



the diaspora of sub-Saharan Africans living overseas has returned a considerable amount of their earnings to families in home countries. *See table 1.*

In a report to a UN symposium (Turin, Italy, June 2006), the UN Economic Commission for Africa stated: “Although the debate on the impact of international migration on development in Africa has largely been shaped by the loss of skilled Africans to the developed world, growing evidence shows that international migration has positive effects on social and economic development in Africa.”

Remittances from the wages of migrants abroad, and the income multipliers they create, are critical resources for the sustenance strategies of receiving households, according to the ECA. The extra resources at the disposal of these households in turn make them agents of local and national development. An increasing number of overseas migrants in conjunction with hometown associations, investment groups and religious groups are involved in transnational activities that help to integrate African countries with the global economy; hundreds of small and medium scale factories,