An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense, green forested mountain landscape. The road is light gray and contrasts with the dark green trees. The terrain is hilly and rugged, with some rocky outcrops visible. The overall scene is serene and scenic.

The role of the Moroccan diaspora in the cooperation between France and Morocco.

**Identities, Territories, Actors:
challenges and opportunities for
cooperation ?**

01

02

THEORY

- The notion of diaspora
- The paradoxical nature of migration in the development of the country of origin
- The Moroccan diaspora
- Historical timeline
- The reasons why there are Moroccan living in France
- The economical contribution of the diaspora to the development
- The diaspora's contribution to development assistance
- The challenges of cooperation

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

- The FORIM
- Migration & Development Association
- Community of Solidarity Development (CDS) project
- ASDSSI Project example

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A landscape photograph showing a river winding through a canyon. The canyon walls are made of reddish-brown rock with visible vertical fissures. The river is a muddy yellow color. The foreground and middle ground are filled with green grass and small trees. The sky is blue with white and grey clouds. A semi-transparent grey rectangle is overlaid on the top left of the image.

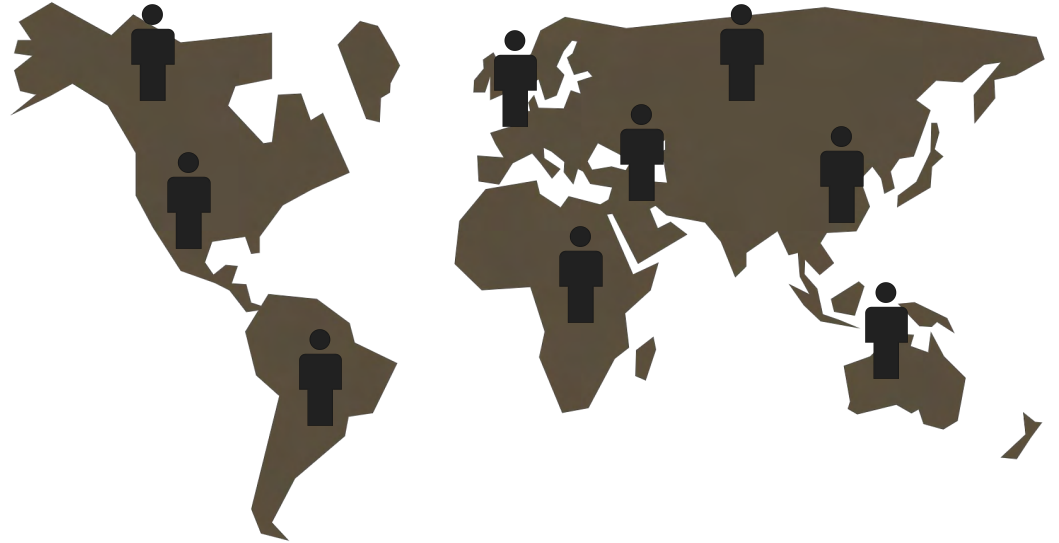
THEORY

01

THE NOTION OF DIASPORA

➤ Origin: greek *sporo* meaning ⇒ seed

➤ **Diaspora:**
Migrant national communities interacting with each other and with the country of origin



THE PARADOXICAL NATURE OF MIGRATION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Brain drain : losses caused by highly skilled nationals departure (cost of their training, less cotisations, etc.). ⇒ deprives these countries of people capable of ensuring their development

The number of university graduates among Moroccans residing abroad is twice that of the local graduate population.

Economic gain : Moroccan graduates living abroad send money back to their home regions = contributes to the Moroccan economy.
⇒ Remittances



THREATS



OPPORTUNITIES

755,400

Number of Moroccans
living in France in 2019

18,5%

Share of Moroccans in France's
total immigrated population

5,000,000

Number of Moroccans
living abroad

THE MOROCCAN DIASPORA IN FRANCE

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1950s - 1960s

France negotiates with Maghreb countries a large number of granted visas for workers in order to rebuild the country after WWII

1975 - 1990

Contrary to the expectations, the Moroccan population in France doesn't decrease and instead, more than doubles : from 260,000 in 1975 to 572,000 in 1992

World War II

Moroccans are pushed to emigrate in France by colonial authorities in order to provide soldiers

1974

France highly reduces the number of labour visas granted
Family reunion is allowed only if the members of the family to emigrate waive finding a job once in France

Since then

The population of Moroccans living in France decreased, due to the naturalization of many of them. Nowadays, there are around 20,000 admissions of Moroccans in France per year.

WHY DO MOROCCANS LIVE IN FRANCE ?

FRANCO-MOROCCAN RELATION

According to historical sources, the first Moroccan embassy installed in France was in the time of the Idrisid dynasty, and the embassy was located **at the palace of Charlemagne**. Current relations between France and Morocco have generally been very friendly since the Independence.

COLONIAL HISTORY

Cultural and historical links remain substantial between Morocco and France.

LABOR MARKET

Poverty and absence of social mobility are the main factors of emigration. Despite an improvement in recent decades, Morocco's level of development (HDI 0.686 in 2019) remains **below the world average**. In addition, **unemployment** is very high among young Moroccans.

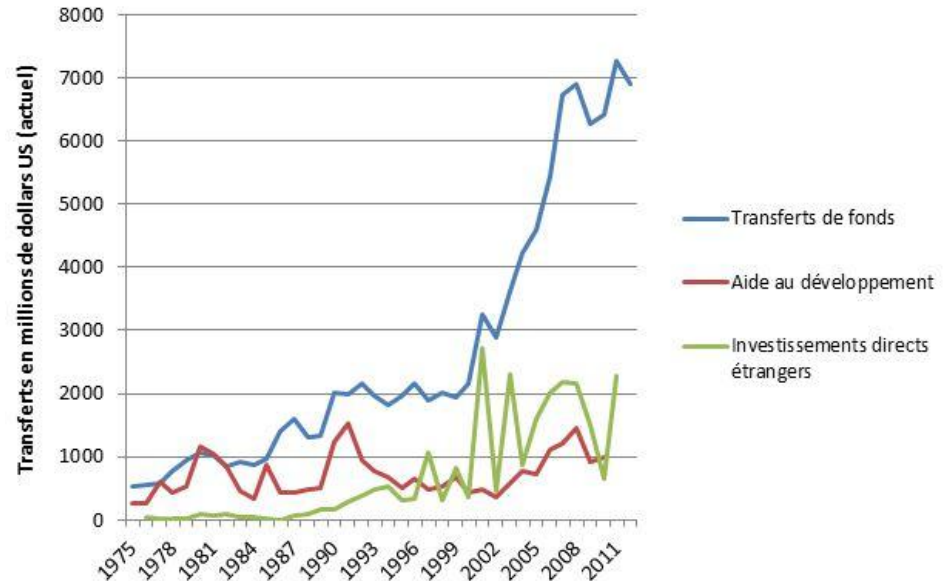
STUDIES

Moroccans are the first student community in France :

- Geographic proximity
- La Francophonie
- Moroccan support networks in France
- Scholarships in the frame of bilateral agreements
- Partnerships between universities

THE ECONOMICAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE DIASPORA TO THE DEVELOPMENT

- Emigrants spend their savings made in France when back in Morocco
- They transfer a share of their salary to their family back home (remittances)
- They invest directly in Morocco
- They facilitate investments of other nationalities in Morocco



1. Remittances
2. Development aid
3. Foreign direct investments (FDI)

THE DIASPORA'S CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITIES AGENDA

- Infrastructure
 - Gender equality
 - Education
 - Support for income-generating activities
- Complementary with actions carried out by public authorities and international donors.

ASSOCIATIVE NETWORKS

- Associations create formal intermediaries for the implementation of altruistic projects
- Transnational partnership
- “Local-local” relations

SOFT POWER

- International influence ⇒ attractiveness of the territory for investors
- Parallel diplomacy in favour of home country interests

THE CHALLENGES OF COOPERATION

Ensuring the
autonomy of
locals

Maintaining
a balanced collaboration (a
symmetric relation)



Impacts on
cooperation of
new
generational
profiles in the
Moroccan
community

Considering the
importance of
rural
development

Emergence of
clientelism
(conflict of
interests,
corruption,...)

Interference in
internal affairs
can be poorly
viewed by
locals



PRACTICAL ASPECTS

02

THE FORIM

The *Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations** is a national platform gathering 700 International Solidarity Organizations of Migrant background.

Willingness to

- promote the integration of migrant populations,
- highlight the positive aspects of **dual affiliation**,
- reinforce exchanges between France and countries of origin,
- contribute to the **development of the home regions**



*Forum of International Solidarity Organizations of Migrant background

Amongst the FORIM's organizations we can find:

MIGRATION & DEVELOPPEMENT



partir, rester, revenir,
faire de la MIGRATION
un atout pour les territoires,
ici et là-bas

Created in 1986 by moroccan migrants to to carry out development actions in the villages of their region of origin, the Moroccan Atlas and Anti-Atlas

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Promote the strengthening of rural civil society in southern Morocco by building on the mobilization of migrants in Europe,
- Promote the sustainable socio-economic development of the most marginal areas of the High Atlas and Anti-Atlas mountains,

THREE PRINCIPLES OF ACTION



PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

The villagers and the migrants together form a 'Village Association' which defines the priorities and develop their institutions for managing the collective facilities created. M&D transfers the necessary skills and ensures the training of the villagers.

PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

M&D's role is to support the actions of villagers and migrants, and to articulate them with those of the Administration. Eventually, M&D's objective is to withdraw in order to leave its place to the State.

PRINCIPLE OF SOLIDARITY

Collective services are paid for but access to these services is ensured for all villagers, including those who are not solvent, through formal mutual aid systems that mobilize traditions of solidarity.

LASTING RESULTS:

The infrastructures built with the support of M&D remain in good working order since their creation, The institutions created (dispensaries, schools) survive after the initial support of the NGO.

CHRONOLOGY OF “M&D” ACTIONS :

- ➔ **1990s:** support for village infrastructures (electrification, drinking water supply, schools and dispensaries, irrigation, etc.)
- ➔ **2000s:** actions extended to local economic activities (support for the creation of cooperatives, creation of local tourism)
- ➔ **Today:** action oriented towards local governance: structuring local civil society by creating spaces for consultation

➤ Gradual shift from activities oriented towards the joint management of infrastructures to more intangible activities taking into account the empowerment of the territory's actors.

In this perspective, M&D has launched a project to create a **Community of Solidarity Development** (CDS), carried out with the support of the Swiss Cooperation in the framework of the Global Migration and Development Programme. Elaborated by **Aouatif El Fakir**, member of the Moroccan diaspora, this project is a continuation of the efforts made in the **consolidation of the links between the diaspora and its territory of origin.**

SOLIDARITY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SDC) PROJECT

The overall objective of the project : create "interactive learning spaces" that will allow actors to generate, exchange and use the resources necessary to meet the needs of the territory ; but also to improve the capacity of actors to solve their problems.

- Specific objectives :**
- Strengthen the links between the territories, local actors and their diaspora, especially in Europe;
 - To create a computer platform to support these exchanges of resources in order to find ways of linking the diaspora and Morocco;
 - To allow the diaspora to have a field of action and to develop its role as a development actor in the framework of international solidarity;
 - To allow projects to mature thanks to the setting up of competent communal development agents ;



ACTIONS

ON THE MOROCCAN TERRITORY :

Signature of partnership agreements between M&D and the associated municipalities in order to work on governance and the involvement of migrants in local development.

WITH THE DIASPORA :

Accompanying migrants and their descendants so that they reconnect with their territory of origin around development projects : meeting between people from the same region, accompanying the structuring of associations for the development of their territory, meeting with the presidents of the Communes...

IN THE VIRTUAL SPACE :

Creation of an internet platform that will facilitate exchanges between actors in a territorial development logic.

Example 2 of diaspora
involvement in Morocco:

ASDSSI ASSOCIATION

ASDSSI -> Action Solidarité Développement Sanitaire et Social d'Idergane*

- ❖ Created in 2010 in Lyon by a **Moroccan woman**, Saadia Anni, a nurse living in France and **originally from the village of Idergane** (in the Province of Taroudant)
- ❖ She wanted to build a **health and social centre** in the village, which was inaugurated in 2013 thanks to the partnership between Moroccan and French administrations.
- ❖ The partnership with French organisations and associations made it possible to provide **equipment** including an ambulance.

➤ The centre carries out actions in the field of **health** with the intervention of Moroccan and French doctors (prevention, education, campaign).

➤ It also works in the field of **education** and training.



*Solidarity Action Social & Sanitary
Development of Idergane



Funds also come from the various activities carried out in France:

- Sales of products made by the women of Idergane, participation in fairs.
- Search of new partnerships in France ⇒ develop its activities and diversify its funds

Development of the center :

- Creation of a library
- Since 2019, it has been hosting a solidarity tourism lodge ⇒ job creation and area attractiveness

The association was able to share its experience with other associations for the development of centres in other villages.

It is thanks to the action of a **Moroccan woman living in France** that this association and this centre were created. Partnerships with French organisations have enabled the centre to develop and become more **sustainable**. The centre created by the association was built with and for the inhabitants of the village of Idergane in order to meet their needs and to participate in the **animation of the territory**.

Although there are few french organizations of moroccan diaspora background working in developing Morocco, those that exists seem to be very successful.

The diaspora can play a crucial role when implementing solidarity projects in their home countries. Not only do they speak the language and may know people in the area, but they also share a double affiliation, understand the values, habits and customs in both countries, which make them the perfect actors to set up solidarity projects.

Moreover, organizations led by moroccan migrants have a stronger will to teach and train moroccan in the field, so that the local people be the real decision makers, and take ownership of the actions that are carried out. This results in long-lasting and sustainable impacts on the local population.