



International Organization for Migration

Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN)





TRQN: Project Objective

Diaspora contributing to the national reconstruction and development priorities for selected countries:

- Afghanistan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ethiopia
- Georgia
- Sierra Leone
- Sudan



Role of migrants in developing their home country

Social worker and TRQN participant Mr. Bangura organised with the NGO Voice of Sierra Leone Association workshops on conflict prevention in six districts in Sierra Leone. Participants represented various civil society organizations, law enforcement agencies, councilors, tribal and religious authorities.



He bra! We can be friends although we belong to different parties.



IOM: Migration and Development

Explore potential bridges between migration and development. Brain circulation through migrants; Migrants as “Agents of change” contributing to economic and social development of countries; MIDA and TRQN: demand driven programmes with appealing results.



TRQN: Project Principles

Government commitment as stakeholder;

Sector approach;

“Demand driven” (Based on identified needs and opportunities in target countries);

Knowledge + Skills transfer (based on Training of Trainers);

Capacity enhancement through temporary return of qualified migrants.



TRQN: Role of Diaspora

Diaspora engagement guided by community leaders within the migrant organizations;

Commitment of migrants for active contribution to reconstruction and development of home country (“dual loyalty”);

TRQN participant brings knowledge and experience;

No cultural nor language obstacles.



TRQN: Role of IOM

Catalyst and facilitator between demand in target countries and diaspora in the Netherlands;
Making a relevant contribution towards national development strategies of target countries;
Logistic support with subsistence package;
Management of the project.



TRQN: Results

223 assignments since August 2006 (25% women);
TRQN skills database: 500 + registrations;
TRQN needs database: 280 + qualifying requests;
Positive feed-back by beneficiary host institutions on diaspora engagement;
Migrants have contributed to sectors and areas such as peace building and reconciliation, health, education, agriculture and infrastructure.



Role of migrants in developing their home country

As advisor to the Governor of the North Afghan province Balkh, TRQN participant Prof Jurat coordinated an information campaign against cultivation of opium, involving religious and community leaders. As result Balkh is now opium free.



Salam! We can eliminate opium if we use the Afghan tradition of jirga and council.



TRQN: Challenges

Limited resources of host institutions;
Security situation in the target countries;
Relatively short duration of return assignments;
Social and economic strains for migrants.



TRQN: Lessons Learned

TRQN illustrates opportunities for the global migration & development discourse;

Migrants are willing to transfer skills and experience thus contributing to development and stability;

Development of new links and partnerships between migrants and organizations in countries of origin;

Strengthened self-esteem and career perspectives in the Netherlands;

Incorporation in national development plans of the target countries supports a sustainable impact.



Migration & Development: www.iom-nederland.nl



Thank you