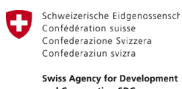


Diaspora Organisations as Strategic Agents of Development

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Colophon

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Introduction

In past decades, many diaspora organisations in Europe and beyond have been operating as critical development entities in their countries of origin. This is due to the increased involvement in the development of the homelands. Recent studies have confirmed this evolving trend.¹ Diaspora development practitioners routinely transfer both financial resources and social capital to Africa, setting up community development projects and joint business ventures that allow local companies access to financial resources, expertise, innovative trade practices and valuable networks abroad. A sizeable number of African diaspora organisations in various countries across Europe and beyond are now leading hundreds of development-related projects largely in villages and rural areas all over Africa. Diaspora organisations are particularly active in fragile, post-conflict countries where development assistance is most required. They are responding to vital needs not met by the programmes of more established development agencies. In this regard, the development initiatives undertaken by diaspora organisations often complement those implemented by mainstream donor agencies active in countries of origin and/or heritage.

As a result, members of the African diaspora development practitioners have now positioned themselves as critical actors in development cooperation policy circles, both in countries of residence and/or origin. They have become the key drivers for a diaspora-led development sector, which is quite different from the traditional development cooperation sector, typically the domain of more developed donor governments. African diaspora communities are contributing huge resources through various means to the social welfare and economic growth of their respective homelands, remarkably exceeding the level of official development assistance (ODA). This is confirmed by the recent IFAD report, which states that “the 30 million African diaspora living outside their countries of origin jointly contribute about US \$40 billion in remittance to their families and communities back home every year. For the region as a whole, remittances far exceed official development assistance, and for many countries they exceed foreign direct investment as well”.² The increasing involvement of the diaspora in homeland development is partly the result of becoming better organised in the countries of residence through such structures such as professional or development-oriented associations. In addition, diaspora organisations and associations in countries of residence are increasingly gaining access to considerable donor funds which enable them to sponsor, in a sustainable manner, development projects they implement in their respective countries of origin. Diaspora also consider that they are now in a strategic position to facilitate the process of transnational activities and networks and act as development bridge-builders between the host and home countries. In particular, this strategic position enables them to mobilise considerable resources (capital, knowledge and networks) for the development of countries of origin. Furthermore, as a result of inexpensive transportation and communications technology, diaspora consider themselves to be in the country of origin and abroad at the same time.

The Rationale for the Study

The rationale for the study is to provide diaspora organisations, as well as national and local governments in Africa and Europe with a better understanding of the engagement of diaspora organisations in development. In this regard, the study identifies good practices on which future actions and policies at the sub-national, national and European levels can build. This is achieved by analysing definitions of diaspora organisations and their role in development processes, developing a typology of diaspora organisations,³ and identifying and analysing the challenges in involving diaspora organisations in development policy-making and practice.

Scope of the study

In this study, two broader categories are adopted to differentiate African diaspora organisations working in integration activities in host countries from those involved in tangible development practices in homelands. The focus of the study is therefore on African diaspora organisations involved in tangible co-development projects, whether community development, private sector promotion or other productive activities, in their respective countries of origin as well as in their countries of residence.

Methodology

A combination of methods was used in gathering the empirical data for this report to achieve both depth and breadth. The information was collected through desk research, in-depth interviews and questionnaires sent to multipliers and experts in the 29 countries targeted in the study. The data from these were also used to map out African diaspora organisations currently working in the field of migration and development, the areas of their projects and nature and patterns of their operations. The data-gathering process for each thematic area was guided by the following specific questions:

- To what extent do the context and policies in the host countries promote or hinder the engagement of diaspora organisations in the development of their countries of origin?
- What lessons can be learned from the existing good practices in diaspora engagement in development?
- How can the partnership and coordinating capacity of diaspora organisations be strengthened?
- What are the obstacles, constraints and challenges faced by African diaspora organisations as development actors and how can they effectively be supported?
- How can the role that diaspora organisations are already playing in promoting development back home be stimulated and strengthened?
- What are the most appropriate approaches to increasing awareness among African diaspora organisations of the urgent need to act jointly on certain development issues and activities, such as lobbying, campaigning and advocacy for policies and practices that enhance the active involvement of diaspora in cooperative development relations, both in Europe and Africa?

Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected on different thematic areas. The countries from which the data on these topics were collected include Portugal, Sweden, Germany, France, the United Kingdom (UK), the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Spain, Norway, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway and Greece. As the list of themes identified by data collection is so diverse, we have selected nine topics for this study. The study thus comprises nine chapters as follows: business and entrepreneurship in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); rural and community development; microfinance and remittances; diaspora education and training; water, environment and energy; migrant integration and diaspora media; health, disability and welfare; lobbying, campaigning and diaspora advocacy; building strategic partnerships among and between diaspora organisations and other relevant stakeholders both in Europe and in Africa.

Notes

- ¹ See Mohamoud, A. (ed.) (2010) *Building Institutional Cooperation between the Diaspora and Homeland Governments in Africa: The cases of Ghana, Nigeria, Germany, the USA and the UK*, The Hague: African Diaspora Policy Centre; ICMPD (2013) "Migration and Development Policies and Practices: A mapping study of eleven European countries and the European Commission" (a large scale analysis of diaspora development initiatives based in Europe); Newland, K., Patrick, E., *Beyond Remittances: The role of diaspora in poverty reduction in their countries of origin. A scoping study by the Migration Policy Institute for the Department of International Development*, Washington DC, 2004 (available at: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Beyond_Remittances_0704.pdf); Dilip, R., Mohapatra, S. (eds.) (2011) *Diaspora for Development in Africa*, Washington, DC: World Bank.
- ² For more detail see the report "Sending Money Home to Africa. Remittance markets, enabling environment and prospects" (2009), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): p.2.
See also Ratha, D., Munzele Maimbo, S. (2005) *Remittances: Development impact and future prospects*, Washington: World Bank.
- ³ Organisational structure (type of organisation, size, networks, ties with country of origin at the national, regional and local levels, etc.); areas of activities (e.g. economic, political, social, etc.); common/conflicting interests in implementing development activities.

1 *Diaspora entrepreneurship in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), business, investment and trade*

Diaspora entrepreneurship has numerous possibilities for the economies of both countries of residence and of origin. Moreover, it plays an indisputable role in facilitating the development of countries of origin and residence.⁴ Enterprises and businesses run by the diaspora can also build bridges to help internationalise European firms, especially in the continent of Africa. On the one hand, established networks of products and trade lead to the improvement of economic and social conditions in countries of origin; on the other hand, the knowledge of countries of origin and their needs that diaspora entrepreneurs possess can be crucial for European businesses looking to penetrate the broader African market, or indeed specific markets in Africa.

Entrepreneurial and business initiatives can also improve the economic and social position of immigrants themselves at the meso-level. Job creation, innovation and the revitalisation of urban districts are among the advantages of these entrepreneurial initiatives. In addition to their integration aspect, such initiatives reduce unemployment and avoid recourse to social benefits.⁵

Above all, diaspora investment creates economic, social and political capital through global networks. Moreover, their knowledge of local (business) cultures, norms and values and language expertise create social capital by virtue of cultural and linguistic understanding. As developing countries are often isolated from global flows of trade, finance and knowledge, diaspora entrepreneurship in SMEs, business, investment and trade can provide useful networks in both their countries of origin and of destination.

1.1 Size and features of ADOs

In recent years, diaspora entrepreneurship has increased enormously. The growth in communications technology has accelerated the rise in entrepreneurship and allowed it to flourish. As OECD data reveal, the relative importance of diaspora or migrants as a proportion of the total number of enterprises has increased in many European countries.⁶ However, the pattern is not uniform throughout Europe. In some countries, there has been an increase in entrepreneurship in SMEs, business, investment and trade.⁷ This progress probably reflects either an improvement in the social position of African immigrants in their country of residence or indeed their difficulties in realising their entrepreneurial potential. In some cases, entrepreneurial initiatives have emerged as an alternative way of integrating into the country of residence and of contributing to countries of origin.

In terms of number, French organisations constituted the largest number of diaspora organisations (31) active in business, SMEs and in trade, followed by the UK (19), Belgium (16), Germany (nine), the Netherlands (two), Denmark (one) and Sweden (one). The majority of African diaspora businesses are small in size. The most pressing problems are access to finance, access to support services, technology and knowledge of such services, as well as limited business, management and marketing skills.

1.2 Context in countries of residence

As the European Wide African Diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) mapping demonstrates, there is a marked difference between various countries in terms of the size and capacity of diaspora entrepreneurs and businesses organisations in Europe. It appears that the successes and failures of diaspora businesses are contingent on policy environments and enabling conditions in the specific country of residence.⁸ Most schemes are to be found in north-western European countries such as Norway, Denmark, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, France and Belgium. There are also schemes to a lesser extent in southern European countries, such as Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal. The lowest numbers of organisations active in the field are located in central and eastern European countries.

It is important to mention the motivating factors behind African diaspora entrepreneurship and business initiatives. The reduced level of opportunities in the formal jobs market is one of the main contributing motivating factors. Discrimination, low-paid job offers and barriers to upward social and economic mobility have pushed many African diaspora to move towards self-employment and set up their own businesses.

Even with the significance of the above causes, many African migrants become involved in business and entrepreneurship in search of becoming more autonomous and pursuing their own ideals and dreams through this route. Another motivating factor to be one's own boss is the high status of successful business people. The general trends mentioned above indicate the contribution of many varied factors for diaspora's engagement in entrepreneurship, business, investment and trade initiatives, but also that its impact is different in and between different groups and from country to country.⁹



AFRIKDIREKT

AFRIKDIREKT is a platform for all enterprises/businesses in Germany and Africa which want to build up sustainable partnerships with the African continent. As its philosophy, AFRIKDIREKT aims to adapt to the needs of the environment and bind local forces

together in concept work. They use a lessons-learned experience to optimise and develop projects according to needs of the population of each new project site. <http://afrikdirekt.de/>

1.3 Challenges and constraints

There are many challenges and constraints that impede diaspora's efforts in entrepreneurship, business, investment and trade. In general these impediments are the by-products of a mistaken understanding of their potential at both the receiving and sending end of the spectrum. The majority of African diaspora businesses are small in size and owner-manager enterprises seldom start in an environment with low entry barriers and low capital and skill requirements. This results in labour-intensive production, long working hours, low wages and so on. The most pressing problems for diaspora businesses are access to finance, access to and knowledge of support services, language barriers and limited business, management and marketing skills.¹⁰

Most diaspora businesses rely less on formal providers of finance and services to support them than do mainstream businesses. They prefer informal networks for receiving business information and services. This is due to problems of integration in their receiving society, lack of knowledge and low familiarity with the local business culture and administrative environment.¹¹ Consequently, it is common for diaspora businesses to obtain capital from family and friends rather than from banks and other institutional sources of finance. One of the main reasons for this is the difficulty in meeting all of the requirements to access different financial services, such as providing security or guarantees to obtain credit. The European Commission has recognised the difficulties faced by immigrants in realising their entrepreneurial potential in member states. In 2005, the European Commission recommended in "A Common Agenda for Integration: Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union" that all member states should support migrants' entrepreneurship, namely through facilitating access to banking and credit services.¹² Some business support services for immigrants are already in place in several European countries.

1.4 Good practice in diaspora entrepreneurship

As the case studies of good practice cited here illustrate, there are a number of differences between organisations and initiatives, although they all have a common objective related to entrepreneurial and business initiatives. Besides, there are broad differences between countries that demonstrate the determining role of the context of receiving countries.

1. BUSINESS TRAINING

Organisation

Youth with a Global Vision

Country

Ghana

Agency

Funded through individuals

Project Description

Youth with a Global Vision's philosophy is based on the practical application of the Bible. A fundamental precept is that when young people are sufficiently engaged, encouraged, equipped and empowered, they will participate effectively in local and global issues. The organisation provides opportunities to youth and youth workers to develop working knowledge, skills and experiences through "youth in action" programmes to transform communities through youth participation.

One project involved taking participants from various communities and diverse business ventures and providing a four-day training course to help them develop their businesses so that they would be in a position to employ more people. A total of 39 entrepreneurs were trained and could then pass this newly acquired knowledge to others. Thus, one of the main goals of the organisation is to increase the capacity of entrepreneurs to develop their businesses.

Throughout its work, Youth with a Global Vision has also faced challenges that it works continuously to overcome. An example of such a challenge in the past is local coordinators lacking the time to publicise their schemes. The organisation nonetheless maintains a good partnership between local coordinators and other UK organisations to recruit participants.

2. SME PROJECT SUPPORT

Organisation

Fédération des Associations Franco-africaines de Développement par l'appui économique (FAFRAD-économique)

Countries

Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, France, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sao Tome et Principe, Senegal, Chad.

Supporting Agencies

The promoter, the support provider and the funder

Project Description

Created in 1992, FAFRAD-économique currently includes more than 200 associations working not only in the areas of the integration and socio-professional integration of migrants, but also international solidarity and intercultural dialogue. It is a structure for consultation, coordination and the exchange of experiences, expertise and know-how aimed at developing Franco-African development efforts, supporting and assisting associative or individual projects. In terms of coordination, FARFRAD-économique plays a vital role in supporting its partners and stakeholders from the period in which their projects are visualised to implementation in line with local socioeconomic and cultural standards. In partnership with a network of specialised partners, FARFRAD-économique helps to develop a business plan before directing the project promoter to funding schemes. As such, the support provided by the organisation ranges from setting up a project or developing a market study to researching opportunities for funding. It focuses on the implementation of skills auditing, the harmonisation of personal projects and SME start-up projects.

With regard to the exchange of experiences, the organisation has been able to bullet point the major benefits, advantages and positive outcomes achieved in the projects, work with partners and establishing projects. Some weaknesses have included difficulties in accessing credit for promoters and adapting to the institutional and sociocultural environment in African countries. Furthermore, there have been several challenges in relation to partnerships, lobbying and working in African development actors' networks, especially with the African diaspora in Europe.¹³

3. DIASPORA VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME (DVP)/EDUCATION AND TRAINING; KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER; CAPACITY-BUILDING

Organisation

African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)

Countries

Sierra Leone, Ghana

Supporting agency

Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) [piloted by AFFORD]

Project Description

Created in 1994, the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) is a charitable organisation that was founded to respond to the disjuncture between mainstream international development and diaspora action. In demonstrating the multiple dimensions of diaspora input in the development of host countries and countries of origin, AFFORD's mission is "to expand and enhance the contribution that Africans in the diaspora make to Africa's development". This is pursued through programmes, projects and activities undertaken by AFFORD or in collaboration with partners in Africa, the UK, the EU and other parts of the world. The organisation aims to enable diaspora professionals to engage/re-engage productively with their countries of origin, for example by (i) providing direct technical and other forms of support to projects running in countries of origin, (ii) providing catalysts for individuals to construct new "developmental relationships" in countries of origin, and (iii) initiating new partnerships between diaspora groups and local development actors.

A major challenge for AFFORD has been convincing mainstream providers of placements that an alternative methodology is required, with more flexibility in terms of the location and time of placements. There have been successes such as its positive partnership relationships. Local partners in Sierra Leone and Ghana were imperative to the success of a recent programme. Bringing in partners such as the Diaspora Volunteering Alliance (DVA) was crucial in gaining support for a larger project that drew in other diaspora groups. As an outcome, 30 volunteers from the diaspora successfully completed placements in Sierra Leone and Ghana in the fields of business, education, and health. Fifteen volunteers were so impressed with their experience that they chose to return to their countries of origin and set up businesses there, each employing five to ten local people and building capacity in the local business sectors.¹⁴

1.5 Lessons learned

It is possible to conclude that for some diaspora, entrepreneurial initiatives are the most secure way for immigrants and their families to improve their standard of living. The success of these business and entrepreneurial initiatives in Europe brings enormous gains for various actors: for migrants and their families, for consumers and resident workers, and for both countries of residence and of origin. Thus, both European and African governments should create favourable conditions for diaspora entrepreneurship and reproduce good practices in this area. Recognising the potential of the African diaspora requires policies to be developed that create an enabling environment to harness their potential and ensure that they receive the specific support they need to develop their businesses.

A combination of economic, political, financial and sociocultural factors influence an individual diaspora member's decision to become an entrepreneur. Individual weaknesses or shortcomings may be inherent in some cases, but the diaspora business environment can easily be strengthened through policy intervention. Diaspora-specific policy interventions to promote entrepreneurship should be augmented by fostering business-friendly legal and regulatory environments, with relatively easy access to finance. Reducing the impediments to business creation, levels of corruption and gaps in market information are prerequisites for encouraging such entrepreneurship. Facilitating access to financial capital is particularly important for individuals seeking to pursue entrepreneurial activities, whether large or small, skills-based or unskilled. Another stimulant measure is the use of a number of microfinance schemes to fund diaspora organisations and others.

Above all, paying adequate attention in policy development to SMEs improves the position of diaspora entrepreneurial initiatives. Programmes that aim to support the efforts of diaspora entrepreneurs to create wealth and jobs in their countries of origin will maximise the beneficial economic and developmental impacts of diaspora entrepreneurship for the countries of origin and of residence.

Notes

⁴ For more information, see Reis Direira, C., Ruth, J. (2008) *Migrações*, Journal of the Portuguese Immigration Observatory, No.3 (special issue Immigration Entrepreneurship).

⁵ See Newland K., Tanaka H. (2010) *Mobilizing Diaspora Entrepreneurship for Development*, Washington DC: Migration Policy Institute.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ For a discussion on the links between entrepreneurial activity and (macro) economic growth (focus on OECD countries), see for instance, Carree, M.A., Thurik A.R. (2010) *The Impact of Entrepreneurship on Economic Growth*, in Acs, Z. J., Audretsch, D.B. (eds.) *Handbook of Entrepreneurship Research: An Interdisciplinary Survey and Introduction*, Springer, UK.

⁸ For more information, see the EADPD country profile.

⁹ For a discussion on the links between entrepreneurial activity and (macro) economic growth (focus on OECD countries), see for instance Carree, M.A., A.R. Thurik (2010) *The Impact of Entrepreneurship on Economic Growth*, in Acs, Z.J., Audretsch D.B. (eds.) *Handbook of Entrepreneurship Research: An Interdisciplinary Survey and Introduction*, Springer, UK.

¹⁰ See Newland K., Tanaka H. (2010) *Mobilizing Diaspora Entrepreneurship for Development*, Washington DC: Migration Policy Institute.

¹¹ See Newland K., Tanaka H. (2010) *Mobilizing Diaspora Entrepreneurship for Development*, Washington DC: Migration Policy Institute.

¹² Reis Direira, C., Ruth, J. (2008) *Migrações*, Journal of the Portuguese Immigration Observatory, No.3 (special issue Immigration Entrepreneurship).

¹³ *A Common Agenda for Integration: Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union*. Commission of The European Communities, Brussels, 1.9.2005(Com 2005, 389).

¹⁴ Africa-Europe Platform/CAS e-Consultation. Case Studies of Good Practice in Diaspora Development. Edited Case Studies for Presentation and Discussion at the 2nd African Diaspora Expert Meeting, 6–8 November 2012, Paris.

2 Diaspora in rural and community development

Different diaspora and their organisations have become crucial players in rural and community development in Africa and elsewhere in the world.¹⁵ This nexus of diaspora and development has created a locus of attention among development practitioners and policy makers in both countries of residence and of origin. Thus, governments have devised policies and implemented measures that simulate the diaspora's engagement in development activities. These changes are motivated by the change in perception of the role of diaspora from being merely the senders of financial remittances to co-development actors.

Diaspora are therefore considered to have unique potential for bridging the different contexts to which they simultaneously contribute, as well as engaging in long-term development activities. This is due to their proximity to local people, their local insight and emotional ties with rural communities in Africa. Furthermore, their role has been strengthened due to their transitional livelihoods and the growth in information and communication technology enables them to maintain their ties with their communities of origin. The resources created by diaspora that can be channelled for rural and community development are plentiful. While it is relevant to recognise the contributions diaspora make to their country of residence, this report stresses the ways in which the African diaspora contribute to the development of their country of origin.

2.1 Diaspora organisations

According to the EADPD mapping exercises, in Europe there are several dozens of African diaspora organisations and groups involved in rural and community development activities in their home countries. Most of the organisations are based in north-western European countries.¹⁶ Accordingly, France has 73 diaspora organisations active in community and rural development in Africa, the Netherlands has 19, the UK has 51, Germany has 19, and both Spain and Finland have four. In the UK, the majority of these organisations are registered as charitable foundations, while those in France and the Netherlands are registered as not-for-profit organisations.

In this study, France was found to contribute the largest number of diaspora organisations active in community and rural development in Africa with 73 organisations examined. With regard to country of origin, West African diaspora groups from Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana and Mali comprise the largest share, followed by those from Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria from North Africa and the Maghreb region. Significant diaspora groups from East Africa are related to Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, and Zimbabwe, Angola and the Republic of South Africa from the South Africa region. Diaspora groups from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon in Central Africa and from Cape Verde are also actively involved in rural and community development in their country of origin.¹⁷

2.2 Context in countries of residence

One factor that determines African diaspora involvement in rural and community development activities is their degree of integration in their country of residence. Better integrated diaspora are better able to initiate and execute effective development programmes that transform the rural community in their original societies in Africa. We argue that the impact of better integrated diaspora in Europe stretches beyond their society of residence because there is a linear relationship between integration in countries of residence and active contribution to countries of origin. As active agents in their host European societies, diaspora gain a space to engage in rural community projects in Africa.¹⁸ Moreover some destination countries are devoting resources to helping the development efforts of diaspora in their countries of origin. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, the UK, Germany, Scandinavian countries and the European Union (EU) are among the governments and institutions becoming increasingly interested in working with the diaspora residing in their countries.

France, some Scandinavian countries and the European Commission have funded development projects carried out by Africa diaspora groups. In 2007, France added co-funding of diaspora projects to its menu of co-development options. At the 25th Annual Africa-France Summit, participating heads of state decided "to place the African diasporas living in France at the centre of migration and development strategies, promoting their involvement in the economic and social development of their country of origin by means of co development programs, encouraging migrant business projects, and mobilizing their savings for social and productive investment".¹⁹ Heads of state and governments reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the synergies between migration and development strategies, in keeping with the strategies and action plans drawn up in Rabat, Tripoli and Lisbon. In their declarations, they agreed to place the African diaspora living in France at the centre of these efforts, promoting their involvement in the economic and social development of their country of origin by means of co-development programmes, encouraging migrant business projects and mobilizing their savings for social and productive investment. They welcomed the decision by financial

operators and insurance firms to reduce the costs of remittances and offer new services suited to migrants' needs and the needs of their countries of origin.²⁰ The Netherlands has awarded grants to projects aimed at building migrant organisations' capacity for rural development.²¹

As opposed to small grants or matching grant initiatives, some member countries have set up programmes to facilitate diaspora development projects in rural Africa. The Development Marketplace for the African Diaspora in Europe, the African Development Marketplace and the Joint Migration and Development Initiative programmes are good illustrative examples.

2.3 Challenges and constraints

Diaspora development initiatives have enormous potential for social transformation in both origin and resident societies. Research on diaspora communities in Europe show that the initiation of such programmes is becoming increasingly frequent, but these programmes tend not to be fully realised because of lack of support, underestimation of their potential and weak coordination among the diaspora. In this case, challenges and constraints for diaspora can be seen both from within and outside organisations. Organisational problems, the management of knowledge and resources, together with the different contexts in which they operate, are all contributing factors. One challenge that is possibly to the detriment of diaspora initiatives is that of a division within the diaspora. This slows down mobilisation towards productive development goals.

A recent survey of 55 European-based African diaspora organisations conducted by the University of London's Centre of African Studies (as part of the EADPD project) listed a number of factors that can be stumbling blocks for diaspora development intervention. The research describes transparency, good planning and strong leadership, and access to different sources of funding as crucial factors in the success of diaspora-led development projects. The striking difference in the sources of funding for organisations from Anglophone countries as opposed to Francophone countries is another interesting finding of the study. It appears that diaspora organisations from Francophone countries are more likely to finance their projects through donations from their individual members (including membership fees). In contrast, most Anglophone diaspora organisations' financial support comes from foundation grants and subsidies from governments and non-governmental institutions.²²

Although carrying out programmes in partnership with diaspora in developing and emerging economies provides good opportunities to turn "brain drain" into "brain gain", institutional programmes that are meant to promote development frequently neglect co-development actors. Thus, support for diaspora development interventions requires new approaches. Diaspora development interventions have encountered enormous challenges. These interventions in rural communities often operate in starkly different institutional and policy environments, particularly between highly-developed and developing countries. Such differences impose a heavy burden on the projects.

2.4 Good practices in diaspora development interventions

A list of commonly accepted practices by the Africa diaspora organisations is identified by the AEP e-Consultation "Case Studies of Good Practice in Diaspora Development".²³ The study covers European-wide organisations; most of these organisations are located in France, Belgium, the UK, the Netherlands, and Germany, although there are also others in countries such as Spain, Malta, Switzerland, Greece and Italy. As the study indicates, although all of the initiatives are working to give back to their countries of origin, there is a huge difference in terms of initiatives, capacity and challenges.

1. IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE OUIDAH ORPHANAGE (BENIN) – EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Organisation

Youth with a Global Vision

Country

Ghana

Agency

Funded through individuals

Project Description

The Conseil des Béninois de France (CBF) is a federation of associations formed to represent Benin citizens in France. It aims to strengthen the bonds of solidarity between them and their country of origin, transform the Beninese living in France to become development actors for Benin and maintain good relations in terms of cooperation and co-development between both countries. It also aims to organise exchanges and contacts with the African diaspora in general and those of Benin in particular.

One of their latest projects aimed to offer orphaned and abandoned children the opportunity to grow up in a warm and healthy family environment, give them a decent education and create local jobs and revenue indirectly through the orphanage.

2. INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION

Organisation

Network for Regeneration and Development

Countries

East African countries

Supporting agency

None

Project Description

The Network for Regeneration and Development was created to promote and develop interest, co-operation and action in regeneration and development through the advancement of social, economic and justice issues amongst Black minority ethnic (BME) communities and organisations within the UK and overseas.

In one of its projects, it successfully managed to promote active engagement and participation by Black and ethnic communities in the UK and also in developing projects in their countries of origin. This was done through providing information on resources such as funding available for the project. It also promoted leadership training for those BME communities which are in positions of leadership in the voluntary sector, NGOs, government institutions and co-operative bodies in UK and overseas. Furthermore, it also helped develop sports by building capacities and working in partnership with other organisations to help empower people to achieve their full potential and to build communities and reintegrate disadvantaged groups in the UK and overseas. As an outcome, the organisation raised awareness of resources for international development, allowing many groups to access funding and deliver projects.

2.5 Lessons learned

This study suggests that diaspora and their organisations are increasingly becoming channels of development support between the North and South.²⁴ To fully exploit their potential, collaborative approaches between countries of residence and origin and the inclusion of diaspora members need to be strengthened. This provides a context for bilateral and multilateral partnerships and collaboration between different actors in the area. Building confidence and encouraging the exchange of ideas among diaspora members, governments and other actors is a crucial step in this direction. Furthermore, African governments should also consider building their capacity to capitalise on this offshore asset of the continent.

The study further indicates that there is a symbiotic relationship between conditions in countries of diaspora settlement and the capacity of members of the diaspora to contribute to Africa's development. Consequently, improving the diaspora organisations' capacity, their networks and facilitating financial and other support is a prerequisite and mutually beneficial step to enhance the diaspora's role in development.

Finally, the specific characteristics of each country and region need carefully to be factored into any practical and policy formulation. Gender concerns must also be assessed and addressed in policies and programmes to harness the development potential of diaspora. Thus, involving the diaspora members in development programmes should be complemented by comprehensive strategies. Their involvement should be part of an overall planning and strategy that addresses skills gaps in key development sectors. This inclusion of migration and diaspora in development policy formulation can help ensure coherent and sustainable outcomes in the long term.

Notes

¹⁵ See Joint Migration and Development Initiative Migration for Development: a Bottom-Up Approach. A Handbook for Practitioners and Policymakers (2011) http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/UNCT_Corner/theme7/jmdi_august_2011_handbook_migration_for_development.pdf

¹⁶ For more information, see EADPD mapping and country profiles.

¹⁷ See Institute of Cultural Diplomacy ICD, African Diaspora in Europe: Historical Overview http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_programs_diaspora_eu, or Petrovic, M. (2012) Migration Information Source, Belgium: A Country of Permanent Immigration. <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=913>

¹⁸ African Diaspora Policy Centre (2008) "Engaging African Diaspora in Europe as Strategic Agents for Development in Africa." Seminar Report, 25–26 June, Brussels.

¹⁹ Dilip R.S, et al. (2011) Leveraging Migration for Africa: Remittances, Skills, and Investments, World Bank: Washington DC.

²⁰ See 25th Africa-France Summit – Final Declaration¹ Nice, 1 June 2010 <http://www.ambafrance-uk.org/France-Africa-Summit-conclusions.html>.

²¹ Joint Migration and Development Initiative Migration for Development: A Bottom-Up Approach. A Handbook for Practitioners and Policymakers (2011) http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/UNCT_Corner/theme7/jmdi_august_2011_handbook_migration_for_development.pdf

²² See The University of London's Centre of African Studies <http://diasporaalliance.org/best-practices-for-diaspora-organizations/>

²³ Africa-Europe Platform/CAS e-Consultation. Case Studies of Good Practice in Diaspora Development. Edited Case Studies for Presentation and Discussion at the 2nd African Diaspora Expert Meeting, 6–8 November 2012, Paris.

²⁴ Joint Migration and Development Initiative Migration for Development: A Bottom-Up Approach. A Handbook for Practitioners and Policymakers (2011) http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/UNCT_Corner/theme7/jmdi_august_2011_handbook_migration_for_development.pdf

3 African diaspora remittances and microfinance

Remittances are probably the most solid contribution made by the diaspora to their communities at home. These resource flows in terms of capital are seldom larger than the rate of foreign direct investment and ODA combined. According to a recent World Bank report in 2012, the amount of remittances received by developing southern countries reached € 237 billion, which if the immense potential of diaspora savings is included, reaches € 301.5 billion.²⁵ These days, especially for African societies, remittances are an important source of capital inflow and have notably increased as a significant income base. For several African countries, this inflow of resources has become the major source of external financing. Consequently, remittances have become a catalyst for development in countries of origin by diversifying the investor base. In this regard, diaspora's remittances introduce new financial products and become a reliable source of funding. Unlike other capital flows, remittances are stable and continuously increasing. In this case, it is counter cyclical. As case studies indicate, migrants transfer huge remittances to their families even in the drought season.²⁶

The diaspora generally send money if they have left their core family behind and intend to return. Although the notion of remittances suggests only the monetary aspect, they consist of other monetary and non-monetary flows such as social remittances. Family members and recipient communities use remittances for a variety of purposes. A large portion of remittances is used to cover the costs of basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, health and education. These transfers of funds also help households to diversify their sources of income. In doing so, they increase household investments in education, entrepreneurship and health, all of which have a high social return in most circumstances.²⁷ Moreover, the potential contribution of diaspora to development in their countries of origin goes far beyond personal remittances. Remittance money may also be used for investment purposes in entrepreneurship or other productive schemes. Empirical studies do in fact show that local economic development in many developing economies depends greatly on remittances. This includes the indirect chain of impact on the local economy.²⁸

The African diaspora have also begun to contribute to development through collective remittances, comprising financial and nonfinancial resources, to their countries of origin. For this reason, organisations have been created in Europe, the US and some African countries to mobilise diaspora collective remittances for development. These groups include hometown associations (HTAs), ethnic associations, alumni associations, religious associations, professional associations, nongovernmental organisations, investment groups, national development groups, welfare and refugee groups, and internet-based virtual organisations. As a result, collective remittances of diaspora from the same geographic area or group have provided substantial funds to community development activities in some African communities.²⁹ Tools for sending remittances are also increasingly becoming a focal point and are frequently attached to microfinance credit schemes. Such credit facilities encourage remittance money to be used for investment and saving.

3.1 Diaspora organisations in remittances and microfinance

Diaspora channels for transferring remittances and micro credit institutions in Europe are limited in number. This is because migrants' remittances, for the most part, follow informal or personal networks. Thus, senders have various options, ranging from transfers by hand (through travellers), from bank to bank, by cheque, or sometimes through special money transfer agencies. African diaspora use all these different channels to remit money.

In recent years, there has been a proliferation of transfer agencies. However, some channels are far more widely used than others. Money transfer agencies such as Western Union and Moneygram are the main channels for official money transfer. Another very important mode of transfer is "by hand", with the funds being carried by a traveller (either the person sending the money, a family member or a close friend). Banks and credit unions are also used for money transfer purposes; however, their market share is very low.

Somali diaspora are among the most active African diaspora groups in the remittance or microcredit fields. Their main channels for sending remittances are specialised Xawaala (or Hawala) firms; most of these are active in the UK, but also internationally. Amal Express, Dahabshiil, Hodan Global Money Transfer, Al-Mustaqbal, Qaran Express and Olympic Money Transfer represent a combined market share of over 75% of remittance transfers to Somalia and Somali communities around the world. These remittance transfer organisations formed the Somali Money Transfer Association or SOMTA, which is a professional self-regulated organisation for the Somali remittance industry.

These firms have extensive networks of agents, are well-organised and – in most cases – well-regulated through the umbrella organisation, SOMTA. They operate in a manner similar to regular money transfer operators, except that they also operate on a foundation or trust basis.³⁰



SOMALI MONEY TRANSFER ASSOCIATION (SOMTA)

A professional self-regulated organisation for the Somali remittance industry. The majority of UK-based Somali money transmitters have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding and are in the process of confirming the final governance rules for membership. To retain

membership, companies must undertake an annual compliance audit. Other companies that both facilitate financial flows to Somalia and can demonstrate that they are able to comply with the rules are welcome to join.

3.2 Context of remittances in different countries

Estimating the extent of African diaspora remittance organisations in Europe is a difficult task because of incomplete data and the informal nature of the organisations. The spatial distribution of African diaspora remittance organisations in Europe shows important spots or countries of destination in this group. In the recent past, states and international institutions have started to focus their attention on remittances and their transfer channels. A number of EU member countries have developed policies to regulate, monitor and manage the money transfers of migrants. Private financial establishments have also started to develop and execute different programmes to facilitate remittance transfers.³¹ A number of conferences and studies on this issue have also been initiated.

One of the actions of this movement is to facilitate money transfer through formal channels with the intention of improving the transparency of the money market, promoting the competitiveness of service-givers and reducing transfer costs. The British international development agency, DFID, has developed a special website, www.sendmoneyhome.org, to provide in-depth information concerning money transfer options, including information on fees and the time required for transfer among the different providers from the UK to other countries. In 2007, a similar website, www.geldtransfair.de, was also launched for migrants living in Germany. Following a similar path, other European countries, such as the Netherlands, Norway and France, have established their own remittance transfer websites.

Countries in Europe have taken measures to develop the financial infrastructure in African countries to improve access to financial services for poor people who do not have bank accounts. One such example is the Migrants' Supporting Tools for Economic Projects (S.T.E.P),³² implemented by the Agence Régionale de Développement in Senegal under the remit of the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI). Also, for this reason, DFID has created a remittance country partnership programme with a number of countries such as Ghana, and Nigeria in Africa and Bangladesh in South Asia. The partnership provides training to support microfinance institutions in improving their services in the remittance market.³³

France also aims to lower the transfer costs of remittances, as remittances can contribute to development. In 2007, the French Development Agency established an online tool that compares what various financial and informal institutes charge for sending remittances. The new project aimed not only to increase the amount of remittances transferred to Africa, but also reduce the costs, which can be up to 25% of the amount sent and are thus significantly higher compared to other regions.³⁴

To upscale this good practice, on 23 October 2009 the Agency, together with the African Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, signed a deal to launch a "multilateral solidarity development fund" for Africa. The primary aim was to decrease the costs of migrants' transfers in accordance with the strategy of the G-8 July 2009 meeting to achieve a 50% reduction in the costs of transfers by 2014. The development fund will also design new financial tools to encourage migrants to save and investment in their countries of origin. This multilateral fund will also co-finance, in the spirit of co-development, investments in entrepreneurship in countries of origin, prioritising calls for microcredit loans and support to SMEs.³⁵



MIGRANTS' SUPPORTING TOOLS FOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS (S.T.E.P)

This is a project that seeks to improve the quality of financial services available to migrants by introducing new tools and offering support for migrant business creation. The most innovative part of this project is the establishment and strengthening of a number of Centres for the Support of Migrant Initiatives (CAIM). Disseminated across Senegal, Belgium and Italy,

the project also maps existing services that support migrant entrepreneurs, including financial assistance and technical support. The project works jointly with partnering organisations providing microcredit facilities, access to funding for migrant entrepreneurs and help in securing additional funding.

3.3 Challenges and constraints

Different studies have already shown that there are obstacles that restrict the flow of remittances from countries of residence to countries of origin. Despite our knowledge of their contributions, the data are limited in terms of the impact of remittances in Africa and there is rarely any information on remittances from undocumented immigrants.

Low access to formal financial services and high remittance transfer fees are major challenges. The costs involved in sending remittances through banking institutions and money transfer service providers are often very high. This encourages senders to turn in to other informal channels that offer the service at a lower cost with other attractive benefits, such as speed, anonymity and proximity to the recipients. However, such informal channels are sometimes risky for both sender and recipient. Mistrust of migrants in the mainstream financial sector may be one contributory factor for this to happen. In countries affected by conflict, the banking system may be severely affected, or may even have collapsed completely (as in Somalia).

A weak link to productive investment is another shortcoming of diaspora remittances to Africa. Owing to the economic and political context of some origin countries, remittance investment in productive business and development activities remains at the low end. In Sierra Leone, Somalia, Burundi, Eritrea and some other countries, much of the diaspora remittances are used to cover the basic needs of the community.³⁶ Moreover in countries where the population has low confidence in the political and economic situation, remittances tend to be invested in real estate and immovable property, which is less risky than investing in business. This makes remittances less responsive to community needs in a broader sense.³⁷

These constraints may also be related to mistrust on the part of migrants, which can be linked to cultural factors. A general lack of information on available services is one reason behind this mistrust. Complicated regulations in some countries of origin discourage some diaspora individuals from opening a bank account.

3.4 Good practices in diaspora remittance and microfinance

1. MICROFINANCE AND SME SUPPORT	
Organisation AFFORD	Project Description The African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) is a charitable organisation that was founded in 1994 to respond to the disjuncture between mainstream international development agencies and the diaspora. RemitPlus™ ran as a pilot project between the UK and Sierra Leone for two years, starting in 2009, to link remittances to SME development, financial literacy and investment. Furthermore, it enabled a local microfinance institution to transform into a remittance agency.
Countries Sierra Leone and Ghana	In another project to help diaspora entrepreneurs set up businesses in Ghana, clients worked with AFFORD advisers in the UK, producing business plans and undertaking market research trips. This latter project was funded by the EU and Hivos.
Supporting agency Remit Plus™, co-funded by IFAD	These projects aim to encourage financial literacy and SME start-up and also to harness diaspora remittances for social development purposes. One of the outcomes is that 15 diaspora investors/business people have been able to set up businesses in Ghana and Sierra Leone and relocate there.
	One of the challenges that arose in these projects was managing the expectations of both partners and participants, as every business idea had to be assessed from a realistic perspective. Other difficulties included persuading funders and remittance agencies to support the project, as well as misunderstandings concerning the nature and value of remittances for development.

2. MONEY TRANSFER ASSOCIATIONS

Organisation

Somali Money Transfer Association or SOMTA

Countries

Somalia and the UK

Supporting agencies

DFID and UNDP

Project Description

SOMTA comprises a group of Somali money transfer associations with a combined market share of over 75% of the Somali remittance market. Among the associations are Amal Express, Dahabshil, Hodan Global Money Transfer, Al-Mustaqbal, Qaran Express and Olympic Money Transfer. SOMTA is a professional self-regulated organisation for the Somali remittance industry. It replaced the earlier Somali Financial Services Association which was formed in 2003. The objective is to “secure the future of the Somali remittance industry through a safe and healthy sector comprising fully compliant money transmitters who are able to operate and compete globally”. It has adopted a comprehensive set of rules that govern the new association with clear rules concerning membership, governance structure, compliance, transparency and accountability. As Somali remittance organisations are central to the lives of the Somali diaspora, they will play an important role in development. They can provide technical assistance to support entrepreneurs obtain funding and matching funding, perhaps by giving a percentage of their profits or matching employee giving. They will also play an important role in mobilising their peers and the diaspora and promoting the benefits of the Fund to the community.³⁸

3. MICRO-FINANCE AND SAVING CREDIT

Organisation

Hagbad: Somali Style Microfinance

Countries

Somalia, the UK and other EU countries

Supporting agency

N/A

Project Description

The Somali savings and credit method, also known as Hagbad, is a traditional Somali financial system. Women are the most important actors in these associations. The method is also often practised amongst Egyptians who know it as Gama'eyyah and in the Philippines where it is termed Paluwagan. Every member of the savings association contributes money monthly and members take turns collecting the total pool of money each month. A Hagbad is often made up of women who share clan ties, who live in the same neighbourhood, or who work together. Recently, the traditional Hagbad system has changed into more organised financial bodies. Although still run by women, many men and young people have seen the benefits of the method and begun to be involved. The engagement in Hagbad associations for business purposes is also on the increase. For example, many people, primarily women, pool their Hagbad to travel to China and buy goods which they ship to Somaliland or Puntland.³⁹

3.5 Lessons learned

The flow of remittances is becoming a major source of revenue for a number of countries. According to some estimates, the transfer of money to receiving countries even exceeds the combined value of foreign direct investment and ODA. Governments at both the sending and receiving ends are seeking to address the challenges of capitalising on their development potential.

The focus of future efforts to harness the development outcome of remittance is likely to include attempts to reduce transfer costs and link remittances to productive (possibly social) investments. Incentive-based schemes, which aim to encourage diaspora to invest their earnings in their country of origin, are another policy option. These kinds of initiative for channelling remittances towards more durable investment programmes can fuel community development, with an effect not only on direct recipients but also the general public. Securing and formalising transfers can build confidence in both diaspora and the authorities at different levels. Local, municipal and national authorities can play crucial role in this respect, as intermediaries between banks and other private [sector] actors and community development needs. Finally, up-scaling good practices in receiving and sending countries offers scope for mitigating some of the shortcomings of remittances outlined in this report.

Notes

²⁵ For more information, see World Bank (2011) World Bank: Migration and Remittances. <http://www.worldbank.org/>

²⁶ OECD (2006) International Migration Outlook 2006. SOPEMI. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

²⁷ World Bank (2006) Global Economic Prospects: The Economic Implications of Migration and Remittances, World Bank: Washington, DC.

- ²⁸ Migration and Sustainable Economic Development – GIZ Discussion paper (2013) www.giz.de/ Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- ²⁹ See World Bank (2011) World Bank: Migration and Remittances. <http://www.worldbank.org/>
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Oucho, J.O. (2010) African Diaspora and Remittance Flows: Leveraging Poverty? MKNAS Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, School of Health and Social Studies, University of Warwick. Paper prepared for the African Migration Yearbook 2008 (Oucho, 2010:143-44).
- ³² Migration for Development: A Bottom-Up Approach. A Hand Book for Practitioners and Policy Makers. EU and UN Joint Migration Initiative.
- ³³ Migration and Sustainable Economic Development – GIZ Discussion paper (2013) www.giz.de/ Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- ³⁴ IFAD (2009) "Sending Money Home to Africa. Remittance Markets, Enabling Environment and Prospects". International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome. November. (IFAD 2009:2)
- ³⁵ AFD (French Development Agency) (2006) "Migrants, Actors of Development". Synthesis Report, Paris, 29 March.
- ³⁶ MIINDS (2009) http://www.immigration.gouv.fr/spip.php?page=dossiers_det_dev&numrubrique=216&numarticle=1357.
- ³⁷ Hassan, M.A., Chalmers, C. (2008) UK Somali remittance survey, DfID. http://www.diaspora centre.org/DOCS/UK_Somali_Remittan.pdf
- ³⁸ Ibid.
- ³⁹ Ibid.

4 Diaspora in education and training

Human mobility generates and maintains a number of capitals across different locations, constituting a further incentive for development. Awareness of the diaspora's transnational livelihoods has recently also led to the endorsement of their role as development actors filling a skills gap in African countries.⁴⁰ In a similar vein, policy and other interventions are adopting different strategies to map and match skills for the benefit of society in countries of residence and of origin. Given the African diaspora's unique position, they are better placed than ever to play pivotal role in development of the continent. They also contribute to knowledge development in their countries of residence. Diaspora therefore have the unique potential to transfer knowledge from one society to another. This could include social remittances, technology transfers, networks, investment and arguably assistance in the better integration of countries in the global market.⁴¹ This section considers education, knowledge transfer and capacity building in the context of migration and development, its influence on social and human capital, and how EU countries are responding to this issue. Moreover, it highlights and briefly analyses the challenges that hinder the activities of diaspora groups in their role as co-development actors, while simultaneously discussing good practice examples in the areas of capacity-building training and education.

4.1 Organisations involved

The diaspora commit their skills and knowledge to develop their countries of origin. However, understanding the nature of diaspora organisations' work in education and training activities is complicated by several factors. One such factor is that diaspora organisations are heterogeneous groups of people and cultures, spanning all regions of Africa. The present EADPD study has mapped out 78 diaspora organisations active in education and capacity-building development in Africa. The main criterion for including an association or organisation is that it represents diaspora from Africa and their descendants. Among diaspora organisations, the major ones include 27 from France, 13 from the UK, 12 from Germany, 10 from Belgium, and six from the Netherlands. Most of these describe themselves as co-development organisations rather than education-specific organisations. However, it is difficult to detach these diaspora organisations from their education-related programmes. A diaspora organisation or group may, for instance, be involved in training, education or capacity building to raise funds and find members with an interest in the relevant country of origin.

4.2 Context in countries of residence

Some EU member states are now starting to derive benefits from the vast potential of the transnational network of diaspora experts clustered in their metropolitan centres. In order to profit from this potential, countries in north-western Europe are taking encouraging measures to marshal diaspora knowledge.⁴² However, there is still a need to develop a wide-ranging policy framework that deals with all aspects of diaspora and development issues, including social remittances.

In this area there is a gap attributable to political disinterest in the social capital of the African diaspora residing in a number of EU member countries. This results from a lack of knowledge and information about the social capital that the Africans in the diaspora have acquired in countries of residence.⁴³ Unfortunately, much of the existing information about the African diaspora in many European countries relates primarily to their cultural practices, such as religion, identity formation, social networks and the manner in which they organise their social relations in their host society's settings. On the other hand, migration has a positive effect by and large on the development of countries of origin. This has gained recognition in the policy-making circles of not all, but at least some countries. Furthermore, when drawing up policies, involving the diaspora and using their knowledge, experience and expertise can ensure an outcome that reflects the actual reality and specific challenges.

4.3 Challenges and constraints

African diaspora organisations have encountered numerous challenges as well as constraints in their attempts to carry out programmes related to education and training in their countries of origin. The challenges are prevalent in both countries of residence and of origin. One of the main challenges is lack of support for diaspora groups. Severe capacity constraints for African diaspora organisations are another continuing challenge. To begin with, there is a lack of capacity to carry out their activities in a way that is more visible to the wider world. Furthermore, their social organisation is still weak and remains informal. African diaspora organisations also lack the means to gain access to helpful information and networks, especially those in minimal contact with mainstream development agencies. As mentioned above, weak organisational capacity is a major constraint for most African diaspora organisations in Europe. In relation to this, "most African diaspora organisations lack sufficient project writing skills, capacity to organise activities and management know-how".⁴⁴ Coupled with this problem, the majority of African diaspora organisations are run on a purely voluntary basis. This poses its own limitations in terms of their capacity to deliver, especially in a

development network dominated by international and intergovernmental agencies and NGOs. With regard to the transfer of social remittances, the knowledge base necessary for policy formulation and support is still very limited. Accordingly, there have been relatively few studies conducted with the purpose of analysing the potential role played by diaspora groups in education and knowledge transfer. Instead, much of the research has been done on remittances and their impact owing to security and economic interests resulting from the 9/11 incident. In addition, the relevant skills and knowledge acquired by diaspora professionals are ignored in many sectors. This problem is also prevalent in mainstream development agencies and consequently skilled and qualified African diaspora are excluded from finding meaningful employment in the sector. Both institutional and organisational constraints are the main impediments to African diaspora groups. Therefore, the combination of both challenges and constraints are significantly holding back the diaspora from realising the potential of their social capital for the development of Africa.

4.4 Good practice in development interventions

Diaspora individuals, groups and organisations are in practice among the most appropriate channels through which education and knowledge can transfer effectively to countries of origin. This study offers some interesting good practice examples of how diaspora networks link communities in countries of origin and residence with regard to education, training and capacity building programmes.

1. MIGRANTS’ SKILLS TRANSFER IN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
<p>Organisations Egyptian Agribusiness Association and Athens Network of Collaborating Experts</p> <p>Countries Egypt and Greece</p> <p>Supporting Agencies Egyptian Agribusiness Association and Athens Network of Collaborating Experts</p>	<p>Project Description</p> <p>The migrants’ skills transfer in aquaculture and fisheries scheme implemented by the Egyptian Agribusiness Association and Athens Network of Collaborating Experts in Egypt is one example of good practice. The project has facilitated the development of aquaculture and fisheries industries (ACF) in Egypt by adopting a two-fold approach. On the one hand, it mapped the skills of Egyptian migrants engaged in these industries in Greece to enable the transfer of knowledge to the home country. It created a database of aquaculture experts, fish farms in Egypt and Egyptian fishermen who migrate seasonally to Greece. On the other hand, it enhanced the capacities of some Egyptian fishermen engaged in seasonal work in Greece who were interested in working in the ACF industry during the time they spend in their home country each year. The project also created two “sister” websites in Greece and Egypt, providing information on the ACF sector and featuring job opportunities available in Egypt, building on existing community links between the two countries. The project also provided training to low-skilled Egyptian migrants working in Greek open sea fisheries to upgrade their skills. Participation in the training had to be compensated with a stipend, as workers were obliged to give up their jobs for a two-month period in order to attend. The negative effects of the global financial crisis provoked the withdrawal of some stakeholders initially engaged in the training. This unexpected constraint was overcome thanks to the strong links maintained with local authorities, who referred partners to alternative local stakeholders. The project adopted a simple but practical skills-matching strategy particularly suited to the seasonally migrating fishermen that it wished to target. The same approach could also be adjusted to target other sectors involving a seasonal dimension, such as agriculture. Concerning the formation of alliances, this project shows the advantages of involving a dense network of stakeholders in the project and in this case, local authorities.⁴⁵</p>

2. SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERING TRIPS TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Organisation

AFFORD

Countries

Ghana and Sierra Leone

Supporting Agencies

Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) and Department for International Development (DFID)

Project Description

Diaspora organisations recruit diaspora professionals to undertake short-term volunteering trips (two to three weeks) to countries of origin to work with local partners on specific projects. The programme was piloted in 2005 by AFFORD, working with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO). The AFFORD volunteers worked with partners in Ghana and Sierra Leone to support enterprise development. Other diaspora groups worked in Nigeria, Kenya, Nepal, and so on, on education, fish-farming, health and other themes. The AFFORD volunteers make financial contributions towards the trips to Ghana and Sierra Leone.

The project is also facilitating diaspora professionals to engage/re-engage productively with their countries of origin through the provision of direct technical and other support to projects run in the countries of origin. This is a catalyst for individuals to construct new “development relationships” in countries of origin and initiate new partnerships between diaspora groups and diverse local development actors. Moreover, it has contributed to the creation of a business development support programme in Sierra Leone, aimed at providing sustainable jobs.

Some 30 volunteers from the diaspora have successfully completed placements in Sierra Leone and Ghana in the fields of business, education, and health. Another 15 volunteers were also so impressed with their experience that they chose to return to their countries of origin and set up businesses there, employing five to ten local people each and building capacity in the local business sectors.

In addition to the above, the pilot was subsequently broadened out to other diaspora groups in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Moreover, the success of the project in fostering SMEs in Sierra Leone led directly to the establishment of the AFFORD business centre in Sierra Leone in 2012, which provides local entrepreneurs with legal, financial and other support to establish SMEs.⁴⁶

3. YOUTH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Organisation

FAFRAD-Jeunesse

Countries

Benin, Congo, Mali and Mauritania

Supporting Agencies

Communes, Départements, Régions and State

Project Description

From 2004 on, young people from Bobigny and Ile de France in the charge of a FAFRAD employee have led international solidarity site visits to Benin, Mali and Mauritania. The aim of these site visits was to set up local development projects and career opportunities, as well as develop the social integration of young people through their civic engagement. Thus, the programme promotes the participatory citizenship of young people while contributing to the dynamics of local development in Africa and supporting their careers and social integration.

The project has a duration of three years with adequate financial resources and additional funding from the Regional Councils of Yvelines and Ile de France and the town halls of Mureaux and Bobigny Via-le-Monde. Delivering site visits in the allotted time and to the satisfaction of local partners has been one major outcome. This also encourages the reproduction of this type of project and help for other groups of young people to do the same.

A variety of contacts with institutions and organisations have been developed in France and Africa, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Council of Seine-Saint Denis, government and also local institutions in Africa.⁴⁷

4. ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS)

Organisations

Associação Jovens Solidarios, Associazione di Promozione Sociale Lunaria, Associazione Donne Capoverdiane in Italia, and Binario Etico based in Cape Verde and Italy

Countries

Cape Verde and Italy

Supporting Agency

N/A

Project Description

The Cape Verde multimedia centre is one example of good practice of diaspora education and a knowledge transfer programme. The project aimed to promote access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the island of São Nicolau, Cape Verde, as a way of enhancing social inclusion and facilitating communication between the local community and overseas migrants. A multimedia centre was set up in São Nicolau using recycled material collected in Italy and free software training courses on ICT were offered both to local youth and to young second-generation migrants of Cape Verdean origin in Italy. The programme was executed through a partnership between the Associação Jovens Solidarios, Associazione di Promozione Sociale Lunaria, and Associazione Donne Capoverdiane in Italy and Binario Etico based in Cape Verde and Italy.

The project generated great enthusiasm, particularly among second-generation Cape Verdean youths in Rome, who were actively involved in the activities of the online network set up to bring them together with members in Cape Verde. In addition, study trips were arranged in Rome and São Nicolau to facilitate face-to-face meetings and encourage further exchange and collaboration between the youths concerned. The project, moreover, succeeded in reaching out to members of the Cape Verdean diaspora worldwide, who contacted project partners through the established web portal and online radio.⁴⁸

4.5 Lessons learned

In order to transfer the human capital of diaspora in ways that are meaningful for progress, all bodies concerned should study local needs alongside the skills and capacities of the diaspora and vice versa. Knowledge of both is essential to identify relevant opportunities for skills transfer and exchange and ensure good links between the diaspora and development components of the project. All such efforts should also take in to account gender and age dimensions. The fact that the diaspora are seen only as generators of remittances and not as development actors can constitute an obstacle to the recognition of their capacity as knowledge transfer and capacity-building actors. It is also important that host countries design legislation and promote cooperation strategies regarding migration issues and also develop bilateral codes of behaviour with countries of origin, including with sub-national and municipal actors. More research should focus on the general impact of education and knowledge transfer development projects on the home countries, taking into account diaspora viewpoints and contributions. The establishment of co-development transnational networks could enhance the effectiveness of projects in African countries. For this reason, it is essential that governmental bodies should support the creation of such networks.

Notes

⁴⁰ For more information, see Wickramasekara, P. (2003) "Policy Responses to Skilled Migration: Retention, Return and Circulation", Perspectives on Labour Migration, No. 5, ILO, Geneva.

⁴¹ For more information, see Migration for Development: A Bottom-Up Approach. A Hand Book for Practitioners and Policy makers. EU and UN Joint Migration Initiative.

⁴² See Wickramasekara, P. (2003) "Policy Responses to Skilled Migration: Retention, Return and Circulation", Perspectives on Labour Migration, No. 5, ILO, Geneva.

⁴³ See E-policy Brief: No. 4. The Importance of Youth Education and Capacity Building Training for African Migrants in the EU (ADPC).

⁴⁴ Social Remittances of the African Diasporas in Europe Case Studies: Netherlands and Portugal, Migration and Co-Development: North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Resources/Publications/Social_Remittances_August2006_en.pdf

⁴⁵ Source: Migration for Development: A Bottom-Up Approach. A Hand Book for Practitioners and Policy makers. EU and UN Joint Migration Initiative. http://repub.eur.nl/res/pub/32139/Migration_Development.pdf

⁴⁶ E-Consultation on Good Practices in African Diaspora Development (October 2012) AEP Partners.

⁴⁷ Africa-Europe Platform/CAS e-Consultation. Case Studies of Good Practice in Diaspora Development. Edited Case Studies for Presentation and Discussion at the 2nd African Diaspora Expert Meeting, 6–8 November 2012, Paris.

⁴⁸ Source: Migration for Development: A Bottom-Up Approach. A Hand Book for Practitioners and Policy Makers. EU and UN Joint Migration Initiative. http://repub.eur.nl/res/pub/32139/Migration_Development.pdf. p. 35.

5 Diaspora's role in water, environmental and energy management

As many studies show the potential contribution of diaspora to environmental conservation, water and energy management and other related areas shows an increasing trend. The USAID Africa Bureau's Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) study reveals that the diaspora "represents a potentially powerful communication vehicle for advocacy, funding, and organisational resource for effecting lasting change on behalf of biodiversity conservation and natural resources management in Africa".⁴⁹ Nonetheless, there have been few studies on the connection between diaspora individuals' or communities' contributions to the conservation of natural resources in Africa.

Generally speaking, issues of water and environmental conservation and energy management in Africa have not been given proper attention. When it comes to diaspora, the level of attention is much poorer. The absence of a strong network, low visibility, coordination with other global players and of a policy framework in this area, together with meagre funding, are among the likely reasons for this lack of attention. The aforementioned policy and funding limitations are the problems hindering the recognition of the diaspora's role in the continent's development overall and water, environmental and energy management issues in particular. The above factors are caused primarily by a lack of understanding. If addressed well, this could be transformed into feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions. Furthermore, the skills and strategic potential of the African diaspora in Europe have not been leveraged sufficiently to promote and advance effective water, environmental and energy management policies and programmes in Africa.

5.1 Diaspora organisations involved

Although most organisations do not really qualify as traditional conservation organisations, they do include components orientated towards water, environmental and energy management or conservation issues. It should also be noted that some diaspora-led initiatives have an environmental bent as many of them align water, environmental and energy management issues with other activities in their programme.

The estimated number of organisations active in water, environmental and energy management issues ranges between 40 and 50 in all EU member countries plus Norway and Switzerland. The EADPD study has mapped out 48 diaspora organisations in this field. Of these organisations, the major ones include 18 from France, 11 from the UK, seven from Belgium, six from the Netherlands and five from Germany. This diversity reflects the nature and area of operations and the setup in each resident country. Another significant issue that is worth mentioning here is that African diaspora in Europe often organise operations along hometown or village and ethnic lines.

Most diaspora organisations working on water, environmental and energy management are to be found in north-western European countries.⁵⁰ A mapping of African diaspora associations, organisations, foundations and academic institutions within Europe confirms the assertion that the engagement of the diaspora in biodiversity and natural resources conservation initiatives is relatively low. It is astounding to note that while many in the diaspora have similar stories of families and relatives having to walk long distances for firewood and water, the disappearance of wooded areas and forests they knew when they were young, and how they no longer see the familiar wildlife of their youth, their level of engagement in this area remains relatively low.⁵¹ One explanation for this low level of engagement in natural resources conservation could lie primarily in lack of awareness and resources. Another could be that many tend to see mainstreaming the issues as the domain of significant international organisations or governments.



The Bridge e.V. is a diaspora development organisation based in Germany. Some members of the association come from Germany, others from the target regions and are therefore very familiar with local conditions and guide the project implementation on the ground

personally. The organisation undertakes work in different development agendas, including water, environmental and energy projects in the Republic of Guinea. <http://thebridge-ngo.de>

5.2 Different countries and contexts

Governments have started to recognise the potential role of migrants in executing programmes in their countries of origin. For this reason, a number of EU countries are devoting resources to help diaspora execute projects in their countries of origin. In this vein, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain and the UK are among the governments who are becoming more interested in working with the diaspora residing in their countries. These initiatives have taken various forms, ranging from the provision of technical, material and direct financial assistance to diaspora individuals and groups

to implement measures such as building water wells and initiating conservation programmes. DfID, Oxfam, Wildlife International and other development organisations work as partners in realising programmes jointly with diaspora organisations. The focus in involving migrant communities in water, energy and natural resources management is to make use of their diaspora network as partners in their development cooperation programmes in their countries of origin. The EU and its international development division is now also trying to promote diaspora as development actors in this area. One purpose of the AEP initiative is to create a platform for active diaspora groups in relation to water, energy and natural resources management issues. In particular, countries like France and the Netherlands are funding diaspora-initiated development projects. The Netherlands has awarded grants to projects aimed at building migrant organisations' capacity in this field. In 2007, France added co-founding of diaspora projects to its menu of co-development programmes.

5.3 Challenges and constraints

The potential of African diaspora contributions in the fields of water and environmental conservation and energy management issues has failed to gain proper attention in Europe and also in Africa. Consequently, this hinders the effective participation of African diaspora in the area. Moreover, it weakens the formulation of suitable policies and practices that could be translated into feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions. Beyond this, the knowledge and potential expertise of the African diaspora in Europe has not adequately been exploited to promote and advance effective natural resources management policies and programmes in Africa. Another point worth mentioning here is that some of the environmental initiatives in Africa tend to be driven by individual desires and interests in addressing specific environmental and/or social issues in the continent. The diaspora-initiated programmes are generally weak in planning and unsustainable in execution. The reasons why the African diaspora and the biodiversity conservation communities in countries of residence have not worked more closely together seems to be due in part to the process used for developing policies and sources of funding for biodiversity groups. These policies and funding streams were conceptualised before the acknowledgment of the African diaspora's potentially crucial role in development in general and biodiversity conservation in particular.



<p>The UK-based Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) is an organisation led and inspired by diaspora professionals and development workers, mostly from the Horn region. The organisation works to address issues of pastoral concerns through the support of a wide range of donors such as the EU and other UK organisations. With a head office in London, PENHA has country offices in Uganda, Somaliland, Eritrea and Sudan and is currently working</p>	<p>in close partnership with the Ethiopian government. The country offices are run by local professionals who are regularly supported by an international team at the headquarters. The country offices are part of quite a decentralised structure, leaving space for PENHA to create its own strategies and agendas based on the particular needs and circumstances of the respective countries. http://www.penhainetwork.org</p>
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5.4 Good practice in interventions

Alarm and concerns over climate change and increasing desertification make diaspora commitment more important. Opportunities for working on innovations in renewable energy, sustainable environmental management and new technology to improve access to water are growing and offer attractive entry points for diaspora engagement and their collaborations.

1. WATER AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS: ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION

<p>Organisation Réseau Fivoarana Développement</p> <p>Country Madagascar</p> <p>Supporting agency Orange Foundation</p>	<p>Project Description</p> <p>The purpose of the project is to provide access to drinking water and improve living conditions in collaboration with the country of origin. A rural community association is a lead project partner. Local actors play a major role in decision making throughout project implementation, helping make it a successful collaboration.</p> <p>With an identified problem in an area, the project responds to the problem of easy access to drinking water and making improvements in public health and sanitation.</p>
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2. TEMPORARY RETURN OF QUALIFIED NATIONALS (TRQN) FOR WATER LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT

Organisation

IOM Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals

Country

Sudan

Supporting agencies

IOM and UNESCO

Project Description

Through the Netherlands temporary return of Qualified nationals (trQn) project, two Sudanese experts deployed Dutch know-how on water quality and management. Using diaspora expertise at the Omdurman Islamic University in the Sudan contributed to the improvement of the functioning of the water laboratory by increasing the capacity of the facilities and training the workforce. This project has also stimulated the exchange of skills with experts abroad. UNESCO underscores the importance of using diaspora expertise to build the capacity of local professionals as essential for know-how transfer to countries of origin. Moreover, the College of Water and Environmental Engineering at the Sudan University of Science and Technology SUST is equally delighted with the opportunity to use diaspora experts, arguing that it will increase the capacity of its staff and thereby improve transfer of knowledge to its students. Moreover, this concrete engagement is contributing to the establishment and functioning of a new Water Quality Laboratory within the university. As a result, members of staff have been trained in new methods for the analysis of water quality, providing approximately 30 employees from various departments with standard training on various aspects of the field. A number of activities for formulating lists of all chemicals, equipment and glass work available have also increased the laboratory's capacity in the University. The laboratory manual prepared by diaspora experts gives the latest state-of-the-art procedures and quality standards for water analysis.⁵²

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

Organisation

African Conservation and Development Foundation (ACDEF)

Countries

Cameroon, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Countries of the Upper Guinean forest are Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

Supporting agency

N/A

Project Description

ACDEF was created by a group of experienced Africans and international professionals in the area of sustainable development and environmental conservation in Africa. The organisation has a well-established local network all over Africa. Furthermore, ACDEF is a platform for biologists, economists, development experts, environmental lawyers, conservation and development activists bonded by the general drive to overcome the daunting challenges facing Africa in reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals and tackling current and emerging threats from climate change. Its activities come under two main programmes. The Nature and People Programme has three components the first of which concerns climate change and environmental forestry. In this component, ACDEF undertakes carbon forestry initiatives and associated finance in order to reduce forest loss in Africa and its impact on climate change, including sustainable forestry use. The second component is concerned with the conservation and management of wildlife. The third concentrates on social and economic development. The second programme is its Global Programme. Parallel with this vision, ACDEF promotes the intelligent consumption of natural resources and other environmental services to promote the well-being of the people of Africa. The organisation's initial activities are being carried out in selected countries located in the Congo Basin forest in Central Africa and the Upper Guinean forest in West Africa. The countries involved in the Congo Basin region include Cameroon, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The countries involved in the Upper Guinean forest are Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. ACDEF plans to extend its operations to other countries in the sub region. As indicated in the organisation's programme, in each of these countries, ACDEF is initially working through like-minded partner organisations. In the medium to long term it will establish its own country programmes.⁵³

4. ECOLOGICAL WASTE AND SOLAR SOLUTION

Organisation

ADA

Countries

Cameroon and Benin

Supporting agency

ADA

Project Description

Having distributed computers and wheelchairs for use by the handicapped, ADA discovered that these measures were not really helping the largest part of the population. They are about to build public toilets, etc. The purpose of the project is to add to the existing solution of providing modern equipment by focusing on sanitation and education.

Espoir d'Afrique is the lead partner organisation which operates by finding partners, supporting websites under construction and the use of GSM to obtain additional funds – matched funding of 20% is often required to gain public funding.

One advantage of the diaspora is speaking the same language, but the same level of importance is not accorded to the time they have to give or getting good technicians to do the work.

The impact of this diaspora project on local development is considerable and sanitary conditions in the areas have improved.

5.5 Lessons learned

Renewable energy, environmental management and the use of new technology to improve access to water in Africa have not been made a priority in terms of engaging African diaspora communities in Europe and elsewhere in the world. This is because diaspora's involvement in conservation issues in Africa has been sidelined. This in turn has marginalised its potential with regard to efforts to find solutions to the biodiversity crisis and environmental degradation of the continent as a whole. It is for this reason that diaspora contributions to renewable energy, sustainable environmental management and new technology to improve access to water could be considerably increased by structuring dialogues and awareness-raising activities via the social media and in the form of appropriate networks. Such networks, whose goal would be to connect members of the diaspora with their countries of origin using knowledge and sharing capacity could serve as a platform for harnessing the potential of the diaspora in the field. In this way, new media and information technology can help contribute, at least partly, to the repatriation of the intellectual capital from the diaspora.

Notes

⁴⁹ For more information, see *The African Diaspora in the US and its Interaction with Biodiversity Conservation in Africa*, June 2012, USAID.

⁵⁰ EADPD Mapping of African Diaspora Organisations in Europe.

⁵¹ *The African Diaspora in the US and its interaction with Biodiversity Conservation in Africa*, June 2012, USAID.

⁵² IOM, *Focus on Migration: Migration, Diaspora and Development*. International Organisations for Migration. Number 2, 18th Edition, July 2012. <http://diaspora.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/focus-on-migration.pdf>

⁵³ <http://www.acdef.org/index.html>

6 Integration and Diaspora Media

In an age of globalisation, with easy mobility, cheaper travel, new communication technology and easy access to media, the diaspora's countries of origin, as well as their transnational ties and networks, have a role to play in the integration process. According to one IOM study, "A diaspora that is well integrated in the country of residence has a positive effect on development in both the country of origin and the receiving country".⁵⁴ Integration is vital for all actors, not only as a way of providing economic and cultural benefits, but also for ensuring the security and stability of societies as a whole.

While the term "integration" can be understood in several different ways, it broadly concerns the process of mutual adaptation between a host society and the diaspora.⁵⁵ It entails a sense of requirement and value for a core set of principles that tie migrants and their host communities to a common purpose. In a migration context, integration is commonly characterised as an active and continuing two-way process of mutual accommodation between the host society and more recent members of the society. To strengthen this process, the diaspora should actively participate in social, economic, political and cultural life. Thus, integration cannot be considered as only a one-way flow from the country of origin to the receiving society.⁵⁶

Diaspora themselves change and develop throughout the process as their cross-border mobility is influenced by various factors. One of the factors in this process is the growing field of the diaspora public sphere, which is noticeable through media and new electronic communications technology. The media stimulates the full participation of diaspora in the 21st century transnational society, bringing potential benefits for both countries of origin and receiving societies. Digital and media participation by the migrants also eases alienation between the two by bridging the parallel mainstream and diasporic public spheres. Africans in the diaspora could also explore ways of adapting the use of media to challenge negative perceptions of Africa. In relation to this, the African diaspora has a key role to play – if not indeed responsibility – in helping to transform how Africa is presented in the media and perceived by the receiving public; this includes young people of African origin.⁵⁷

Integration in the receiving country and the flow of money and ideas that have an impact on development at both ends are linked. Governments and – to a certain extent – non-governmental actors play a facilitating role in the migration and integration process. In this context, the "European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals", adopted by the European Commission on 20 July 2011, explores three dimensions in relation to the involvement of countries of origin in support of the integration process: 1) preparing the integration process before migrants' departure; 2) favouring beneficial contacts between diaspora communities and their countries of origin; 3) creating a favourable environment for mobility that can facilitate integration in the destination country and at the same time development in the country of origin.⁵⁸

6.1 Diaspora organisations involved in integration and media

In view of the above discussion on diaspora integration, it is important to stress the value of studying the formation of migrant communities and diaspora groups. After all, these groups can both serve as conductors of integration policy and as a channel of communication with their receiving community. In this section, the term diaspora organisation is used generically to denote a group or association of Africans residing within EU member countries that engage in integration and diaspora media activities.

It is difficult to know the exact number of African diaspora organisations active in the integration and media field as estimates vary widely. In the EU, numerous diaspora communities reside in each state. Large numbers of African diaspora groups and organisations are concentrated in the former colonial countries, such as France with more than 51, the UK with 45, Spain with five and Belgium with eight. Most of these African diaspora groups originate from countries like Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana and Morocco. As the EADPD project has determined via its mapping exercise, today the number of diaspora groups is diversifying further, involving an increased number of receiving countries, such as Germany (13), the Netherlands (10) and Luxembourg (8).⁵⁹ In total there are 141 organisations active in diaspora media and integration.

This concentration of different migrant community groups in EU member states is altering their demographic makeup considerably.⁶⁰ Parallel with this, new groups of migrant communities from countries such as Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Egypt are transforming the composition of the African diaspora community in Europe. As a result, African diaspora are heterogeneous groups of people of African descent spanning many of the AEP target countries, the EU member countries, Switzerland and Norway. Given this situation, it is crucial to consider how these African diaspora communities can contribute to integration and media development.

6.2 Receiving country contexts

Until recently, the integration of migrants has not been taken into consideration at the policy level of several governments in north-western EU countries. Today, migrant integration has become an important precondition for creating a functioning multicultural society. Nevertheless, the development and implementation of integration policies is complicated by the fact that it takes place against a backdrop of xenophobia and inter-ethnic tension associated with immigration.⁶¹

Presently, countries of residence increasingly see migrant communities as an asset in terms of human, cultural and social resources, contributing to the economic process in the country of destination. For this reason, there is a consensus that well-integrated migrants and their organisations are becoming a meaningful part of receiving societies. The state and – to a certain extent – non-state institutions of the host countries have taken measures to deal with migration and integration processes. These measures have tended to address the following four categories: legal, economic, cultural and political.

From this perspective, the aforementioned European Agenda for Integration explores different dimensions in relation to the involvement of diaspora organisations in support of the integration process. Prior to this, in an effort to synchronise with the country of origin, the Africa–EU Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) partnership was launched in 2007 to improve the prospects for employment in Africa and the management of migration flows between Africa and the EU (Africa–EU MME Partnership 2010).⁶²

Nonetheless, integration policies in the EU member states are not uniform. Member states in north-western Europe have better and more coherent policies concerning migrant integration and adaptation. On the other hand, the need to reduce undocumented migration has become a dominant theme in policy making towards Africans since the early 1990s, particularly in the Mediterranean states – France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and more recently, Malta. Also, it should not be forgotten that migrant integration policies often take place in the context of established negative attitudes towards migrants. The situation in some Eastern European countries is often not as good as that in Western Europe.⁶³

It is important to acknowledge that given the absence or existence of weak integration policies and actions in some countries, non-governmental organisations take the lead in terms of migrant adaptation and integration. These civil society groups, human rights organisations and religious institutions provide different kinds of consultation and legal services to migrants.

The European Local Cooperation for Integration (ELCI) programme was designed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to facilitate a two-way integration process. It aimed to facilitate relations between migrant organisations and local and national authorities in EU member states and to encourage relevant authorities to involve those organisations in their integration strategies. The programme considered the role that migrant associations already play in local-level policy making on integration. Moreover, the programme carried out a comparative study of migrant organisational activity in France, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. The IOM implemented training sessions for local and regional integration authorities aimed at enhancing their understanding of European integration principles. It also organised transnational video conference meetings to encourage the sharing of best practices. The final project activity comprised a 30-minute video comparing integration strategies across the EU.⁶⁴ This video and the programme, which was completed in May 2012, was distributed to the governments of migrants' countries of origin and will be offered for publication on the European (EC) Web Site of Integration.⁶⁵

6.3 Challenges and constraints

Despite the increased interest in integration, the attention given to engaging diaspora organisations in this area remains at the lowest level. Interviews conducted with diaspora organisations across Europe have highlighted a number of challenges to engaging in the area of integration, one of the main challenges being the lack of instruments concerning the coordination of diaspora organisations.⁶⁶ The major constraints caused by the absence of coordinating integration policies with African diaspora organisations is also noticeable in other major policy areas, such as the protection of migrants' human rights and equal opportunities, employment and labour-market issues, national security, social cohesion, public health, education, and naturalisation and citizenship issues.

Limited availability of funding is another obstacle that diaspora organisations are facing. Many of the organisations identify this as their main constraint. The above challenge is aggravated as many organisations lack information on critical aspects of financial resources and basic requirements for applying for such funds, together with a lack of relevant experience. Other obstacles mentioned by diaspora organisations are finding suitable and affordable premises and lack of time to do the tasks involved in integration and media work.⁶⁷ Often the absence of a sound knowledge of the language, law and policies of their receiving country is another serious challenge for several African diaspora organisations. This diminishes the opportunities for engaging with the receiving population and acquiring it reduces their dependence on the expertise of others.

Some of the diaspora groups operate partly or entirely in the shadows. The mapping exercise conducted by the EADPD project also indicates that more than half of the groups mapped have no website or full contact information and often have few capacities. They tend to operate informally (such as those engaged in home-based activities). With regard to the more established African diaspora organisations (i.e. those with visible premises, comprising 25% of the cases), close-group tendencies and engaging small numbers of diaspora based on their ethnic and religious connections are reported.⁶⁸

6.4 Good practice in integration interventions

Migrant groups and organisations in receiving countries can play a crucial role in the integration process due to their in-depth knowledge of the cultural norms and customs of their respective communities. In parallel, any integration scheme requires sensitive and responsible media coverage of immigration and migration issues.

1. MEDIA, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION PLATFORM	
<p>Organisation Africa Radio TV</p> <p>Countries Austria and throughout Europe</p> <p>Supporting Agency None</p>	<p>Project Description</p> <p>Africa Radio TV (initially Radio Africa) is an information and communication platform in the media landscape for Africans and all who are interested in Africa. Africa Radio TV aims to contribute to improving relations both between the Africans themselves and with Austrians, but also between Europeans. Through different channels (radio, TV, newspapers, website), project Africa Radio TV reaches more than 200,000 people per week in Austria. “Radio Africa International” can be found daily (except Thursdays). The newspaper “Tribune Africa” has a circulation of 6,000 copies and is published quarterly. This is a significant achievement for Africa Radio TV because most employees still work as volunteers.</p> <p>The organisation is building bridges between cultures through mutual understanding developed using an information and communications platform targeting those interested in Africa, African migrants and Africans in particular. Also, it serves as a voice for migrants, particularly for Africans, to express themselves and present another picture of Africa. The programmes promote intercultural dialogue through active engagement with the integration of migrants and Africans in Austria.</p> <p>Africa Radio TV is working to change the image of Africa and build a positive picture in Austria and beyond. Furthermore, it works to eliminate prejudices and all communication barriers between receiving and migrant communities. With this effort, it managed to establish itself as Radio Africa International to create a real bridge between cultures, i.e. between Austria and Africa. This journalistic project fights against prejudices, clichés and stereotypes concerning Africa and Africans. Africa Radio TV aims to contribute actively to the integration of migrants in Austria. The organisation contributes to building a multicultural society through its different programmes. Africa Radio TV pursues an interactive and inclusive approach to migrants, to the local population and to people outside Austria.</p> <p>In addition to the above activities, Africa Radio TV implements numerous projects in the areas of intercultural dialogue, training, continuing education, awareness of education, integration and development.⁶⁹</p>

2. INTER-CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN PEOPLE OF AFRICAN ORIGIN AND THEIR HOST NATIONS

Organisation

AfroEuro Foundation

Countries

The Netherlands and Ghana

Supporting agency

None

Project Description

The AfroEuro Foundation is a non-governmental organisation established in 2003 and based in the Netherlands. The organisation seeks to identify and build a positive image of African migrants living and working in Europe. It operates in both the Netherlands and Ghana.

The organisation's mottos are "it's possible" and "building bridges". It believes that it is possible for African migrants and other nationals, irrespective of their social class or economic background, to develop adequate social capital through hard work and develop a strong social network. The AfroEuro Foundation believes it is possible to achieve goals and by making opportunities available for migrants to develop their creative talents and potential.

As an organisation, it works to create a forum for intercultural exchange between people of African origin and their host nations in the spirit of promoting the identity of African-Europeans. The primary goal is to encourage and promote the involvement of African-European students, youths, professionals, artists and politicians, among many others, in the communities in which they live. The aim is that they should be responsible citizens, taking on vital but also challenging roles in all areas of life, be it business, economics or politics.

The organisation works to realise its goals through building the capacity of migrants in the diaspora through mobilisation, sensitisation and promotional programmes to bridge existing gaps between North and South. It also supports the creation of a common platform for dialogue and the development of mutual understanding between African migrant communities and other nationals within Europe, stimulating business opportunities for migrants while facilitating their integration in host nations and re-integration in their countries of origin.

The organisation works in collaboration with community workers, interested citizens, students, government officials and AfroEuro national representatives through the AfroEuro Development Partnership. The partnership includes business people, research students and politicians worldwide, as well as everyone living anywhere interested in the development of Africa and the alleviation of hunger and disease. With a view to globalisation, the partnership seeks to stimulate poorer communities towards greater participation in global commerce and trade.⁷⁰

6.5 Lessons learned

Transnational migrants and their organisations have become increasingly important agents of transformation at the local, national and global levels. Apart from governments, a number of nongovernmental institutions, including religious communities, family networks and the media, in both countries of origin and receiving countries, play a role in making integration effective and multicultural bonds a reality. Moreover, while the EU has for a number of years supported measures to make financial remittances more efficient for development, not much attention has been paid to specific measures to support migrant integration in their countries of residence.

There needs to be a clear understanding of integration and the role the diaspora can play therein for both receiving and original societies. This includes various issues, inter alia: which policy measures can be implemented with regard to different groups of migrants, how big these groups are, their specific characteristics, and their social, economic, and demographic characteristics. In other words, integration policy should have a reliable informational and conceptual foundation, something which is currently lacking. In some EU member states, particularly those situated in Eastern and Central Europe, research on migrant integration and policy has only a short history.

According to our study, successful integration programmes should target the following aspects: the social inclusion of migrants and marginalized groups; increased access of migrants to public services; information about migration through established migrant resource centres; capacity building and training of diaspora groups and media organisations; provision of orientation and language training to individual migrants; awareness raising; media training and educational curriculum development; anti-xenophobia campaigns and inter-faith training; policy development; research aimed at improving existing migrant integration programmes. In this process, African diaspora organisations have a key role to play in building bridges between their communities, policy makers and the receiving society.

Notes

- ⁵⁴ For more information, see <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/what-we-do/migrant-integration.html>
- ⁵⁵ For more information, see: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0455:FIN:EN:PDF>
- ⁵⁶ For more information, see the EADPD mapping and country profile. <http://ae-platform.org/mapping>
- ⁵⁷ Ibid.
- ⁵⁸ For more detail see: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0455:FIN:EN:PDF6>.
- ⁵⁹ For more, see: the EADPD mapping exercise <http://ae-platform.org/mapping>
- ⁶⁰ For more, see Christine Inglis, Multiculturalism: New Policy Responses to Diversity, By Christine Inglis Management of Social Transformations (MOST) – UNESCO Policy Paper - No. 4, <http://www.unesco.org/most/pp4.htm>
- ⁶¹ Rob Bijl and Arjen Verweij (eds.), 2012 Measuring and monitoring immigrant integration in Europe Integration policies and monitoring efforts in 17 European countries. The Netherlands Institute for Social Research: The Hague. www.scp.nl/english/dsresource?objectid=30008&type=org
- ⁶² For more, see: Sixth meeting of the EUROPEAN INTEGRATION FORUM 'The involvement of countries of origin in the integration process' Brussels, 9-10 November 2011, BACKGROUND PAPER http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/background-paper_vi-forum-for-integration_en.pdf
- ⁶³ Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning. A Handbook for Policy-makers and Practitioners, Global Migration Group (2010). <http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/GMG2010.pdf>
- ⁶⁴ For more detail, see <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/what-we-do/migrant-integration.html>
- ⁶⁵ For more information, see the EADPD mapping and country profile. <http://ae-platform.org/mapping>
- ⁶⁶ Ibid.
- ⁶⁷ For more information, see the EADPD mapping and country profile. <http://ae-platform.org/mapping>
- ⁶⁸ See EADPD Study and <http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/index.cfm>
- ⁶⁹ See more at: <http://www.radioafrika.net/uber-uns/&usg=ALkJrhiXIYKsrxLACCKu6ycE9GEscMgpag#sthash.x1Eu8RbS.dpuf>
- ⁷⁰ See <http://afroeuro.org/>

7 *Diaspora in health, disability and welfare*

Migration in Europe today involves a diverse group of people, including health professionals. Their reasons for moving to another country or region include their wish to improve their or their families' livelihoods. Driven by a combination of social, economic and political push factors, the scope and scale of health professional migrants has evolved rapidly and continues to do so. This evolution is accompanied by an increased demand in receiving countries. For receiving countries, the inflow of healthcare workers can ease labour shortages in this sector and help address challenges, such as caring for an ever larger ageing population. Concomitantly, patterns of health professionals' migration have changed and continue to do so.

The diaspora can provide valuable skills to their countries of origin, whether they return permanently or temporarily. However, migrant returnees struggle to reintegrate and make the most of the skills and experiences acquired abroad and to apply them in the local setup. In this respect, governments in countries of origin need to facilitate reintegration by providing targeted assistance.

Furthermore, diaspora networks can bolster healthcare provision in home communities by investing in infrastructure in the country of origin. This includes replenishing skills in the country of origin with the support of overseas professionals who are migrants in receiving countries; a measure to compensate for "brain drain".

High outflows of health workers can endanger service provision in the country of origin. Skills shortages affect health service delivery, innovation and the training of future health workers. However, emigration does not constitute the main cause of professional gaps in the delivery of healthcare in developing countries. Those professionals who stay prefer to work for the private sector or in urban areas, which has adverse effects on health services in rural areas and particularly those for the poor.

7.1 Diaspora organisations

Providing an overview of the information on diaspora organisations involved in health, disability and welfare issues in Europe is complicated by various reasons: some statistics are based on nationality, others on country of residence and still others on legal status. However, no matter how the data are reported, the number of migrant health professionals and their organisations in Europe is large and growing.

There is a marked difference between various countries in terms of the size and the capacity of their diaspora organisations. According to the EADPD survey, it appears that the successes of diaspora organisations is directly related to and influenced by their policy environment. Most enabling schemes are found in Western Europe, e.g. the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France; the least optimal schemes are those in Central and Eastern European countries.

On the basis of the AEP project's mapping, there are 124 groups or organisations active in this field. British organisations constitute the largest number of active diaspora organisations (50), followed by France (34), Belgium (16), the Netherlands (10), Germany (nine), Finland (three) and Ireland (two). In the UK, the majority of these organisations are registered as charitable foundations, while those in France and the Netherlands are registered as not-for-profit organisations.

With regard to countries of origin, West African diaspora groups from Nigeria, Ghana and Mali constitute the largest share, followed by North Africans from Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria.⁷¹

7.2 Different contexts in each country

Most African migrant health professionals have moved to Western Europe and the majority from former colonies have predominantly travelled to the wealthier north-western countries of Europe, such as the UK, France, Germany and Belgium. To date, six nations in southern Europe (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain) list an increase in the number of healthcare professionals from Africa.⁷²

As some studies indicate, there has been a large increase in the number of international students in European high-income countries in recent years. From 1998 to 2003, the increase was approximately 38.5%. The top destinations were, in descending order, the UK, Germany and France.⁷³ This has led to an increase in the number of trained medical professionals and other skilled migrants among the diaspora communities of Europe.

Unlike other statistics on migrants in Europe, specific statistics on health professional migrants in the workforce are not consistently reported. This lack of information affects the mobilisation of health professionals for the development of their countries of origin in many ways. Despite this, efforts are being made to promote collaboration between developed and developing country institutions in sensitive sectors. They intend to turn "brain drain" into "brain gain" through short-term training and exchange programmes between hospitals and universities. One descriptive example

in this regard is the UK and South Africa governments' joint programme. The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on reciprocal educational exchange of healthcare concepts and personnel; this aims to target the recruitment of health personnel going to the UK, exchange information on professional regulations, workforce planning and development, and facilitate mutual access to universities and training schools for health professionals from both countries.⁷⁴

7.3 Challenges and constraints

Diaspora frequently face challenges and constraints in promoting their professional skills in general and engaging in health development projects in their countries of origin in particular. This is often due to their marginalisation, powerlessness, the lack of specific enabling policies or financial limitations. It is important to distinguish between structural, cultural and linguistic barriers. Structural barriers comprise administrative and financial obstacles that prevent diaspora engaging in health development projects. These include lack of funds and weak private sector involvement.

Many diaspora health professionals are unfamiliar with their receiving society's healthcare system and may have linguistic or cultural difficulties in communicating their projects. Even in countries in which there is a high concentration of diaspora health professionals, discrimination, language and cultural barriers, and differences in medical approaches limit their engagement. Other challenges include medical professionals in the diaspora being reluctant to return to their countries of origin because of continuing instability. Also, the healthcare systems in countries of origin may not be equipped to a standard to attract returnee professionals. Some modern equipment which they have been trained to use may be non-portable or unaffordable for returnees.

As making a sustainable impact on an under-resourced health sector is a long-term effort, health support projects face challenges related to sustainability and continuity. Voluntary experts currently carrying out the projects have to ensure that the tasks will be continued by local staff when the project is over. For several reasons, especially the shortage of time and the number of patients in the hospitals, the capacity-building element of projects with doctors, residents and nurses in the host institutions has been limited. While local authorities see this as a positive trend, it also poses a risk for voluntary experts in terms of becoming absorbed in everyday medical work and losing focus on the training and capacity-building aspects of their assignments.⁷⁵

Furthermore, it has also been observed that employment rates for migrant health professionals are influenced by their place or region of origin. In Europe, health professionals from African countries have lower rates of employment than those from high-income countries.⁷⁶ In some European and other locations, educated and highly-qualified migrants may not be able to acquire employment commensurate with their education. Many of these migrants are forced to accept employment below their levels of qualification and live on reduced or marginal income.

7.4 Good practice in diaspora interventions

African countries are confronted with human resource problems leading to health crises due to the negative effects of emigration. Diaspora groups and professionals carry out health, disability and welfare projects to turn these adverse effects of migration into opportunities.

1. HEALTH – SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ANTI-DIABETES POLICY IN MALI	
<p>Organisation Santé Diabète NGO</p> <p>Country Mali</p> <p>Supporting Agencies Agence française de développement [French development agency], European Union, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Anofi Espoir Foundation, World Diabetes Foundation.</p>	<p>Project Description</p> <p>Santé Diabète has developed specific skills in different areas of the prevention and care of diabetes, while strengthening health systems. Santé Diabète focuses its interventions on a holistic approach, including all the necessary aspects of putting quality diabetes prevention and care in place. This three-year project has aimed to improve the prevention and care of diabetes and bridge the high turnover in the health profession.</p> <p>One of good practice examples in this case is the establishment of a public-private partnership between the government and the NGO Santé Diabetic. Diabetes care is now available in seven out of eight regions in Mali. Diabetes care costs have been reduced by half, with this specific programme set up for the prevention and care of diabetic weight gain and blindness.</p> <p>In sum, this diaspora-based project has greatly strengthened diabetes care and prevention in Mali.</p>

2. HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH (HRH) PROGRAMME

Organisation

Government of Ghana

Countries

Ghana and the UK

Supporting Agency

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Project Description

To transform the negative effects of international migration into positive effects, the government of Ghana promotes diaspora professionals to work on its human resources for health (HRH) programme. To this end the Ghanaian government has established a joint project with the IOM and other mainstream development partners to encourage health workers in the diaspora to make a contribution to healthcare in their country of origin. Capacity-building training is also part of the programme arranging for health workers to study abroad for a limited period of time. This project contributes to the reinforcement of human resources development in the healthcare sector, mainly through training and transfer of knowledge.

There have been more than 250 temporary return assignments in Ghana so far. According to one government official, "The receiving hospitals and healthcare training institutions in Ghana are very positive about the impact of knowledge transfer by the Ghanaian diaspora, and it has certainly contributed to a better quality of healthcare".⁷⁷ Another positive result regarding this project is the relationships established with diaspora organisations and other companies in Europe, who have offered equipment and facilities to the institutions in which the Ghanaian diaspora work. Moreover, the Ghanaian government facilitates the re-establishment of the country's diaspora who wish to continue to work in the Ghanaian healthcare sector. The government is also developing a special website to keep the Ghanaian diaspora informed of the latest opportunities in the healthcare sector.

For these reasons, the Health Worker Migration Policy Council has selected Ghana as the winner of an Innovation Award. The Health Worker Migration Policy Council Innovation Award acknowledges the progress made by countries in addressing the challenges of health worker migration. This highly competitive, non-monetary award honours innovative and scalable approaches, highlighting promising practices. The Council is a partnership between the World Health Organization, the Global Health Workforce Alliance, the Health Work Force Advocacy Initiative and the International Organization for Migration. Although the Council received many strong nominations, Ghana's nomination stood out in relation to its impressive efforts, which included improving basic health infrastructure, re-engaging returnees, collaborating on both the MIDA Ghana III project and the Diaspora Engagement Project with the IOM to encourage the return of health workers, and with civil societies to increase awareness.⁷⁸

3. CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT IN HEALTH SECTOR IN SOMALIA

Organisation

Association of Somali Healthcare Professionals in the Nordic countries

Country

Somalia and Finland

Supporting Agency

IOM and FinnChurchAid.

Project Description

The Association of Somali Healthcare Professionals in the Nordic countries (members residing in Finland) in collaboration with IOM, FinnChurchAid, health authorities, hospitals, civil society organisations (CSOs), and universities with health-related projects carried out a capacity building project in the health sector in Somalia. This project supports the development of Northern Somalia's health sector by strengthening the human resource base of the regions' public and private health sectors.

Thus, Somali health professionals, through their association in Finland, work to fill temporary vacancies in Northern Somalia. In the project, special emphasis has been given to targeting female health professionals. Besides that, a database was established to match the needs in Northern Somalia with skills and qualifications of Somali health professionals living in Finland. In the framework of the project, twenty qualified and highly qualified Somali nationals have returned on a temporary basis to Northern Somalia to provide direct technical assistance to the health authorities, and train national staff in their field of expertise.

7.5 Lessons learned

Despite enormous challenges, the diaspora have become active in health, disability and welfare projects much needed for their home societies. Through numerous civil society and community-based organisations, supported by governments and NGOs, African diaspora in Europe have actively pursued voluntary and non-voluntary initiatives that help to alleviate the consequences of poverty and backwardness. Diaspora members have also been involved in improving access to health services through providing financial support for the creation of infrastructures and increasing investment in health at the household, community and national levels.

The migration of health workers has led to staff shortages and service disruptions in the health systems of societies of origin. If “brain drain” does appear to be harming the capacity of the health system in the country of origin, a number of actions can be taken to mitigate these impacts. Retention incentives aiming to encourage skilled professionals to remain in their country through improving human resource management and career improvement measures are one form of remedial action.

Returnee diaspora health professionals re-enter the sector with new skills that are of great use to the country of origin. Furthermore, health professionals in the diaspora willing to take up short-term assignments in areas that are facing a shortage of health service providers contribute greatly to countries of origin.

In addition, skilled migration and the prospect of employment abroad provide an incentive to train more and better health workers. In effect, this actually improves the quality of health services domestically. Nonetheless, countries on the receiving side must be careful to guard against creating skills shortages in the country from which they draw migrants. Policies developed with a view to limiting the negative effects of the migration of healthcare professionals should be adapted for use in other sectors that are also suffering from the adverse effects of skilled emigration.

As this short review reveals, there is a need for further investigation and analysis. International and regional comparisons and collaborative studies of aspects of diaspora interventions in health, disability and welfare, and the collection of standardised data should be encouraged. Examination of policy frameworks in both countries of residence and of origin will be essential to support the development of best practices and accepted standards.

Challenges remain in translating improved understandings into policy and practice. African governments’ capacities for managing the diaspora are limited. Thus, legal frameworks may need to be adjusted or developed to focus on new areas of diaspora engagement in health-related development projects. Small-scale development projects that are initiated by individual members of the diaspora and their organisations must be integrated into multilateral aid efforts or development policies of national governments.

Notes

⁷¹ See Focus On Migration: Migration, Diaspora and Development, Number 2 18th Edition July 2012, IOM, Netherlands.

<http://diaspora.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/focus-on-migration.pdf>

⁷² For more on this topic see http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/115485/E94018.pdf

⁷³ See Focus On Migration: Migration, Diaspora and Development, Number 2 18th Edition July 2012, IOM, Netherlands.

<http://diaspora.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/focus-on-migration.pdf>

⁷⁴ For more on this topic, see; Focus On Migration: Migration, Diaspora and Development, NUMBER 2 18th EDITION JULY 2012 IOM Netherland <http://diaspora.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/focus-on-migration.pdf> and Memorandum of understanding (document) between the government of the united kingdom and the government of the republic of South Africa on the reciprocal education exchange of health care concepts and personnel. 24 October 2003

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/images/ghd/UK%20%E2%80%93%20South%20Africa%20MOU.pdf>

⁷⁵ Diaspora engagement projects in the health sector in Africa. IOM (2012) <http://diaspora.iom.int/sites/default/files/infosheet/dehpo.pdf>

⁷⁶ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 2007

⁷⁷ See Focus On Migration: Migration, Diaspora and Development, Number 2 18th Edition July 2012, IOM, Netherlands.

<http://diaspora.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/focus-on-migration.pdf>

⁷⁸ Weiss, T.L. (ed.) (2009) Migration for Development in the Horn of Africa – Health Expertise from the Somali Diaspora in Finland. International Organization for Migration (IOM): Helsinki. http://iom.fi/images/stories/publications/books/mida_health_publication.pdf

8 Diaspora Lobbying, Campaigning and Advocacy

The contribution of diaspora to development is no longer restricted to the transfer of funds. Nowadays, diaspora have an impact on governments, the media, the private sectors and other influential groups in both countries of origin and of residence. Diaspora lobbying and advocacy engage in promoting action and policy implementation by targeted governments, regional bodies and international organisations in direct competition with many other advocacy and campaigning networks.⁷⁹

The lobbying and advocacy activities of the diaspora have largely been the result of the diaspora's political party movements. These movements are driven by both individuals and groups, inspired by different causes and motivated to do something in the interest of their countries of origin, their exiled communities and political aspirations. The diaspora organisations and also individuals active in lobbying, campaigning and advocacy are driven by grievances and the agendas they promote also count on the support of other actors.

The newly-found role of the diaspora has been augmented by the rise of electronic communications as this influences the relative ease of organising diaspora members across distances and national boundaries.⁸⁰ Websites, discussion groups and social networks of African diaspora members have proliferated, resulting in a multiplication of the organisational potential of groups and even individuals.

African diaspora lobbyist and advocacy groups are promoting the importance of the African continent's needs on any public policy stage in whatever context is relevant and effective. In this sense, diaspora advocacy is a dynamic reality. While some diaspora groups are actively involved in such efforts, not all members of the communities are engaged in advocacy on behalf of their country of origin. Nonetheless, effective lobbying requires the participation of every community in the diaspora, as well as individuals beyond organised communities.

Therefore, involving prominent, high profile African individuals in advocacy efforts with regard to development should be an ongoing mission for any government on the continent, especially bearing in mind that there are relatively few African diaspora lobbyists. The scant attention paid to advocacy is also reflected in the fact that this is the area least studied with regard to the roles that diasporas play in development.⁸¹

8.1 Diaspora organisations involved

Diaspora communities, organisations and individuals in Europe and elsewhere are increasingly vocal and influential in both their countries of origin and countries of residence. Most African diaspora lobbying and advocacy activities are largely the result of the diaspora's political party movements and are motivated by political aspirations. African diaspora lobbying and advocacy has become an important instrument in promoting and elevating the continent's development agenda as a special international concern since the Cold War.⁸² African diaspora advocacy has been and will continue to be a dynamic factor in the policy-making process of partner governments and other international actors.

As diaspora organisations are highly diverse, there is a broad range of ethnic- and religious-based, politically-affiliated and non-partisan organisations active in lobbying and advocacy efforts. These and other African diaspora groups, often active in lobbying and advocacy efforts, could substantially augment the current efforts of the advocacy community. This includes religious, charitable, fraternal, educational and other non-advocacy African diaspora organisations which do not make advocacy their primary focus.

African professionals who are prominent and influential in vocations and avocations engaged in lobbying and advocacy play an indispensable role. Through their professional stature, affiliations and their domestic engagement in their receiving society, considerable numbers of non-Africans are also a potential entry point to the cause. There are approximately 74 groups active in lobbying and advocacy in Europe.⁸³ A large number of these are found in the UK, followed by France, Belgium and Germany (approximately six).

Diaspora organisations are enormously diverse. Lobbyists and active advocates are drawn from ethnic-based groups, associations of migrants originating from the same locality, alumni associations, religious organisations, professional associations, charitable organisations, development NGOs, investment groups, affiliates of political parties, protest movements, humanitarian relief organisations, schools and clubs for the preservation of culture, virtual networks and federations of associations.

8.2 Different countries and contexts

The success and failure of diaspora's ability to influence policies depends heavily on the country in which they are located and also on the context as a whole. In countries with a representative democratic system, diaspora participate actively through the electoral process. In the UK, Germany and Portugal, where the government exists in the form of a parliament, politicians may be less responsive to direct contact with diaspora advocates. In systems with proportional

representation, as is the case in the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Italy, small groups of diaspora citizens may have influence on the smaller parties within the coalition governments. Federal systems often give greater voice to diaspora groups in the electoral districts or provinces in which diaspora are concentrated than in those in areas with smaller concentrations. A good example in this case would be Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and Germany. Some EU member states with long-established systems of interest-group pluralism, for example Switzerland and Norway, give plentiful space for diaspora groups. In these countries, the African diaspora easily exert influence on their elected representatives, even though the size of the diaspora might be small.

As for Eastern European countries, diaspora interaction with local and regional politics and active involvement in lobbying, campaigning and advocacy work is at a premature stage. This low level of diaspora engagement is in direct proportion to the size and experience of the different diaspora groups in such countries. However, the African diaspora's lobbying and advocacy in Eastern Europe are not the only instances of undeveloped activities. In Brussels, there are over 100 groups that lobby the EU on a number of issues and interests. To our knowledge, there is no independently-funded African-led and Africa-focused entity that strives to play such a role in the interests of Africa. The African diaspora organisations should create a network and build their capacity to play a role with a view to institutionalising and supporting an African diaspora force with the capacity and resources to carry out this mandate.⁸⁴

It is clearly beyond the current advocacy capacity of the diaspora to engage effectively in trying to reach the entire list of policy decision makers at the regional, national and international levels. Given this state of affairs, one could reasonably argue that the position of diaspora institutions is not particularly strong. Thus, priority targets must be selected based on a careful examination of advocacy objectives through consultation with diaspora advocates.⁸⁵

African diaspora groups in Europe should focus on transnational institutions in order to play an effective advocacy role with the goal of influencing Africa-focused policies.

8.3 Challenges and constraints

Given the overall competition for attention and the strength of other advocacy groups, the current African diaspora advocacy community is inadequately organised and too small. Whether international or national, partisan or non-partisan, African or non-African, the aggregate number of groups and individuals interested and active in lobbying and advocacy work in support of Africa's development or other related agendas represent only a tiny fraction of the total potential. In this framework, the current diaspora community has to prioritise its efforts in order to prevail on a few core issues.

The current advocacy efforts within the diaspora lack continuity. Furthermore, occasional consultations and actions have been initiated on an ad-hoc basis. This is because most diaspora activists undertake their lobbying and advocacy work on a part-time basis, which therefore leads to time constraints with regard to communication, consultancy and collaboration. In addition, problems in raising the requisite funds and infrequent communication with their own constituencies have practical implications for their success rates. As a result, diaspora advocacy tends to focus on immediate, short-term issues in response to current and sensational political developments.

Synchronising all interested group and individual efforts at the national, regional and international levels is a prerequisite for success. Past and present attempts to institute pan-African organisations have not succeeded. The anti-apartheid movement, much of it operating in exile, had great success in building alliances with businesses, international sporting federations (most of which excluded South Africa from international competition), the entertainment industry, university students, human rights groups, churches, the media and the governments of the countries of destination.⁸⁶

With regard to African governments, diaspora lobbying and advocacy has not received sufficient prioritisation. No African government has identified and assessed the current range of the advocacy and lobbying capacity of the diaspora. This absence of clear policy directions and objectives negatively impact the ability of the diaspora to lobby and undertake advocacy for the development of their home countries.⁸⁷ Home country governments would also benefit from knowing the specific and realistic capabilities of each advocacy element in the diaspora, as well as each entity's advocacy agenda. Promoting the diaspora community and serving this through diplomatic representation abroad as a coordinating vehicle is of paramount importance.

According to a recent African Union (AU) statement, diaspora represent a vital element of the African continent.⁸⁸ They have become a strategic asset in terms of human and material capacity. Their strengths and weaknesses impact the continent's striving for development and progress. Therefore, a careful examination of diaspora's advocacy capabilities is imperative to help the continent in general. For confirmation of this claim, one needs to look further at good practices in African diaspora lobbying, campaigning and advocacy efforts in Europe.

8.4 Good practices in diaspora lobbying, campaigning and advocacy

Alongside the numerous contributions through remittances, knowledge transfers, volunteering and investment, there is a part of the African diaspora which supports development programmes and policies by lobbying the governments of their host countries and countries of origin, appealing to international institutions or working to raise awareness among broader populations as advocates. International African diaspora, in Europe in particular, have long been active in mobilising support for Africa.⁸⁹

1. HARNESSING ADVOCACY CAPACITY WITHIN THE DIASPORA

Organisation

African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)

Country

UK

Supporting agency

British Department for International Development (DFID)

Project Description

The African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) seeks to enlarge and develop the diaspora's role by connecting organisations working for development in Africa from outside the continent with organisations on the continent which are working towards the same goals. It is also collaborating with the British Department for International Development (DFID), international development agencies, other donors and NGOs to advocate in favour of specific development goals and approaches.

Among other programmes, the London Advocacy Campaign (LAC) has been one of the efforts of AFFORD for building the capacity of diaspora organisations. The main aim was to harness advocacy capacity within the diaspora. AFFORD's research and engagement over the early years positioned the diaspora as transnational global actors. AFFORD wanted to develop an understanding of how the African diaspora, as transnational global actors, could bridge (or were bridging) the challenges they faced in their environment in London and their contributions to Africa. The view was that the environment within which the African diaspora found themselves had a direct impact on their contributions to Africa and therefore, by addressing challenges they faced in London, their contributions to Africa could be strengthened. AFFORD continues with projects focusing specifically on advocacy. The successor to the London Advocacy Campaign (LAC) was Helping Africans Influence London (HAIL). AFFORD sought to bring Africans of the diaspora together with policy makers, funders and the private sector in order for them to exchange ideas and explore practical ways to maximise the benefits of international migration for Africa and the UK. HAIL focuses particularly on supporting those businesses engaged in transnational food businesses. Food is a core component of London's African business sector and integral to most African diaspora communities.

Every year, AFFORD organises a programme between nine UK-based, African-led development organisations and donors. These programmes give special attention to a particular theme. For example, the 2004 theme was especially focused on the relevance of diaspora advocacy "transforming the local everywhere", with a focus on how diaspora Africans in the UK promote change, both in their countries of residence and origin.⁹⁰

2. DIASPORA PLAYING A CRITICAL ROLE IN THE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Organisation

Concerned Liberian Women (CLW)

Country

Liberia and the Netherlands

Supporting Agency

Department for International Development (DFID)

Project Description

Concerned Liberian Women (CLW) was set up by Liberian women in the Netherlands. The Liberian women initiated this diaspora organisation with the conviction that if Liberia is to move forward and away from strife, the diaspora must play a critical role in the peace and development process. After all, it was the conflict that made them flee their homeland.

The activities of the CLW range from the provision of education to women and human rights to advocate for justice and non-violent means of resolving conflict. Supporting these positive forces and also lobbying for their cause in the host countries will give them the necessary power and political clout with which to counterbalance and neutralise the negative forces of activities in their homeland.

8.5 Lessons learned

This study reveals that very little information concerning lobbying, campaigning and advocacy activities undertaken by the African diaspora groups in EU countries is available. Also the study shows that there is an acute lack of study and reliable hard data on the impact of these diaspora activities (both positive and negative) on development in their respective countries of origin.

Diaspora use lobbying to influence the EU and international efforts to impact positively on Africa in terms of policy changes, development programmes, debt cancellation, trade concessions, democratic governance and human rights issues. This is an area in which the mainstream development agencies can benefit considerably if they link up with the African diaspora organisations in their campaigning and advocacy activities. Member states of the EU also need to build genuine collaboration and partnerships through a systematic method of regular communication with the host country.

Advocacy organisations in the diaspora need systematically to operate beyond limited sectarian constituencies in order to attract new organisations and non-affiliated individuals to the cause. Sectarian tendencies, still pursued by many African diaspora groups, often reproduce and sometimes multiply social and political fragmentation and other factional schisms already present in the homeland. The advocacy organisations must also commit to systematic cooperation, accepting the notion that other African advocacy groups in the diaspora are their partners.

In parallel, they have to build their institutional capacity through collaborative work with other entities and coordinate their efforts through information sharing and partnership. Finally, they cannot take on these new responsibilities without setting aside the requisite funds and talents exclusively for collaboration. Therefore, the policy challenge is how to maximise the benefits of diaspora lobbying activities with regard to the development prospects of their countries of origin.

Notes

⁷⁹ Voice After Exit: Diaspora Advocacy. Kathleen Newland Migration Policy Institute, November 2010 (USAD & MPI). <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/diasporas-advocacy.pdf>

⁸⁰ Advocacy: Current Capacities, Options and Further Prospects. Prepared for Armenia Diaspora Conference, Yerevan, 22-23 September 1999. <http://groong.usc.edu/ADconf/199909/reports/advocacy.html>

⁸¹ Voice After Exit: Diaspora Advocacy. Kathleen Newland Migration Policy Institute November 2010. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/diasporas-advocacy.pdf>

⁸² Africa Diaspora as an Agent of Peace, ADPC Fact Sheet (March, 2008). http://www.diaspora-centre.org/DOCS/ADPC_Factsheet_Mar.pdf

⁸³ For more, see EAP mapping.

⁸⁴ The African Diaspora in Europe – Standing Up to be Counted. A Background Document Submitted to the Working Group Preparing for the 1st meeting of ACP Ministers Responsible for Asylum, Migrations and Mobility – Brussels, 11–12 April, Vincent Okele, African Axis. <http://africanaxis.org/documents/The%20African%20diaspora%20in%20Europe.pdf>

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ African Foundation for Development, “AFFORD-UK”. <http://afford-uk.org>

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ The African Diaspora in Europe – Standing Up to be Counted. A Background Document Submitted to the Working Group Preparing for the 1st meeting of ACP Ministers Responsible for Asylum, Migrations and Mobility – Brussels, 11–12 April, Vincent Okele, African Axis. <http://africanaxis.org/documents/The%20African%20diaspora%20in%20Europe.pdf>

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ For more, see African Foundation for Development, “AFFORD-UK”. <http://afford-uk.org>

9 *Building strategic partnerships among diaspora organisations and other relevant stakeholders in Europe and Africa*

Creating viable partnerships for development enhances the positive development impacts of migration in a broad and sustainable way. In relation to this, tangible partnerships between governments, diaspora development practitioners, mainstream development agencies, civil society associations and the private sector should be initiated and effectively promoted. Fostering development partnerships between the diaspora and other stakeholders in development cooperation circles inevitably increases the role of the diaspora in poverty reduction and the economic growth of their countries of origin.

The most appropriate way to address these issues is by exploring the options for building development partnerships between diaspora and other development actors, both in the countries of residence and the countries of origin. Important development institutions include NGOs, CSOs, the private sector, philanthropists, municipalities, governments and international organisations.

For instance, in the past few years, diaspora development practitioners have been establishing, sponsoring and implementing projects in their respective countries of origin; however, they have scarcely sought strategic collaboration with other local development actors. As a result, the current collaboration between various African diaspora organisations and other development actors is often of a limited and sporadic nature. Even though they are already involved in development-related activities on the continent, the lack of coordination with other development actions leaves room for improvement. An effort should be made to ensure that the different development actors strive towards common objectives.⁹¹

9.1 **Diaspora organisations involved**

Different groups and organisations are playing an increasing role in connecting the diaspora to Africa's development. In Europe alone, a range of developmental organisations engage in a variety of activities. Examples are hometown, ethnic, alumni, religious and professional associations, NGOs, investment, political, national development and welfare/refugee groups and schools. In order for these groups to reach their full potential with regard to contributing to the development of their respective countries of origin and countries of residence, diaspora network organisations aim to facilitate the sharing of information and thereby maximise the effectiveness of each individual diaspora group.

According to the EADPD mapping, there is a range of developmental organisations engaged in a variety of activities. The types of activities include community-to-community transfers, identity building/awareness raising, lobbying on issues relating to their countries of origin, trade with and investment in the societies of origin, the transfer of intangible resources, payment of taxes in the societies of origin and support for development on a more "professional" basis. The EADPD mapping census indicates that in total there are 39 diaspora network-based organisations all around Europe. France accounts for 10 network organisations in Europe, followed by the UK with eight, and the Netherlands and Germany with four each. Belgium, Sweden and Finland each have two diaspora network organisations. The remaining countries – Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Luxemburg, Ireland, Norway and the Czech Republic – each report one African diaspora network organisation.

9.2 **Different country contexts**

Europe is home to large numbers of immigrants with many transnational ties both within and beyond the continent. Recognising this diversity and the transnational engagements of diaspora can have a positive effect on both migrants' participation as citizens in their respective countries of settlement⁹² and on the development of their countries of origin. Considering the significant impact of diaspora engagements, it is not surprising that there is great interest in the topic among European governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. For example, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs recognises the diaspora as part of its development policy-making efforts. In its White Papers 13 and 15, the Ministry refers to the special insight and know-how of diaspora in its development programmes. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), which is part of the government, follows the same line as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in its 6th principle.⁹³ Diaspora networks and organisations can contribute greatly to official development programmes.

The collaboration between the French government collaboration and the Malian diaspora community to support rural and community development projects in Mali is another case study concerning partnership. This so-called “co-development” partnership recognises the social, economic and cultural contributions of diaspora in development projects. This official policy of the French government programme includes “supporting diaspora civil society groups, facilitating the transfer and productive use of remittances and strengthening the ties between diaspora-origin youth and their ancestral country”.⁹⁴

Others countries, such as the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy, pursue different strategies and policies to promote diaspora networks for development. These measures have strong correlations concerning the size, nature and history of diaspora communities in the respective countries. The overall goal is to strengthen interaction and engagement between diaspora organisations and the host government’s development efforts, as well as to ensure that the relevant diaspora are involved in these efforts in order to achieve greater impact, success and efficiency.

9.3 Challenges and constraints

Today, there are a number of diaspora organisations that are all actively involved in networking diaspora organisations for development. However, on the whole, diaspora are in many cases fragmented and do not necessarily work together in the most beneficial manner for a common cause. Due to lack of awareness of each other’s unique potential and added value, the work of diaspora is not at its most effective. This is due to the lack of evidence-based knowledge and information which can provide insights for policy measures and practical actions relating to specific issues. In particular, local NGOs in the homelands have neglected to explore the benefits that diaspora development organisations can offer through collaboration, such as sharing technological skills acquired in their countries of residence.⁹⁵

Most of diaspora organisations face various challenges which limit their efforts to enhance the development work they implement on the ground. It is notable that diaspora pay little attention to making their development related activities more visible to the wider. Some of the challenges can be addressed within the context of the countries in which they are located, while others would be best approached through multi-national cooperation. Another common problem that diaspora organisations face is the lack of contact and networking relations within and across countries, costing them the opportunity to pool their resources, act jointly and coordinate their development related activities on the ground. For example, it is still a problem for a Ghanaian organisation based in Germany to partner with a similar operation based in the Netherlands, although both may be implementing concrete development-related projects in Ghana on the same topic, such as improving the lives of marginalised groups. This is due to both lack of awareness of each other’s existence and the absence of contacts and networking relations across countries. Improved transnational contacts and networks will assist such diaspora organisations in undertaking joint projects on the ground and thereby boost the positive impact of their development activities on local conditions. Considering the significant impact of diaspora engagements, it is not surprising that there is great interest in the topic among European governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

9.4 Good practice in interventions

A number of diaspora networks and strategic partnerships have worked as facilitators between diaspora groups, governments and non-governmental organisations. While diaspora engage in the African continent’s development in their regions of origin, this is often not done in conjunction with other developmental actors although working together would result in a win-win situation. Thus, connecting the grass-roots level diaspora communities with policy makers and relevant development organisations and facilitating cooperation is the main purpose of networks and partnerships.

1. INTERACTION/COOPERATION BETWEEN THESE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER NORWEGIAN ORGANISATIONS BOTH IN NORWAY AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTNERS ABROAD

Organisation

Diaspora Network

Country

Norway

Supporting agency

Norad

Project Description

The Diaspora Network is a working committee of young professionals, each representing diverse countries and professional backgrounds, yet with significant ties to Norwegian society. The network aims to work for the consolidation of diaspora organisations under one roof, whilst at the same time providing a forum for networking and bridge building between the diaspora organisations on the one hand and Norwegian organisations, institutions and state organs on the other.

The Diaspora Network promotes joint peace building and developmental efforts by all significant diaspora in Norway currently involved in such efforts. Although diaspora engage in collective efforts for development in their regions of origin, this is times not done in conjunction with Norwegian NGOs or development authorities such as Norad, or other well-established organisations such as Norwegian Church Aid or the Norwegian Red Cross. Both sides represent valuable resources that, when put together, represent a win-win situation. Thus, connecting the grass-roots level diaspora communities with policy makers and relevant development organisations and facilitating their cooperation is the main purpose and ambition of the network. In light of this, the network will work on strengthening two relationships: i) facilitating the integration of diaspora and their respective organisations in Norwegian society and ii) interaction/cooperation between these organisations and other Norwegian organisations, both in Norway and their respective partners abroad.

It will make use of existing information and identify the key activities in which these organisations are involved and the impact they have. It will further be useful to map the different obstacles or success factors in the diaspora's capacity and identify their propensity to engage in well-organised development work, peace building, the strengthening of civil society and other initiatives such as those related to climate change and renewable energy.⁹⁶

2. TO BUILD UP CONTACTS AND NETWORKS OF DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES

Organisation

Diaspora Forum for Development (DFD)

Country

The Netherlands

Supporting agencies

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Oxfam-Novib

Project Description

The Diaspora Forum for Development (DFD) is a platform of more than 40 diaspora organisations and networks representing more than 30 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. DFD seeks to harness the capacities of migrants so that they can actively participate in social, economic and political spheres and contribute to initiating viable interventions aimed at improving the quality of life of migrants, their families and their communities.

DFD initiated a programme aiming to facilitate a process which will enable diaspora organisations in the Netherlands to build up contacts and networks with diaspora organisations in other European countries for mutual development purposes.

The program offers DFD members and other diaspora organisations in the Netherlands the opportunity to raise their profile and enhance their visibility among established development circles, both in the Netherlands and beyond. It also offers diaspora organisations in the Netherlands the opportunity to participate actively in policy discussions at the global level. This will ensure that the interests, concerns and critical voices of the diaspora are clearly heard in policy deliberations related to migration and development matters. More importantly, the partnership will enable diaspora organisations to influence discussions in a manner in which their concerns, challenges and priorities are taken into account by policy makers both in the Netherlands and at the EU level.

Furthermore, DFD activities are geared towards raising awareness among diaspora organisations in Europe of the need to develop effective and sustainable networks that enhance their collective contribution to the development of the homeland more efficiently and substantially.⁹⁷

3. CREATION OF A NETWORK OF AFRICAN DIASPORA IN EUROPE

Organisation

European-wide African Diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) Project

Country

Denmark

Supporting Agencies

European Commission and Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC), the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ)

Project Description

The overall objective of the European-wide African Diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) Project is to promote the contribution of the diaspora to the development of Africa through the creation of a network of the African diaspora in Europe: the Africa-Europe Platform referred to as “the AEP” or “the Platform”.

The AEP is a network of African diaspora organisations and networks from the 27 EU member states, plus Switzerland and Norway. Through the Platform, the capacity of the African diaspora in Europe to contribute to Africa’s development will be made visible and enhanced. It is an innovative space in which to share knowledge, accumulate ideas and create strategies together to participate meaningfully in the development cooperation process in Africa. In other words, this Platform allows improvement in coordination, communication and cooperation of development activities undertaken by African migrant organisations, by sharing information, knowledge and expertise. Through the Platform, the African diaspora in Europe can establish links and partnerships with important stakeholders, such as European and African co-development organisations, policymakers in the field of migration and development, the EU and the AU. The EADPD project was initiated to foster the creation of a solid, viable network designed to increase considerably the contribution being made to overall development in Africa in a way that is both sustainable and systematic. The project is funded by the European Commission under the “thematic programme for cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum” and is jointly financed by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC), the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

The project work is implemented by five consortium partners: the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in the Netherlands; the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) in the UK; the Forum of Immigration-based International Solidarity Organisations (FORIM) in France; the General Coordination of Migrants for Development (CGMD) in Belgium; the International Centre for Migratory Policy Development (ICMPD). The pilot project was set to run over three years, running from January 2011 to December 2013.⁹⁶

9.5 Lessons learned

Diaspora networks can boost their potentials through bridging the gap between different developmental actors in receiving and origin societies. These networks may be based around certain affinities, but they are by no means static and are differentially exploited depending on local and international settings to turn migration into development in a variety of contexts and to mitigate other constraints.

These observations suggest that different diasporic configurations operate in different ways and with different implications for development. In these cases, we see networks based on, for example, country folk, ethnic grouping or race, which effect tangible exchanges in their countries of origin. Similarly, other studies show that for ethnic business networks “embeddedness” and “social capital” are central to their success. These categories and the relationships between them reflect the importance of partnerships among different diaspora networks.

One of the key policy recommendations of this study will be that diaspora networks set out to unite their multiple efforts, assist with the practice of knowledge sharing and ensure that the diaspora and diaspora organisations can reach their full potential in the development of their respective countries of origin and countries of residence.

Notes

91 For more information, See; http://www.gfmd.org/en/gfmd-documents-library/brussels-gfmd-2007/doc_download/209-rt-22-increasing-the-micro-impact-of-remittances-on-development-french.html

92 Diaspora Network. A policy document on Diaspora Network prepared by the working committee on a conference in Nairobi, 18th December 2010, dubbed “Empowering the youth through networking and giving back to the society”. The conference gathered representatives of youth organisations, political leaders, civil servants, civil society organisations and representatives of women’s groups all over the country.

93 Badara, A.M. (2009) “Creating Partnerships with Diasporas: the Malian Experience” in Rannveig, D. (ed.) Closing the Distance: How Governments Strengthen Ties with Their Diasporas (pp.69–85), MPI Migration Policy Institute.

94 MIIINDS (2009). http://www.immigration.gouv.fr/spip.php?page=dossiers_det_dev&numrubrique=216&numarticle=1357

95 Mohan, G., Zack-Williams, A.B. (2002) Globalisation from Below: Conceptualising the Role of the African Diasporas in Africa's Development, *Review of African Political Economy*, 29(92), pp. 211–236.

96 Diaspora Network. A policy document on Diaspora Network prepared by the working committee on a conference in Nairobi, 18th December 2010, dubbed "Empowering the youth through networking and giving back to the society". The conference gathered representatives of youth organisations, political leaders, civil servants, civil society organisations and representatives of women's groups all over the country.

97 To learn more about DFD, see: www.d-f-d.org

98 See AEP E-Newsletter No.1. January 2012. http://api.ning.com/files/LvNfiSNLzidE-bTelPr5WuMhxKF1gOCISL4IM5dk5m1p4cakjHHg0M*Djq9YWdiwID7vbctXBjFc257DQt-xpJgIDq*JFPf*/AEPNewsletterNo.1Jan2012.pdf and also <http://ae-platform.org/>

Lessons for the Future

Diaspora organisations have to work in concert with the governments and the wider public in both their countries of residence and of origin, as well as with supranational organisations, such as the EU and the AU, the private sector and mainstream development organisations in Europe and Africa.

Thus, both the European and African governments should create favourable conditions, at the same time reproducing good practices to improve diaspora development initiatives. Recognising the potential of African diaspora requires policies that create an enabling environment to harness their potential and ensure that they receive the specific support they need to develop.

In addition to other shortcomings, the opportunity structure is susceptible to policy intervention. Special engagement policy interventions to promote diaspora development efforts must be augmented by the legal and regulatory environment.

Policy recommendations

1. Diaspora Organisations

Diaspora communities, organisations and individuals in Europe and elsewhere are becoming increasingly important instruments in promoting and elevating the African continent's development, both in their countries of origin and countries of residence. In this process, all diaspora development organisations should study local needs alongside the skills and capacities of the diaspora and vice versa. Subsequently, these organisations will have the potential to bridge the existing gap between the North and the South. Creating a common platform for dialogue and mutual understanding between African diaspora organisations and other nationals within Europe is the first move in this respect. The African Europe Platform will have a key role to play in building bridges between origin and receiving societies.

African diaspora organisations should strengthen their networks and capacities with a view to institutionalising and supporting an African diaspora force with the ability and resources to carry out its development programmes. Moreover, diaspora organisations need to operate systematically beyond sectarian-limited constituencies in order to attract new organisations and non-affiliated individuals to their cause. Diaspora organisations must also commit to systematic cooperation, accepting the notion that other African groups in the diaspora are their partners. Parallel with this, they have to build their institutional capacity through collaborative work with other entities and coordinate their efforts through information sharing and partnership. Consultations are needed between diaspora groups aimed at communicating priorities, sharing information and developing a common agenda. These discussions should formulate shared goals in the fields of development and trade. Finally, they cannot take on their new responsibilities without ensuring the availability of the requisite funds and resolving problems of deficiencies in resources.

The diaspora should also be able to provide input into policy formulation and put their viewpoints forward in relation to agendas and actions undertaken.

2. European governments and EU policy makers

This study suggests that diaspora organisations are increasingly becoming a channel for supporting development support the North and South. To fully tap their potential, a collaborative approach between countries of residence, countries of origin and diaspora members needs to be strengthened. However, governments at both the sending and receiving ends are encountering huge challenges in terms of capitalising on the diaspora development potential.

Among the likely outcomes of harnessing this development outcome of diaspora are incentive-based schemes which aim to encourage diaspora to engage in development efforts in their countries of origin as one policy option. Another step might be reducing transfer costs and linking remittances to productive investments.

Given the current state of affairs, it is important that host countries design legislation and promote cooperation strategies regarding diaspora issues, but also develop bilateral codes of behaviour with the countries of origin, for example with municipalities and sub-national actors. Member states of the EU also need to build genuine collaboration and partnerships through a systematic method of regular communication with the host countries.

National and EU-wide statistics available on African diaspora provide very little data in terms of developing a sound understanding of their potential in their receiving society. Taking this into account, the EU should strengthen continent-wide platforms such as the AEP as a means of gathering and providing more appropriate information and knowledge concerning diaspora Africans and their development organisations based in Europe. This includes various factors, inter alia, how big these groups are, their specific characteristics, and their social, economic and demographic behaviour. Moreover, a clear understanding of diaspora's roles in both receiving and origin societies requires appropriate measures in relation to migrant integration and empowerment policy. These should include the social inclusion of migrants and marginalized groups, increased access of migrants to public services, information concerning African diaspora, capacity-

building and training for diaspora groups and media organisations, awareness-raising, anti-xenophobia campaigns and inter-faith training, policy development, and research aimed at improving existing diaspora integration programmes.

3. African governments and the Africa Union

Nearly all African countries have accepted the important real and potential role their diaspora play in their development prospects. The AU revision of its 2005 charter and recognition of diaspora as the fifth region of the continent is a testament to this. However, African governments' capacities for managing their diaspora communities are limited. Thus, policy and legal frameworks may need to be updated or reworked to focus on areas of diaspora's engagement in national development programmes. Above all, African governments should be able to make use of their diaspora communities in advancing their interests in Europe.

African governments should take measures to tap the financial and knowledge resources of diaspora through innovative schemes. Such schemes might serve as the preface to reversing "brain drain" to create "brain gain" and channel remittances to durable investment programmes which could fuel community development, touching not only the direct recipients but also the general public. Above all, paying adequate attention to such issues would improve the position of diaspora in relation to engaging in national development programmes that aim to overcome poverty and under-development. Programmes that aim to support the efforts of diaspora entrepreneurs, medical professionals, those who are highly educated and experts in their homelands should receive proper attention in order to overcome some of the current problems. African multilateral institutions, such as the AU and NEPAD, should support existing African diaspora organisations with a view to institutionalising and supporting an AU diaspora force with the capacity and resources to carry out their development mandate.

Parallel with building governments' capacity to take advantage of potential bilateral and multilateral partnerships, collaboration between African governments and resident countries of diaspora is a prerequisite. In addition, African governments should also consider the establishment of co-development transnational networks, such as EADPD, to enhance the effectiveness of projects in African countries. Finally up-scaling the good practices of receiving and sending countries is one answer for the shortcomings mentioned in this report.

4. The European and African private sectors

It is now widely acknowledged that Africa's development prospects can only be improved through the creation of a strong, vibrant and competitive private sector. In actual fact, however, the private sector in Africa is dominated by micro to small-sized ventures with limited ability to move to the next level, which could provide the opportunity for absorbing Africa's unemployed youth. Through their knowledge, and financial and network ties in Europe, diaspora Africans should serve as a catalyst for channelling investments into the continent. Besides being able to invest in Africa in their own right, they can look for and make possible investments through European firms in Africa's emerging private sector. Vigorous activity by diaspora in leading the private sector could go a long way in halting the outflow of the continent's skilled workforce and would potentially serve as a trigger for the reversal of the "brain drain".

To realise diaspora entrepreneurial potential, there is a need to create public-private partnerships between different actors. Such partnerships include business people, research students, politicians and those living anywhere and interested in the development of Africa. As moves in this direction run at a fast pace, partnerships would stimulate poorer communities towards greater participation in global commerce and trade. To make this happen, investment promotion authorities and other trade institutions in the different African countries and receiving countries should work in concert with representatives of the diaspora community.

5. Mainstream development organisations

Apart from governments and the private sector, a number of nongovernmental institutions, including religious organisations and other development networks in both countries of origin and receiving countries, could play a role in integrating diaspora to effect lasting change in Africa. The mainstream development organisations in Europe should engage with the diaspora groupings in their development programmes. They should be proactive in ensuring that diaspora are active in development. Small-scale development projects that are initiated by diaspora and their organisations must be integrated into mainstream development organisations' programmes.

Another issue highlighted by the study is that an environment conducive to development actions among the key stakeholders can also be created through partnerships between both mainstream development organisations and diaspora groups. Improving the organisations' capacity, building networks and facilitating technical and other forms of support would be mutually beneficial, engaging diaspora in development that are being neglected by the mainstream actors. As diaspora have sound knowledge of and close proximity to their societies of origin, they can ensure that the links essential to identify relevant targets, exchange information and build trust in programmes run by development organisations are in place. This is an area in which mainstream development agencies can benefit considerably if they link up with the African diaspora organisations in their campaigning and advocacy activities.

Conclusion

As this study reveals, there is a need for further investigation and analysis of the potential of African diaspora and their contribution to development. National and regional comparisons and collaborative study of aspects of diaspora intervention in development will require standardised data. Besides such studies, the examination of policy frameworks in both countries of residence and of origin will be essential to support the development of best practice and accepted standards.

The specific characteristics of each country and region need to be factored carefully into any practical or policy formulations. In addition, gender concerns must be assessed and addressed in policies and programmes to harness the development potential of diaspora.

Thus, involving diaspora members in development programmes should be complemented by comprehensive strategies. Their involvement should be part of overall planning and strategy that addresses skills gaps in key development sectors. This inclusion of migration in development policy formulation can help ensure coherent and sustainable outcomes in the long term. Moreover, there is a need to focus on the following issues:

1. All efforts should take into account gender and age dimensions.
2. Attention must be paid to the contribution of new media and information technology in the repatriation of the intellectual capital from the diaspora.
3. African diaspora organisations should create networks and build their capacity to play a role in institutionalising and supporting an African diaspora force with the capacity and resources to carry out their development mandate.
4. The acquisition and sharing of information useful to diaspora development interventions, including detailed facts about nature of active groups, individuals and their partners, as well as key issues in African development, is crucial.
5. Creating public–private partnerships would boost the effectiveness of diaspora engagement.

Based on the above, African diaspora's contribution to the development of the continent could be considerably enhanced by structuring and organising their potential via partnerships and networks such as the AEP.

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Annex: Country Profiles of ADOs

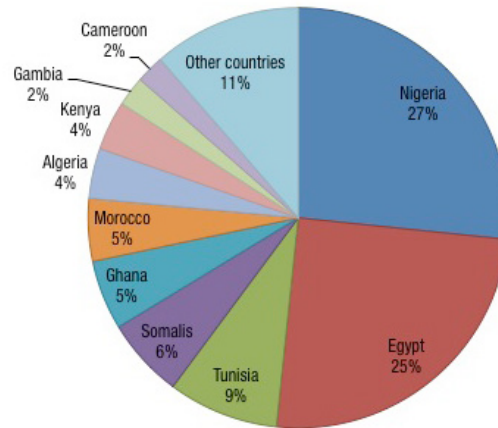


General information

Independence:	1955
Area:	83,871 sq km
Population:	8,214,160 (July 2012 est.)
Migrants:	ca. 1,310,218
African migrants:	ca. 21,102

Ranking list of the 10 largest African diaspora groups

1. Nigeria – 5,621
2. Egypt – 5,281
3. Tunisia – 1,796
4. Somalis – 1,296
5. Ghana – 1,131
6. Morocco – 1,018
7. Algeria – 815
8. Kenya – 800
9. Gambia – 485
10. Cameroon – 454



Migration to Austria

Austria is one of the richest political economies in the world that is part and parcel of one of the strongest economic powers that forms the European Union. Migration from Africa to Austria must be viewed in the context of global capitalism. Similar to migration from the African continent to other European countries, immigrants to Austria are mainly asylum seekers. What is attractive about migrating to Austria is the wealth of the country and the broad range of opportunities with regard to education and employment. However the small size of African immigrants can be explained by the government's strict immigration policy called the 'Red-White-Red Card' which only offers a limited amount of qualified people from third-world countries to file for permanent settlement in Austria.

The largest African diaspora groups are from Nigeria and Egypt. The relatively large amount of Nigerians in Austria can be explained due to the friendly relationship between the two countries

which dates back to 1962 when formal diplomatic relations were established. After South Africa, Nigeria is traditionally Austria's second largest trading partner in Sub-Saharan Africa. Due to the Egyptian-European Association Agreement in 2001, Egypt and Austria have strong economic ties. The Agreement has led to a number of bilateral agreements between the two countries. As Austria is driven to maintain its strong economic position its immigration policy and decision of who to let in is highly influenced by its economic relations.

Networking of African Diaspora organisations

Founded in 2009 in Graz, the African Networking Platform is the first Alliance of African communities in Austria (AVP). It has as initial vision and mission to promote effective networking among people of African origin in Austria. Since then, branches have been founded at both federal and regional levels and very active in major cities of Austria. Today, it is divided into four autonomous regional network centers (Vienna, Linz, Graz, Salzburg). The AVP serves as a unique umbrella organisation covering all African Migrant organisations in Austria – an initiative supported by African organizations in Austria.

Even though the number of Africans in Austria is relatively small, with about 100 organizations, the Platform include a large range of diverse organisations. Due to lack of funding many organizations cope with. The topics addressed by the various organizations differ extensively, some focus on integration issues, others on human rights advocacy in Africa or cultural issues like for example African Cultural Promotion and Black Artists and Musicians Forum in Austria (BAMFA). Furthermore do members of the different organizations very a lot as well. The African Students in Austria (VAS) is already self-explanatory and exists

out of students who are concerned with various development projects in Africa. The Edo Womens Association Vienna is an organisation which empowers women through micro-financing. Regardless of the quantity of African diaspora members in Austria, the quality of networking level between the organisation is very high as it is very organised.¹

Supporting institutions and organisations

Successive governments in Austria have always showed very little enthusiasm over migrants from less developed countries. More so, the rise of Far-Right parties since 2000 has a polarized discussion over migrant and anti-migrant propaganda which became platforms for gaining power. Notwithstanding, due to pressure from international human right groups, the resilience lobby, advocacy and determination for recognition from African migrants organisations, the Austrian government attitudes towards African migrants is slowly changing. In 2004, the Austrian government implemented a policy concerning granting residence permits to 13,000 refugees and humanitarian entrants in 12 identified regional areas¹. Two more regional settlement sites have recently been included². In addition, international attention shifted from European conflicts as the governments paid more attention to international development cooperation. These include migration and development-nexus programs which engages African countries through the diaspora. Migration and development-related projects have increased from 23% in 1999-2000 to 55% in 2005-2006³. Also, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Österreichische Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (Austrian Development Agency – ADA) is funding different institutions which aim at strengthening the capacities of African migrants in Austria. The Vienna Institute for Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) seeks to ensure equal opportunity of all individuals as they believe this is an indispensable precondition for a just society. They pursue equal access to all resources, a life of dignity and the expulsion all forms of discrimination especially to minorities such as African migrants in Austria. Since 2011, the Initiative for Migration and Development (CoMiDe) project was established with the aim to enhance coherent migration and development policies by initiating cooperation between development NGOs, migrant organisations and communities in four European countries: Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Austria. Generally-speaking, CoMiDe raises public awareness about migration and development issues with most African migrant organisations involved. This is achieved through research, conferences and debates, training courses and workshops, partnership fairs and lobby meetings. During these events, the importance of training and online learning is promoted as well as networking and cooperation which facilitates information sharing good practices of Diaspora organisations actively engaged in migration and development as well as development cooperation practices. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an inter-governmental organisation with UN Observer status, created in 1993 at the initiative of Switzerland and Austria. The purpose of the Centre is to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies. This is done through research and conferences to harmonize and make migration management more efficient and finally, to function as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organisations in the wider European region. The ICMPD is one of the consortium partners coordinating activities aimed at setting up the African-Europe platform.²

African Diaspora Organisations

- The African Networking platform (AVP) office@afrikaplattform.at
- Radio Afrika TV. www.radioafrika.net
- Black Community Oberösterreich <http://chiala.at/>
- Association of African Student (VAS) www.vas-oestereich.at
- For more on ADOs http://www.afrikaplattform.at/index.php?cat=00_Home&page=09_Afrika-nbsp~Mapping

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Austria

The problem of resident permits, integration programs and lack of funding for African migrant initiatives are some of the biting issues. The AVP counts about 100 individual businesses, associations and common initiative groups. However due to lack of institutional funding only about 1% of these are active. The rest cannot operate due to lack of office premises. Some have devised independent fund-raising activities in order to survive. Funding is mostly determined by activity and the AVP has as one of its priorities to promote the engagement of African Diaspora owned enterprises (SMEs) in Africa through private-sector development partners. As a way of building bridges between homelands and the host country, some African Diaspora individuals and groups have initiated partnerships between local public and private investors in Austria and in Africa in various sectors.

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Further links about the African Diaspora in Austria

- http://www.africanoz.com/af_study/af_community.html
- beryl@berylsegerspresents.com.au
- <http://migrantsurvey.speedsurvey.com/>
- <http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/publications/reports%20and%20discussion%20papers/>
- <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2009/190/8/natural-history-vitamin-d-deficiency-african-refugees-living-sydney>
- <http://www.migration.gv.at/en/>
- http://www.mfa.gov.eg/English/Embassies/Egyptian_Embassy_Vienna/BilateralRelations/Pages/Contractualframework.aspx
- Mathias Sajovitz (2008) 'the African Diaspora in the Austrian Political Economy'. Publisher: Lulu.com

Notes

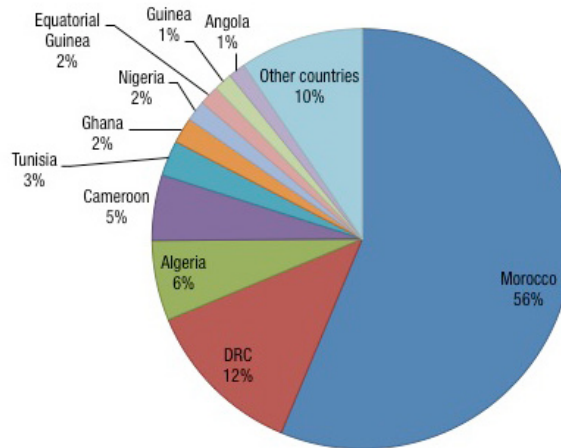
- 1 http://www.afrikaplattform.at/index.php?cat=00_Home&page=09_Afrika-nbsp-Mapping
- 2 <http://www.comide.net/> <http://www.icmpd.org> <http://www.entwicklung.at/> <http://www.vicd.org/>

General Information

Independence:	1830
Area:	33,990 sq km
Population:	11,020,000
Migrants:	1,159.801 ¹
African migrants:	ca. 161,780

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Morocco – 91,090
2. DRC – 20,072
3. Algeria – 9,987
4. Cameroon – 8,161
5. Tunisia – 4,407
6. Ghana – 3,226
7. Nigeria – 2,550
8. Equatorial Guinea – 2,461
9. Guinea – 2,306
10. Angola – 2,088



Migration to Belgium

Migration to Belgium has mostly taken place in the post-colonial times, and seen in the ranking list, the Moroccan and Congolese (DRC) population are by far the largest African migrant groups.

However, the numbers listed above do not give a clear image of the African diaspora that has taken place in Belgium in the last 50 years. Many, even though they have African descent, are born as Belgian nationals. Another big group takes on the Belgian nationality. On the first of January 2006, there were 377.333 persons who resided in Belgium and were African by birth. Between 2003 and 2007, 9.628 people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) took the Belgian nationality. With the Moroccan population this number was 43.721 people during the same period. In total 75.384 Africans have received the Belgian nationality in the period 2003-2007.

In 2008, they estimated that around a 113.000 immigrants from Sub-Sahara Africa were born in Belgium. 65% of them have received the Belgian nationality.

To use the Congolese (DRC) community as an example; on the first of January 2006, there were 40.301 people who were Congolese by birth in Belgium. 77,5% (31.253) of them were born in the DRC and immigrated to Belgium, only 22,5% (9.048) of them were born in Belgium. Of those 40.301 who were Congolese by birth, 64,5% (25.987) had the Belgian nationality on the first of January 2006. By the first of January 2008, the number of Congolese born who took on the Belgian nationality had practically reached 30.000.⁶

The statistics shown above do not take into account mixed couples where one of the parents is Belgian. Those children receive automatically the Belgian nationality and are therefore not included in the numbers.⁷

Family Reunification

A number of African immigrants are in Belgium in connection with family reunification. In 2009, three African countries, Morocco, DRC and Algeria, ranked in the top 10. Only Algeria was not in the top 10 for the following years. Morocco ranks first in this list for the years 2009-2012, with 8.060 applications in 2009, 7.024 in 2010, 5.693 in 2011 and 4.035 in 2012. Applicants of the DRC fluctuate between the 8th and 10th place for the same years, with 1.104 in 2009, 922 applications in 2010, 962 in 2011 and 811 in 2012.⁸

Asylum seekers

The Belgian government has received 21.463 asylum applications in 2012. Of that number, 1.334 came from people from the DRC, making it the 4th nationality or 6,2% of the total

that applies for asylum in Belgium.⁹ Persons from Cameroon come in at a 12th place with 232 asylum applications in 2012. Senegal is the ranked 14th with a 113 asylum applications in 2012. The European Migration Network gives in its Factsheet of 2012 slightly different numbers. It states that Belgium received 1.590 asylum applications from people from the DRC and 2.190 asylum applications from people of Guinea.¹¹

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Belgium

- Afrikaans Platform; A social and cultural platform for multiple sub-Saharan associations that are active within the region of Flanders and Brussels. It tries to comprise the different associations and speak with one voice as one community and tries to look after the interests of the African community. <http://www.afrikaansplatform.be>
- African Axis; African Axis aims at mobilising and harnessing the intellectual and financial resources of professionals of the African diaspora in Belgium to contribute to public debate on Africa in Europe, influence policy making on Africa at the European level and contribute to the development of the African continent. <http://www.africanaxis.org>
- CongoForum; CongoForum serves as a platform between Belgians and Congolese and their respective communities and population. The platform tries to increase the comprehension and understanding between each other, the reconstruction of the DRC and sustain relations between the two countries. <http://www.congoforum.be>
- Niger Diaspora; Organisation that informs and networks people worldwide on the Niger Diaspora. <http://nigerdiaspora.info>

Supporting Institutions and Organisations

The Belgian government works together with 18 States as partner countries in the field of development cooperation . Of these 18 States, 13 of them are situated in Africa. The emphasis on Belgium's development cooperation has always been Central Africa.¹²

Specifics and particularities of Belgium

While the Flemish region is the one where most immigrants (total) settle, the Congolese population prefers the Brussels and French region.¹³ This might be explained by linguistic reasons to prevent a language barrier.

Notes

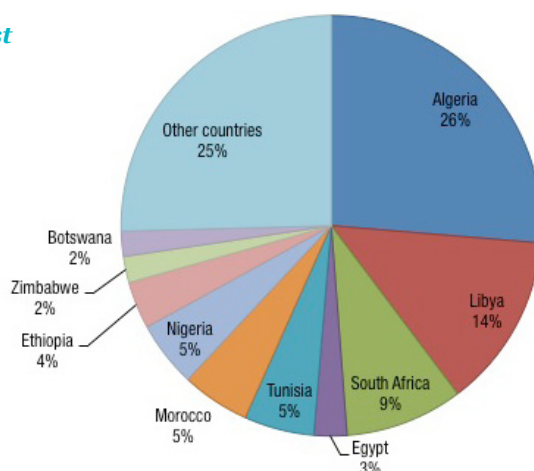
- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Studie over de Congolese migratie en de impact ervan op de Congolese aanwezigheid in België (2010) p.14 <http://www.diversiteit.be/diversiteit/files/File/studies/2010/Studie%20Congolese%20migratie_NL.pdf>
- ⁴ http://statbel.fgov.be/nl/modules/publications/statistiques/bevolking/bevolking_-_vreemdelingen_die_belg_werden_1988-2007_per_gemeente.jsp
- ⁵ Studie over de Congolese migratie en de impact ervan op de Congolese aanwezigheid in België (2010) p.11-12 <http://www.diversiteit.be/diversiteit/files/File/studies/2010/Studie%20Congolese%20migratie_NL.pdf>
- ⁶ Ibid p.16.
- ⁷ <http://www.diversiteit.be/sites/default/files/legacy_files/persberichten/Persdossier_2011%2003%2021_NL.pdf> page 7.
- ⁸ FOD Binnenlandse Zaken, Dienst Vreemdelingenzaken, family reunification yearly statistics for 2009-2012, p.4 <https://dofi.ibz.be/sites/dvzoe/NL/Documents/Statistieken/Stat_Gezinshereniging_NL.pdf>
- ⁹ FOD Binnenlandse Zaken, Dienst Vreemdelingenzaken, asylum applications statistics 2012, p.3.
- ¹⁰ Ibid. p.5.
- ¹¹ European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Belgium 2012, p.5 <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/belgium-emn-ountry-facthseet_en.pdf>
- ¹² <http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development_cooperation/intro.jsp>
- ¹³ Studie over de Congolese migratie en de impact ervan op de Congolese aanwezigheid in België (2010) p.58-59 <http://www.diversiteit.be/diversiteit/files/File/studies/2010/Studie%20Congolese%20migratie_NL.pdf>

General information

Migrants: 84,101
African migrants: ca. 1,543¹

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Algeria – 406
2. Libya – 207
3. South Africa – 140
4. Egypt – 39
5. Tunisia – 83
6. Morocco – 81
7. Nigeria – 78
8. Ethiopia – 56
9. Zimbabwe – 31
10. Botswana – 30



Migration to Bulgaria

Bulgaria has been mostly a transit country or a country of emigration, not a country of destination. When looking at the numbers in the list (cited below) we can deduce that there has not been a significant increase in African migrants compared to the numbers of 2010, but that they have stayed relatively the same.³ As the numbers show, the five largest African migrant groups represent over 60% of the African migrants in Bulgaria. The ten largest groups of African migrants comprise an 81% of the African migrant population. Countries such as Mali, Mauritius, Niger and Sierra Leone only have 1 registered migrant in Bulgaria. Two African states are in the top ten of asylum seekers over the period 1993-2007, namely Nigeria with 460 applicants, and Algeria, with 354 applicants. In 2006, 18 Nigerians and 13 Sudanese applied for asylum in Bulgaria.⁴ When it comes to irregular migration, numbers of 2005 show that 25 persons from Algeria and 17 from Tunisia, were forcibly returned in a total of 493 persons.⁵ Bulgaria has had during the Cold-War and its communist regime, visitors from multiple NLM's such as the ones from South-Africa and Angola.⁶

Asylum seekers

According to the European Migration Network there were 40 asylum applications from Somali's in 2011. In 2012 there were 75 asylum applications from Algerians.⁷ During the second quarter of 2013, 85 Algerians applied for asylum and 45 applications from citizens of Mali were received.⁸

Supporting institutions and organisations

The NGO Association "Bulgaria-Africa" was registered in 2005 and is the successor of the Association "Friends of Africa" of 1992. According to the website its aim is to strengthen, develop and expand the contacts and interaction between the Bulgarian State and Public Organizations and their counterparts on the African continent through exchange of experience in the development of democratic mechanisms and their functioning in the respective countries and societies. <http://bulgaria-africa.org/index.php/en>

Notes

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013)

^{2/3} Ibid.

⁴ IOM Migration in Bulgaria: A Country Profile 2008, p.14

⁵ Ibid. p.32

⁶ <http://www.sofiaecho.com/2012/05/07/1822369_bulgaria-in-his-heart-a-south-african-exile-recalls>

⁷ European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Bulgaria 2012, p.5.

⁸ Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: second quarter 2013, p.8

General information

Migrants: 756,980
African Migrants: None registered

Asylum seekers

In 2012, 295 people from Somalia applied for asylum in Croatia. During that same period 145 Algerians applied as well.¹ In the second quarter of 2013, 65 people from Somalia applied for asylum and so did 15 people from Sudan.²

Notes

¹ European Migration Network, Country factsheet: Croatia 2012, p.5. <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/country_factsheet_croatia_2012_%28en%29-_400026_en.pdf>

² Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: second quarter 2013, p.8
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-QA-13-012/EN/KS-QA-13-012-EN.PDF>



CROATIA

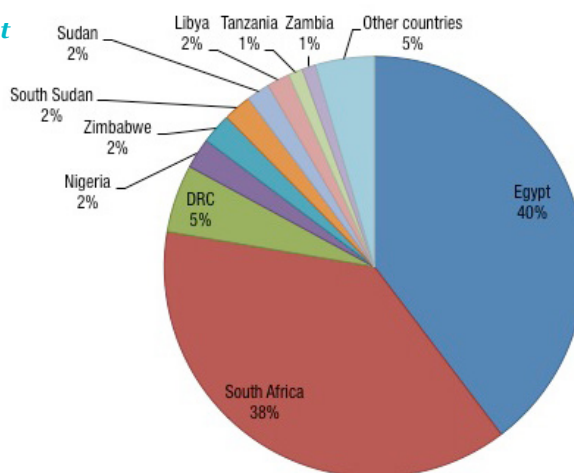


General Information

Independence: 16 August 1960
Area: 9,250 sq km
Population: 838,897
Migrants: 207,313¹
African migrants: ca. 15,387

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Egypt – 6,105
2. South Africa – 5,847
3. DRC – 805
4. Nigeria – 360³
5. Zimbabwe – 360
6. South Sudan – 335
7. Sudan – 277
8. Libya – 269
9. Tanzania – 171
10. Zambia – 160



Migration to Cyprus

While in absolute numbers, Southern European states like Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece, have a much larger influx of irregular immigrants than Cyprus, this small State, together with Malta, has an 'unfair burden' placed upon it when it comes to migration. Even though Cyprus and Malta are often mentioned together when it comes to asylum and irregular migration in the EU, their experiences with refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants have been different. In its history, Cyprus has been both an emigration as an immigration country, almost in an equal measure. Emigration has amongst others, also taken place to South Africa, where there are large Cypriot communities. But Cyprus is also a country of immigration, and due to its geographical location these include Egypt and South Africa, which are two nations that are in the top 10 immigration countries to Cyprus.⁴ In the construction sector, it are predominantly migrants from Egypt that are being employed.⁵ In 2012, there were 721 Egyptians that received a residence permit in Cyprus.

Irregular Migration

Deportation of irregular migrants is a common practice in Cyprus. In 2007 there have been 2.892 deportations, since the holding cells for irregular migrants and refugees are at full capacity.⁷ Due to its proximity to the Middle East and Asia, there is only one African country that holds a position in the top 5 asylum applications, and that is Egypt with 155 asylum applications in 2012.⁸

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Cyprus

- African Diaspora in Cyprus
an initiative that seeks to bring together all Africans that live in Cyprus. Through this platform we want to create bonds and help each other. By better organizing ourselves we can ensure the preservation of our member's right but also give back to the Society.
<https://www.facebook.com/AfricanDiasporaInCyprus>
- South African Cyprus (SACY) News
A multi-platform media source in Cyprus. Through our website and monthly newspaper, we reach over 6,000 South African families living in Cyprus. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/SACY-News-South-African-Cyprus-Newspaper/160562887388410>
http://issuu.com/sacynews/docs/sacy_news_issue_06

Notes

- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Nigeria is ranked 4th due to alphabetical order.
- ⁴ Janine Teerling and Russell King, Cyprus as a Multi-Diasporic Space, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex (2011) p. 3 <<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=mwp67.pdf&site=252>>
- ⁵ Mark Thompson, Migrants on the Edge of Europe, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex (2006) p. 8 <<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=mwp35.pdf&site=252>>
- ⁶ European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Cyprus 2012, p.4 <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/cyprus-emn-ountry-facthseet_en.pdf>
- ⁷ Ceita Mainwaring, On the edge of Exclusion: The Changing nature of Migration in Cyprus and Malta' The Cyprus Review Volume 20 No. 2 (2008) 19; 37. <http://dcbhm58xdznta.cloudfront.net/files/cyreview_2008_-_vol_20_no_2.pdf>
- ⁸ European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Cyprus 2012, p.5.



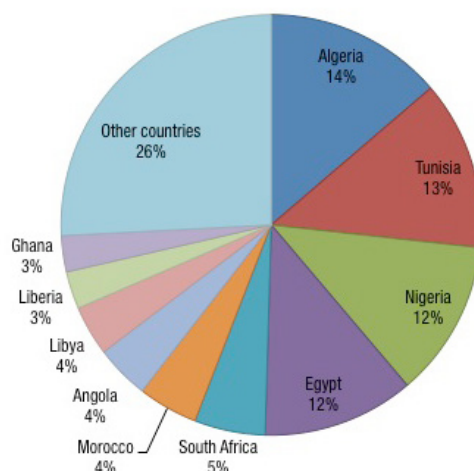
CYPRUS

General Information

Independence:	1 January 1993
Area:	78,866 sq km
Population:	10,562,214 ¹
Migrants:	432,776 ²
African migrants:	ca. 4,788

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups

1. Algeria – 657
2. Tunisia – 623
3. Nigeria – 578
4. Egypt – 558
5. South Africa – 261
6. Morocco – 221
7. Angola – 199
8. Libya – 184
9. Liberia – 138
10. Ghana – 133



Migration to Czech Republic

When looking at the UN list of migration (see footnote) one can deduce that Africans from across the whole continent reside in the Czech Republic. These numbers resemble the numbers from the Czech Foreign Police of 2010, which provide similar numbers.⁴ The ten largest African migrant groups present however a 74% of the total African migrant population in the Czech Republic.

According to a study of the Charles University in Prague on the integration of Highly-skilled workers from sub-Saharan⁵, African immigrants in Prague are quite different than their counterparts in Western Europe. Apparently there is less of a community life than those in Western Europe, and their successful integration is based on the suppression of their mother tongue. Long-term African immigrants residing in the Czech Republic are in comparison with their European counterparts usually less generous as for their families in countries of origin (i.e. the total amount of remittances sent by sub-Saharan respondents living in the Czech Republic was extraordinary low and random) and they do not visit their relatives very often either. Such a weakness of the social network between immigrants and their initial families as well as lower level of solidarity within the Sub-Saharan diaspora itself can be explained by both – lower percentage of Sub-Saharan community members residing in the Czech Republic in absolute terms, and motives of arrival that drew them into the Czech Republic. In the Czech Republic it is more on the basis of student visa's, instead of on the basis of asylum.⁶

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Czech Republic

- Humanitas Afrika
<http://www.humanitasafrika.cz>
- Cultura Africa
Cultura Africa promotes communication among Czech citizens and Africans via cultural and educational activities aiming to develop a tolerant multicultural environment and cooperates with the West Bohemian University of Pilsen and other academic institutions.
<http://www.culturaafrica.org>

Supporting institutions and organisations

Community centre InBáze Civic Association Berkat has been since 2006 a place open to migrants who search and build their new home in the Czech Republic and for all others who already have it here. InBáze offers education, consultancy services, programmes for children and families, multicultural groups, evenings with lectures, services of social enterprise, stays in the community centre Rakovice in Southern Bohemia and possibility to be engaged as a volunteer. The InBáze community centre's mission is; To assist migrants who face a hard situation in life and create an open and safe place where people coming from different cultures can meet and learn to know each other

Further links about the African Diaspora in Czech Republic

- International Conference on African Studies
<http://www.vivaafrika.cz>

Notes

- ¹ <<http://www.czech.cz/en/Discover-CZ/Facts-about-the-Czech-Republic/Geography/Population-census-in-the-Czech-Republic-%E2%80%93-foreigners>>
- ² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013). <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ <<http://centrum.humanitasafrika.cz/docs/pocet-africanu-v-cr-k-2010-09-31.pdf>>
- ⁵ Andrea Gernesterová, Integration of Highly Qualified Sub-Saharan Immigrants in Prague, Sociology Mind Volume 1 No. 2 (2011) p. 45;47.
- ⁶ Ibid. p.47-48.

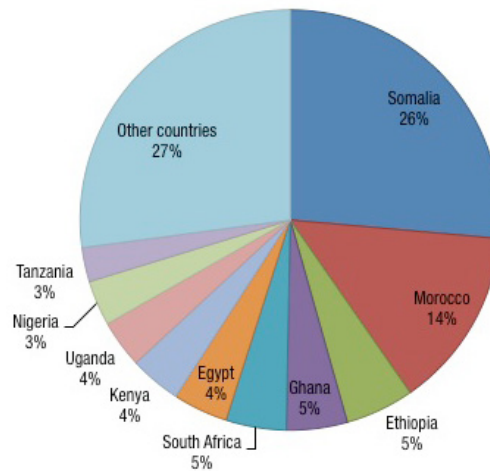


General Information

Independence:	5 June 1849
Area:	43,094 sq km
Population:	5,5 million
Migrants:	556,825 ¹
African migrants:	ca. 39,335

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Somalia – 10,389
2. Morocco – 5,477
3. Ethiopia – 2,077
4. Ghana – 1,844
5. South Africa – 1,823
6. Egypt – 1,659
7. Kenya – 1,559
8. Uganda – 1,441
9. Nigeria – 1,369
10. Tanzania – 1,036



Migration to Denmark

Denmark has been a very popular country of destination due to economic growth and labour market changes since the late 1960s. Although it was only from the 1990s that the number of African migrants increased immensely. The majority of the African immigrants in Denmark are Somalian refugees who fled the war in Somalia during the early 1990s. Which during the past two decades resulted in a high influx of Somalian immigrants due to family reunification. Even though the number of refugees decreased during the 2000s, Denmark remains to be a relatively important country for asylum-seekers and the resettlement of quota refugees. The second largest group of African migrants in Denmark are from Morocco. Similar to what happened in other EU countries, Moroccans came as labour migrants in important numbers in the early 60th – 80th to Denmark. Since the 90th young Moroccan students migrated to Denmark. Other important African migrants groups are Ghanaians (2136), Egyptians (2103), Ethiopians (1533), Nigerians (1349), Ugandans (1347) and Algerians (1331). A part from Ghanaians, who mostly came due to labour seeking, the majority of the Africans went to Denmark to seek asylum because of the social programme of the Danish Government. Even though there has been a significant increase in the number of African migrants in Denmark due to the intake of refugees, the total number of African immigrants and descendants was only about 102,000 in 2012, equal to 1,8 percent of the total population.³

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Denmark

The number of African diaspora organisations is considerably high compared to other EU Member States, however networking between the organisations is less developed. For example there exists no national-wide umbrella organisation uniting them on a pan-African level. Since the early 1990s a substantial number of African migrants associations has been formed. The associations typically engage in a wide range of activities. The most frequent activities (cited by 87 associations = 70,7%) were social activities like creating meeting places and strengthen networks among their compatriots. Based on the main activities and primary focus of the associations two types of associations can be identified: ethno national associations and religious associations. 35% of the associations are engaged in Co-development, which is a remarkable high percentage.

Even though the networking between the organizations is less developed, the diaspora present in Denmark is central in Denmark's Migration and Development projects. It is in this sense that efforts are being made to involve them, on the one hand, in the development of their countries of origin, through the migration-for-development concept. On the other, emphasis is being put on improving their integration in Danish society, as better integrated

migrants become more productive members of society and consequently, contribute more effectively towards the development of their country of residence. Due to these governmental supported projects the networking level of the African Diaspora in Denmark is likely to grow in the future.⁴

- Puntland Aid Service (PAS)
Abdirahman DIRIYE
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Saadaadan_3@hotmail.com
- Supporting Zimbabwe
Bigman A. NKUNKUNUNU
vn05@bif.kk.dk
- Good Will Initiative Cameroonians Online Forum Scandinavia
Derick Louis Sevidzem Tatah
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Specifics and Particularities of the African Diaspora in Denmark

With 0,62% of the total population the African Diaspora is relatively small. In numbers, they are dominated by the Somali community which represents 47% of the African diaspora and is thereby the largest non-European migrant group. As a consequence, the African diaspora is only lightly connected. However, a lot of institutions are supporting co-development projects and programs and offer funds the diaspora can apply for. Furthermore, the African diaspora is about to build an umbrella organisation for co-development.

Supporting Institutions and Organisations

The most commonly used programs for applying for financial support for developmental projects are administered by MS ActionAid Denmark (Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke) and the Project Advice and Training Centre (PATC). A migrant association can apply for these funds on equal terms with other Danish associations. Both programs require that the association have contact with a partner NGO in the receiving country.

The most frequently used program is Recycling for the South, which is a government fund administered by MS ActionAid Denmark. The other program, known as the Mini-Project Fund, is one of the most important sources of financial support for small and medium-size NGOs involved in development work. The fund is administered by PATC on behalf of the Danish International Development Agency.

Notes

- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Danish Immigration Service, Migration and Asylum 2009, p.33
<<http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/BB2D6CAE-E0E0-4210-BA14-EB5822253DDE/0/StatisticalOverview2009.pdf>>
- ⁴ IOM-Denmark <<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/where-we-work/europa/european-economic-area/denmark.html>>



DENMARK

General information

Independence:	20 August 1991
Area:	45,228 sq km
Population:	1,340,415
Migrants:	209,984 ¹
African migrants:	None according to the document cited below

Migration to Estonia

The lack of cooperation between Estonia and African States is evident due to the lack of African migrants living in Estonia. Estonia has no Embassies in Africa with the exception of Egypt, and Embassies of African States to Estonia are situated mainly in Germany or Denmark.²

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Estonia

The networking levels of Africans in Estonia is very low if any at all, with only one organization called Friendship Association which is proving difficult to bring together people of African descent in Estonia.

Supporting institutions and organisations

Here are not any known supporting organizations.

African Diaspora Organisations

- Association d'Amitié Angola-Estonie
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Tel. +372 58395525

Further links about the African Diaspora in Estonia

- <http://www.vm.ee/?q=en/node/122>
- <http://www.vm.ee/?q=en/node/16558>

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Estonia

Estonia only has bilateral relations with Morocco and Ethiopia. Morocco recognised the Republic of Estonia on 24 September 1991. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on 22 June 1992. Ethiopia first recognised the Republic of Estonia through the League of Nations and re-recognised it on 2 January 1992. Estonia has also supported refugees in Sudan.

AEP Experts



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Notes

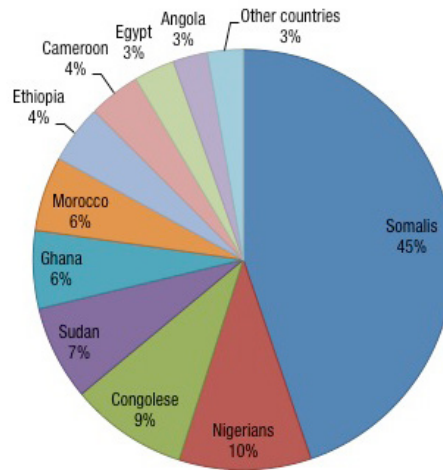
- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² <<http://estonia.eu/link.php?url=http://www.vm.ee/?q=en/taxonomy/term/42>>

General information

Independency:	6 November 1917
Area:	338,424 sq km
Population:	5,404,956
Migrants:	ca. 366,110
African migrants:	ca. 33,494 = 0,62% of the total population

Ranking list of the 10 largest African diaspora groups

1. Somalis – 16,028¹
2. Nigerians – 3,399
3. Congolese – 3,029
4. Sudan – 2,435
5. Ghana – 2,010
6. Morocco – 1,925
7. Ethiopia – 1,505
8. Cameroon – 1,329
9. Egypt – 1,056
10. Angola – 887



Migration to Finland

Even though Finland has good social welfare policies, well-maintained public and technological infrastructure, great education opportunities, practically free medical care and a very high gross domestic product, it is not a relatively very popular country of destination for migrants, neither does it claim an optimally integrated foreign population. Finland's immigrant population has increased in recent decades. Between 1990 and 2009, the number of foreign citizens legally residing in Finland increased six-fold from 26.300 to 155.700. Out of the total population of 5.3 million people, approximately 5% claim a foreign background. With regard to African immigrants to Finland, the largest amount is from Somalia. The Somalian people largely consist of refugees who fled the war in Somalia during the early 1990s. This has resulted in a high influx of Somalian immigrants due to family reunification during the past two decades.²

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Finland

Before 2012, ADOs operated separately or specifically in the context of either their region or country of origin. Recently, they have started to set up a national umbrella organisation to connect all diaspora organisations active in co-development. The first nation-wide meeting is scheduled for this year 2012. The aim of the network building on the national level is to enable the ADOs engaged in co-development to speak with one voice and is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Supporting institutions and organisations

In line with the policy of other Scandinavian countries, Finland opened its doors wide to receive migrants. A lot of organisations are active in Co-development.

- Finnish Department for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs supports Finnish non-governmental organisations' (NGOs) development cooperation and information activities with approximately 74 million per year. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs allocates development cooperation funds to international and regional non-governmental organisations (NGOs) whose activities are in line with Finland's development policy priorities and goals. This support complements Finland's development policy and inter-governmental development cooperation in the sectors and activities with strategic importance. In accordance with the government resolution, Finland concentrates on a few organisations with which the government conducts an active dialogue.³

- The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish Ministry of the Interior offer supporting programs for Diaspora organisations as well.⁴
- KEPA
KEPA is the Finnish civil society's leading expert organisation on development policy issues. It is the umbrella organisation for Finnish co-development civil society organisations (CSOs). KEPA provides training and advice for CSOs in Finland, and for their partners in developing countries through country and regional offices on three continents.
KEPA's member organisations include 300 Finnish CSOs working in development cooperation or are affiliated with development and global issues. Members range from major CSOs to small associations run by a few active members.⁵
- RAY
RAY is an important Finnish donor organisation supporting NGOs in Finland operating in the social and health sector. African diaspora organisations can apply for funds on a quarterly basis.⁶

African Diaspora Organisations

Somali diaspora organisations and associations

- The Finnish Somali Network is an umbrella organisation of 31 Somali diaspora organisations: Berri-Somal Kehitys ry, Gannaane ry Galmudug ry, Golis Naisten Yhdistys ry, Hiiraan Community Development ry, Horisontti Team ry, Horn Organisation for Peace and Democracy Building ry, Itä-Afrikan rauha ja kehitys ry, Kanava Nuoriso ry, Kirkon Ulkomaanavun säätiö, Landers ry, Lääkäriin Sosiaalinen Vastuu ry, Puntland Community ry, R3-Maahanmuuttajanuorten tuki ry, Rural Development and Relief Agency (RDA) ry, Sahar International Relief Association ry, Sahed ry, Sateenvarjo ry, Social Empowerment Organisation (SEMO) ry, Sodepa ry - Social Development And Environmental Protection Association, Solidaarisuus, Somali Health Professionals in Nordic Countries SOMHELP ry, Somali Reconstruction And Social Development ry (SORASOD), Somaliland Seura ry, Somaliväen Yhdistys Midnimo ry, Somali Social Development Association ry (SSDA), SOMEFIN ry - Somalian eteläisen alueen kehitysyhdistys, Sool, Sanaag & Hawd Development Agency ry (SSHDA), Suomen Ogadenilaisten yhdistys ry, Taakuleeye ry, Yku-yhdistys ry - Ympäristö, Kulttuuri ja Urheilu

African Diaspora Organisations besides Somali organisations

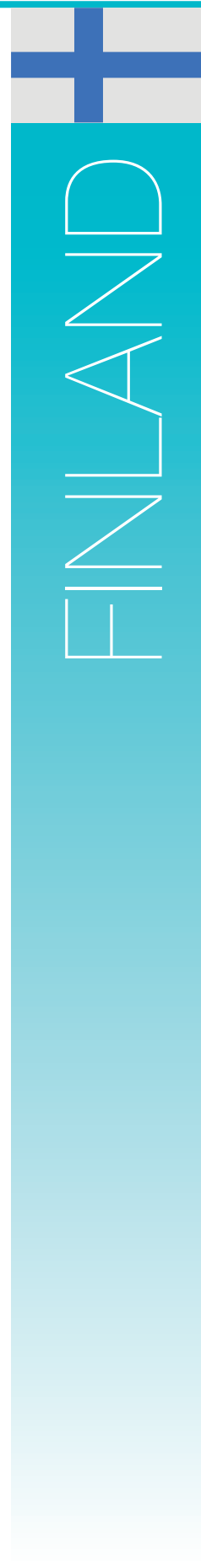
- Ghanaian Community:
<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/diaspora/diaspora.news.php?country=FI>
- African Civil Society Finland (ACSF):
<http://www.monimos.fi/organizations/the-african-civil-society-finland-ry-acsf/>
- Sudanese Christian Fellowship Finland:
<http://scfinland.webs.com/>

Further links about the African Diaspora in Finland

- <http://www.afrik-news.com/pressrelease4550.html>
- <http://www.antropologinenseura.fi/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/african-diaspora-in-finland-and-europe.pdf>
- http://www.diaspora-centre.org/DOCS/DIASPEACE_Delivera.pdf (Page 26)
- <http://www.fbcwestafrica.org/component/content/?view=featured>
- <http://www.afrikansarvi.fi/24-reportaasi/67-peace-and-youth-in-the-horn-of-africa>

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Finland

With 0,62% of the total population the African Diaspora is relatively small. In numbers, they are dominated by the Somali community which represents with 47% of the African diaspora the largest non-European migrant group. As a consequence, the African diaspora is only lightly connected. However, a lot of institutions are supporting co-development projects and programs and offer funds the diaspora can apply for. Furthermore, the African diaspora is about to build an umbrella organisation for co-development.



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Deputy Chair Woman
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FINLAND

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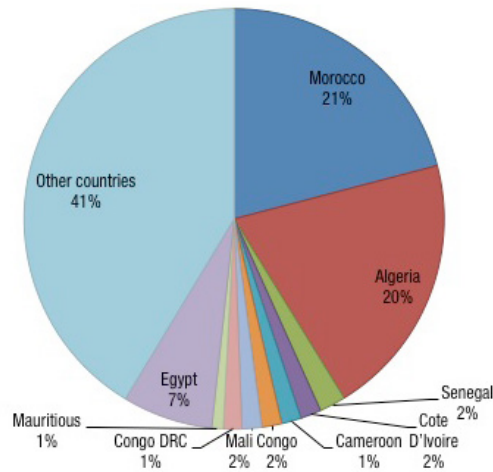
- ¹ The Numbers of the 2nd, 3rd & 4th generation are often excluded from the numbers of diaspora groups. According to statistics the multiplier is 2,168 to receive the approximate number of the total diaspora population including those with a national passport
- ² Arno Tanner (2011). 'Finland's Balancing Act: The Labor Market, Humanitarian Relief, and Immigrant Integration'. Migration Information Source, Retrieved from the WWW, 09-12-2013: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/feature/display.cfm?ID=825>
- ³ <<http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=15316&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>>
- ⁴ <<http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/?lang=en>>, <http://www.intermin.fi/intermin/home.nsf/pages/index_eng>
- ⁵ <<http://www.kepa.fi/international/english>>
- ⁶ <<https://www.ray.fi/en/beneficiaries/>>

General information

Independence:	July 4th 1989
Area:	674,843 sq km (41st) 260,558 sq mi
Population:	65,821,885
Migrants:	ca. 6,684,842
African migrants:	ca. 4,500,000

Ranking list of the 10 largest African diaspora groups

1. Morocco – 940,985
2. Algeria – 913,794
3. Senegal – 91,446
4. Cote D'Ivoire – 71,334
5. Cameroon – 68,250
6. Congo – 68,951
7. Mali – 68,786
8. Congo DRC – 63,423
9. Mauritius – 39,985
10. Egypt – 31,2450



Migration to France

Most Africans diaspora in France are as a result of colonial heritage. African migrant mainly migrates to where their where they have colonial ties. As of 2012, the French national institute of statistics INSEE estimated that 11.8 million foreign-born immigrants and their direct descendants (limited to 2nd generation born in France) lived in France representing 19% of the country's population (20% of Algerian origin and 15% of Moroccan or Tunisian origin). The majority of black immigrants into the country have come directly from Africa, in particular, Tunisia, ivory coast, Mali, and Ghana in West Africa, Uganda and Kenya in East Africa, Zimbabwe, and South Africa in Southern Africa. French speaking African who migrate do find it easy to migrate due to the language and the similar lifestyle.

Supporting institutions and organisations

- Fédération des Associations Franco-Africaines de développement par l'Appui économique is a group which aim at contributing to the development of african community in France.

African Diaspora Organisations

- Fédération des Associations Franco-Africaines de développement par l'Appui économique Promouvoir l'esprit d'entreprendre, Accompagnement technique, socioéconomique et financier des projets d'entreprises, aide à la recherche de partenaires techniques et financiers, création base de données socioéconomiques concernant les zones d'intervention

Coordonner, valoriser et appuyer les efforts, compétences et actions des organisations de solidarité euro-africaine et de la diaspora africaine en Europe dans leurs intérêts communs tout en respectant la spécificité de chacune d'entre elles ; Faire connaître, reconnaître et soutenir leurs apports auprès des pouvoirs publics et privés Européens et Africains ; Être un organe de consultation, de proposition, et d'intervention auprès de ses interlocuteurs pour tout ce qui concerne le codéveloppement, la solidarité et la citoyenneté, locales et internationales; Faciliter le dialogue, l'échange et la communication entre les organisations internationales, les associations et la société civile en général et promouvoir synergies et mutualisations des capacités et des expériences; Etre un acteur dynamique utilisant les compétences des membres afin d'œuvrer pour la solidarité internationale et le codéveloppement, et leur articulation avec les politiques de coopération décentralisée, de coopération bilatérale et multilatérale. La PEAC a aussi pour objet de promouvoir des projets d'intérêt général n'entrant pas dans le champ d'activités de ses membres.

- L'association Casa Africa Nantes
Créer un espace permanent de promotion des initiatives liées à l'Afrique et chargé de susciter des rencontres, réflexions, débats et perspectives sur l'Afrique
- Solidaires avec Madagascar (SOAMAD)
SoaMad se propose d'œuvrer au développement économique, social et culturel de Madagascar dans le respect des droits de l'Homme et celui de son environnement, pour l'amitié entre les peuples. Sur cette base et pour soutenir les initiatives engagées par les populations locales organisées qui cherchent par elles-mêmes des solutions alternatives au mal développement, elle mène une action internationale indépendante: de prospection en vue de la mise en place d'accords d'assistance, d'échanges technologiques ou de partenariats de différents ordres d'études pluridisciplinaires aussi bien fondamentales qu'appliquées; de communication multimedia et de valorisation.

Further links about the African Diaspora in France

- www.equilibre-benin.org
- www.diaguily.org
- www.afrique-terre-origine.com
- www.asc.fassa.free.fr
- www.remetou-association.org/page2.html
- www.aubenouvelle.org
- www.formidec.spaces.live.com
- www.ong-africa-2000.jimdo.com
- www.fafrad.org
- www.casaafricanantes.org
- www.soamad.org

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in France

With over 5million Africans migrants living in France Since the 19th century, France has continued being a country of immigration. During the Trente Glorieuses (1945–1974), the country's reconstruction and steady economic growth led to the labor-immigration of the 1960s, when many employers found manpower in villages located in Southern Europe and North Africa. In 2012, the French national institute of statistics INSEE estimated that about 5 million African migrant are living in France.

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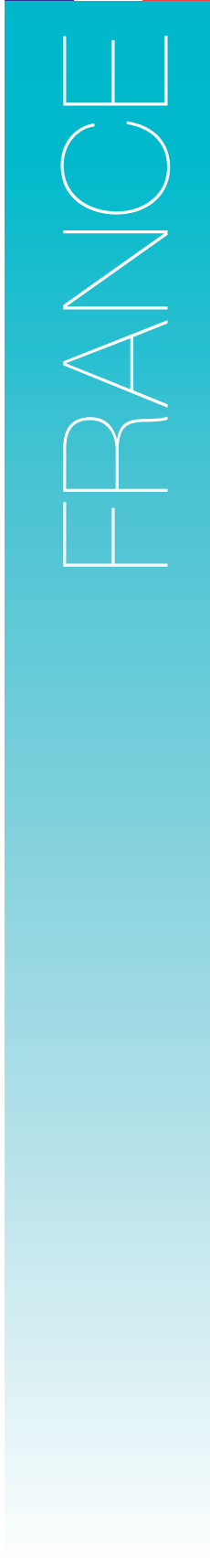
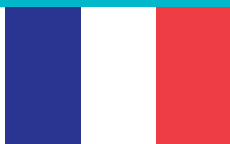
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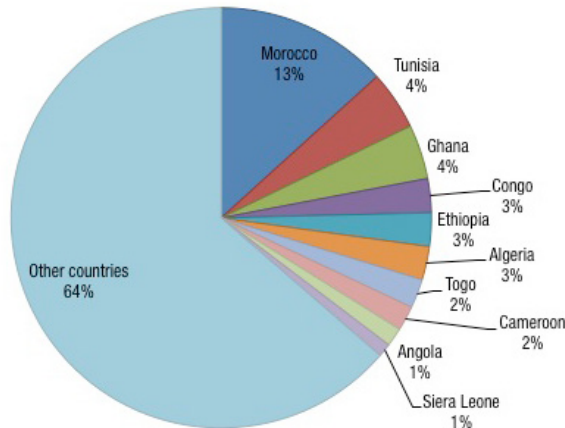


General information

Independency:	18 January 1871
Area:	357,022 sq km
Population:	82,329,758
Migrants:	app. 10,758,061
African migrants:	app. 817,000

Ranking list of the 10 largest African diaspora groups

1. Morocco – 108,442
2. Tunisia – 37,049
3. Ghana – 34,153
4. Congo – 21,446
5. Ethiopia – 21,085
6. Algeria – 21,081
7. Togo – 18,123
8. Cameroon – 15,559
9. Angola – 11,742
10. Siera Leone – 8,407



Migration to Germany

Cities such as Hamburg and Berlin, centres of occupation forces in the post-war years as well as more recent immigration, have substantial Black communities, with a high percentage of ethnically mixed families. With modern trade and migration, communities such as Frankfurt, Munich, or Cologne have an increasing number of Afro-Germans. As of 2005, there were approximately 500,000 Afro-Germans in a nation of 80 million. Since 1981 and onwards, Germany had waves of immigration by political asylum seekers and immigrants from African states mostly from Nigeria and Ghana who were seeking work. Some of the Ghanaians also came to study in German Universities.

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Germany

- The Bridge e.V.
The foundation "Africa Positive" was founded in 1998 by the Cameroonian Ms. Veye Tatah and aims at contributing to the integration of in Germany living Africans by means of, e.g., the publication of a magazine with the same name. The magazine is base on the African - German cooperation and functions as a counterpole to negative news on this topic.
- Deutsch-Afrika Ruhr Forum e.V. (DARF e.V.)
The aim of the organisation is the exchange between peoples, integration and international development cooperation. Objectives are, among others, the support of capacity building, motivation of African diaspora communities to participate in social events and to be a bridge between African countries of origin and Germany through different projects.
- Gakassiney e.V.
The purpose of the organisation is the promotion of cultural, social and economic relations between Germany and Niger. The processing of information about Niger and its trade unions, as well as support for development projects.

Supporting institutions and organisations

- German- African Center (Deutsch-Afrikanisches Zentrum)
- Diakonie Koeln (Mwangaza project)
- Dr. Soraya Meket - DMK (German Moroccan Competence Network)
- Mr. Eskinder Mamo - DÄSAF
- Mr. Manuel Lotutala - Vorsitzender Angolanischer Fachkräfte Dienst Deutschland - AFD e.V.
- Mr. Mohamed Bellafkir-DMK (German Moroccan Competence Network)

- Hachim Haddouti - Vorsitzender Deutsch-Marokanisches-Kompetenz-Netzwerk – DMK
- Azzedine Maaroufi - Deutsch-Marokanisches-Kompetenz-Netzwerk – DMK
- Claude Mbayim - Vorsitzender Verband Kamerunischer Ingenieure & Informatiker VKII
- Sebastian Udejah - President Nigerians in Diaspora Organisations - NIDO

Further links about the African Diaspora in Germany

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro-Germans>
- http://peoplemov.in/#t_DE
- info@africa-positive.de
- www.darf-ev.de
- www.gakassiney.de
- helene.lucie@gmx.net

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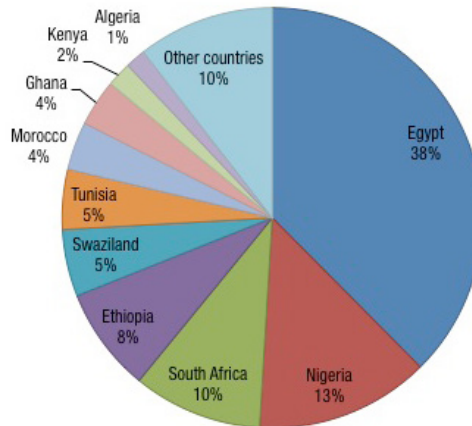
GERMANY

General Information

Independence:	March 25th 1821
Area:	131,957 sq km
Population:	11,2 million
Migrants:	988,245 ¹
African migrants:	ca. 29,357

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Egypt – 11,026
2. Nigeria – 3,935
3. South Africa – 2,923
4. Ethiopia – 2,361
5. Swaziland – 1,513
6. Tunisia – 1,358
7. Morocco – 1,086
8. Ghana – 1,051
9. Kenya – 564
10. Algeria – 453



Migration to Greece

Greece has traditionally been a transit country throughout its history due to its geographic location. But it is quite recently that it is an immigrant receiving country. Overall women comprise 43,4% of the total African migrant population in Athens, but the gender distribution depends on the country of origin.³ The average age of the African immigrant is 30 years, so they are at most second generation. 13,2% of the African immigrants are children, which leads to suggest that in the immigration flow, a lot of families are present.⁴ Egyptians are the biggest migrant population residing in Greece that come from the African continent. An estimate of the World Bank in 2007 states that there were approximately 28.000 Egyptians residing in Greece in 2005. By the end of 2007, 11.285 Egyptians received a residence permit in Greece.⁵ After that the Nigerians are the biggest populations and they have the highest concentration in the African neighbourhoods.⁶

Irregular Migration

Greece is a known transit country and its borders are difficult to control due to its islands and many kilometres of seashore. This inevitably brings irregular migration to its territory. In 2004, almost 45.000 aliens were apprehended by the authorities. Of these 45.000, 801 had Egyptian citizenship, 436 had Somali citizenship, there were 299 people from Sudan, and 238 came from Côte D'Ivoire. In 2007 the government has increased its controls and the numbers of irregular migrants that have been apprehended have increased significantly. In 2009 there were 7.710 Somali's apprehended around the borders and within the territory of Greece. In 2010 7.336 Algerians were apprehended and in 2011 that number was 5.398.⁸ The Greek government has however still difficulties with the expulsion of African irregular migrants that have been apprehended by the authorities. The percentage of effective expulsion of these irregulars from these African countries lies around 1,62% for the year 2009.

In a report on undocumented migration in Greece of 2008, a couple of nationalities of African countries are listed from the 2001 census, together with the percentage of them who are considered irregulars, how many had a valid residence permit in October 2007 and the amount of asylum applicants in 2007.¹⁰ The numbers shown here are much lower than showed above, which may be explained by the numbers of controls and the police officers tasked with irregular migration that have increased since end of 2007. According to the document, there were 7.448 Egyptians in the 2001 census, 2.015 Nigerians, 526 Moroccans, 396 Ghanaians and 356 people from Sudan. According to the same document, 10.356 Egyptians had a valid residence permit in October 2007 together with 1.514 Nigerians, 537 Moroccans, 356 people from Ghana and 225 Sudanese.

Asylum seekers

The number of asylum applicants for 2007 are the following: 75 applicants with the Egyptian nationality, 390 from Nigeria, 9 from Morocco, 71 with the Ghanaian nationality and 105 people from Sudan.¹¹

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Greece

The organisations that are being formed by African migrants are often female organisations.

- United African Women Organization Greece
<http://www.africanwomen.gr/>
- Ethiopian Community in Athens
16 Imvrou St. 113 61, Pl. Amerikis
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ethiopiancommunityingreece>
- Nigerian Community Greece
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nigeria-Community-Greece/293700914084982?fref=ts>

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Greece

African neighbourhoods in Athens are small compared to other ethnicities. Other neighbourhoods comprise a lot of ethnicities where Africans live together with Russians, Poles but also Greeks.

Notes

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>

² Ibid.

³ Myrto Dagkouli, The African immigrants in the public space of Athens (2011) p.5 <<http://www.rc21.org/conferences/amsterdam2011/edocs2/Session%2012/12-1-Dagkouli.pdf>>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ IOM Migration in Greece: A Country Profile 2008, p.17-18 <http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Greece_Profile2008.pdf>

⁶ Myrto Dagkouli, The African immigrants in the public space of Athens (2011) p. 9 <<http://www.rc21.org/conferences/amsterdam2011/edocs2/Session%2012/12-1-Dagkouli.pdf>>

⁷ Ibid. p.38.

⁸ Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy, Migration in Greece: People, Policies and Practices, p.13 <<http://irma.eliamep.gr/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/IRMA-Background-Report-Greece.pdf>>

⁹ Ibid. p.14.

¹⁰ Thanos Maroukis, Undocumented Migration: Counting the Uncountable. Data and Trends across Europe (Clandestino 2008) p.63 <http://irregular-migration.net/typo3_upload/groups/31/4.Background_Information/4.4.Country_Reports/Greece_CountryReport_Clandestino_Nov09_2.pdf>

¹¹ Ibid.



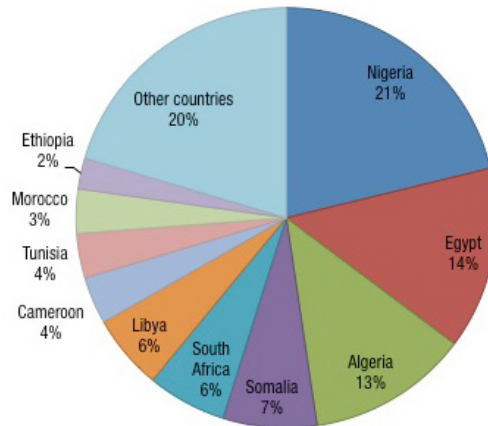
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General information

Independence:	Third Hungarian Republic 23 October 1989
Area:	93,030 sq km
Population:	9,937,628
Migrants:	472,798 ¹
African migrants:	ca. 6,000

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups

1. Nigeria – 1,272
2. Egypt – 842
3. Algeria – 745
4. Somalia – 433
5. South Africa – 366
6. Libya – 347
7. Cameroon – 218
8. Tunisia – 206
9. Morocco – 204
10. Ethiopia – 143



Migration to Hungary

In 2012 there were 70 Somali's that applied for asylum.³

Supporting institutions and organisations

- African Hungarian Union (AHU)
www.ahu.hu

Further links about the African Diaspora in Hungary

- http://peoplemov.in/#t_HU

AEP Experts



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Notes

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>

² Ibid.

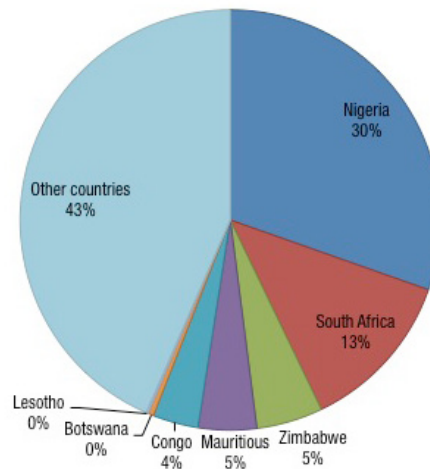
³ European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Hungary 2012, p.5 <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/country_factsheet_hungary_2012_%28en%29-_400017_en.pdf>

General information

Independence:	6 December 1937
Area:	84,421 sq km (32,595.1 sq mi)
Population:	4,622,917
Migrants:	ca. 898,630
African migrants:	ca. 65,078

Ranking list of the largest African diaspora groups

1. Nigeria – 19,780
2. South Africa – 8,110
3. Zimbabwe – 3,330
4. Mauritius – 2,919
5. Congo – 2,276
6. Botswana – 272
7. Lesotho – 117



Migration to Ireland

Until the 2002 census, most estimates of the total numbers of Africans in Ireland were haphazard and based mainly on asylum applications and work permits and student statistics. According to the census results, 20,981 people claiming nationality of an African country were living in Ireland in 2002 and more than one third of this (or 8,969) were Nigerians while 4,185 came from South Africa. 7 per cent (or 3,535) of the 50,500 immigrants who came into Ireland between April 2002 and April 2003 were nationals of African countries. one-third of persons who applied for political asylum in Ireland in 2002 and in 2001 were Nigerians while Zimbabweans were among the top five nationalities (ORAC, 2004). About 40% of the total 7,900 applications made in 2003 were by Nigerians. In the years before 2001, citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and to a lesser extent those from Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Angola and Liberia featured prominently on the asylum application lists. On work permits, more South Africans than nationalities of any other African countries have received permits to work in Ireland. A total of 2,273 were issued in 2002. Other African countries whose citizens have received permits to work and reside in Ireland in the past three years include Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Gambia, Namibia, Niger, Lesotho, Malawi ETC

The 2006 Irish census recorded 40,525 people of Black African ethnicity and 3,793 people of any other Black background resident in the Republic of Ireland out of a total population of 4,172,013, meaning that 1.06 per cent of the population self-identified as Black. The preliminary results of the 2011 census recorded 58,697 people of Black African ethnicity and 6,381 people of any other Black background resident in the Republic of Ireland out of a total population of 4,525,281, meaning that 1.42 per cent of the population self-identified as Black

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Ireland

Akina Dada wa Africa-AkiDwa (Swahili for sisterhood) is a national network of migrant women living in Ireland. The organisation was established in 2001 by a group of African women to address, isolation, racism and Gender Based Violence that the women were experiencing at the time. AkiDwa Vision is a just society where there is equal opportunity and equal access to resources in all aspects of society, social, cultural, economic, civic and political.

AkiDwa Mission is to promote equality and justice for migrant women living in Ireland.

Supporting institutions and organisations

- Irish Aid: Department of Foreign affairs and trade. The aim of our aid programme is to reduce poverty and hunger, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where the needs are greatest. By supporting long term development and providing humanitarian assistance in over eighty countries, on behalf of the Irish people, we are helping to build better futures for some of the world's poorest communities.

- The Irish African Partnership for Research Capacity Building (IAPRCB) is a network for information exchange and sharing of knowledge on 'research in the service of development'. Its activity focuses on four strands, all of which are relate to building sustainable research capacity in partnership with university institutions in sub-Saharan Africa

African Diaspora Organisations

- Africa Centre is a charity and non profit organisation founded in 2000 by a group of activists in the African immigrant community who wanted the community to have a voice and promote their active participation in Irish society. The Vision of the Africa Centre is of an Ireland that enables and is transformed by the sharing and relationships between Africa and Ireland, an Ireland where Africans are at home and participate fully with all other communities in a society that is just and inclusive, that through its diversity and interdependence leads to a sense of belonging, stability and creativity for all.
- New Communities Partnership (NCP) is an independent national network of 165 immigrant led groups comprising of 75 nationalities with offices in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. The vision is working towards an intercultural and inclusive Irish society where immigrant groups are achieving equality in economic, social, political and cultural aspects of Irish life.

Further links about the African Diaspora in Ireland

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_people_in_Ireland
- http://peoplemov.in/#f_IE
- http://www.ucd.ie/mcri/immigration_and_citizenship.pdf
- <http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/documents/census2011pdr/Census%202011%20Highlights%20Part%201%20web%2072dpi.pdf>

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Ireland

Africans had maintained a presence in Ireland long before the Celtic Tiger miracle. Extant evidence suggests that Africans have lived in Ireland since the 18th Century and most of the earliest migrants were soldiers and drummers that had been drafted into the British 29th Military Regiment based in Dublin since 1757. There were also others like domestic servants and African freed slaves from America that had come to Ireland to muster support for the abolitionist campaign. English is Ireland's most spoken language and the language of bureaucracy and this fact motivates many English-speaking Africans to come to Ireland

AEP Experts



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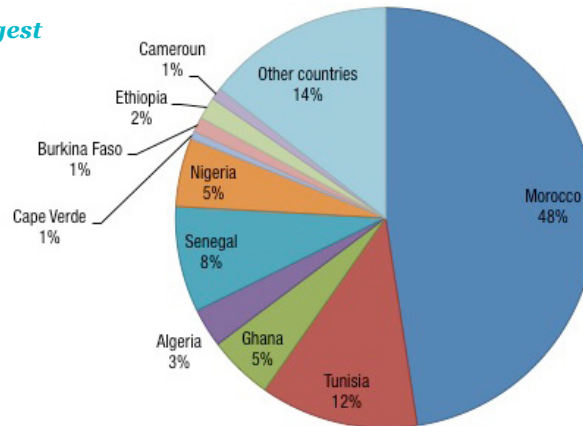
IRELAND

General information

Independence:	March 17, 1861
Area:	301,338 sq km (116,347 sq mi)
Population:	60,748,965
Migrants:	ca. 4,463,413
African migrants:	ca. 1,000,000

Ranking list of the 10 largest African diaspora groups

1. Morocco – 475,783
2. Tunisia – 121,708
3. Ghana – 49,931
4. Algeria – 29,931
5. Senegal – 81,424
6. Nigeria – 52,845
7. Cape Verde – 5,828
8. Burkina Faso – 11,606
9. Ethiopia – 17,226
10. Cameroun – 9,024



Migration to Italy

African emigrants to Italy include Italian citizens and residents originally from Africa. Immigrants from Africa officially residing in Italy in 2010 numbered about 1,000,000 residents.

The largest group of immigrants from Africa are from North Africa, numbering about 647,000 official residents in 2010. By country of origin, most of these recent arrivals are from Morocco (452,424), Tunisia (106,291), Egypt (90,365) and Algeria (25,935). Unofficial estimates are considerably higher. Italy also has a number of immigrants from Libya (1,468), Somalia (8,112), Eritrea (13,368) and Ethiopia (8,593), territories where Italian expatriates had a presence during the colonial period. Two hundred and thirty-five of the migrants from sub-Saharan Africa were travelling in a rickety wooden boat and the other 123 were spotted on a rubber dinghy, said the coastguards. A coastguard spokesman, who was unable to give any information on where the vessels departed from, said the migrants were all in decent health and were being transported to reception centres. Italy has borne the brunt of clandestine seaborne migration to southern Europe that has ebbed and flowed for several years. Migrants say they are attracted by the prospect of a better life in Europe. Most migrants risk the voyage across the Mediterranean Sea in small and overcrowded fishing boats. Thousands have died as a result of shipwreck, harsh conditions at sea or a lack of food and water.

Each year, thousands of migrants attempt to cross the Mediterranean in overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels in a bid to reach the European Union. Hundreds are lost at sea, and many of those who do make it to Italy are held in detention centres until they are expelled to countries like Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. François Crépeau, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants, talked to RFI. He says Italy should not send migrants back to Libya against their will.

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Italy

On 11-12 December 2009, the African Diaspora Policy Centre took part in a policy seminar in Rome that was organised by Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale (CeSPI).

The seminar was a first step towards a wider process aimed at establishing and strengthening the creation of a visible network that will be able to coordinate cooperation among different diaspora organisations in Italy. Prior to the seminar, the African diaspora in Italy – supported by CeSPI – had started a process of meetings and discussions centred around four working groups on political, economic, social-associative and cultural issues. The aim of these discussions was to come up with a common agenda and strategies that will enable African diaspora organisations to gain acknowledgment of the important role that the diaspora plays in the area of migration and development.

The seminar was attended by representatives of various African diaspora organisations in Italy, representatives of the Province of Rome and a special representative for Africa. Keynotes speakers of the opening session emphasised the added value of the participation of the African diaspora in Italy in development activities, and addressed some of the issues that the diaspora and Italian institutions must tackle in the future. The afternoon sessions were divided into four working themes to correspond with the working groups on political, economic, social-associative and cultural issues.

Supporting institutions and organisations

Early 2013 Italy appointed Kyenge, an African immigrant as a minister. Her appointment gives cause for hope that things will get better for Italy's immigrant population. But according to Ferruccio Pastore, director of the Turin-based International and European Forum for Migration Research, Kyenge won't have an easy ride as she tries to create legislation to speed that process. "The real proof will be whether she will be backed politically," says Pastore. "Will she be able to do something? Or will she be kept there as a kind of token?"

African Diaspora Organisations

- SUMA Agricultural Cooperative Society
And Somubi Women's Progress
Via Bainsizza 8 23900, Lecco
Contact person:
Belinda Comfort DAMOAH
comfortdamoah@interfree.it
- Association des Femmes de l'Afrique Subsaharienne A.D.A.S.
Tel 00237 74160706
Ngo Mbilla ODILE President
info@adasafrica.org
www.adasafrica.org
- Associazione Internazionale Dawa Diaspora Africana In Italia
Via Dei Campi 52,41013
Castelfranco Emilia
Kyenge KASHETU, president
associazionedawa@gmail.com
- NIDOE-ITALY
Viaangelo Bianchi, 96 / 00133 Roma
Dr. Udunna Emmanuel ONYEWUCHI
Project Manager
Nwamba_ify@hotmail.com

Further links about the African Diaspora in Italy

- <http://www.adyne.eu/activities/>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_emigrants_to_Italy
- <http://www.english.rfi.fr/africa/20121015-italy-and-illegal-immigration-from-africa>
- <http://world.time.com/2013/05/06/italys-first-black-minister/#ixzz2bHgWUk9u>

AEP Experts



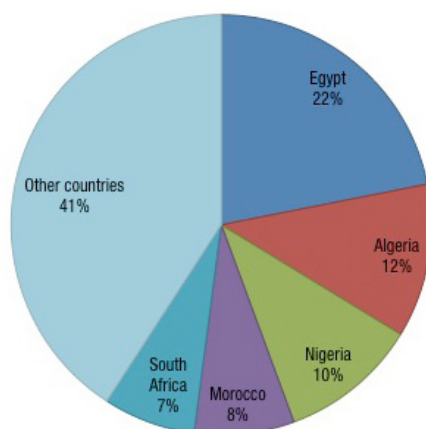
Mr. OUMAR SYLL CONFESEN
omarsyll@yahoo.fr
omarsyll@gmail.com
directeur@confesen.com
Phone: +390498698643

General information

Independence:	Announced 4 May 1990; Restored 21 August 1991; Member UN 17 September 1991
Area:	64,589 sq km
Population:	2,024 million ¹
Migrants:	282,887 ²
African migrants:	ca. 169

Ranking list of the 5 largest African migrant groups

1. Egypt – 37
2. Algeria – 20
3. Nigeria – 18
4. Morocco – 13
5. South Africa – 12



Migration to Latvia

Latvia seems to be a popular destination for asylum applications from people of the DRC. According to the European Migration Network in its factsheet of 2012, there have been 1.980 asylum applications from people of the DRC in 2010. In 2011 this number was 3.165 and in 2012 the number of applicants was even 3.250, making it the second nationality that applied for asylum in Latvia.³

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Latvian

- AFROLAT - Afro Latvian Association
www.afrolat.lv

Notes

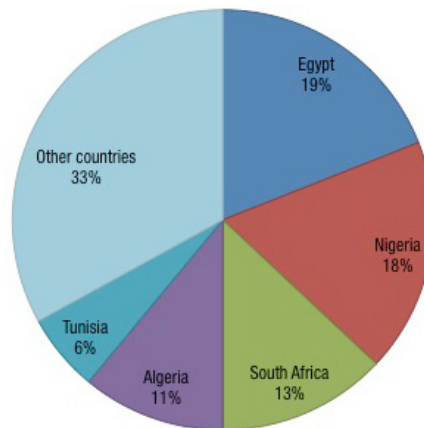
- ¹ <http://latinst.lv/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Faktu-lapa_Latvia-in-Brief_webam.pdf>
- ² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ³ European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Latvia 2012, p.5 <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/country_factsheet_latvia_2012_%28en%29_-_400014_en.pdf>

General information

Independence: 11 March 1990
Population: 3,545,319
Migrants: 147,781
African migrants: 100

Ranking list of the 5 largest African diaspora groups

1. Egypt – 19
2. Nigeria – 18
3. South Africa – 13
4. Algeria – 11
5. Tunisia – 6



Migration to Lithuania

African migrants do not even represent a fraction of the total amount of immigrants in Lithuania (less than 0.1%).

Supporting institutions and organisations

- Vilnius African Community
<http://www.vab.lt/>

Further links about the African Diaspora in Lithuania

- http://peoplemov.in/#t_LT

AEP Experts



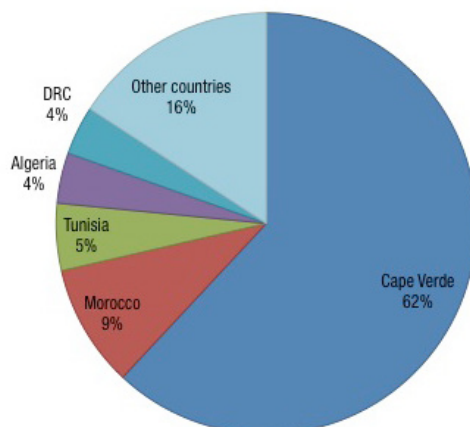
Chijioke Nkemka
Lithuanian African Community
chiji2009@gmail.com

General information

Independence:	19 April 1839
Area:	2,586 sq km
Population:	518,212
Migrants:	229,409 ¹
African migrants:	ca. 2,758

Ranking list of the 5 largest African migrant groups

1. Cape Verde – 1,709
2. Morocco – 260
3. Tunisia – 142
4. Algeria – 107
5. DRC – 103



Migration to Luxembourg

The African migrants are scarce in Luxembourg even though many African States have migrants living there. As shown above, most of them come from Cape Verde. They make up 62% of the total African migrant population in Luxembourg. In 2012, there were 220 people from Cape Verde that received first residence permit in Luxembourg.²

African Diaspora Organisations

- Cercle des Etudiants Africains au Luxembourg (CEAL), <http://ceal.lu/>
- Cap Vert Espoir et Développement (CVED), <http://www.cvedsite.org>
- Maison d'Afrique, a group uniting the African diaspora in Luxembourg and helping them to achieve their full potential through language classes, business training and generally providing a friendly guide for newcomers, <http://www.maisondafrique.lu>

Further links about the African Diaspora in Luxembourg

- <http://www.wort.lu/en/view/ending-the-poverty-trap-for-africans-in-luxembourg-4f60c72ee4b047833b93c1ed>
- http://www.africanviews.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=88

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Luxembourg

The government of Luxembourg has special partnerships with Cape Verde. This is partially explained by a large Cape Verdean community that resides within Luxembourg.³

AEP Experts



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Notes

- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Luxembourg 2012, p.4 < http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/luxembourg-emn-ountry-facthseet_en.pdf>
- ³ <http://www.forum.lu/pdf/artikel/4667_210_Ministeredelacooperation.pdf>

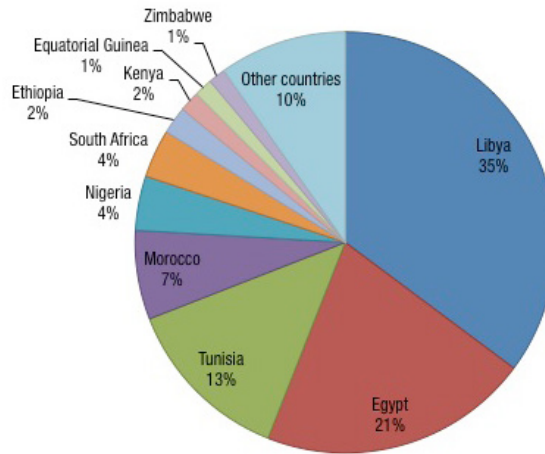


General Information

Independence: 21 September 1964; Republic on 13 December 1974
 Area: 316 sq km
 Population: 406,771
 Migrants: 34,455¹
 African migrants: ca. 3,015

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Libya – 1,061
2. Egypt – 627
3. Tunisia – 395
4. Morocco – 206
5. Nigeria – 126
6. South Africa – 112
7. Ethiopia – 63
8. Kenya – 47
9. Equatorial Guinea – 43
10. Zimbabwe – 39



Migration to Malta

Due to its geographical nature, Malta has become a gateway to Europe for African immigrants, especially and immigration in Malta has changed since its entry to the European Union. The immigration debate became, unlike in Cyprus, only on the political forefront on the eve of entering the EU. While before it had already a stream of African migrants arriving via Libya (there is a Libyan presence in Malta since the 1970's), it is now a popular destination to go to arrive at 'Fortress Europe'.

Even though most boats with Africans originate from Libya, the vast majority are not Libyan nationals.³ In 2012, 1.092 Somali's received a first residence permit in Malta.⁴

The perception of African immigrants is a negative one in Malta due to their increasing number over the last 10 years and the effect it has on the population (around 12.000 African irregular migrants on a population of around 400.00. This in combination with the Maltese history which was with its Christian background in clashes with the Arab culture may explain the negative perception of the population towards the African immigrants.

Irregular Migration

Around 2000 irregular immigrants and asylum seekers arrive in Malta on a yearly basis. Most of the African migrants and asylum seekers are from sub-Sahara Africa and the largest groups of them are Egyptians, Somali's, Ethiopians, Eritreans and Sudanese. In 2012 there were 1.250 asylum applications of Somali nationals, 435 from Eritrea, 70 from Nigeria and 60 Libyans. Most of them are granted subsidiary status. Ironically, most of the migrants arriving in Malta do not want to be there; their target is Italy and the open European space of the Schengen area.⁶ Another issue is that the combination of the Dublin Agreement and the fact that Malta has no return agreement with Libya, means that irregular migrants arriving via Libya in Malta, are stuck on Malta. While 2000 irregular migrants on a yearly basis does not seem much in absolute numbers, this is a very high numbers considering the overall population of the island which is around 400.000. In relative numbers Malta received the highest numbers of asylum applications worldwide. As a consequence, repatriations in Malta are a normal thing, even though the government doesn't have the funds to send as much irregular immigrants back as it wished. These factors also have other unwanted affects such as a violation of the non-refoulement principle. An example of this are Eritrean migrants who were repatriated and were jailed and tortured upon their arrival.⁸ Malta has stated multiple times, as did Cyprus, that they cannot bear the burden that is placed upon them.

MALTA

Supporting Institutions and Organisations

The Sovereign Order of Malta has besides diplomatic missions in Africa, also relief missions in some of the African states.⁹

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Malta

African diaspora is a relatively new in Malta, and often Malta is not the intended destination for irregular migrants. They either think they arrived in Italy or they see Malta as a transit country.

Notes

- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Ceita Mainwaring, 'On the edge of Exclusion: The Changing nature of Migration in Cyprus and Malta' The Cyprus Review Volume 20 No. 2 (2008) 19; 26. <http://dcbhm58xdznta.cloudfront.net/files/cyreview_2008_-_vol_20_no_2.pdf>
- ⁴ European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Malta 2012, p. 4. <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/malta-emn-country-factsheet_en.pdf>
- ⁵ Ibid. p.5.
- ⁶ Ibid.; Russel King, 'Geography, Islands and Migration in an Era of Global Mobility' Islands Studies Journal Volume 4 No. 1 (2009) 53;71. <<http://www.islandstudies.ca/sites/vre2.upei.ca.islandstudies.ca/files/ISJ-4-1-2009-RKing.pdf>>
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Ceita Mainwaring, 'On the edge of Exclusion' p.37.
- ⁹ <<http://www.orderofmalta.int/around-the-world/?lang=en&continente=africa>>



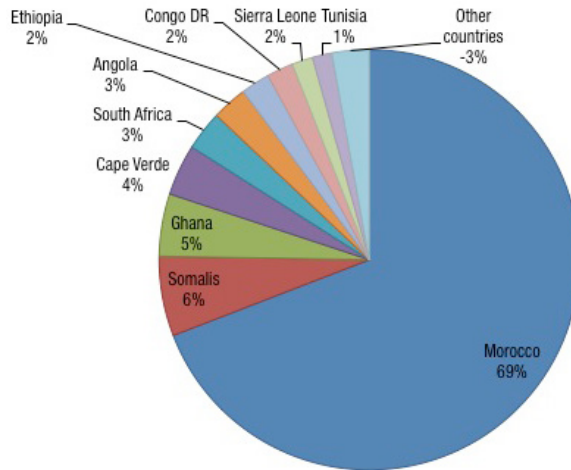
MALTA

General information

Independence: April 24th 1916
 Area: 41,543 sq km (16,039 sq mi)
 Population: 16,366,134
 Migrants: ca. 1,752,869
 African migrants: ca. 507,000

Ranking list of 10 the largest African diaspora groups

1. Morocco – 371,825
2. Somalis – 32,990
3. Ghana – 25,800
4. Cape Verde – 21,218
5. South Africa – 16,325
6. Angola – 14,592
7. Ethiopia – 12,000
8. Congo DR – 11,000
9. Sierra Leone – 8,659
10. Tunisia – 8,000



Migration to the Netherlands

With over one million migrants in the Netherlands, the African Diaspora is comparatively reasonably large. In numbers, they are dominated by the Moroccans who represent about 68% of the African diaspora and are the largest non-European migrant group. The Netherlands is a country known for its diversity and multicultural society as about 20% of its population are either immigrants or children of immigrants. After the second world war, The Netherlands became a very popular country of immigration. In the aftermath of the war, migrant-workers were more than welcomed and greeted nicely, this is also called the ‘first wave of immigrants’ or ‘migrant workers’ in search in search for economic prosperity. Many of these guest workers were from Marocco and Cape Verde and to some extent, Ghana. This explains the high presence of these communities in the Netherland up to the mid-1990s. The second wave of migrants took place from the 1990s and 2000 mostly as refugees fleeing from civil conflict. These were mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Congo DR, Rwanda, Burundi Sierra Leone, Liberia, Southern Sudan and Angola. In 1985 the Dutch government replaced the 1892 law with one that facilitated access to citizenship for second generation descendents of immigrants, which also gave automatic citizenship to their off springs, born in the Netherlands. The Dutch prided in their long-time relative tolerance policy towards other cultures and religions to the extent that documents were even delivered in migrant’s mother tongues with the misgiving that they will one day return to their homelands. As time passed-by, access to citizenship became easy with little pressure for assimilation. Drastical changes have been witnessed since the institution of the ‘VreemdelingenWet 2000’ (the Aliens Law 2000) which enforces stronger visa controls and tougher measures against persons living illegally in the country. The security fears triggered by the events of 9/11, the killing of Right-Wing politician Pim Fortuyn, successive governments’ anti-migration policies have all drastically checked the influx of African migrants into the country.

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in the Netherlands

The Dutch-African diaspora is only lightly connected, with associations proliferating along country, regional, ethnic groups with very few on national and professional lines. However, very few umbrella organisations do exist to represent the migrant concerns. Recently, they have started to set up a national umbrella organisation to connect all diaspora organisations active in co-development. Most prominent is the Diaspora Forum for Development (DFD) which enhances networking among migrant Organisations from the Global South.

Supporting institutions and organisations

Since the last 10 years, the Dutch government through its foreign ministry (MINBUZA) has recognized African diasporas by provide funding for migration and development-related projects. This diaspora-friendly policy has been made possible, partly by the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), The Hague, a unique think tank with a niche of simultaneously undertaking research, lobbying, capacity building training and research-based policy recommendations to governments, civil society organisations and mainstream practitioners working in the field of migration and development in Europe, African and African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Countries. As evidence, the Dutch government also funded two capacity-building trainings workshops for newly emerging diaspora ministries in Africa, conducted by the ADPC in Accra-Ghana in 2010 and 2011, respectively. These training workshops brought together over 24 African government civil servants aimed at formulating ways through which governments can harness with or tap in to the rich financial and human resources of their diasporas through meaningful dialogue. A follow-up project 'SEDIMA' and an a diaspora academy for mainstream practioners in the field of migration and development is currently underway. The European-wide Diaspora Platform for Development (EADPD) project is the brain-child of the ADPC and since 2011, the leading implementation organization in a consortium of partners: The African Foundation for Development (AFFORD - United Kingdom), La Coordination Générale des Migrants pour le Développement (CGMD - Belgique), The Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale des Migrations (FORIM - France), and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD - Austria / Belgium). They are all implementing the activities aimed at setting up The African-European Diaspora Platform (AEP) which brings together African Migrant organisations from all 27 EU member states including Norway and Switzerland, for networking, easy visibility and exchange of good practices. The Dutch government [through MINBUZA] is a very salient donor to the project alongside the EC, GIZ in Germany and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). The Dutch government also finance mainstream development organisations and practitioners involved in migration and development-related projects both in the Netherlands and Africa, such as CORDAID, HIVOS, OXFAM NOVIB, ICCOS, TRIDOS etc. Unfortunately, with the present cuts in government spending, African migrants associations have very little to count on. The Government is interested in sponsoring voluntarily return, and resettlement back in homelands.

African Diaspora Organisations

Apart from the ADPC there also other influential African Diaspora organisations in the Netherlands involved in various sectors. These include: Diaspora Forum for Development (DFD), SANKOFA, the Dutch Consortium (DCMO), The Somalian Human Relief and Development Organisation (HIRDA) for Migrant Organisations (DCMO), Stichting Ethiopie Morgen (SEM), Kenyan Diaspora Community Netherlands (KDCN), Doses of Hope Foundation (DOH), Council of Ghanaian Organisations in the Netherlands (COGHAN), The African Young Professionals (AYP), "+237 Elegance" Cameroon, KAN Netherland.

Specifics and Particularities of the African Diaspora in the Netherlands

African migrants individuals and their organisations still manage to excel in different sectors even though language barriers and anti-migrant sentiments have polarized Dutch politics and society over the years. They undertake joint ventures with potential local investors, connecting them with other stakeholders in their countries of origin. The African Young Professionals Network (AYP), for example, was erected by young students and graduates with African origins. Mindful of the limited chances available for the in the job market, they established the AYP in order to share information about existing opportunities in the job market. Meanwhile other Associations continue to carry out development projects in their countries of origin even without institutional support. These include small but vocal group of young educated African professionals who organize annual fund-raising events in order to support emerging film industry in Africa, rural development such as water and sanitation health facilities, education, agriculture, women empowerment Cameroon and to grant scholarships to talented students back at home. Two Cameroonian migrant groups

'+237 Elegance' and The Kumba Association in the Netherlands (KAN) are some of the examples of good practices that ought to be emulated by other African migrant groups. More so, such events bring together African entrepreneurs as well as young and upcoming talents and provide them a chance to showcase their work and businesses. The plight of most African migrant associations in The Netherlands is that of visibility. But when they become visible, the lack of funds to kick-start development projects in the home countries is crucial. Some businesses such as, The Netherlands African Business Council NABC have mitigated these problems by organizing trade missions to Africa.

Further links about the African Diaspora in the Netherland

- African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), www.diaspora-centre.org
- Diaspora Platform for Development (DFD), www.d-f-d.org
- Stichting Ethiopian-Morgen, www.ethiopie-morgen.nl
- Himilo Relief and Development Association, <http://hirda.eu>
- The SANKOFA Foundation, <http://sankofa.nl>
- Dutch Consortium of Migrant Organisations, <http://migrantconsortium.nl>
- The African Young Professionals Network (AYP), www.aypnetwork.nl
- Ethiopian Dutch Network for Development (ENNOS), www.ennos.nl
- Angolan Centre for Trade and Development Cooperation (ACT), www.angola-act.com
- Kumba-Cameroonian Association in the Netherlands (KAN), www.kan.nl
- +237 Elegance, www.plus237elegance.com
- The Netherlands African Business Council (NABC), www.nabc.nl
- African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), www.afford-uk.org
- The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), www.icmpd.org
- Le Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale (FORIM), www.forim.net
- La Coordination Générale des Migrants pour le Développement (CGMD), www.cgmd.be

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Angolan Centre for Trade and
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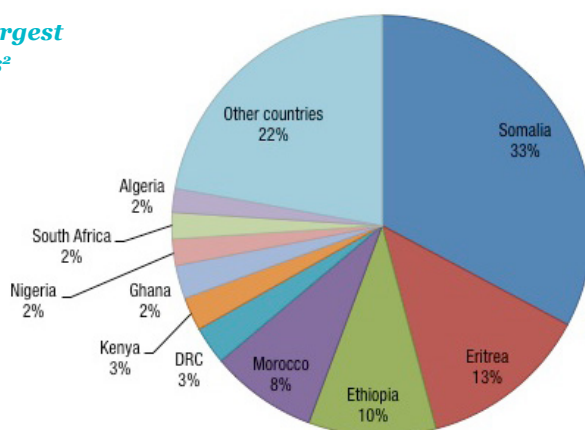
Mr. Samuel Acka
Diaspora Forum for Development (DFD)
ackah75@yahoo.co.uk

General Information

Independence:	1905
Area:	385,178 sq km
Population:	5,096,300
Migrants:	694,508 ¹
African migrants:	ca. 70,936

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Somalia – 23,278
2. Eritrea – 9,258
3. Ethiopia – 6,960
4. Morocco – 5,825
5. DRC – 2,072
6. Kenya – 1,825
7. Ghana – 1,815
8. Nigeria – 1,447
9. South Africa – 1,438
10. Algeria – 1,303



Migration to Norway

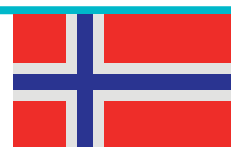
On the first of January 2013, there were 88.764 people with an African background, making up around 1.8% of the total population.³ Most of them are first generation with no Norwegian background, which represents 76% of the African diaspora in Norway. The Somali community is the biggest African community in Norway, and is clearly visible in the streets of Oslo. In total there are around 33.817 Somali's. 24.000 of them are immigrants, around 9.000 are born in Norway to Somali parents and only 18 of them are born in Norway to Norwegian parents.⁴ When looking at the statistics we can see that 2.730 Somali's received a first residence permit in 2012. This is followed by Eritreans of which there were 1.652 who received a first residence permit.⁵ When looking at people with African descent that are Norwegian born to Norwegian parents, the people with South African descent are the biggest group (992) followed by Madagascar (889). These two groups are different from all African descendants in Norway since they (Norwegian born to Norwegian parents) represent a majority of their respective groups.⁶ The ranking list above shows only the one's with migrant status according to the source of the United Nations. These statistics differ from the Norwegian statistics which are more precise and detailed. If we look at Nigerians as an example, we see that there are 62 which are Norwegian born to Norwegian parents, and 358 Norwegian born to immigrant parents, and 569 are Norwegian born with one foreign parent. According to the same list there are 1.422 Nigerian immigrants in Norway.⁷

Asylum seekers

Norway had on the 1st of January 2013, 25.805 people from Africa that were granted refugee status.⁸ Somali's and Eritreans are not only well represented in the group that applies for residence permits, they are as well the two most frequent nationalities that applied for asylum in 2012, with 2.180 and 1.185 applications respectively. Sudan is another frequent nationality with 470 applications in 2012.⁹

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Norway

- The Norwegian Council for Africa
The NCA is a solidarity organisation which sees dissemination of information as its most important tool in its contribution towards justice and development in and for Africa. The organisation seeks to promote a nuanced analysis that demonstrates the positive aspects of the situation in Africa without ignoring existing hindrances and challenges. The Council wants to challenge conditions and structures in Africa and globally which hinder the just and fair development in and for Africa. <http://www.afrika.no>



- The Pan African Women's Association
PAWA is an Oslo-based umbrella organization for women of African descent living in Norway. It tries to function as a bridge between Pan African women and the wider Norwegian Society and its institutions by disseminating information about Norwegian culture, the opportunities available in Norway, responsibilities and the rights of its citizens with special focus on the rights of the child. <http://www.pawa.no>

Supporting institutions and organisations

- The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
NORAD is a directorate under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The majority of Norwegian development assistance is administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norwegian foreign missions. In the case of aid funds that are not administered by Norad, the agency provides advice on what is required to achieve results, communicates results and contributes to debate on the effects of development assistance. It is active in many African countries and its aid is focused on many pillars such as good governance, education, economic development, and others. Some of the aid is supported by or channelled through other partners. In the case of Angola it is assisted by the NCA, which is explained below.
<http://www.norad.no/en/countries>
- The Norwegian Church Aid
Is active in many African countries and helps through its regional offices based on the continent with topics such as health, gender equality, trade, and many others.
<http://www.kirkensnodhjelp.no/en/What-we-do/Where-we-work>
- FOKUS Forum for Women and Development
<http://www.fokuskvinner.no>
- New Life Community
<http://newlifecom.no/dir>

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Norway

Most of the African diaspora in Norway originates from East Africa. Most children that are Norwegian born but have African descent are in order of frequency from; South Africa, Madagascar, Morocco, Ethiopia and Cameroon.¹⁰

Notes

- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Statistics Norway: Immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, 1 January 2013 <<http://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/statistikker/innvbef/aar/2013-04-25?fane=tabell&sort=nummer&tabell=109877>>
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ European Migration Network, Country factsheet: Norway 2012, p.4. <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/norway-emn-ountry-facthseet_en.pdf>
- ⁶ Statistics Norway: Immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, 1 January 2013; Population by immigrant category and country background. <<http://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/statistikker/innvbef/aar/2013-04-25?fane=tabell&sort=nummer&tabell=109861>>
- ⁷ Statistics Norway: Immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, 1 January 2013, Population by immigrant category and country background. <<http://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/statistikker/innvbef/aar/2013-04-25?fane=tabell&sort=nummer&tabell=109861>>
- ⁸ Statistics Norway: Persons with Refugee background , 1 January 2013 <<http://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/statistikker/flyktninger/aar/2013-09-04?fane=tabell&sort=nummer&tabell=135352>>
- ⁹ European Migration Network, Country factsheet: Norway 2012, p.5.
- ¹⁰ Statistics Norway: Immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, 1 January 2013, Population by immigrant category and country background.



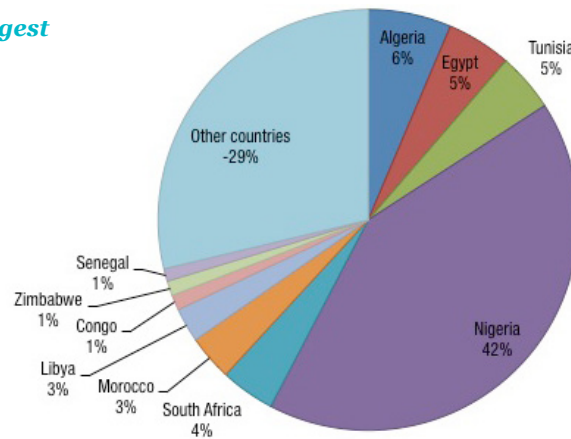
NORWAY

General Information

Independence:	Reconstitution; 11 November 1918, Third Republic; 13 September 1989
Area:	312,679 sq km
Population:	38,463,689
Migrants:	663,755 ¹
African migrants:	4,152

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Algeria – 625
2. Egypt – 485
3. Tunisia – 439
4. Nigeria – 408³
5. South Africa – 408
6. Morocco – 341
7. Libya – 257
8. Congo – 114
9. Zimbabwe – 111
10. Senegal – 95



Migration to Poland

While the African migrants make up around 0,0001% of the total population, the African diaspora represents around 0,002% of the population, which can still be considered really low since the average percentage of Afro-descendants in Europe is 2,4%. However, according to various sources there are nowadays only around 5.000 Africans living in Poland, but they do have two elected officials of African descent which is notable for the low number of Africans. In 2009 there were 37 Egyptians and 35 Nigerians who acquired Polish citizenship.⁶ Nigerians who returned on their own (voluntary departure) after they were rendered a decision that they had to leave the country, tripled in comparison to 2008. 40 Nigerians were refused entry in 2009. The reason that persons originating from Nigeria were mentioned in these statistics derives from the fact that there was an increased number of Nigerians with forged passports or visas.⁸ Of note is that the phenomenon of marriages of convenience (for the sole purpose of legalizing stay in Poland) contracted between Polish women and citizens of Nigeria occur in Poland on a regular basis.

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Poland

- Foundation for Somalia
<http://fundacjadlasomalii.org.pl/?lang=en>
- Stowarzyszenie Somalijskie w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Somali Community in Poland)
<http://ssrp.org.pl>
- Foundation 'Africa another way'
www.fundacja.afryka.org
Migrant Rights: Nigerian-Polish Initiative
Designed to enhance the protection of migrant rights in Poland.
<http://migrantrights.info>

Supporting institutions and organisations

- Afry Kamera
The first African film festival in Eastern Europe
<http://www.afrykamera.pl>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Poland providing assistance to Nigeria:
http://www.mfa.gov.pl/en/news/poland_provides_assistance_to_nigeria

POLAND

Further links about the African Diaspora in Poland

- <http://afryka.org>

Notes

- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Nigeria is ranked 4th due to alphabetical order. Coincidentally Nigeria and South Africa had the same amount of migrants in 2010 as well(422).
- ⁴ <http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/experienceafrica/index.php?en_the-african-diaspora>
- ⁵ <<http://www.africareview.com/Special-Reports/Poland-black-MPs/-/979182/1615840/-/osx8c6/-/index.html>> , <<http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/ThoughtIdeas/The-two-blacks-in-the-Polish-parliament/-/689844/1616804/-/14qw5kc/-/index.html>>
- ⁶ Polish National Contact Point to the European Migration Network: Annual Report on Migration and International Protection Statistics 2009 p. 12 <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/migration-statistics/asylum-migration/2009/20._poland_annual_report_international_statistics_2009_final_version_13sep2011_en.pdf>
- ⁷ Ibid. p.18.
- ⁸ Ibid. p.21.
- ⁹ Ibid. P.28.

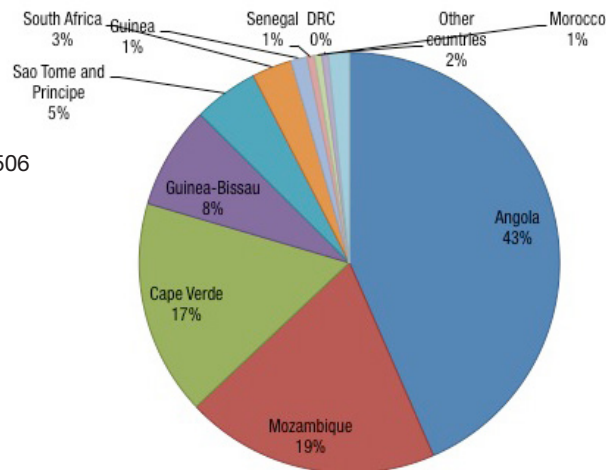
POLAND

General Information

Independence:	1128; Democracy since 1974
Area:	92,072 sq km
Population:	11,04 million
Migrants:	893,847 ¹
African Migrants:	ca. 371,353

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups

1. Angola – 161,395
2. Mozambique – 72,541
3. Cape Verde – 61,492
4. Guinea-Bissau – 29,358
5. Sao Tome and Principe – 18,506
6. South Africa – 11,392
7. Guinea – 4,650
8. Senegal – 2,148
9. Morocco – 2,033
10. DRC – 1,877



Migration to Portugal

The vast majority of African migrants residing in Portugal are nationals of Portugal's former colonies. The five largest African migrant populations were all former colonies and they represent 92% of all African migrants in Portugal and 38% of all immigrants living in Portugal. All African migrants combined together represent around 42% of the total migrant population living in Portugal, which is a very high number.

The African contingent in Portugal remotes to the sixteenth century, at ear of Portuguese explorations. With the end of slavery and the progressive marrying with the Portuguese population, the presence of Africans faded gradually.

The African migration rises up from the 60th, when young people from former colonies (Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Angola, Mozambique and Sao Tome Principe) moved to Portugal for academic training and education.

In the following, Cape Verdean workers replaced Portuguese emigrants executing their military service in the colonies and as well those who emigrated voluntarily to other countries, so the Cape Verdean community who is the oldest and becomes the largest African community living in Portugal as well. During the process of decolonisation, many people of African descent and Portuguese nationality from lusophone African Countries migrated to Portugal. On top of that the civil war in Angola and Mozambique increased the number of asylum seekers and refugees from the 90th, while at the same time a greater number of immigrants from other African countries migrated to Portugal.

The extraordinary process of legalisation of immigrants without legal visas in 1993 and 1996, allowed the settlement of a significant number of immigrants, however, the lack of information and the administrative challenges, proved their limitations, and left a significant number of immigrants still without legal permit to stay.

The nationalisation of immigrants was not framing by a statistic record nor accompanied by studies so that the exact number of people of Africans descendants remains unknown and difficult to evaluate, who are now in the third generation in Portugal. Close to 50% of all African migrants are coming from Cape Verde.

In the case of Cape Verdeans, some estimations state 43.920 people, while the Embassy of Cape Verde in Portugal estimates numbers above 146.150 people of Cape Verdean descendants live in Portugal however, including not registered immigrants.





Networking level of African Diaspora Organisation in Portugal

Despite the African Diaspora Organisation (ADO), most of the organisations generally work in partnership with Portuguese institutions, organisations of the countries of origin and other institutions in Europe, the partnership projects between African associations in Portugal with consistent and continuous character are still rare.

It has been promoted since the mid 90s meetings with various immigrant organisations in the context of finding solutions to the problems that affect immigrants however, the promotion of closer relations between immigrant associations and the creation of conditions for a more solid still remains a challenge.

There is the Federation of Cape Verdean Organisations which unites 46 organisations of Cape Verde (from over sixty existing). There is also the Angolan Federation of Organisations. These organisations, having a big potential, still struggle to have a real strong impact on the African Diaspora in Portugal.

Supporting institutions and organisations

The High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue-ACIDI, is the organisation that works directly on the thematic area of immigration. It provides technical and financial support for diaspora organisations. The membership of diaspora organisations at this organism is obligatory to access financial support. This criterion leaves many organisations without access to financial support. From 95 member organisations engaged in ongoing activities, over 80% are African Diaspora organisations. Other organisations, banks and larger companies emerge as hypothetic funding organisations but only few African organisations received funding, as well as from the EU.

African Diaspora organisations

The life cycle of African Diaspora Organisations in Portugal is similar to the one of immigrants in the country. The first organisations act more or less informally, aiming to address problems inherent to the challenges of immigration, in the absence of appropriate integration and facing precarious living conditions.

But the number of Cape Verdean and Angolan organisations, with organisational skills and capacities increased steadily. Usually their activities and projects are targeting specific areas, and the entire resident population is benefiting, not only immigrants.

Currently, there are different Diaspora organisations covering different areas of engagement, such as social aid, cultural activities, education and formation, sports, legal justice, employment, medical care and others. Several organisations have been founded by African students, and an increasing number of organisations are led by people of African descendants.

Although the work done by Diaspora organisations is not always visible and acknowledged, it is unquestioned that their engagement has brought tangible benefits to the general population as well as to immigrants.

Despite that co-development NGOs direct a substantial part of their activities to Africa, joint-venture projects with immigrant organisations are still not as common as one would predict, taking the number of African organisations in Portugal into account.

The Guinea Bissauan and Cape Verdean organisations implement the most sophisticated projects targeting the countries of origin, while, with few exceptions, the activities of organisations from other African countries are mostly sporadic, aimed at sending specific material or occur in response to emergencies, with only a few current sustainable projects.

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Portugal

The African Diaspora in Portugal represents a diverse socio-economic situation. Despite being the community the most visible, most studied and the one considering itself being exposed to most unfavourable socio-economic conditions, the African Diaspora is mostly well integrated and spread over the whole Portuguese society.

Portugal has a large number of highly educated and skilled Africans in all areas, which contribute significantly to the development of Portugal but also to the development of countries of origin, individually and by organisations. The remittances send to the countries

of origin are significant, especially in the case of Cape Verdean remittances are superior to official development assistance (ODA) and keep increasing despite the financial and economic crises in Europe.

A considerable number of professionals in health care and education, sport, music artists, in the catering and administrative services, as well as unskilled workers are very successful. Portugal won several Olympic medals including those of Africans with Portuguese nationality as in the case of Nelson Évora (Gold medal), Francis Obikwuelo (silver medal) and Nuno Delgado (Bronze Medal).

However, the challenges still persist, and there is a weak political participation and the school is still an obstacle which many of the young generation have to deal with, as well as a major layer of youth who are totally excluded from success.

Government policies have changed over time for various reasons, including the emergence of increasingly structured ways of promoting the rights of immigrants, as well as treaties and agreements, bilateral and multilateral.

Portugal has one of the best policies for the integration of immigrants but the gap to a smooth implementation is still huge.

Further links about the African Diaspora in Portugal

- www.acidi.gov.pt
- www.oi.acidi.gov.pt
- <http://sefstat.sef.pt/relatorios.aspx>
- www.oi.acidi.gov.pt/docs/Coleccao_Comunidades/2_comunidades_cabo_verdianas.pdf
- www.oi.acidi.gov.pt/docs/Estudos%20OI/Estudo_OI_21.pdf
- www.federacaocv.org
- www.fascp.org
- www.jure.pt/
- www.amrtalude.org
- www.moinhodajuventude.pt
- www.aguinsenso.org
- <http://associacaocaboverdeanasines.weebly.com>
- www.xiconlab.eventos.dype.com.br/resources/anais/3/1307728591_ARQUIVO_conlabangolaJunho2011_1_.pdf

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Notes

- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>



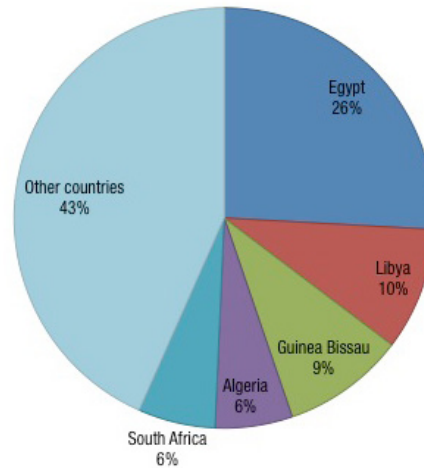
PORTUGAL

General information

Independence:	9 May 1877
Area:	237,500 sq km
Population:	21,959,278
Migrants:	172,237 ¹
African migrants:	ca. 286

Ranking list of the 5 largest African migrant groups

1. Egypt – 74
2. Libya – 27
3. Guinea Bissau – 27
4. Algeria – 17
5. South Africa – 17



Migration to Romania

African migrants form only a small part of the non-Romanian population. However their numbers have more than doubled over the last three years. From circa 132 African migrants in 2010 to 286 by September 2013.²

Supporting institutions and organisations

- The project Migrant in Romania is funded by the European Fund for Integration and is implemented in partnership by the Intercultural Institute of Timisoara and the Association of Refugee Women in Romania. The main goal is to enhance consultation and civic participation of migrants and its main activities focus on the maintenance of the www.migrant.ro portal, the publication of the quarterly magazine Migrant in Romania, the organisation of local joint working groups (consisting of representatives of migrants, local NGOs and local authorities) in Bucharest, Constanta, Cluj, Iasi and Timisoara, as well as of three national level thematic working groups on the integration of immigrants.
- The General Inspectorate for Immigration was set up through the reorganisation of the Romanian Office for Immigration and fulfils its tasks under the law in order to implement Romanian policies in the fields of migration, asylum, and aliens' integration and the relevant legislation in these fields.

The activity of the General Inspectorate for Immigration is a public service and is carried out in the interest of persons and the community, supporting state institutions, exclusively under the law and for the enforcement of the law.

The personnel of the General Inspectorate for Immigration is experienced in this field and its management has undertaken an active role within the framework of regional and international cooperation in the field of migration and asylum with the aim to develop functional asylum systems in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

The Inspectorate is divided, at central level, into directorates, services and other functional departments, and at territorial level, into regional centres for accommodation and procedures for asylum seekers, accommodation centres for aliens under public custody and country departments.

In fulfilling its tasks, the General Inspectorate for Immigration cooperates with other structures within the Ministry of Administration and Interior and with other state institutions, works together with non-governmental organisations and foreign citizens who are active in the field of migration and humanitarian protection, and concludes agreements with similar institutions abroad and international organisations, under the law.

- The Intercultural Institute Timisoara (coordinator)
The Intercultural Institute Timisoara (I.I.T.), founded in 1992 with the support of the Council of Europe and the local authorities, is a non-governmental autonomous non-profit organization, having cultural, civic and scientific activities, with no political aims, which accepts and promotes the values and principles of the Council of Europe in matters of interculturality. I.I.T. has a stable network of partners in different regions of Romania and Europe. I.I.T. cooperates with the local, regional and national authorities in the fields of: education, culture, youth and national minorities. I.I.T. is also a member of the CIVITAS world civic community. Further details can be found at www.intercultural.ro.
- The Organization of Refugee Women in Romania
OFRR was created in June 2000, in the framework of a program financed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is a non-governmental, apolitical, non-profit organization, run by women who have obtained a form of protection and have settled in Romania. The mission of OFRR is to facilitate the integration process, as it puts special emphasis on the needs of refugee women. Moreover, one of the aims of the organization is to develop managerial skills and to mobilize the resources and skills within the communities of refugee women. Details at www.migrant.ro/ofrr

Further links about the African Diaspora in Romania

- <http://www.migrant.ro/>
- <http://ori.mai.gov.ro/detalii/pagina/ro/Presa/136>

Notes

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>

² Ibid.



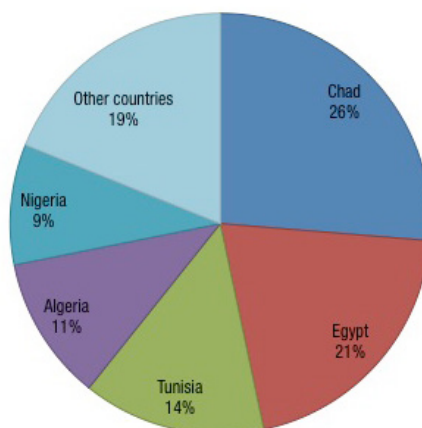
ROMANIA

General Information

Independence	1 January 1993
Area	49,035 sq km
Population	5,410,836
Migrants	149,635 ¹
African migrants	ca. 758

Ranking list of the 5 largest African diaspora groups²

1. Chad – 142
2. Egypt – 110
3. Tunisia – 76
4. Algeria – 60
5. Nigeria – 50



Migration to Slovakia

Compared to neighbouring Czech Republic, Slovakia only has a fraction of African migrants. Yet, like the Czech Republic, Slovakia has Africans from across the entire continent and as a result there are African communities in Slovakia. The 2010 statistics of the Slovak Republic itself states that there were around 900 African migrants who were usually resident in Slovakia in 2010.³ The former Czechoslovakia assisted Angola in its civil war and has admitted many students from Angola. There is also a community of Libyans in Slovakia. In 2009, 99 Libyans immigrated to the Slovak Republic to obtain usual residence. Acquisition of Slovak citizenship is not very popular, only 239 persons in 2010. Of those only 3 came from the African continent, 2 persons from Angola and one Egyptian.

Asylum seekers

In 2012, the largest national group to apply for asylum were Somali's with 225 applications. Nationals of Congo (Brazzaville) were the fourth biggest group with 45 asylum applications.⁷ In the second quarter of 2013, 25 applications for asylum were received by Somali's and 15 applications from citizens of Eritrea.

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Slovakia

The KICA project permits immigrants from Africa living in Slovakia to take part in the intercultural dialogue of the Slovak society, including them in the process of informing the general public on integration experiences. This direct participation of immigrants from Africa in the intercultural dialogue has the aim to make social adaptation and integration more effective. Several promotion and cultural activities will help to achieve this aim. Another objective of the project is to strengthen the integration of immigrants from Africa through increasing their skills (IT, language courses for free). The KICA project has the aim to empower African minority and strengthen its language and computer skills through vocational training.



SLOVAKIA

- AKIIC (African Cultural, Information and Integration Center)
AKIIC was established to serve African migrants living in Slovakia and their families, Slovak investors willing to invest in Africa, Slovak travellers to Africa and African investors searching for investment opportunities in Slovakia. African cultural, information and Integration center supports immigrants through their journey of providing creative and responsive programs that are culturally and linguistically appropriate by fostering healthy and inclusive spaces for open dialogue and healing for all.
<http://www.akiic.sk/>

Notes

- ¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ <<http://portal.statistics.sk/showdoc.do?docid=32274>>
- ⁴ <http://www.sdisk.eu/domain/sdi/files/national-report_slovakia_final_website.pdf> p.4
- ⁵ European Migration Network, Annual Report on Migration and International Protection Statistics in the Slovak Republic (Reference Year 2009) p.15 <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/migration-statistics/asylum-migration/2009/sk_20111026_stats2009_en_finalversion_en.pdf>
- ⁶ <<http://portal.statistics.sk/showdoc.do?docid=32274>>
- ⁷ European Migration Network, Country Factsheet: Slovakia 2012, p.5 <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/country-factsheets/slovakia-emn-ountry-facthseet_en.pdf>
- ⁸ Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: second quarter 2013, p.8 <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-QA-13-012/EN/KS-QA-13-012-EN.PDF>



SLOVAKIA

General information

Independence	1918
Area	20,273 sq km
Population	1,996,617 (July 2012 est.)
Migrants:	163,894
African migrants:	540

Supporting institutions and organisations

- The African Center is an open association which seeks to bring together Africans living in Slovenia with the local population interested in Africa. It endeavours to raise awareness on issues affecting Africa and the Africans.
Targets:
 - To raise awareness about development issues regarding Africa
 - To provide a platform for and empower African people living in Slovenia
 - To provide a platform for people interested in development and Africa
- Slovenian Migration Institute (SMI) at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU) is involved in interdisciplinary research of international migration. Researchers are focused on emigration and immigration issues, analyses of return migration, ethnicity, migration and integration processes and policies, cultural-artistic production of migrants and different methodological and theoretical research approaches to migration. Their disciplines span from the humanities to social sciences – historiography, literary history, art history, ethnology, anthropology, geography, cultural studies, political studies and sociology. Researchers are involved in international projects and strive to compare their own research with related Slovenian and foreign research methods and results.

African Diaspora Organisations

- Institute for African Studies

Further links about the African Diaspora in Slovenia

- http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=4430
- <http://isim.zrc-sazu.si/en#v>
- <http://www.minorityrights.org/9354/in-country-campaigns/african-center-of-slovenia.html>
- www.africanstudy.org

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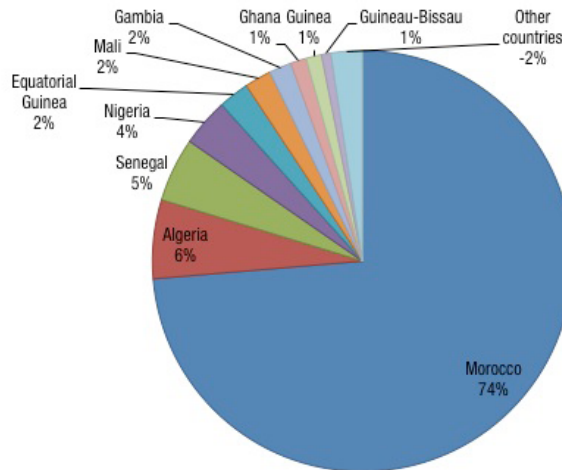
AFRICA
SLOVENIA

General information

Independence:	1516
Area:	505,370 sq km
Population:	47,042,984 (July 2012 est.)
Migrants:	6,900,547
African migrants:	approx 1,000,000

Ranking list of the 10 largest African diaspora groups

1. Morocco – 773,966
2. Algeria – 63,646
3. Senegal – 51,672
4. Nigeria – 38,775
5. Equatorial Guinea – 24,829
6. Mali – 21,589
7. Gambia – 18,112
8. Ghana – 12,699
9. Guinea – 12,657
10. Guineau-Bissau – 7,462



Migration to Spain

As the closest European country to the African continent, Spain is on the frontline for illegal migration. From there, migrants often make their way to other European countries. The largest group of the African diaspora in Spain come from Morocco with (773.966) people. The next largest diaspora group is Algeria with (42.273), followed by Ghana (12.699), Cameroun with (4.029), Egypt with (2.566) members, then Angola with (2.114), the rest of the African diaspora groups living in Spain are smaller groups.

Moroccans have the highest numbers of African diaspora as due to the fact that they travel along the coastal line to Spain quite easily that is its geographical position. Family reunion has also increased the number of African diaspora living in Spain. Another pull factor has been as a result of the porosity of its borders and the large size of its underground economy and the strength of the agricultural and construction sectors, which demand more low cost labour than can be offered by the national workforce.

Networking level

Like every diaspora in Spain, Africans living in Spain used to network within their own countrymen up until recently when they have created more organized diaspora groups. Such of these groups include high council of black community (Altos consejo de las comunidades Negras)

Supporting institutions and organisations

As part of the immigration policy, the government supports migrants. Immigrants from countries belonging to the former Spanish Empire which includes Africa-Equatorial and Western Sahara) can obtain Spanish nationality after legal and continuous residence of 2 years in Spain, after which naturalized citizens are no longer counted as immigrants. Also In order to avoid statelessness, Spain automatically grants Spanish nationality to the children of immigrants born in Spain whose parents' nationality of origin is not transferred jus sanguinis upon their child's birth abroad. Unlike other countries of the EU that do not do it

African Diaspora Organisations

- Casas de Refugiados e Inmigrantes Menores y Jóvenes no Acompañados(Mercedarios)
C/Castelar nº21-Bajo. 28028-Madrid
- Associació per la Cooperació, la inserció Social i la Interculturalitat (ACISI)
- AFRICAT, Associació Africana i Catalana de Cooperació



SPAIN

Further links about the African Diaspora in Spain

- <http://www.ine.es/en/#>
- http://www.ine.es/ss/Satellite?L=1&c=INEPublicacion_C&cid=1259926334812&p=1254735110672&pagename=ProductosYServicios%2FPYSLayout¶m1=PYSDetalleGratuita
- <http://afroeuropa.blogspot.nl/2010/01/black-people-in-spain.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_Spain
- www.lamercedrefugiados.org
- www.acisi.org

- High Council of Black Communities (Alto Consejo de las Comunidades Negras)
- High Council of Black Communities on Myspace
- Black Stories From Spain

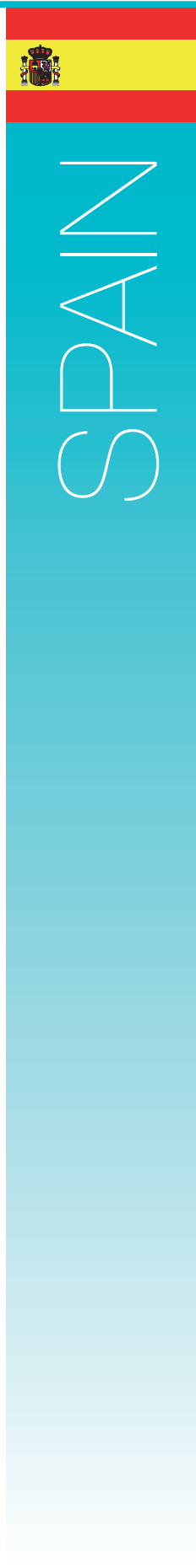
Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Spain

Moroccans in Spain form 12.7% of the 5,598,691 foreigners in Spain. They were formerly the largest foreign group in Spain, but were surpassed by Romanians in 2007. In 2003, they were estimated to make up about 6% of all Moroccans abroad (with 12.7% of the foreign population is quite compared to other African countries living in Spain).

AEP Experts



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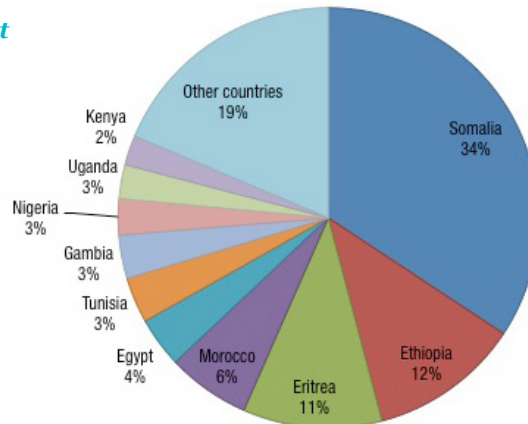


General Information

Independence:	6 June 1523
Area:	410,335 sq km
Population:	9,532,634
Migrants:	1,519,510 ¹
African migrants:	ca. 130,797

Ranking list of the 10 largest African diaspora groups²

1. Somalia – 44,856
2. Ethiopia – 15,144
3. Eritrea – 14,013
4. Morocco – 8,339
5. Egypt – 5,062
6. Tunisia – 4,603
7. Gambia – 4,371
8. Nigeria – 3,637
9. Uganda – 3,413
10. Kenya – 2,991



Migration to Sweden

Although relatively far away from the African continent, Sweden has had a long history of African diaspora in its country. According to some documents the first references of Africans go back to the 14th century.³ In the 1960's it were predominantly African Americans that resided in Sweden.⁴ Nowadays the African population in Sweden is here because of its migration policy which has been more open than other countries in Europe. As can be seen from the list above, African migrants from the horn of Africa make up for more than half of the total amount, and most of them were forced to move. When looking at the numbers in the list above, these can be partially explained by the fact that in 2012 alone 4.541 Somali's immigrated to Sweden together with 2.213 Eritreans. There has been a decline in Ethiopians and Somali's that immigrated, while in 2010 958 Ethiopians immigrated to Sweden, by 2012 this number dropped to 662. With Somali's the number for 2010 was 6.819. Numbers of Eritrean immigrants on the other hand are on the rise over the last three years.⁵

Asylum Seekers

In 2013 the Swedish authorities received almost 49.000 asylum applications, 12.000 of them came from person who have African citizenship. The most African asylum applications came from people from Eritrea with 4.314 asylum applications in 2013, followed by Somali's with 3.560 applications.

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Sweden

- The Nordic Africa Institute
The Nordic Africa Institute (Nordiska Afrikainstitutet) is a centre for research, documentation and information on modern Africa in the Nordic region. The Institute strives to put knowledge of African issues within reach for scholars, policy makers, politicians, media, students and the general public. <http://www.nai.uu.se>
- Afrika Grupperna
Established in 1974 as a support organisations for the liberations of Portuguese colonies in Africa and to fight apartheid in South Africa. Nowadays Afrika Grupperna in Sweden (AGS) has participated in and supported the reconstruction and democratisation processes in Southern Africa. <http://afrikagrupperna.se/english>
- Union of Somali organisation in Sweden
Group for Somali's in Sweden, acts as an overarching organisation of local Somali groups. Focuses on integration within Sweden and tries to strengthen and coordinate understanding between Somalians and Swedes. <http://www.srfs.se/se/hem.html>



Supporting Institutions and Organisations

- SWENNAC
Swedish North African Chamber of Commerce
<http://www.swenacc.se>

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in Sweden

Most of the African population in Sweden came originally from the Horn of Africa.

Notes

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>

² Ibid.

³ Madubuko A. Diakite, African Diaspora in Sweden an unfinished history <<http://www.thelundian.com/afroswednes.pdf>>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <http://www.scb.se/en_/Finding-statistics/Statistical-Database/Select-variables/?px_tableid=ssd_extern%3almmiEmiMedb&rxid=1b79a200-87e3-4f38-b009-75da0ff2d50f>

⁶ <http://www.migrationsverket.se/info/790_en.html>



SWEDEN

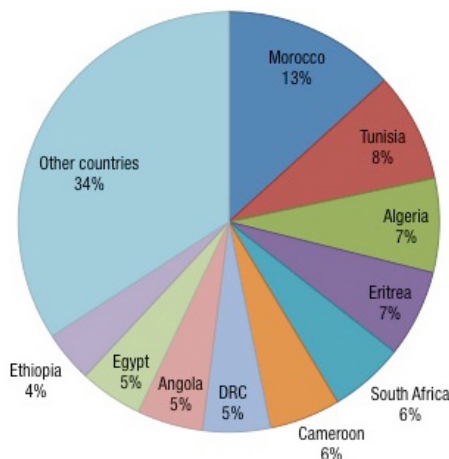


General Information

Independence: 1499; Federal State since 1848
Area: 41,285 sq km
Population: 7,954,662
Migrants: 2,335,059¹
African migrants: ca. 130,590

Ranking list of the 10 largest African migrant groups²

1. Morocco – 17,299
2. Tunisia – 10,984
3. Algeria – 9,455
4. Eritrea – 8,759
5. South Africa – 7,521
6. Cameroon – 7,147
7. DRC – 6,765
8. Angola – 6,614
9. Egypt – 6,340
10. Ethiopia – 5,133



Migration to Switzerland

The numbers listed above, do not nearly coincide with the numbers from the Swiss Federal Bureau of Migration, which states that there are 62.865 Africans with a permanent residence in Switzerland.³ This might be since the Swiss authorities do not count people in those statistics which have dual nationality. Other documents of the Swiss Administration state that there are approximately 78.200 Africans in Switzerland, but they include asylum seekers who have stayed in the country for over 12 months.⁴ When looking at those numbers you get a completely different ranking list of the African migrant groups that are permanent residents. In that category the Eritrean community is the largest of all African communities in Switzerland with over 12.000 residents, and Moroccan migrants are around 10.000 less, then listed above.⁵ The ten largest African migrant populations in Switzerland make up approximately 66% of the total African migrants. The African diaspora can be found mainly in the French speaking parts and large cities such as Zürich and Basel.⁶

Asylum Seekers

The five main citizenships that have applied for asylum in the second quarter of 2013, all come from African countries. In this period, 550 applications came from Tunisians, 545 from Nigerians, 540 applications from people from Eritrea, 295 of Moroccans, and 265 applications came from Algerians.⁷

Networking level of African Diaspora Organisations in Switzerland

- African Diaspora Council Switzerland
The ADCS proposes to be a Federation of the African Diaspora in Switzerland, and strives to is to create a national platform for all Africans living in Switzerland irrespective of their diversity in order to have a strong voice in the Swiss national events and politics.
<http://www.africancouncil.ch>
- Inside Africa Switzerland
A foundation with as mission to help African people integrate in Switzerland and coordinate a donation project to aid African children's education.
<http://iaswiss.ch>
- African Popular University in Switzerland
Europe's first African education centre. An association which tries to provide a dynamic environment for co-integration between Africans and Swiss. It is founded on the universal values of Ubuntu and strives to become a centre of excellence.
<http://www.upaf.ch>

- Afrika Link

An NGO which provides information in various fields to the African communities, not only in Switzerland but worldwide. Publications of news articles related to the goals of the organisation and it promotes interaction between interested parties.
<http://www.africalink.ch>

Supporting Institutions and Organisations

- ANSWER

A Swiss survey about sexual health, sexual behaviour and risk taking among Sub-Saharan African migrants organized by Office of Public Health in cooperation with the Swiss Aids Federation (AHS) and other institutions addressing the prevention and information needs of the African population living in Switzerland.
<http://afric-answer.weebly.com>

Notes

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013) <<http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?msdo>>

² Ibid.

³ <<https://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/dam/data/migration/statistik/auslaenderstatistik/aktuelle/ausl-nach-staat/ts8-bevoelkerung-staat-2012-12-e.pdf>>

⁴ <<http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/01/07/blank/key/01/01.html>>

⁵ List can be accessed and modified via <http://www.pxweb.bfs.admin.ch/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=px-f-01-3A01&path=../Database/French_01%20-%20Population/01.3%20-%20Migration%20et%20int%E9gration/&lang=2&prod=01&openChild=true&secprod=3>

⁶ <http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/politics/africans_in_switzerland_find_a_common_voice.html?cid=32283260>

⁷ Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: second quarter 2013, p.8 <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-QA-13-012/EN/KS-QA-13-012-EN.PDF>



SWITZERLAND

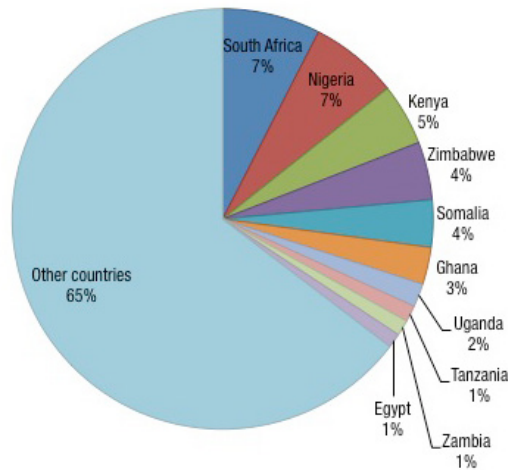
General information

Independence:	12 April 1927 (Royal and Parliamentary Titles Act establishes current name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) 6 December 1921 (from the UK by treaty)
Area:	243,610 sq km (UK), 70,273 sq km (IRE)
Population:	63,047,162 (UK), 4,722,028 (IRE)
Migrants:	7,012 (1000) (11,3% of the total population)
African migrants:	app. 2,800,000 = 0,06%



Ranking list of the 10 largest African diaspora groups

1. South Africa – 211,000
2. Nigeria – 190,000
3. Kenya – 133,000
4. Zimbabwe – 125,000
5. Somalia – 102,000
6. Ghana – 80,000
7. Uganda – 50,000
8. Tanzania – 35,000
9. Zambia – 34,000
10. Egypt – 31,000



Migration United Kingdom

Since the 1980s, the majority of black immigrants into the country have come directly from Africa, in particular, Nigeria and Ghana in West Africa, Uganda and Kenya in East Africa, Zimbabwe, and South Africa in Southern Africa. Nigerians and Ghanaians have been especially quick to accustom themselves to British life, with young Nigerians and Ghanaians achieving some of the best results at GCSE and A-Level, often on a par or above the performance of Caucasian pupils.

In the year to June 2011 the estimated number of long-term migrants whose main reason for entering the UK was work-related was 185,000 - 22% lower than the peak of 239,000 in the year to June 2008. The estimated number of long-term migrants whose main reason for entering the UK was formal study was 237,000 in the year to June 2011 - lower than the peak of 248,000 arriving to study in the year to September 2010.

Networking of African Diaspora

Organisations in The United Kingdom Africa UK is a programme aimed at 'enhancing the contribution of the diaspora to Africa's development and fostering dialogue with policy makers'. It is The Common Ground Initiative (CGI) is a programme of grant making and support for UK-based small and African diaspora organisations tackling poverty and injustice in Africa. The programme is delivered by Comic Relief in partnership with the Department for International Development (DfID). It was launched in April 2011 by Stephen O'Brien, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development with actor Hugh Quarshie as guest speaker. Phase 1 of the programme ran from April 2011 to December 2012 and was delivered by the Royal African Society (RAS) and the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD). Phase II runs from January 2013 to March 2014, and is delivered by AFFORD and partners across the UK.

Africa-UK is funded by Comic Relief through the Common Ground Initiative with support from the Baring Foundation. It is implemented by AFFORD UK and delivered in partnership with. In common with the diaspora sector more broadly in the UK, there are differing levels of capacity, experience and resources in African diaspora communities in the region and nations of the UK. AFFORD plans to address these issues in Phase II by using an active and inclusive regional partnership strategy that seeks to devolve delivery and management of activities to regional partners wherever possible. This will not only build capacity within local partners but also facilitate network building at both local and regional level.



Supporting Institutions and organisations

- African Council Scotland/NIDOS (Network of International Development Organisations – A network of international development organisations based in Scotland. They work to improve the contributions that their members and other Scottish organisations make to reduce global poverty.
- Sub-Sahara Advisory Panel (SSAP) - Seeks to harness the knowledge, experience and skills of its panel members to advise on delivery of effective international development interventions by contributing a sound understanding of cultures and the social and economic realities of everyday life in Sub Saharan countries.
- Centre of African Studies (CAS) – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) – The largest centre of expertise on Africa outside Africa. It has assumed formal responsibility for co-ordinating, stimulating and promoting interdisciplinary study, research and discussion on Africa within the University; and promoting a wider awareness of African issues.
- Diaspora Volunteering Alliance (DVA) - Brings together UK organisations with a common interest in engaging and sending Diaspora volunteers to support projects in their countries and continents of origin.
- Our associate partners
Our associate partners have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to help deliver supplementary activities in the English regions and Northern Ireland around networking, influencing and alliance building which AFFORD finances from its own budget.
- MIFUMI (West/SouthWest) - An international aid and development agency that has worked over ten years, reducing the burden of poverty by securing basic rights for people living in remote communities of Uganda.
- African Cultural Centre (NI) - Seeks to help people of African and Caribbean origin through the provision of support for family, education and capacity building. Also involved in ventures to help in poverty alleviation in Africa and throughout the world.
- Global Native (North/NorthEast) - Aims to embed social enterprises in rural farming communities that's will provide services to rural farmers.
- Hirda-UK (Midlands) - An African diaspora organisation based in Leicester working to help increase the number of children who can go to school in the Gedo region of Somalia.
- Norfolk African Community Association – (NACA (East)) - Supports the campaign for sustainable development and protection of the environment as well as advocacy of social justice and individual liberties.

African Diaspora organisations

- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-WILPF
Mai El Hagg
voaw@ukwilpf.org.uk
- Africa Diaspora Youth Forum (ADYF)
Temidayo Israel-Abdulai
info@youngdiaspora.org
- The Organisation of Sierra Leonean Healthcare Professionals Abroad (TOSHPA)
Elizabeth Conteh
admin@tospg.org

Specifics and particularities of the African Diaspora in The UK

More people of the African Diaspora came to Great Britain with the outbreak of World War II. They came looking for work in factories and as soldiers and sailors. After World War II, many of those who had fought in the war hoped that their lives would improve as a result of their service to the country. Since World War II was a war fought against racism and fascism, African descendants living in Great Britain and inhabitants of Africa, thought that the war would bring an end to colonialism. In 1941, United Kingdom did sign the Atlantic Charter, which stated that all nations had the right to self-determination. In the 1960s, most African countries gained independence from British colonial rule.

Today, almost two million people of African descent live in Britain. The majority of this population consists of immigrants from the West Indies, but this population also includes a growing number of African born people. In spite of discrimination, people of African heritage contribute socially, culturally and economically to Britain. Indeed, the most recent population census of Britain shows that the African population is more highly educated than the general white population. 26% of the black population has had at least some college education. This compares to 13% of the white population in Britain.



Further links about the African Diaspora in The UK

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign-born_population_of_the_United_Kingdom
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uk.html>
- http://mighealth.net/uk/index.php/African_Migrants_in_the_UK
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/jun/26/non-eu-immigration-uk-statistics#data>
- <http://www.africa-uk.org/news/national-strategy-implementation-%E2%80%93-africa-uk-phase-ii-update>
- <http://www.africa-uk.org/news/national-strategy-implementation-%E2%80%93-africa-uk-phase-ii-update>
- http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_programs_diaspora_eu

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