# Diaspora philanthropy, conflict, and development

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# How do low income and other marginalized groups meet their basic human needs? How do nonstate actors mediate this process?

- Policy advocacy by immigrant nonprofits, LBGT nonprofits

- Health and human service provision in contexts of conflict
  - Faith-based NGOs
  - Armed groups

- Diaspora philanthropy (esp. by individuals/ organizations from contexts of conflict)
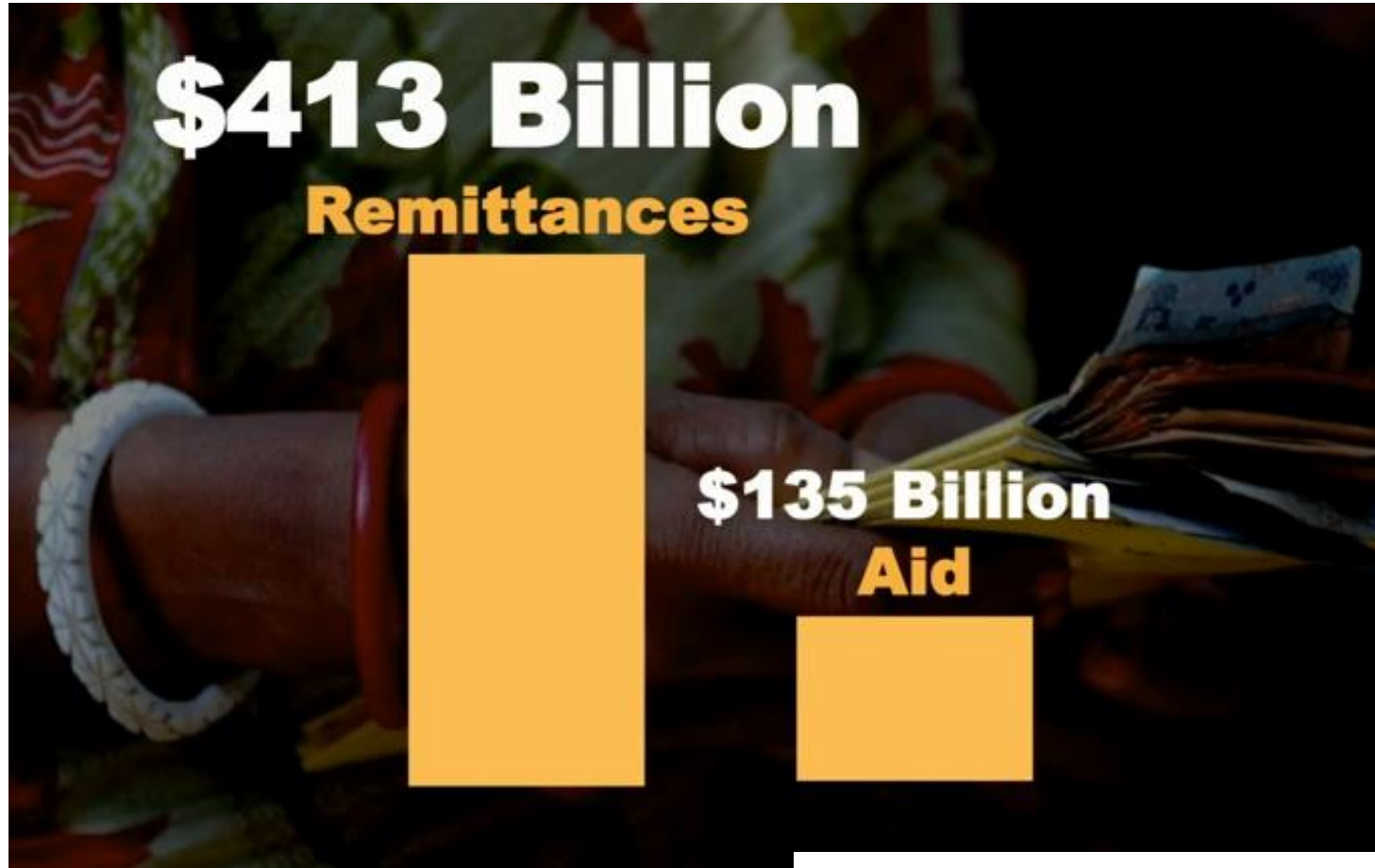
# Can the small gifts of thousands have a durable impact on development and peacebuilding? How?

# Diaspora Remittances versus Diaspora Philanthropy



232 million

Dilip Ratha, World Bank, 2014

# Diaspora Remittances versus Diaspora Philanthropy



Dilip Ratha, World Bank, 2014

**Remittances**

$ billion | % of GDP

$72 bn — India
$18 bn — Egypt
42% of GDP — Tajikistan
35% of GDP — Somalia

Dilip Ratha, World Bank, 2014

- Globally, remittances = $200/ month per migrant on average
- The average annual income in Somalia is $250/year

# Diaspora Remittances versus Diaspora Philanthropy

- Have large impacts on local economies

- Increase with instability/ conflict

- Directly reach poor

- Lower school drop-out rates

- Higher birth weights

- Impacts are unequal across individuals and communities

- Communities with most migrants are not necessarily those with most need (India)

- Investments are largely personal (not addressing broader social concerns)

# Research partners

- African Diaspora Policy Centre

- Cuso International

- Federación Zacatecana

- International Diaspora Engagement Alliance

- USAID

# Assumptions in communities of practice

- Diaspora members have:
  - greater long-term commitment to causes
  - Better knowledge of conditions "on the ground"
  - Better access and networks
  - Pre-existing cultural and language skills

- But is this true? And if so, WHY?

# Other questions in communities of practice

- How diasporas vary in:
    - How they affiliate
    - Connections to countries of origin
    - Relationships to home governments
    - The appeal of different types of opportunities to connect

- How do country of residence norms influence engagement and to what benefit?

# Other questions in communities of practice

Benefits of low-cost technologies

- Crowdfunding:
    - What are the benefits/ challenges?
    - What is appealing about this tool? And to whom?
    - How can public policy incentivize the use of this or other tools?

# Research initiatives

- Diaspora organizations project (database building and analysis)

- Community-based research with Iraqi and Somali communities in San Diego

- Evaluation research study with Federación Zacatecana (Mexican home town associations)

- Perspectives?

- Collaborations?

- Methodologies? (SNA)

- Funders?

- Any other thoughts?