaspora bonds, they made mobile based bond which individuals can register, the launch of this app was not only beneficial for the country but also the Kenyan government made money of it, Rwanda is also another good example which they engage their diaspora in way of making platforms where they call diasporas for participating Rwandan development and reconstructions.

Majority of participants suggested that we can learn from these countries and the government can engage with their diaspora, they have also stated during the Somali civil war clan system was very active and was working as a government that was engaging with their diaspora but instead now we have a government and can make all these efforts which is much more beneficial than the clan system, participants suggested that Somalia's government can engage its diaspora in developing processes by returning to their origin country and imparting knowledge acquired to improve communities. By temporarily returning to their country of origin or through virtual conferences, academic expatriates and professionals can help improve the skill set of Somali citizens.

Countries that are more developed than Somalia have understood how crucial is to keep the diaspora and make policies for them in order to participate the growth of their country, what is keeping from Somalia to make bigger platforms and show inclusiveness in a very active way participants have emphasized that it is crucial and inevitable to consider and the government should add their priorities. Somalia is in need of support from different parties of their diaspora so that we can all reach the prosperous we are looking for.

4.7. General Discussion on Participants Responses

The Somali diaspora plays a crucial role in the recovery and reconstruction of Somalia through various contributions. Nearly all participants agreed on this and highlighted several ways in which the diaspora contributes, including financial support, skills transfer, knowledge sharing, business investments, and promoting social cohesion. Remittances

sent by the diaspora form a significant source of foreign exchange that supports livelihoods and boosts economic growth in Somalia (Participant P1, P5, P6, and P7).

Participants concurred that the diaspora has valuable skills and expertise gained abroad, which can be transferred to various sectors in Somalia through training programs, mentorship, and skills sharing initiatives. This knowledge transfer is important for rebuilding critical infrastructure, developing the economy and workforce, and improving sectors like healthcare, education, and technology (Participant P3, P4, and P7)

As business entrepreneurs and investors, the diaspora plays a key role in job creation, stimulating economic growth, and injecting innovation and dynamism into local markets through new business ventures and ideas (Participant P1, P5, P8; Horst C., 2010). Their networks abroad also help attract more investment and promote trade opportunities for Somalia (Participant P4, P5).

Challenges faced by the diaspora in effectively contributing include lack of accurate data for informed decision making, distrust from local communities, bureaucratic barriers, lack of government support, and poor workforce skills/ethics in Somalia (Participant P3, P6, P7, and P5).

Solutions proposed were establishing diaspora alliances, platforms for stakeholder collaboration, improving education systems, providing business support services and mentorship, enhancing data collection efforts, addressing bureaucratic challenges and corruption (Participant P3, P6, P7, P5, P2; Maimbo, S. M., 2006).

Many participants expressed a strong desire to reconnect with Somalia and help develop their homeland (P3, P5). Cultural affiliation remains an asset, with diaspora acting as cultural ambassadors and playing an advocacy role internationally on Somalia's interests (P4, P7, and P9). Facilitating temporary skills transfer programs allows academic expatriates to maintain ties while contributing specialized knowledge (P7).

While eager to contribute, the diaspora faces on-ground challenges like navigating an unfamiliar business environment and local distrust of newcomers (P6, P7). Returnees

must invest effort in building community trust and understanding local customs to succeed (P6). Lack of reliable data hampers informed planning while bureaucratic delays drive up costs (P3, P7). Corruption remains pervasive, requiring reforms to support transparent governance (P7).

Overall, participants believed the diaspora has immense potential to accelerate Somalia's recovery through strategic involvement if key challenges are addressed. The government has an important role to play in facilitating diaspora contributions by creating an enabling environment and supporting initiatives like skills transfer and entrepreneurship (Participant P5, P7, and P9; Cassarino, 2004). With collaborative efforts, Somalia can better leverage its diaspora assets to achieve sustainable development goals.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion of the research project and provides recommendations to the role of Somali diaspora on nation building, the researcher also put on spotlight to suggested area of further research; the suggested areas will give opportunity to the other researchers to fulfill of the missing gap of the main studies.

The aim of this research was to look at the ambiguous concept of how Diasporas can participate nation building, enduring the civil war when Somalia lacked any kind of government and institutions diaspora was the back born of a lot of Somalis, diaspora also play a vital part in strengthening economic ties between their adoptive country and their native country. They aid in boosting cash flows and trade between the various countries through direct investment and remittances. More over the purpose of this study was to understand in the ways diaspora can contribute to the development, To discover the opportunities and the challenges ahead in order to be part of nation-building, how can the government of Somalia give attention to the unexploited potentials and roles that the diaspora could play in the developmental efforts of the country to discover if there Are there any lessons that can be learned from the other countries that gave platforms and benefitted from their diaspora,

The research came to know that diaspora contributes to their country through remittances, through transfer of skills, economic recovery and investments. According to study diaspora has huge impact on economic development of the country, they have contributed to their knowledge and skills, and they make investments they come up with business ideas, although the diaspora contributed to the development yet they faces some challenges such as less support from the government however the diaspora had motive and are hopeful to live their origin country, they are making big impacts which can be legacy for tomorrows generation.

The research investigated the opportunities and challenges ahead for the Somali returnees that are coming to the country and how other countries value their diasporas and giving

opportunities to encourage them to come back home and make a differences for both themselves and for the country.

The study employed a qualitative method approach, employing key in-depth interviews and a semi-structured questionnaire. The study's data is being gathered from both primary and secondary sources. The primary source was based on purposive sampling semi-structured face-to-face Key Informant interviews with related participants, whereas the Secondary sources will include research reports, books, and academic articles published in international journals, as well as additional sources.

Finally, Somalia is underdeveloped country with weak government therefore it is unnecessary to find different help form it is all people including those live outside of the country.

The study intended to investigate of how Diasporas can participate on nation building during the investigation the study finds out and makes make the appropriate recommendations based on the generalization of the study's findings.

- The government of Somalia can work with its diaspora to create procedures that lower the expenses of emigration and lessen brain drain. Third-world emigration causes a noticeable drop in worker quality and brain drain. The diaspora could take part in development processes by returning to their home countries and sharing information obtained to better communities in order to reduce brain drain and rising emigration. Academic and professional expatriates can assist Somali residents in developing their skill sets by temporarily returning to their home countries or by participating in virtual conferences. Collaborations aimed at enhancing tertiary education should also aid in development. The effectiveness and accessibility of universities and other professional academic training programs may be improved by this collaboration. Education is essential to the development of the professional.
- The Somali government could encourage diaspora engagement in national economic development by utilizing the "Five Ts" framework: tourism,

transportation, telecommunications, trade, and transmitting monetary remittances. Additionally, the government could promote foreign direct investment more broadly by streamlining bureaucratic processes, ensuring deal security, enhancing commercial climates, and generating new prospects for business involvement. Focusing policy around both diaspora investment and general foreign capital inflows via strategic improvements could foster economic growth and opportunity.

- Government should take advantage of the motivation of the diaspora, most of them are willing to live their origin country Somalia, those that made investments will be example to the rest, if the government gives welcoming environment the will be door to the rest that are unsure to come their country and participate the development.
- There should be platforms for diaspora these are effective ways to further develop the capacities of institutions and diaspora organizations dealing with diaspora engagement.

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APPENDIX A: CV

Hafsa Hatun's holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the City University of Mogadishu. She is holding certificates in both Turkish and English language proficiency. In 2016, Hafsa Hatun served as an Assistant in the Office of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. They were responsible for preparing and developing policies aimed at promoting cooperation in economic, technical, and scientific programs at both regional and global levels. In 2017, Hafsa Hatun worked as an Assistant in the Office of Examination and Certification at the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education of Somalia. Their responsibilities included carrying out departmental assignments, overseeing the monitoring and evaluation systems for examination projects, and analyzing examination results to devise strategies for improvement. They also played a role in developing annual work plans and measurable performance indicators, in addition to preparing various program reports. Hafsa Hatun is serving as the Head of the Planning Section at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change since 2022; she plays a pivotal role in project design, proposal development, and the formulation of strategic initiatives. They have also been instrumental in creating guidelines for monitoring and evaluating programs and projects within the Ministry.