

Initiatives for African Diaspora *The Case of Ethiopia*

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Exemplary Initiatives for and by Diaspora: *The Case of Ethiopia*

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Brief Introduction

I. Initiatives in Ethiopia

A. Government Initiatives

B. Return Diaspora for Diaspora

C. NGOs working on Diaspora

II. Recommendations



Governmental Initiatives

A. Policies and LAWS *Proclamation 270/94*

-A Foreign National of Ethiopian Origin ID: *Cleaver*

Almost all rights of citizen to Diaspora

Exception:

- Highly Political Rights and Offices*
- Military and Intelligence Service to Other Countries*



Governmental Initiatives

Bank Account for Diaspora in Foreign Currency of their Choice

- To create incentives for Ethiopians in Diaspora to maintain foreign currency account at home country so as to encourage domestic investment and foreign direct investment;**
- To support the international foreign exchange reserve and**
- To ease the balance of payments problem of the country;**



Governmental Initiatives

Bank Account for Diaspora

The Account Opening through the Embassies, correspondent banks or remittance service providers



Governmental Initiatives

B. Ministries

-In Charge of Diaspora Affairs

-Ministry of Capacity Building:

**Office of Coordinating Ethiopian Diaspora and
Friends of Ethiopia
Knowledge and HRD**

-Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Ethiopian Expatriates Affairs General Directorate
Each Embassy Focal Point**



Governmental Initiatives

- C. Incentives to Invest and Return
Land for developmental investment
and residence**
 - 7,000 Ethiopians in Diaspora land
issued in 40 towns**
 - Addis Ababa is the exception where
the city administration is no
accepting land requests**



Governmental Initiatives

- C. Incentives to Invest and Return**
- Investment of More 500 million USD per year
 - Remittance in 2007/2008 (10 months only 1.3 billion USD)
 - Through Formal channels of transfer
 - Horticulture high Exports very high
 - Tax free imports household goods for Returnees



Return Diaspora for Diaspora

Saint Yared Health Maintenance Plan (SYHMP) is a healthcare financing mechanism sponsored by Ethiopians in the US to provide comprehensive healthcare services to their relatives in Ethiopia.

Diaspora Ethiopian Buys Health Insurance for 300 USD per a Year



Return Diaspora for Diaspora

SYHMP: Very helpful

***For the Hospital:* income generation in hard currency**

***For the Relatives:* High quality health care service**

***For the Diaspora Ethiopia:* a means for assisting relatives with relatively low cost**

***For the Country:* contributes for MDGs**



Return Diaspora for Diaspora

St. Yared Hospital and Its Health Insurance Initiative

Established by highly trained Return Diaspora Ethiopian doctors

Use Ethiopian Origin Medical Students and physicians from New York City Albert Einstein College of Medicine



Return Diaspora for Diaspora

Like the SYHMP, similar modalities could be emulated to education other areas

A Diaspora buying a bond or coupon for relative to attend university education

Emulate The Health Insurance to Education and other sectors



Return Diaspora for Diaspora

Established by Return Diasporas

St. Yared Clinic: Health

**FORUM INTERNATIONAL FOR Ethiopians Living In
Diaspora (Field): Development in general**

Hibret Lelimat Ma'ekel: Education Sector



Return Diaspora for Diaspora

**All of them work with Diaspora Institutions in
Diaspora such as:**

- Association for Higher Education and Development (AHEAD)**
- Ethiopian Professionals in the Diaspora (NEPID)**
- Ethiopian Diaspora Volunteer Twinning Program**
- Ethiopians in North American Health Professionals Association***
- Group Against Poverty-AIDS***



Indigenous NGOs Working on Diaspora

Hibret Lelimat Ma'ekel: *Education*

Works Network of Ethiopian Diaspora

**Return Of Ethiopian Professionals In
Diaspora**

**Works With Local and National
Universities**

Aims to establish data base



Indigenous NGOs Working on Diaspora

**FORUM INTERNATIONAL FOR Ethiopians
Living In Diaspora (FIELD):**

- Development in General**
- Works in Policy Advocacy and Forum
for Discussion**



Indigenous NGOs Working on Diaspora

Ethiopia Diaspora Investment and Export Center

Facilitates the investment needs of Ethiopian Diaspora

Serve as link between Diaspora and Investment Institutions