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## Diasporic Philanthropy: Exploring Belonging, Identity, and Social Change

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The study examines how diasporic philanthropy among Moroccan diaspora in the Netherlands influences their sense of belonging and cultural identity, providing valuable insights for philanthropy in cross-border and migration contexts.

How does the experience of the country of residence by diasporic philanthropists influence their sense of belonging and practice of philanthropy?

Diasporic philanthropy fosters a dual sense of belonging, rooted in integration within the country of residence and the desire to create social change in the homeland. This connection highlights bicultural identities, faith-driven motivations, and the transformative impact of inclusive environments, emphasizing the role of philanthropy in bridging cultural and national divides.

[#Diaspora](#) [#Biculturalism](#) [#Inclusion](#) [#Philanthropy](#) [#Senseofbelonging](#)

### Background & Context



- **Obligation and Motivations for Giving:** Diasporic philanthropy often stems from a sense of duty to those left behind, shaped by better opportunities in the country of residence. It reflects religious values, social recognition, and a desire to share knowledge, reinforcing ties to both homeland and country of residence.
- **Belonging and Diaspora Connections:** Diasporas maintain ties to their homeland through remittances and organized philanthropy. Belonging is fostered by community participation and self-identification. **Philanthropy bridges connections, allowing diasporans to engage with both cultures and strengthen their dual identity.**
- **Significance of Two Homes:** Both the homeland and country of residence shape diasporic identity. **Philanthropy allows individuals to support their homeland while benefiting from integration into their country of residence.**
- **Moroccan Diaspora History:** Moroccan migration to the Netherlands began with labor treaties in the 1950s. Plans to return home often shifted to family reunification, embedding later generations into European society. **This history informs the motivations for diasporic philanthropy.**

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## Take aways & Learnings



- **Faith-Based Motivations:** Philanthropy among Moroccan diasporans is deeply rooted in Islamic values, with participants consistently linking acts of giving to religious obligations such as zakat. **This highlights how faith and cultural traditions guide philanthropic behaviors and strengthen ties to both homeland and country of residence.**
- **Role of Inclusion in Motivation:** Positive integration experiences in the Netherlands significantly influence participants' philanthropic motives. Many use their country of residence as a reference for promoting social improvements in Morocco, including education, economic growth, and gender equality. **This demonstrates how inclusion fosters a sense of responsibility for creating change in the homeland.**
- **Intergenerational Continuity:** Philanthropic behaviors are passed down through generations, evolving from remittances by first-generation migrants to organized philanthropy among younger generations. **This continuity reflects the adaptation of cultural values to modern contexts, ensuring sustained contributions to the homeland.**
- **Bicultural Identity as a Driver:** Participants exhibit a dual sense of belonging, rooted in both Moroccan heritage and Dutch integration. This bicultural identity serves as a key driver for cross-border philanthropy, enabling participants to bridge cultural divides. **It emphasizes how identity dynamics shape philanthropic engagement.**
- **Structural Social Change:** Philanthropy extends beyond immediate aid to address systemic issues, such as advancing education and improving healthcare in Morocco. **This focus on long-term impact highlights the potential of diasporic philanthropy to contribute to sustainable development in the homeland.**



ERNOP Research Notes provide easy-to-read, practice-oriented summaries of academic articles on philanthropy and are written by practitioner experts. This ERNOP Research Note 2025/5 is published in March 2025 and has been written by Daria Rybalchenko from National Network of Local Philanthropy Development. More information can be found at [www.ernop.eu](http://www.ernop.eu).