

Table 1. Summary of Potential Diaspora Contributions to Peace and Conflict

Contribution	Potential Positive	Potential Negative
Economic Remittances	Significant proportion of GDP, esp during conflict; may out pace ODA.	Informal transfer systems can be used to support continuing conflict.
	Sustaining livelihoods during conflict and providing a foundation for future economic development.	Charitable contributions using informal systems may inadvertently support illicit trade, contributing to continued violence.
	May support DDR by supporting alternative income generation.	Informal systems may profit or be created by conflict entrepreneurs.
	Create financial transfer systems for the above, as well as for other external actors from the international community.	More reliable than state-supported insurgencies, with less control over tactics and objectives.
	May be transformed from subsistence to investment as the conflict subsides.	May explicitly call for and support factional violence.
	Is often a sustained source of support for the long-haul of reconstruction and development, when donor commitments wane.	Proportional advantage of influencing the homeland owing to relatively greater access to wealth and opportunity.
		Diasporans are not subject to the consequences of their financial contributions.
	Insurgency groups may target diasporans for manipulation and extortion.	
Philanthropy	Can refocus diasporans' support, making it more constructively strategic.	Can provide a cover for political or conflict objectives.
	Can become a bridge of reconciliation within diasporas.	Can be selective and discriminatory, potentially exacerbating local conflicts.

Contribution	Potential Positive	Potential Negative
	<p>Can reduce dependencies and create new opportunities and hope for homeland residents.</p> <p>May represent significant source for needed humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>Can contribute short and longer term knowledge transfer.</p> <p>Informal organizations and efforts may be flexible, enabling more people to participate.</p> <p>May become important intermediaries between traditional actors, local communities, and diasporas.</p> <p>May demonstrate replicable innovation or efforts that can be formalized and extended.</p>	
Human Capital	<p>May be essential for reconstruction and development, e.g., for restaffing government and development programs.</p> <p>Bring entrepreneurship, knowledge, skills, and networks.</p>	<p>Can introduce tensions and resentments that retard reconstruction or stimulate renewed or re-emerging conflict.</p> <p>May create a new political elite and give rise to new political tensions.</p> <p>Can replicate pre-conflict stratification of skills, class, opportunities, and resources.</p> <p>May introduce new tensions between those who stayed and endured and those who “lived comfortably.”</p> <p>“Helper” mentality, possible overestimation of home country knowledge, and arrogance may create tensions.</p> <p>May be an important source for combatant recruitment.</p>

Contribution	Potential Positive	Potential Negative
Policy/Attitudinal Influence	May influence international political opinion for the protection of human rights and political freedoms.	May support partisan agendas that will exclude important groups and stakeholders, fomenting continuing tensions and possibly conflict; resulting peace agreements may yield further exclusion, sowing the seeds for conflict in the future.
	May “humanize” host country foreign policy.	The rhetoric of liberal values can be used instrumentally and may mask partisan and exclusive agendas.
	Can yield deeper commitments to development assistance and meeting the MDGs.	May influence homeland politics in ways that sustain divisive agendas.
	Moderate, bridging groups may emerge to counter extremist agendas both in the homeland and within the diaspora.	Influence may be disproportionate owing to access to wealth and opportunities, potentially skewing political elections with results diasporans are not subject to.
	Can support the legitimacy of post-conflict governments.	May lobby for policies that hinder sustainable peace, sometimes unwittingly.
	May promote reconciliation in diaspora as a demonstration to support reconciliation in the homeland.	Can lobby based on continued grievance, discouraging actors from engaging in peace negotiations.
	Can fund and organize cultural mechanisms specific to conflict resolution	
	Can support peace negotiations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locating and communicating with warring parties, connecting them to international mediators ▪ Encouraging them to participate ▪ Supporting implementation ▪ Lobbying host country governments to mediate and support negotiations and implementation 	

Contribution	Potential Positive	Potential Negative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="380 237 737 264">▪ Inspiring trust in the process<li data-bbox="380 289 926 316">▪ Providing insight into the conflict and actors<li data-bbox="380 341 926 368">▪ Suggesting components to peace agreements<li data-bbox="380 393 926 420">▪ Directly mediating among conflicting parties	