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The Mobilization Processes Utilized by the Tigrayan Diasporas in North America: A Reflection

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Abstract

Going beyond the prevalent approach of exploring the role of diasporas' financial remittance to support relatives and social remittance (i.e., the transfer of knowledge, skills, and models of business incubators), it is worth investigating the mobilization process the diasporas undertake when their original homelands or regional centers are faced with insurmountable internal conflicts. The purpose of the study was to review the various mobilization processes and collective activities that the Tigrayan diasporas are undertaking to challenge the genocidal war that the Ethiopian government and its allied forces have inflicted on the Tigrayan civilians. Based on the review of the literature, it was established that diasporas use informal ties and networks as a driving force to recruit, mobilize, and raise the consciousness of the passive diasporas who originated from their homelands. The principal findings of study indicate that, in earlier years, the mobilization of Tigrayan diasporas operating in North America was propelled to raise funds and assist on developmental-oriented projects in Tigray. Since the Ethio-Tigraya war of November 4, 2020, the Tigrayan diasporas re-strategized their techniques to playing active roles to mobilize and sustain the collective identity of Tigrayan diasporas.

Keywords: Diaspora, Mobilization Processes, Collective Activities, Genocidal War, Developmental-Oriented Projects

Introduction

Going beyond the prevalent approach of exploring the role of diasporas' financial remittance to support relatives and social remittance (i.e., the transfer of knowledge, skills, and models of business incubators), it is worth investigating the mobilization process the diasporas undertake when their original homelands or regional centers are faced with insurmountable internal conflicts.

Stated differently, in addition to exploring the impact of financial resources, human capital resources, and social capital provided by diasporas to their original homelands, an exploration of how diasporas get mobilized to act as "long distance human rights advocates" when their original home countries or regional centers are faced with ethnic-related conflict or clad with massive atrocities that amount to crimes against humanity is indispensable (Godwin, 2021; Smith and Hazel, 2007; Koinova, 2017; Ostergaard-Nielsen; 2006, Biden, September 21, 2021).

It was with this postulate that a case study analysis was ventured. The purpose of the study is to review the various mobilization processes and collective activities that the Tigrayan diasporas are undertaking to challenge the genocidal war that the Ethiopian government and its allied forces have inflicted on the Tigrayan civilians.

In short, the study attempts to explore some of the conspicuous mobilization processes that the Tigrayan diasporas are undertaking to counteract the brutal attacks, war, and starvation that the Ethiopian governments and its allied forces have deployed on the people of the Tigray. In addition, the study endeavors to shed light on the projects that the Tigrayan diasporas have designed to rehabilitate and reconstruct their war-torn ancestral homeland.

In short, the major focal points of this study are to:

1. Investigate the diverse range of mechanisms utilized by Tigrayan diaspora actors to recruit other diasporas from their original homelands.
2. Identify the mobilization processes used by the Tigrayan diaspora actors to establish the collective identity of other latent Tigrayan diasporas and to awaken them and raise their awareness of the various atrocities inflicted on the Tigray people by Ethiopia's federal government and its allied forces and, by doing so, galvanizing them to take action.
3. Pinpoint the engagement strategies used by the Tigrayan diasporas activists to entice other diasporas from their homelands to be involved in the reconstruction and capacity development of their original homeland.
4. Assess some of the strategic developmental pathways that have been designed by the Tigrayan diasporas to integrate the internally displaced Tigrayans back into their homeland.

To address the various mobilization processes undertaken by the Tigrayan diaspora during the Ethio-Tigray conflict period, the study is structured in six sections. Section II briefly reviews the literature to identify the vital mobilizing networking and activities that have been undertaken by the diasporas to revitalize their ancestral homelands. Section III develops the conceptual framework (network) needed for the mobilization processes of diasporas. Section IV reviews case studies of the most effective Tigrayan diaspora-driven ventures used to foster autonomy, self-government, and self-rule in Tigray. Section V depicts a synthesis and interpretation of the mobilizing initiatives ventured by the Tigrayan diasporas living in North America. The final section concludes with drawing some policy implications and identifying possible topics for further research.

Review of the Literature

Due to its multidisciplinary nature, the term diaspora has been defined in several ways. Bostrom, Brown, and Cechvala (2016) refer to a diaspora as a "transnational community". Using migratory patterns, Brazil (2008) classifies diasporas as "...colonial settlers, postcolonial emigres, refugees, asylum seekers, detainees, and economic migrants". Koinova (2013) uses the term diaspora to designate individuals living in "locations remote from their original territory". More specifically, Van Hear, Pieke, and Vertovec (2004) define diasporas as the migration of origin people to different host countries and also relates the various mobilization processes and outreach programs that are used to conduct the flow and exchange of resources between the homelands and destination countries.

While settling in host countries, diasporas could use their sense of distinctiveness of common history and cultural heritage to support their ancestral homelands. That is, diaspora members, either individually or collectively, could effectively use resources (human, capital, shared

identities, organization, networks, etc.) to transform the social and political factors of their original homelands.

As related by Nedelmann (1987), the social mobilization or the marshalling techniques used to activate diasporas are predominantly based on: 1) interest formation (cognitive), 2) community building (affective dimension), and 3) action-oriented (instrumental) dimension. Upon using this conceptual framework, Nedelmann (1987) operationalizes political mobilization of diasporas as an "...attempt to influence the existing distribution of power". Endowed with knowledge, networks, and resources, active diasporas could spark other established groups and use canvassing activities (such as door-to-door soliciting, telephone calls, emails, dialogue, campaigns, political lobbying, and formal interest group organization) and other forms of transnational networking to mobilize the other inactive diasporas from their homelands to take collective actions (Prasad and Savatic, 2021).

More specifically, diaspora activists use ethnicity as a way to bond and mobilize when contending groups in their homelands start fighting for control of central policies, have claims for territory or geographical boundary, or are seriously struggling to secede from the existing union. However, it should be mentioned that as some diaspora's mobilization groups will resort to building diaspora community resilience and progressive grassroots power to support their ethnic group's position, other groups may take the time to understand the underlying causes of the conflict and attempt to organize mediation processes to settle the arising conflict (Ostergaard-Nielsen, March 2006; Demmers, 2007; Nagel, 1994).

As stated by Sokefeld (2006), there cannot be diaspora community without consciousness or the idea of shared identity. Therefore, as conflict escalates into a protracted crisis in their homelands, some diaspora mobilizers harness the passion of the community to peacefully settle the existing ethnic-related rivalries. Other diaspora activists, on the other hand, may resort to using the community consciousness to address the economic and socio-political strategies needed to empower the victims in their homelands (Williams, R. 1994 and Ostergaard-Nielsen, March 2006).

Economic Mobilization

Beyond sending remittances, in peace time, diasporas transnationally act to effect change in areas such as international trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), and innovative businesses, or they may transfer new knowledge to spur development from the country of destination to their original homelands. For example, through international trade, diasporas could establish connections between producers and consumers in their countries of origin and introduce products to new markets in their settled countries. Furthermore, with the establishment of diaspora bonds, the diasporas could also invest directly in their countries of origin and persuade other non-diaspora investors to have confidence and invest in their ancestral homelands.

In the area of foreign direct investment, diasporas could transfer back to their ancestral homes seeding businesses, boost emerging industries, pursue entrepreneurship, train and mentor native workers, and bridge their countries of origin and destination so that both benefit and are enhanced (Newland and Plaza, 2013).

More specifically, through the vehicle of economic mobilization, diasporas could organize and marshal the optimal allocation of resources of their homeland. For instance, if a diaspora sees the people in their homeland suffering from regime violence and ethnic conflict, they may feel the obligation to recruit and galvanize other diasporas from their homelands to raise funds, procure war materials, act as lobbyists, and utilize the political structure of their host

countries to spark support for war materials and logistical knowledge in order to benefit their original home countries. As a case in point, Ostergaard-Nielsen (March 2006) demonstrates how the Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK in Europe voluntarily contributed and served as an important source of finance for military activities in Turkey.

Political Mobilization

Democratic states are known for having contextual and structural mechanisms that could be used to resolve conflict (Ragab, 2020). That is, through inclusion and peaceful discussions, the citizens of democratic states can influence political processes and address conflicts in other regions of the world. Using this mechanism, diasporas living in democratic host countries could utilize various forms of networks to initiate "long-distance nationalism" in order to support ethnic, nationalistic, and exclusionary movements in their countries of origin (Anderson, 1992).

Stressing the concept of political plurality, Ragab (April 2020) strongly advocates that diaspora political actors living in democratic host states should use their acquired experience to act as "long distance human rights advocates". Furthermore, Godwin (2021) and Anderson (1992) also argue that diasporas living in democratic nations should vigorously try to finance electoral campaigns within their host countries to influence the situations in their original homelands.

More specifically, diaspora activists, acting as lobbyists or members of an advocacy coalition group, could trigger the members of their diaspora living in their host country to lobby the host country's policy making elites so that the elites see that tackling conflicts in the ancestry homelands of the diaspora can also be in the national interest of the host country (Rubenzer & Redd, 2010; Prasad and Savatic, 2021; Godwin, 2021, Koinova, 2011; Haney and Vanderbush, 1999).

It needs to be mentioned that regimes in the original homelands may attempt to introduce long-distance levers, surveillance, intelligence, and intimidation measures to monitor emigrant diasporas and exert direct personal control over them. However, if effectively mobilized, active diasporas living in democratic host nations could use the intimidation process used by regimes of their homelands as a transformative process for further enlightenment. That is, as pervasively argued by Ostergaard-Nielsen, (March 2006), intimidation processes used by former regimes of diasporas can serve as legitimate vehicles to inspire the diasporas to act in solidarity by taking strong collective transformative actions related to galvanizing grassroots-based social movements, organizing mass demonstrations, and being actively engaged in order to bring political transformation in the homeland of the diasporas.

Social Mobilization Process

Social mobilization is a vital step needed for pre-conflict and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. As the diasporas are masters of local knowledge and have a strong ability to respond quickly to situations in home counties, they could effectively use social mobilization techniques to galvanize the grassroots to participate and intervene when their original homes are facing conflict and regime aggression.

Having already been helped by various humanistic groups when they initially settled down in their host country, the diasporas have a link to these humanistic groups and other NGO advocacy networks which are necessary to strengthen human and institutional resources

development and further enhance asset-building opportunities needed by their original homelands (Mukundan, 2001).

That is, as part of socialization processes, the diaspora mobilizers could activate and motivate passive members to organize awareness-building conventions for other humanistic groups that could help the victims within their original homelands since humanitarian groups are anchored upon social capital and networking. Convincingly argued by Hassan et al (2021), diaspora mobilizers could leverage their connections to call upon the various humanitarian groups to render developmental services and humanitarian aid needed by victims in the original homelands.

Stated differently, supranational organizations working with diasporas can be expected to have access to victims and good knowledge of their situation in their ancestral homelands so that these organizations are able to provide effective means of overcoming the trauma of conflict and provide a rich set of opportunities that are related to social capital, rebuilding infrastructure, and microfinancing support activities (Ostergaard-Nielsen, 2006).

Analytical Framework

Diasporas involve the migration of members of ethnic and national communities to other host countries. Because many diaspora members have relatives, mastery of local knowledge, and connections in their homelands, they can be mobilized quickly to situations of disaster in their homelands (Bostrom et al., 2016; Ionescu's, 2006).

More particularly, as a proxy for the affected civilian in their ancestral homeland, diasporas use informal ties and networks as a driving force to recruit, mobilize, and raise the consciousness of the passive diasporas who originated from their homelands (Ragab, 2020). Thus, in the process of triggering economic mobilization, diasporas organize and activate other diasporas from their homelands in order to raise funds, gather resources, procure war materials, and relay vital logistical knowledge necessary for their original home countries. While undergoing a thorough political mobilization process, activist diasporas socialize their members to be active as an advocacy group in order to pursue the collective political actions needed to influence public opinion, be involved in demonstrations, lobby, and vigorously undertake financing of electoral campaigns in order to affect the voting power of elected officials of their host countries so that these officials can take favorable positions in regard to issues related to their homelands. Moreover, diasporas could be highly encouraged to form strong connections with humanistic groups and NGOs in order to make them pledge their assistance which would be necessary for capacity building and the revitalization of the diasporas' ancestral homelands.

An Overview of the Case Studies used for the Mobilization of the Tigrayan Diasporas in North America

Prior to 1974, Ethiopians hardly ventured outside their country to reside permanently in other host countries. The sudden explosion of Ethiopian diasporas in other countries happened after a change of regime in 1974 (Zewde et al., 2014). That is, the bursting of Ethiopian diasporas started after the military government of Dergue that replaced the *ancient regime* (Haile Selassie's government) unleashed the "Red Terror" against the very forces and groups who brought revolution that toppled Haile Selassie's government. Sadly, following the Dergue's Red Terror campaign, the streets of Addis Ababa and other cities and towns were littered with the dead bodies of young workers and intellectuals.

Many who managed to escape execution or prolonged incarceration challenged the oppressive military junta by joining the forces that espoused pan-Ethiopian ideology, or they teamed up with the ethno-nationalist insurgent groups that were fighting to bring about ethnic self-determination in Ethiopia. The remainder opted to pursue asylum in Europe or North America. For example, more than 2 million nationals of Ethiopian origin were issued special identity cards to settle as Ethiopian diaspora in the United States of America (See Desta, 2014).

Using case studies, the upcoming section discusses the vision, objectives, and strategies of the Tigrayan diasporas in North America that have established various forms of associations to uplift awareness among Tigrayan diasporas, raise funds, involve other professional Tigrayan diasporas to share their experiences and skills with the local Tigrayans in Tigray, and facilitate networking with other development-oriented NGOs.

It needs to be noted that recently the various Tigrayans in North America are regrouping and rallying to strategically challenge Abiy's Ethiopian National Federal Defense Force that has collaborated with the hideous human rights violator, Isaias Afework, the Amhara region's special forces, the genocidal *fano* youth squad, Somalia's troops, and the United Arab Emirates drones to wipe out the Tigrayans and their cultural heritage.

It needs to be underlined that the case-studies operating in North America are not only very actively raising funds for the war victims in Tigray and refugees in Sudan but are also very agile at advocacy and lobbying their host county's politicians and international organizations to repudiate the genocidal war that Ethiopia's Federal Government and its allied forces have inflicted on the civilian Tigray population.

Below is a brief discussion of the six Tigrayan Diasporas associations. They are 1) The Tigray Development Association, 2) Security and Justice for Tigrayans, 3) Tigray Communities Forum, 4) Global Society of Tigray Scholars, 5) Asmelash Grant Foundation, and 6) Omna Tigray.

The Tigray Development Association of North America

The major mobilization processes undertaken by the Tigrayans in North America were initially carried out by the Tigray Development Association. As a pioneer organization, the Tigray Development Association (TDA) was founded in Washington, D.C., in August 1989 by the Tigrayan diaspora living in North America. As a non-profit, non-political, and charitable organization, the TDA has ever dedicated itself to recruiting and effectively mobilizing the Tigrayan diasporas in North America to play active roles to reconstruct the physical infrastructure (roads, electricity, water, and telecommunication), reestablish social services (schools and healthcare facilities), and facilitate the settlement of internally displaced Tigrayans. More specifically, the vision, mission, objectives, and strategies of the case-studies selected for study are given below.

Vision Statements

The vision of TDA is to making Tigray prosperous, free from poverty, and backwardness (Medhanie, 2021). to set it on the road to prosperity by strengthening infrastructure, providing aid, and building and supporting schools and health care facilities (Amanuel, 2016).

Mission Statements

TDA ventures to be a strong developmental organization by actively engaging in need-based projects/programs that relate to education, health, and skill development training by

soliciting funds from members, supporters, and donors and by enhancing community participation (TDA in North America, 1989).

Objectives

To achieve the future vision for Tigray, TDA has initiated the following objectives:

1. Improve education, health services, and infrastructure.
2. Enable target groups and communities to secure a sustainable livelihood free of poverty.
3. Encourage and enhance the availability of gainful employment opportunities.
4. Facilitate the ways and means of creating access to credit services and gainful employment opportunities for the poor and the needy.
5. Familiarize target groups with new information, production techniques, and appropriate technology (Zewde, Yntiso, and Berhanu, 2014).

Strategies

To realize the above stated objectives, TDA designed the following strategies:

1. Intensify mobilization through the vigorous enlistment of members and supporters.
2. Embark on the identification of potential donors while maintaining links with existing donors.
3. Organize special fund-raising events.
4. Undertake information exchange of activities by using different media outlets such as radio broadcasts, quarterly newsletters, and brochures. The TDA has tailored its activities to enable the poverty ridden Tigrayans to lead productive lives.

To summarize, the activities pursued by the TDA to line up Tigray's developmental goals can be categorized into four phases: 1) Recruiting members (1989-92); 2) rehabilitation and reconstruction (1993-1995); 3) collaboration with NGOs, local communities, and donor organizations to undertake various types of development-related activities; and 4) embarking on a three year strategic plan (2019-2021) to enhance coverage and attain quality education and health care facilities (See, Zewde, Yntiso, and Berhanu, 2014 ; and TDA in North America, 2021).

Starting November 4, 2020, Tigray was faced with catastrophic war that was purposely initiated by the federal government of Ethiopia and its allied forces to wipe out the Tigrayan people and their cultural heritage. Thereby, the TDA-NA completely changed its strategy. TDA-NA to a large extent focused on leading the effort of mobilizing a global fundraising activity and made each Tigrayan diaspora pledge to have their members contribute part of their monthly income to support the displaced Tigrayans in Tigray and the Tigrayan refugees in Sudan (Medhanie, 2021).

Security and Justice for Tigrayans (SJT)

A non-partisan, non-religious global movement, was initiated in May 2020 by concerned Tigrayan Ethiopian diasporas in North America. The establishment of this initiative was triggered by the dreadful situation that Prime Minister Abiy and his allies had "...waged against all aspects of being Tigrayans – be it physical, social, psychological and emotional – has left the people in the state of Tigray beleaguered on all sides. The survival of the people of Tigray depends on our own collective will and action and that of the greater human family" (Alemayehu, 2020).

Vision

The vision of the Security and Justice for Tigrayans, is to make meaningful contributions towards realizing a just, peaceful, prosperous, and civilized Tigray that plays a pivotal role in augmenting the democratization process of Ethiopia.

Mission

Security and Justice for Tigrayans denounces and stands against any form of coercion and subversion of the rights, interests, and aspirations of the Tigray people. They stand against any acts that compromise their right to justice, economic freedom, self-determination, as well as territorial integrity.

Core Values

- Integrity and honesty
- Transparency and accountability
- Public service
- Inclusiveness, collaboration, and empowerment
- Excellence, innovation, and dedication
- Justice, fairness, and equality
- Peace and security

Goals/Objectives

- Advocate for the interest and well-being of the people of Tigray in Ethiopia.
- Defend the rights of Tigrayan political prisoners in Ethiopia detained by the federal government as well as those terminated from their civil service employment and morally humiliated due to ethnicity and political affiliation.
- Alarm the international community of the potential for ethnic conflict and civil war in Ethiopia and seek partnership.
- Campaign against the socio-economic, political, and psychological injustice and violation of human rights committed against the people of Tigray by the Ethiopian federal government and its allies.
- Advocate justice for those of Tigrayan origin whose existence is threatened by the forced border demarcation and seek the immediate release of Tigrayans abducted by the Eritrean forces.

Tigray Communities Forum (TCF)

The forum was established in 2017 by leaders of 10 Tigray community organizations with “a vision to create and sustain the Tigrayan community in North America.” The objectives of TCF are tailored to unite Tegar in North America, promote growth and education, and preserve identity. Among other things, the TCF focuses on empowering Tigrayan women in the diaspora to ensure sustainable development and security of women in Tigray.

However, the war against the people of Tigray was waged on November 4, 2020, by the Ethiopian government and its allies to eradicate the Tigray people. Thereby, in addition to its regular business, the TCF “...started to engage in many ways to defend the people of Tigray.” (<http://Tegaru FormNA.org>).

Vision

- To create and sustain the Tigrayan community in North America, to make it proud of its identity with harmonized and cooperative social life, and to make it educationally and economically viable.

* The following briefly describe the activities have been taking place since the start of the war on November 4, 2020:

- 1) The Tigray Communities Forum initiated an establishment of a task force which includes all Tigray organizations in North America to lead the fight against the war.
- 2) The Tigray Communities Forum organized a global candlelight vigil, on December 31, 2020, to honor all Tigrayans who were killed, raped, or injured by the invading forces.
- 3) The Tigray Communities Forum, through its Tegar Professional Network, has engaged in public diplomacy. As a result, the Tegar Professional Network has been calling the US representatives on a weekly basis to discuss the situation and to help stop the war. This has brought a deep understanding of the war of Tigray Genocide.
- 4) TPN, as a network of the first generation of Tigray-Americans, connected with their peers across the Atlantic and created a Crisis Control Network which attracted many diplomats and journalists to respond to the humanitarian crisis.
- 5) TPN has been playing a major role in creating awareness of the Tigray Genocide using social media. In addition to that, TPN members continue to play a leading role in leading protests and conveying messages to the international community.
- 6) The Forum has participated in raising funds for the people of Tigray at this trying time. All Tigray Community members are active in organizing fundraising, protests, and social media campaigns.
- 7) The Forum's TPN, through its innovative fundraising program called "Double Good Gourmet Popcorn" raised \$24,249.00 to support the people of Tigray. This was a four-day program that took place on August 2 – 6, 2021.
- 8) As a community organization, the Forum remains committed to empowering Tigrayans in North America while contributing to the struggle against Tigrayan Genocide.

Global Society of Tigray Scholars and Professionals (GSTS)

The Global Society of Tigray Scholars and Professionals was established in 2010 as a non-partisan, autonomous and not-for-profit global knowledge network of over 3,000 Tigray academics and wide-ranging professionals. GSTS seeks to develop a knowledge-based economy in Tigray and works to develop diplomacy and advocacy through humanitarian works. (<https://www.scholars4tigray.org>).

Vision

GSTS aims to build a robust and knowledge-based economy and society in Tigray and beyond through a series of knowledge-induced initiatives, centered on research, sound policy and strategy, effective human capital development, technology and knowledge transfer endeavors, diplomacy/advocacy, humanitarian works and so forth.

Mission

Serve as leading and enabling hub of world-class scholarly and scientific minds in a wide array of multi-disciplinary fields of study and highly dynamic working environments aiming at playing a significant role towards the development of Tigray.

- Provide a platform for Tigray scholars and professionals residing both in Ethiopia and in the wider diaspora to work as a greater unit to accelerate the development of the Tigray region.
- Provide advisory and think tank functions for shaping Tigray development and prosperity.
- Promote educated and tailored advocacy, diplomatic and humanitarian activities.
- Serve as a primary center and thus liaison for various government and non-government organizations, academic, research institutions and industries.
- Facilitate and strengthen the interaction among members and other stakeholders.
- Work, promote and brand Tigray and its people's interest and aspire at all levels.

Core Values

The work of the organization is underpinned by the following core values.

- Intellectual integrity, excellence, merit, evidence-based decisions, recommendations, and policy making
- Innovation, originality, up-to-datedness
- High level ethical standards, impartiality, inclusiveness, unity of purpose
- Networking, cooperativeness, tolerance, respect for diversity and equality
- Transparency, openness
- Merit-based awards and rewards
- Institutional independence

Asmelash Grant Foundation

The Asmlash-Grant Foundation was founded in September 2014 by Suzani Asmlash Grant and Gary W. Grant. The Asmlash-Grant Foundation is a nonprofit independent international humanitarian aid organization. The Asmelash Grant Foundation provides medical, food, housing, and economic assistance with the intention of creating new horizons for the people of Tigray (<https://thelivesyousave.org/who-we-are/>). The vision, mission, values of the Asmelash foundation is given below.

Vision

The Asmlash-Grant Foundation supports the safety, health, and economic mobility of every Tigrayan through disaster relief, sustainable programming, and transnational organizing.

Values

- The Asmlash group work with:
 - Integrity**—deep sense of responsibility, transparency, and accountability to drive change.
 - Respect**—treat people, communities, and culture with respect and dignity.
 - Passion**- believe that generational change is possible through collective effort.
 - Accountability**—take initiatives to their responsibility and to exceed

expectations

Omna Tigray

Omna Tigray was founded by a collective of international Tigrayan professionals from various backgrounds in response to the war and genocide waged on Tigrayan people on November 4, 2020. Omna Tigray is a nonprofit nonpartisan global organization in the US, Canada, Europe, and Australia with a purpose to effectively advocate for an end to the war, call for unrestricted humanitarian aid to the Tigrayan people, and promote the economic development of Tigray. *Omna* means “our large tree” in Tigrigna. *Om* is a tree with plentiful branches that keeps growing, and this signifies that despite adversity, Tigray will continue to grow, flourish, and reach new heights. The word Omna fully encompasses the mission and vision of our organization. (<https://www.teomna.com>).

Omna’s vision is to fight injustice, advocate for peace and economic development, and amplify the voices of the people in Tigray, via our sustainable, long-lasting platform.

Omna’s mission is to build a global community and resource center advocating for the human rights and economic development of Tigrayans and other oppressed peoples in Tigray. Omna Tigray was formed with the belief that access to educated and inclusive advocacy is key to fighting disinformation and injustice, and it is our mission to create that platform for the Tigrayan community and the wider global community. We believe that strength is in unity and collaboration. In short, Omna believes that strength is in unity and collaboration.

Goal is to ultimately eradicate failures that have prevented the development of Tigray and believes that peace and stability in Tigray are key to fostering stability in the region.

Summary, Conclusions and Policy Implications

Going beyond the prevalent approach of exploring the role of the diasporas’ financial and social remittance to support relatives (i.e., the transfer of knowledge, skills, and models of business incubators), the main thrust of the study was to explore some of the economic, social, and political mobilization processes undertaken by Tigrayan diasporas in North America to subvert the genocidal war that the Ethiopian government and its allied forces have inflicted on the people of the Tigray. Additionally, the study endeavored to shed light on the projects that the Tigrayan diasporas have designed for the post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-torn Tigray.

In short, the major focal points of this study were to:

1. Investigate the diverse range of mechanisms utilized by Tigrayan diaspora actors to recruit other diasporas from their original homelands.
2. Identify the mobilization processes used by the Tigrayan diaspora actors to awaken, galvanize, raise awareness, and establish the collective identity of the other latent Tigrayan diasporas by letting them know of the various atrocities inflicted on the Tigray people by Ethiopia’s federal government and its allied forces.
3. Pinpoint the glaring engagement strategies used by the Tigrayan diaspora’s activists to entice the other diasporas from their homelands to be involved in the reconstruction and capacity development of Tigray.
4. Assess some of the strategic developmental pathways that have been designed by the Tigrayan diasporas in order to integrate the internally displaced Tigrayans to their regional homeland.

A summary of the vision, mission, and objectives of the Tigrayans in North America is portrayed in Table 1.

Table 1

Summary of the Vision, Mission, and Objectives of the Tigrayans Diasporas in North America

	TDA	Security & Justice	Tigray Communities Forum	Global Society of Tigray Scholars	Asmlash Grant Foundation	OMNA
Vision	*Make Tigray Affluent, free from poverty, and backwardness.	*Realizing a just, peaceful prosperous and civilized Tigray.	*To create and Sustain Tigrayan community	*Build a robust & knowledge-based economy and society in Tigray.	*Dedicated to changing the lives of Tigrayans from refugee camps in Sudan and re-settle those displaced by the genocidal war in Tigray.	*Fight injustice *Advocate for peace and economic development * Amplify the people of Tigray.
Mission	*Actively engaging in need-based projects/programs that relate to education, health, and skill development training.	*Practice the democratic process to achieve economic freedom and self-determination ...	*Practicing harmonized & cooperative social life related to education and viable economics.	*Serve as leading and enabling hub of world-class scholarly and scientific minds and skills in multidisciplinary fields.	*Strives to improve the economic well-being of Tigrayans supporting both immediate financial needs and sustainable growth. *Protect the health and improve the well-being of Tigrayans by responding to emergency health crises and building public health capacity to prevent disease, disability, and death from communicable and non-communicable diseases.	*Build a global community *Establish resources center advocating for human rights in Tigray.
Objectives	*Target groups and communities to	*Undergoing through the design and		*Practice knowledge -	*Short term Goals:	*Fostering stability in Tigray.

	<p>secure a sustainable livelihood.</p> <p>*Creating access to credit services and gainful employment opportunities.</p> <p>*Familiarize target groups with new information, production techniques.</p>	<p>implementation of peaceful struggle.</p>		<p>induced initiatives. *Promote educated and tailored advocacy, diplomatic and humanitarian activities.</p>	<p>-Emergency Food during famine crisis. -Counseling and clinical management -medicine, equipment, and health care services -sanitary and famine hygiene products - psychosocial support. *Long term Goals; -improve nutritional status -family support -restore healthcare facilities in Tigray -rebuild water systems -build healing centers</p>	
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A major analysis of the case studies indicates that, in earlier years, the mobilization of Tigrayan diasporas operating in North America was propelled to raise funds and assist on developmental-oriented projects in Tigray.

Since the Ethio-Tigraya war of November 4, 2020, the Tigrayan diasporas re-strategized their techniques to playing active roles in order to mobilize and sustain the collective identity of Tigrayan diasporas and make them 1) be aware by using social media and grass-roots tactics about the genocide the Abiy administration and his allied forces are committing in Tigray; 2) lead demonstrations and protests against Abiy's oppressive regime and his allied forces; 3) raise funds and vital assistance (such as food, medical necessities, and sanitary and educational kits) from members, international development partners, and NGOs to help the war victims in Tigray and the Tigrayan refugees in Sudan; 4) organize candlelight vigils on major streets and picket line in front of city halls around the globe in order to educate the public about the atrocities that the local Tigrayans are facing; 5) be advocates and lobby host county's politicians and international organizations to be on their side and repudiate the genocidal war that Ethiopia's federal government and its allied forces have been inflicting on the civilian Tigrayan population; 6) be engaged in public diplomacy; 7) create a Crisis Control

Network to galvanize diplomates and journalists to work against the humanitarian crisis in Tigray; 8) file cases with the International Court of Justice (ICC) about the atrocities that the Abiy government has committed on the people of Tigray; and 9) solicit Ethiopian attorneys to defend *pro bono* the various Tigrayans without legal representation in Ethiopian prisons (see Table 2).

Table 2

Summary of the Economic, Social, and Political Mobilization Processes of Tigrayan Diasporas

Groups Mobilization	TDA	Security & Justice	Tigray Communities Forum	Global Society of Tigray Scholars	Asmlash Grant Foundation	OMNA
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Embark on identification of potential donors, *Organize special fund-raising events, *Identification of potential donors, *Organizer special-fund-raising events, *Help internally displaced persons through financial donation, food, and shelter. *Access to credit services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Participate in fund raising activities, for example from August 2-6, 2021, raised \$24,249. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Build a robust & Knowledge-based economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Work with donors and philanthropic organizations Around the globe 	Economic development
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Enlistment of members and supporters, *Undertake information exchange of activities using different media outlets – radio broadcasts, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Defend the rights of Tigrayan political prisoners in Ethiopia, *Campaign against injustice and humanitarian violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Organize a global candlelight vigil to honor all Tigrayans killed, raped, and injured by the invading forces, *Create awareness of the genocide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Practice knowledge induced initiatives, human capital development, technology, and knowledge transfer endeavors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Emergency Food during famine, *Counseling & Psychological services, *Medical equipment, *Health services, *Rebuild water systems, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Access to educated group. *Form platform for Tigrayan community

	--quarterly newsletters, Brochures etc. *Help refugees in Sudan with food, medical necessities, educating kids, *Helping raped victims		in Tigray using social media		*Built 275 temporary housing units	
Political	*Lobbying	*Alarm the international community of potential for ethnic conflict and civil war in Ethiopia. *Advocate justice for those Tigrayan origin whose existence is threatened by forced border demarcation *Seek the immediate release of Tigrayans abducted by Eritrean forces.	*Engaged in public diplomacy, *Call weekly United States representatives to stop the war in Tigray, *Establish resistance task force *Use Crisis Control Network to get in touch with diplomats and journalists to respond to humanitarian crisis in Tigray, *Establish connection with peers across the Atlantic,	*Establish advocacy and diplomatic activities and filled cases about Genocide with the int. Court of Justice.		*Access to educated and advocacy group,

Despite undergoing sleepless nights, having ideological differences, and facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the entrepreneurial Tigrayan diaspora in North America needs to be applauded for being able to mobilize the other diasporas from their homelands to be involved in different forms of galvanizing structures.

With the assistance of the drones obtained from United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, China, and Iran, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces is intermittently bombarding Tigray. Nonetheless, thanks to the heroic efforts of Tigrayan fighters, Tigray seems be on the verge of achieving of its autonomy and eventually the people of Tigray will have the right to declare self-determination—the legal right to decide their own destiny.

As the drivers of change before and during the Ethio-Tigrayan conflict, the Tigrayan diasporas need play more than ever before as stakeholders in post-conflict reconstruction of Tigray. Thus, being the inevitable stakeholders and co-development actors, the Tigrayan diasporas

need to play in the reconstruction and consolidation processes of their original regional homeland (See Suh-Nwji, 2013).

Though not planned until now, the sharp-eyed Tigrayan diasporas need to be proactive and focus on designing sustainable post-conflict reconstruction developmental plans that can be gallantly used for the invigoration of their war-torn ancestral homeland, Tigray.

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