

Background Paper¹

Roundtable 3:

Diasporas as actors of economic, social and cultural development

1. Why diaspora engagement matters for sustainable development

Diasporas are widely acknowledged for their significant contributions to sustainable development, a recognition reflected in the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)*.² Their financial and non-financial contributions, including remittances, trade, investments, entrepreneurship, knowledge transfers and cultural exchange, spur the **economic, social and cultural development** of countries and communities of origin, transit and destination.

Throughout this background paper, diasporas are understood as **communities of emigrants and their descendants who identify with their countries of origin and maintain strong ties with the same**.³ Under this working definition, not all members of the diaspora are migrants, as descendants of migrants did not migrate themselves, and not all migrants are part of the diaspora, as migrants do not necessarily maintain a collective sense of belonging with the country of origin, which is characteristic for diaspora members.⁴ However, in practice, diaspora engagement encompasses all migrants, as the attachment to the country of origin is frequently subjective and dynamic.⁵ A collective sense of belonging and self-identification as “diasporas” is less common for younger generations who may nonetheless be considered diaspora members. Given these intricacies, the working definition should not be excessively emphasized.⁶ Diasporas are composed of diverse and heterogeneous groups that present stark differences in value orientation and belonging among their multi-generational members. Because of this heterogeneity, age, gender and different aspects of religious, ethnic and political diversity must be considered in the discussions.

¹ This background paper outlines discussion areas for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Round Table Three (RT3) – Diasporas as actors of economic, social and cultural development. It has been written in consultation with members of RT3 by the UNDP (as penholder), under the leadership of the co-chairs facilitated by Mexico (Jorge González Mayagoitia) and Moldova (Violina Donu). The UNDP drafting team is coordinated by David Khoudour and composed of Erick Hernández, Dominik Kneer, Oxana Maciucă and Charlotte Müller. Please note that the content of this paper does not necessarily reflect the views and official positions of the penholder, the GFMD Chair or the governments or international organizations involved in the GFMD process.

² [United Nations General Assembly, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2018. 73/195. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 2019.](#)

³ [IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019.](#)

⁴ This is in line with the GCM’s use of both migrants and diasporas.

⁵ Due to its focus on migration and countries of origin, this definition does not encompass historic diasporas such as the African diaspora, which is comprised of descendants of enslaved native Africans.

⁶ As per the discussion during the GFMD Thematic Workshop on “Culture, Narratives and Human Mobility”, 27 June 2023 ([GFMD, Culture, Narratives and Human Mobility Thematic Workshop \(Paris, 27 June 2023\) Summary, 2023](#)).

While this paper acknowledges that diaspora members, as individuals, make individual contributions to sustainable development, particularly in the form of financial remittances, the focus is on collective actions, for instance, hometown associations, collective investments⁷ and local development initiatives. Individual actions are also considered whenever these occur through collective channels. This emphasis is pertinent since previous discussions facilitated by the current GFMD French Chair have highlighted that “[t]he significance of remittances for development is widely acknowledged and documented, while the impact of the contribution of diasporas in other fields is often unrecognized.”⁸

The paper recognizes migrants and diasporas’ substantial role in sustainable development. They contribute to the countries of destination through their work, consumption of goods and services, or capacity for innovation, as well as through their social and cultural contributions. Migrants and diasporas can also help disseminate information among their networks about the dangers of migrating through irregular channels, while supporting the social, economic and cultural inclusion of fellow citizens in countries of destination. A detailed discussion of such contributions would however go beyond the scope of this paper, which focuses on countries of origin. On the other hand, the paper addresses the role that governments and other stakeholders in **countries of destination** play in facilitating diasporas’ contributions to countries of origin.

This background paper – and the roundtable discussion it prepares for – aims to facilitate a conversation among member states and other stakeholders on how to **build on existing experiences, leverage good practices and create opportunities for action**, with a particular focus on three key aspects. **Diaspora engagement related to times of crises, digital tools and climate action** are considered emerging topics that have not yet been delved into in-depth in the international diaspora discussion. The GCM (especially objective 19) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, together with the main findings and actionable outcomes of the [Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development \(GFRID\) 2023](#), held in Nairobi⁹, the three editions of the [Global Diaspora Future Forum](#) and the outcomes of the Global Diaspora Summit of 2022¹⁰, in Dublin, and its Declaration will serve as reference points. The importance of the financial, voluntary and philanthropic engagement of diasporas in humanitarian emergencies in their countries of origin is reflected in the GCM, which calls for establishing or strengthening governmental mechanisms to support and facilitate it, considering the use of digital platforms. Similarly, the Dublin Declaration recognizes diasporas as partners in addressing societal and humanitarian challenges and crises, and reducing vulnerabilities as a consequence of specific situations such as pandemics, conflict, climate change, environmental and natural disasters, among others.

Against this background, three issues deserve particular attention:

1. The **role of diasporas in times of crises**: the effects of multiple crises including conflicts, disease outbreaks, forced displacement and natural disasters have demonstrated the importance of diaspora contributions and increased government interest to engage diasporas not only during crises, but also beyond.
2. The question of **how digital tools can be used to leverage diaspora engagement**: developments in communication technology and COVID-19 travel restrictions have changed the way of global interaction and communication, creating new opportunities through digital tools.
3. The question of **how to enhance diasporas’ contribution to sustainable climate action**: in a context of accelerating climate change and environmental deterioration, it is imperative to

⁷ Financial contributions coordinated and sent to countries of origin through diaspora organizations.

⁸ [GFMD, Culture, Narratives and Human Mobility Thematic Workshop \(Paris, 27 June 2023\) Summary, 2023 \(p.3\).](#)

⁹ [IFAD, World Bank Group, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development 2023. Outcomes Report, 2023.](#)

¹⁰ [Dublin Declaration, 2022.](#)

establish conducive conditions that enable diaspora organizations to fully contribute to climate adaptation and resilience.

2. The key role of governments in enhancing diasporas' contributions to sustainable development

Governments and other stakeholders, both in countries of origin and destination, play a key role in enhancing diasporas' contributions to the sustainable development of countries of origin.

In **countries of origin**, creating dedicated policy frameworks and institutions through inclusive and gender-responsive processes engaging all stakeholders, including workers' and employers' organizations, and diasporas' themselves, is a way to strengthen the links with diasporas. This is the case, for instance, of Lesotho, Somalia and The Gambia, which have adopted National Diaspora Policies. The African Diaspora Finance Corporation should be mentioned as one of the African Union's legacy projects on diaspora engagement. Initiatives to enhance diasporas' economic contributions include: matching-funds programmes,¹¹ investment projects, bonds¹², co-financing¹³, remittance guarantee loan schemes¹⁴ and recognitions. The [Diaspora Agro Business Award](#) by the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), thus serves to recognize diaspora "agripreneurs" contributing to agrifood employment opportunities in countries of origin. Multistakeholder forums can also help promote investment, as the International Forum of Diaspora Investors in Cameroon demonstrates. For over two decades, France has funded a development project in Senegal promoting local, economic and social development, resulting in significant institutional changes in migration policies.

An important way of promoting social and cultural contributions is through **dialogues, exchanges and forums**, which governments or other stakeholders can convene, such as the [International South Meetings](#) or National Annual Diaspora Days and Congresses. Different actors may also establish or support diaspora networks and issue specific outreach calls. The [Roots Programme](#) in Argentina thus aims to strengthen the country's scientific and technological capacities by fostering connections with Argentinean researchers and promoting their permanence or return. Diasporas can also play a central role in shaping cultural narratives. In this regard, AFFORD's [Return of the Icons programme](#) facilitates discussions on African artefacts and human remains held by UK museums and cultural institutions, emphasizing preservation efforts and advocating for their eventual repatriation to countries of origin.

Given the voluntary nature of diaspora contributions, engaging with employers in countries of destination to ensure that people can develop their skills and can take time off to engage in development activities is important. Trade unions can help diaspora members organize their efforts. Countries of origin may promote the protection of emigrants' rights in destination countries and ensure their skills are recognized. China has constructed a regulatory framework for the protection of the rights and interests of overseas Chinese, including *the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Nationality Law, and the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Returned Overseas Chinese and Their Family Members*. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment in Bangladesh has promoted the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act to regulate recruitment agencies, prevent fraud and protect the interests

¹¹ Initiatives governments can use to provide financial incentives to diasporas by matching funds contributed by diasporas to support development projects in their countries of origin.

¹² Financial instruments issued by governments to raise capital from diasporas, offering diasporas discount on government debt.

¹³ Collaborative funding arrangements where diasporas, along with other stakeholders, jointly contribute funds for a specific project.

¹⁴ Financial programmes that leverage remittance flows from diasporas as collateral to provide loans or credit access to individuals or businesses in their countries of origin.

of job seekers and migrant workers abroad, while also establishing labour wings in diplomatic missions for migrant worker welfare and market expansion negotiations.¹⁵

Diaspora engagement brings challenges and conflicting interests that governments and other stakeholders need to address in order to strengthen collaboration and foster longer-term sustainability of initiatives.

A well-recognized challenge is the **mutual lack of trust**¹⁶ between diasporas and authorities, particularly in post-conflict or forced displacement settings. To strengthen trust between diasporas and governments, those can engage diaspora organizations in policymaking processes and decision-making from the start. They can also establish formal partnerships that engage diaspora members as equal partners. Open and transparent dialogue, continuous exchanges and regular consultations on development efforts can further improve the relationship. The International Labour Organization (ILO) model of tripartite social dialogue between employers, workers and governments is an example of how stakeholders can strengthen trust and joint commitment to rights-based development. The civil society and civic engagement strategic orientation document (2023-2027) of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, aims to intensify dialogue with diaspora organizations, moving from a consultation approach to one of co-construction of public policies. Other measures include recognizing diasporas' expertise and contributions through events, awards and dedicated diaspora offices, developing clear diaspora strategies and institutionalizing the exchange through a diaspora council.

Another challenge lies in the **heterogeneity and fragmentation of diasporas** based on nationality, religion, politics, roles as employers or workers, socio-economic status, gender and age. This may result in divergent agendas and lead to selective engagement of governments with specific diaspora segments, for instance, those "highly skilled". Different views on gender roles – be it within a diaspora community, between societies in the countries of origin and destination, or across generations – can also generate tensions. But diasporas can also contribute to significant changes in countries of origin's values and social norms, through the so-called **social remittances**, which span from the adoption of new agricultural techniques to changes in demographic patterns and the promotion of gender equality or democratic values. Fragmentation often translates into a lack of coordination among and within diaspora organizations, highlighting the need for enhanced coordination, for instance through dedicated networks. FAO thus set up the first [Uganda Diaspora Agribusiness Network \(UDAN\)](#), while the Migration Youth and Children Platform is an international network of youth organizations focused on migration and diaspora issues.

Generational differences can restrict the engagement of newer generations. Governments can promote approaches that correspond to their specific interests and needs, for example, a focus on the village or a certain region of the country versus the country level. Engaging younger generations, especially those who are not migrants themselves, can help sustain or scale the work of older diaspora members. Shabaka's [Switchboard initiative](#) seeks to foster connections, exchange and the generation of new ideas among diverse diaspora generations and networks. Some recent projects respond to younger generations' desire to make an impact while generating a return on investment, using entrepreneurship. [MEET Africa](#) supports 140 young entrepreneurs from the diaspora in six African countries. Limited access and

¹⁵ [UNCTAD, Services Policy Review Bangladesh \(II\), 2016.](#)

¹⁶ The Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges identified that diasporas face three main challenges: trust, funding and sustainability. See [IOM, GRFDT, CISAN, ADEPT, Maximizing Diaspora Engagement – Building Trust, Mobilizing Resources and Ensuring Sustainability: Insights and Reflections Paper, 2021.](#) EUDiF conducted a global mapping on how more than 110 countries (covering more than 400 global practices) engage with diasporas. The main challenges to engagement were: lack of trust, limited human and financial capacities; polarization of diaspora; and inadequate policy frameworks. See [EUDiF, Diaspora engagement map.](#)

representation, power dynamics and perceptions, and a lack of resources and support represent additional challenges youth-led diaspora organizations face working with governments.

The **voluntariness of diaspora engagement** and the **lack of resources** constitute an additional obstacle. Voluntary engagement may entail serious risks to the health of diaspora members, including burnout, resulting in disengagement. It stands in contrast to expectations of professional outcomes from governments and other stakeholders, raising the need for capacity development and professionalization, for example on financial expertise, and the monetization of engagement.¹⁷ Both limit the scope, scale and continuity of engagement, resulting in long-term sustainability constituting a challenge. Youth-led diaspora organizations often face increased difficulty in accessing funding.

The **lack of an enabling environment** is another factor that inhibits the sustainability of diaspora engagement. Creating an enabling environment and ensuring a functioning justice system capable of resolving disputes impartially are crucial to reduce the costs of doing business in countries of origin, while providing investment security and offering incentives for diaspora investment. Since diasporas often operate at regional or communal level, states can support decentralization efforts and create legal frameworks that enable diasporas to operate more efficiently. Another priority should be ensuring diaspora agency by having initiatives designed, led or co-led by diaspora members. Governments in countries of destination can also foster diasporas' contributions to countries of origin. A hostile environment towards immigrants, including the prevalence of racism, xenophobia and discrimination, can curtail the ability of diasporas to reach their full potential. Hence the importance of guaranteeing rights, promoting decent work and fostering socio-economic integration.

Governments in destination countries can include diasporas in development policy dialogue and planning. In Italy, the Development Cooperation Law recognizes diaspora contributions and a diaspora representative is appointed in the national council for development cooperation. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) involves diaspora organizations in various dialogues, such as the annual Dialogue on Sustainable Development Policy, and consults them for policy strategies, such as the *Africa Development Cooperation Strategy*. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contributed to structuring diaspora organizations since 2002 by creating a forum of diaspora organizations (Forum des organisations issues des diasporas – FORIM), which gathers more than 1,000 solidarity organizations and supports projects implemented by local actors in more than 35 countries, reaching over one million beneficiaries since its creation.

Finally, **tensions between diaspora organizations and local communities** in countries of origin may constitute a challenge, raising the need to balance between working with diaspora organizations and local communities on development needs. This may be achieved by increasing the visibility around diasporas' contributions to local communities, facilitating dialogue and cultural understanding between diasporas and local communities, directly tackling racism and xenophobia, and promoting partnerships among them. In addition, supporting diasporas to address the needs of local communities, for example by supporting needs assessments, while simultaneously fostering local ownership, remains key.

3. Key issues: most important aspects for policy debate

3.1 Diasporas in times of crises

¹⁷ See the conclusions of IFAD study [on Malian diaspora's practices and preferences of investment in their country of origin](#).

More people than ever before live today in crisis settings. Over 1.2 billion people are living in conflict-affected areas, while 4.2 billion people have been affected by disaster losses over the past two decades. Similarly, over 110 million people have been forcibly displaced, while 71 million people in the developing world have fallen into poverty as a consequence of global food and energy inflation catalysed by the war in Ukraine.¹⁸ Crises require integrated, collective and innovative responses and solutions.

There is a rising awareness of the instrumental role of diasporas in times of crises.

The role that diasporas play in times of crises has been demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, the earthquakes in Morocco or Türkiye, or still the conflicts in Sudan, Syria and Ukraine. For example, while the Armenian diaspora used digital tools for medical sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic, diaspora professionals' networks in other countries developed transnational initiatives, providing technical assistance and support to healthcare systems.¹⁹ The Turkish diaspora provided support to affected areas and populations in coordination with their consular network. Different diaspora communities in neighbouring countries mobilized to support large refugee movements from Ukraine by delivering accommodation, employment and documentation, raising funds, and collecting food and clothes.²⁰ At the same time, initiatives like the [Platform for the Reconstruction of the Ukraine](#) by the German Government, facilitate information sharing and networking.

The role of diasporas in times of crises is not one-dimensional. Beyond remittances, diaspora engagement in crises spans crisis advocacy, knowledge production, resource mobilization and knowledge sharing, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts before, during and after crises.²¹ Because crises require rapid and coordinated response, diasporas have proven to be strategic partners, **leveraging their knowledge and familiarity** to respond swiftly and efficiently. They can associate with their families and affected communities, and raise and disperse funds effectively. In response to the current crisis in Sudan, the consulting and research organization Shabaka runs the [Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit](#) to facilitate the coordination of resources and efforts among various groups and networks, including diaspora organizations, humanitarian aid agencies, local civil society organizations and government agencies to ensure an efficient response to the crisis and maximize the impact of available resources.

The use of digital platforms, including social networks, has proven to facilitate their communication, work and coordination.²² Some diaspora organizations have also played a role as mediators in peace processes, negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction.²³ Likewise, there is growing interest in the role of academic and scientific diasporas during crises to provide innovative solutions in knowledge transfer and education, including facilitating educational opportunities for students committed to returning home.²⁴

Governments should support diasporas' involvement in development-focused responses to crises.

Engagement strategies and coordination mechanisms depend largely on mutual trust and partnership. To this end, institutional mechanisms and the implementation of long-term interventions, including recovery processes, are important steps to create an enabling environment. **Diasporas can also contribute to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus** as their interventions are not limited to humanitarian actions and are grounded in rights, including decent work and gender equality. As diasporas experience divisions

¹⁸ [UNDP, UNDP's Crisis Offer, 2022.](#)

¹⁹ [IOM, Global Diaspora reacting to the COVID-19 crisis, 2020.](#)

²⁰ [UNDP, Beyond remittances: diasporas play a key role in crisis-response, 2022.](#)

²¹ [Shabaka, Diaspora Engagement in Times of Crisis, 2021](#); [IOM, 2023, Framework for Diaspora Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance.](#)

²² [European Union Global Diaspora Facility, Diaspora Engagement in Times of Crisis, 2021.](#)

²³ [United Nations Peacemaker, Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, 2006.](#)

²⁴ [Ukrainian Global University.](#)

and are influenced by conflicts in countries of origin, better identifying their interests, realities and needs, can help facilitate their role in times of crises. However, assessing the long-term potential of diaspora engagement presents a substantial dilemma for governments. The dynamics of the conflict and the ever-evolving interests and engagement of diaspora communities add complexity to this assessment. At the same time, the role of women members of diasporas in times of crisis – across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus – should be studied further and merits more attention.

3.2 Using digital tools to leverage diaspora engagement

In recent years, the world has witnessed an unprecedented advancement in digitalization, which has transformed the way people communicate, connect and engage with each other. The COVID-19 pandemic functioned as an accelerator in this regard, showing the huge potential for the use of digital tools, but also the gaps that persist concerning access. Where access is available, the progress in digitalization has created new opportunities by enabling diaspora members to stay connected with their countries of origin in new ways and increasingly contribute to sustainable development. This is particularly true for the youth who are most actively utilizing social media and other digital platforms.

Digital tools can enhance diaspora engagement.

Digital platforms can help diaspora members connect with each other and with their countries of origin. One key area where digital tools can facilitate diaspora engagement is through **knowledge transfer**. Digital platforms, such as social media networks, online forums, or videoconferencing tools, can facilitate communication and collaboration, enabling diaspora members to share their expertise, skills and experiences. They can use digital platforms to share good practices, provide mentoring or coaching to local entrepreneurs, or offer training programmes in specific areas of expertise. Digital platforms have the capacity to enhance healthcare accessibility, including the provision of telemedicine services. The charitable organization *Arian Teleheal*, for instance, empowers doctors operating in conflict zones and resource-constrained regions to collaborate with specialist clinicians worldwide, utilizing commonplace technologies such as smartphones, instant messaging and video conferencing.

Governments can also use digital learning platforms for capacity building for their diasporas. For example, the Mexican government has used digital platforms for entrepreneurship training as part of the *Consular Entrepreneurship Programme for Mexican Women Abroad* and training on financial inclusion within the *Week of Financial Inclusion of Mexicans Abroad*. A youth-led organization, *Sobre los Márgenes* launched a [social media initiative](#) to share knowledge about feminist movements among young people in Arab countries and youth diaspora members residing in Spain. The **Diaspora Unit of Guyana** has recently mainstreamed diaspora engagement into national digitalization efforts, thus improving service delivery to and communication with the diaspora.

Another area where digital tools can be leveraged is in **advocacy, awareness-raising and organizing**. Digital platforms can help diaspora members raise awareness of development challenges in their countries of origin and mobilize support for specific causes or initiatives. Social media campaigns can thus be used to raise awareness of issues related to education, health, human rights or the environment. They can also help promote specific policy reforms or projects. Digital platforms can combine multiple functionalities. The International Organization of Migration's (IOM) [iDiaspora platform](#), for instance, serves as a collaborative hub, offering opportunities for knowledge exchange and active participation, while amplifying the perspectives of diaspora communities in development and humanitarianism, and raising awareness on diasporas' economic, social and cultural capital. In the Republic of Moldova, the Diaspora Relations Bureau launched [eMoldovata](#), an online communication platform that promotes diaspora engagement, information services, mobilization of expertise and transfer of skills, as well as

active participation in the development of the country²⁵. Another example is [RePatriot](#), which distributes job and investment opportunities, and fosters networking through an app.

Digital tools can also be used to enable diaspora investment and **crowdfunding for local development projects**, to allow contributions from **both diasporas and local communities**. Crowdfunding platforms can help diaspora members pool their resources, join efforts with the local population and support development in their countries of origin, in a transparent and systematic way, hence building trust and social cohesion. This can be particularly useful for small-scale initiatives that might not attract traditional funding sources, or for projects that have a strong community-based component. Examples include [WIDU.africa](#), financed by BMZ and implemented by GIZ, and the [Babyloan crowdfunding platform](#) by IFAD in Mali.

There is potential for a better use of digital tools to leverage diaspora engagement.

Governments can strengthen the use of digital tools by setting up digital investment platforms that enable diaspora members to invest in specific development projects or businesses in their countries of origin, establishing virtual “one-stop-shops” that engage with the diaspora online, organizing hackathons, innovation challenges or start-up competitions specifically aimed at diaspora communities and coordinating virtual cultural exchanges. Digital tools can also be used to streamline government services and communication with diasporas, hence reducing bureaucracy, and to increase transparency in government actions, allowing diaspora members to monitor progress.

However, digital tools are not always a panacea. Their effectiveness depends on a range of factors, such as access to technology, “leave-no-one-behind” (LNOB) considerations, available digital public infrastructure, digital literacy and cultural sensitivity, and national ownership. The effects of a widening digital divide need to be borne in mind. Along these lines, improving digital infrastructure, such as broadband access and mobile connectivity, can enable diaspora members to engage with their countries of origin more easily. Governments can invest in expanding and upgrading digital infrastructure to reach underserved areas and implement policies to reduce the cost of digital services to make them more accessible for all. Thereby, initiatives should consider the unique needs and challenges of marginalized or underrepresented groups within the diaspora and explicitly prioritize inclusivity in diaspora engagement efforts.

Governments and other stakeholders can initiate financial literacy programmes, for both diasporas and communities in countries of origin, covering basic digital skills, online safety and the use of digital tools for engagement. Tutorials can help those less digitally literate become proficient in using digital tools. Governments should also ensure a safe use of digital tools by implementing robust cybersecurity measures, ensuring that diaspora members’ personal information is handled securely and transparently, while establishing feedback mechanisms to continuously improve the safety and effectiveness of digital tools. Working with the private sector, particularly e-commerce or tech companies and social media platforms, could further support the use of digital tools for diaspora engagement.

3.3 Engaging diasporas in climate action

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. Taking action against climate change involves reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to clean and sustainable energy sources, conserving natural ecosystems and adopting resilient practices. Climate action also presents a unique opportunity to foster innovation, create green jobs and promote sustainable development.

²⁵ [UNDP, Engaging diasporas in local development: An operational guide based on the experience of Moldova, 2020.](#)

*Diasporas' engagement in sustainable climate action is still limited.*²⁶

While the effects of climate change on human mobility are now well-known, diasporas could play a significant role in promoting sustainable climate action and supporting adaptation and mitigation efforts. Diaspora engagement in climate action has thus been discussed in a number of multilateral events, such as the 2022 International Migration Review Forum in New York, the 2022 Global Diaspora Summit in Dublin and the 2023 GFRID in Nairobi, as well as during the three editions of the EUDiF's Future Forum.

While remittances can support resilience, mitigation and adaptation efforts in countries of origin²⁷, diasporas can play a broader role by leveraging their expertise, networks and resources for climate action. Not only do many diaspora members have a unique perspective on climate change, but they also have valuable skills and direct international links that help raise awareness of environmental issues, while building support through intercultural communication and cooperation. Diasporas can design and lead projects addressing climate change, including access to water and sustainable energy solutions. The Filipino diaspora has thus been involved in various climate adaptation projects in the Philippines, including reforestation efforts and installing solar panels in rural communities and transfer of knowledge on environmental sustainability and climate financing from the Filipino diaspora, for [example EUDiF action with the local council and the national university in Palawan](#). Another example is the IOM collaborative diaspora financing model *Bahay Matibay Project* where diaspora organizations partnered with a local microfinance institution to support retrofitting, repair and reconstruction in the Philippines. The [Programme Diaspora Home Succeeds \(DAR 1+3\)](#) in the Republic of Moldova has provided funding for energy-efficiency initiatives implemented by local public authorities in partnership with the diaspora.

Diasporas' investments can help diversify livelihoods, support resilience and reduce pressure on local communities through lower levels of poverty and food insecurity, and improved access to health and education. In Senegal, diaspora investment helps transform rural communities, by building resilience to climate risks and breaking the migration cycle.²⁸ Investors from diasporas also support climate resilience in local communities, with agriculture being a sector highly vulnerable to climate hazards, especially in countries with many smallholder family farmers and herders living at subsistence levels. An [IFAD study](#) found that 83 percent of Malian diaspora respondents prefer investing in agricultural projects. In Somalia, IFAD and Shuraako, launched the [SomaliAgriFood Fund](#), a seed capital investment matching fund that targeted the successful Somali matching their interest to invest with small and medium enterprises in agribusiness on fishing, agriculture, food processing, packaging, cold storage facilities and livestock. A EUDiF study identified more than 15 initiatives related to diaspora investments in the green sector.²⁹

Diasporas are crucial in leading dialogue and political engagement by raising awareness on climate change and lobbying governments and other global actors to act. The IOM's [Diaspora 4 Climate Action \(D4C\)](#) initiative, implemented in Moldova, Bangladesh, Ghana and Jamaica, aims at enhancing global climate action in countries of origin by creating opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between diasporas and national stakeholders, especially in priority sectors identified in strategic documents, such as National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

²⁶ See also: [IFAD, World Bank Group, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development 2023. Outcomes Report, 2023.](#)

²⁷ [IFAD, World Bank Group, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development 2023. Outcomes Report, 2023.](#)

²⁸ Platform for Agricultural Risk Management, IFAD, Financing Facility for Remittances, [Managing agricultural risk through remittance: the case of Senegal](#), 2020.

²⁹ [EUDiF, Diaspora engagement initiatives on Green initiatives, n.d.](#)

Diasporas are often well connected to their networks and can leverage their resources to support climate change initiatives. Diaspora youth-led initiatives and influencers have launched initiatives and campaigns to raise awareness of climate change, while promoting sustainability and justice. The French *Climate Generation Project*, piloted by FORIM, supports initiatives of young people with a migration background to address climate change both in France and their countries of origin (or their parents' countries of origin). Women from the diaspora can also play a key role in supporting the climate change agenda. The *PowerSouth initiative*, founded by two Indian women living in Germany, aims to create a more equitable relationship between resource providers, implementers and entrepreneurs by promoting inclusion and gender justice for marginalized women to become empowered in climate action. EUDiF supported [an action in Mexico](#) that facilitated the transfer of knowledge between Mexico and Europe with diaspora academics as catalysts to co-develop a toolkit for citizen education on climate change and circular economy and another one with [FORIM](#) on ecological transitions and climate change adaptation.

Further efforts are still required to develop frameworks, policies and programmes that can unlock diasporas' global connections and potential in accelerating climate mitigation and adaptation. Policymakers need to create an enabling environment for the diaspora to support climate action and create the conditions for establishing complementary sources of climate financing at the national level. Communication campaigns, peer networks, NGOs and civil society organizations can also play a crucial role in facilitating the exchange of successful adaptation techniques, further supporting these efforts. Finally, climate programmes need to be inclusive so that diaspora members have opportunities to make connections and build networks for climate action in their countries of origin.

*Several strategies can be implemented to enhance diaspora contributions for sustainable climate action.*³⁰

Enhancing diaspora contributions to sustainable climate action requires a multi-faceted approach that involves capacity building, financing, data and recognition. Governments should pursue specialized and sectoral approaches in implementing tangible actions to address and respond to the climate emergency. By adopting a focused strategy that aligns with specific sectors and their unique challenges, it is possible to effectively contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change and fostering resilience.

Engaging with diaspora communities and **building their capacity to contribute to climate action** is essential. This implies investing in knowledge platforms to unleash diasporas' capabilities and increase their knowledge and awareness on climate change dynamics, including on the gendered impact of climate change. This can be achieved through targeted outreach, education and training programmes that contribute to increasing climate change awareness and promoting sustainable practices and efforts that governments and international organizations can support. The IOM's Morocco project on leveraging diaspora knowledge supports the dissemination and implementation of agroecological practices for sustainable food production in resource-scarce areas of the country. It is also crucial to strengthen the lobbying and advocacy capacity of diaspora organizations so that they take a leadership role on the matter within the ongoing policy dialogues between governments, donors and the international community.

Diaspora engagement can be enhanced through **innovative tools and financing mechanisms** that support climate change initiatives, including diaspora bonds, investment vehicles and crowdfunding platforms that enable diasporas to invest in climate-friendly projects and initiatives in their countries of origin. The [Afford project in Ghana](#) thus focused on research and piloting of a diaspora crowdlending platform to channel diaspora investment into green businesses, enabling diaspora engagement in the green economy and climate change adaptation, and funding for up to five Ghanaian SMEs through the involvement of

³⁰ Also see: Comdu.it & Zidicircle, [Diaspora-driven green partnerships – Curated practices from Comdu.it and Zidicircle](#), 2023; Gret, FORIM, EUDiF, [Mobilising the diaspora for the green transition: Ways to engage in the energy and waste sectors](#), 2022.

hundreds of diaspora investors. Diaspora networks must also be engaged to allow their expertise (subject- and context-specific) to contribute to development and resilience-building.

Better data, disaggregated by age, gender and diversity, including factors such as socio-economic status, ethnicity, religion and disability, are needed to better understand what is required to harness remittances and diasporas for sustainable climate action. Governments need to design policies to encourage and facilitate the meaningful participation of migrants and diasporas in climate change planning and programming, including on the environment, agriculture, energy, transport and other related sectors.

Recognizing and celebrating diasporas' contributions to climate change efforts is crucial to harness their meaningful participation in climate change planning and programming. By highlighting success stories and promoting the positive impact that diaspora members can have on climate change, governments and other stakeholders can inspire and motivate others to act. This can be achieved through media campaigns, awards and recognition programmes that showcase diaspora contributions to sustainable climate action. The GFMD French Chair, the Ghanaian Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are organizing the first edition of the [Migrants4Climate \(M4C\) Award](#), which aims to give visibility to initiatives led by or - inclusive of and targeting - migrants and diaspora and features a strong engagement in climate action and environmental sustainability. The first laureate, Benin's [Projet Route De La Jacinthe D'Eau](#), is led by the Non-Governmental Organization Youth and Green Jobs for a Green Economy (*Jeunesse et Emplois Verts pour une Economie Verte* -JEVEV).

In addition to national initiatives, it is also important to foster **transnational approaches**. On the proposal of the Republic of Togo, the 34th Summit of Heads of State and Government, decreed the period 2021-2031 as the "*Decade of African Roots and the African Diaspora*"³¹, resulting in a commitment by all the Member States of the African Union to work to increase involvement of the African Diaspora in resolving local problems, including climate issues.

4. Guiding questions for the GRT-debate

Building up on the content of the background paper and the GFMD consultative processes, four guiding questions for the government-led roundtable (GRT) debate have been developed:

1. How can **increased collaboration** between governments, diasporas and other stakeholders enhance the contributions of diasporas to the sustainable development of their countries of origin, while ensuring leadership by women and youth?
2. How to promote diaspora engagement, especially from women and youth, in **times of crises** and how to maintain their support in post-crisis settings?
3. How can **digital tools** be effectively leveraged to enhance diaspora engagement and contributions, while ensuring safety, inclusiveness and accessibility?
4. How to unlock the full potential of diasporas, especially women and youth, to better contribute to **climate action**?

³¹ See decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 807(XXXIV) of 7 February 2021.

Annex 1: Current initiatives and practices related to key issues

All roundtable members were asked to share practices through an online form. The annex presents the initiatives received.

Country / Region ³²	Title of the initiative	Main implementing organization/entity (other partners involved)	Key objectives/focus
Africa	African Diaspora Finance Cooperation	African Union	[Not available]
Africa	MEET Africa	Expertise France, GIZ (European Union, AFD)	Supports young entrepreneurs from the diaspora in their projects in 6 African countries
Argentina	Programa Raíces ("Roots Programme")	Ministry of Science and Technology (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Strengthen the country's scientific and technological capacities by fostering connections with Argentinean researchers and promoting their permanence or return
Argentina	SEAD (Servicio de Educación a Distancia- "Remote Education System")	Ministry of Education (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	[Not available]
Armenia	Diaspora Engagement during COVID-19	Government of Armenia, Armenian diaspora	Manage the response and engagement with the Armenian diaspora and medical community using digital tools, organizing over 40 online medical sessions that connected medical professionals from the diaspora with professionals in Armenia
Armenia	iGORTS programme	Government of Armenia	Invite professionals from around the world to work in the Armenian public sector for one year
Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica, Moldova	Diaspora 4 Climate Action (D4C)	IOM UK, implemented together with IOM missions in the 4 target countries	Strengthen global climate action through diaspora engagement with their countries of origin
Belgium	DEPOMI (Deployment of migration policies at regional level)	Enabel, Belgian Development Agency	Support National Strategies on Migration, including the diaspora engagement one (SNMRE), at the regional level

³² Countries mentioned are the main countries this initiative focuses on. In line with the focus of the paper, these are mostly countries of origin, even though some are also countries of destination.

Belgium	MBI (Maghreb – Belgium Impulse)	Enabel, Belgian Development Agency	Organization of a large communication campaign through a series of webinars aimed at Moroccan diaspora living in Belgium and who want to invest in their country of origin
Belgium	PAMMOD	Enabel, Belgian Development Agency	Facilitate the contribution of the Guinean diaspora in Africa and Europe to Guinea's socio-economic development by implementing a framework to ease their participation in sharing their skills, providing support, fostering learning, and engaging in exchanges with local Guinean entrepreneurs
Belgium	PEM – Pilot for Entrepreneurial Mobility	Enabel, Belgian Development Agency	Connect Senegalese and Ivorian small and medium entrepreneurs with European ones, including those from the diaspora, including specific modules for entrepreneurs from the African diaspora (e.g. access to funding, connection to Belgian/Senegalese/Ivorian entrepreneurial ecosystems, etc)
Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal	AFFORD Business Centre	AFFORD, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Provide funding and business development support to diaspora and local entrepreneurs and TVET institutions, including a business development accelerator, diaspora resource persons support, and grant financing for job creation
Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal	AFFORD Business Centre: Protecting and creating jobs and contributing to the economic recovery and long-term resilience of SMEs	AFFORD, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, MDF Ghana, MDF Benin, EDC, CONCREE	Address MSMEs' financing and skills gaps by developing the online fundraising capacity of African diaspora investors (entrepreneurs and volunteers) and promote economic recovery and resilience following the COVID-19 pandemic by leveraging diaspora intervention and channeling diaspora assets into local economies
Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal	Capacity-building in online fundraising for diaspora investors (to support SMEs)	AFFORD (ICMPD)	Address the financing and skills gaps of MSMEs, developing the online fundraising capacity of African diaspora investors, through training on crowdfunding and crowd-lending to raise philanthropic and investment financing for MSMEs
Cameroon	[Not available]	ONG Un Monde Avenir	Collect information on the situation of the Cameroonian diaspora in host countries and advocacy with national institutions
Cameroon	Forum international des investisseurs de la diaspora ("International Forum of diaspora investors")	Ministry of Foreign Relations	Yearly space to promote the diaspora's economic integration
China	Regulatory framework for the protection of the rights and interests of overseas Chinese	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The United Front Work Department of CPC Central Committee NIA	Ensure the protection of rights and interest of overseas Chinese through the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China and the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Returned Overseas Chinese and the Family Members of Overseas Chinese
Colombia	Con Pie Derecho ("On the right foot")	Venezolanos en Barranquilla	Inform about the migration regularization mechanisms in force in Colombia and the United States, combating human trafficking and migrant and support Colombian government and state entities in facilitating access to services and rights for people from Venezuela, to obtain the PPT, health affiliation, education, employment and entrepreneurship, housing, banking, among others

Egypt	Egypt Diaspora Initiative (EDI)	[Not available]	Raise issues of interest to Egyptians living abroad and voice their concerns; establish a close link between Egyptian communities all over the world and Egypt, cutting across political and religious affiliation, age and gender, and free of commercial interests and strengthen solidarity with Egypt among Egyptians in the diaspora
El Salvador	[not available]	Vice Ministry of Diaspora and Human Mobility of El Salvador	Create strategies for engagement and territorial work by appointing specialized personnel in diplomatic and consular representations
El Salvador	Writing History of #Diaspora activity	Vice Ministry of Diaspora and Human Mobility of El Salvador	Highlight the important role of the diaspora worldwide by collecting testimonies from Salvadorans around the world
Ethiopia	EUDiF capacity development action with the Wollo University	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Wollo University	Enhance Wollo University's capacities by piloting digital learning solutions in agri-food business and environmental informatics, including the development of an interdisciplinary e-curriculum, piloting and delivering new courses to students, and creating a custom Learning Management System (LMS) while training university staff and IT personnel to use it
Europe	Project for Entrepreneurial Mobility (PEM)	Enabel (AFFORD Europe, Awex (Agence Wallone à l'Exportation et aux investissements Étrangers), FIT (Flanders Investment and Trade); BondInnov, Hub Brussels)	[Not available]
France	"Les diasporas comme actrices du changement : le rôle des nouvelles générations et des femmes" (Diasporas as agents of change: the role of the new generations and women)	French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	Study on the involvement of young people and women from migrant backgrounds in the field of international cooperation.
France	"Programme d'Appui aux projets des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues de l'Immigration" (PRA/OSIM) (Support programme for migration-related projects by International Solidarity Organizations)	Agence française de développement (AFD) / Forum des Organisations de Solidarité internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)	Strengthen intervention capabilities, co-finance projects, and highlight migration's impact on development
France	"Recontres Internationales Sud" (International South Meetings)	Forum des Organisations de Solidarité internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)	Strengthen the contribution of diasporas to the development of their countries of origin by providing a platform for dialogue and partnership between diaspora organizations, national institutions, civil society organizations, international agencies, and diplomatic institutions

France	AgroArte project in Saint-Denis. Agricultural exchanges here and there!	TEJE association, Les vents de la harvest, Forum des Organisations de Solidarité internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)	Raise awareness among inhabitants of the services provided by nature (health, economy, etc.) to market gardening through to a vegetable garden and a nursery.
France	Choose Africa	Agence française de développement (AFD)	Supporting MSMEs and entrepreneurs in Africa
France	Climate Generation Project (PGC)	Forum des Organisations de Solidarité internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)	Support initiatives of young people, especially migrants, to fight against climate change
France	DIASDEV	Agence française de développement (AFD) and the Caisse des Dépôts from France, Italy, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia	Facilitating and securing financial flows from the diaspora (fund transfers, savings and investment), in Europe or on the African continent
France	"J2R - Jeunes des deux rives de la Méditerranée engages dans une citoyenneté ouverte sur le monde" (Young people from both sides of the Mediterranean committed to citizenship open to the world)	Agence française de développement (AFD)	Improve young people's in the Mediterranean understanding of the issues involved in solidarity and living together, encourage and develop their critical thinking and help them to learning about citizenship that is open to the world
Gambia	GK-Partners "Migration and sustainable development in The Gambia"	GK Partners (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Basic Education, the Ministry of Finance, Central Bank of The Gambia, Diaspora Development Fund, The Rural Development Institute) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Contribute to the implementation of the Gambian Diaspora Strategy to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the local economy and the most vulnerable populations

Gambia	National Diaspora Policy	The Gambian Diaspora and Migration Directorate under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	[Not available]
Gambia	Stake in the Nation forum	GKP, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Facilitate the contribution/participation of diaspora members in the forum through a hybrid format
Germany	"Diaspora against COVID-19" call (part of the PMD)	GIZ	Enable diaspora organizations to initiate small-scale projects for knowledge transfer on COVID-19 prevention and treatment
Germany	"Plattform Wiederaufbau Ukraine" (Platform for the Reconstruction of the Ukraine)	Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), (Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Foreign Office, Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building, Ministry of Health, Secretariat hosted by GIZ)	Offer a space for information-sharing and networking for actors in Germany who are engaged in the reconstruction of Ukraine, including diaspora civil society actors
Germany	"Qualifizierungsinitiative für die syrische Zivilgesellschaft (QICS)" (Qualification Initiative for Syrian Civil Society) (commissioned by BMZ)	GIZ	Enhance the capacity of Syrian civil society actors within and outside of Syria to contribute to a peaceful and inclusive society in Syria
Germany	"Spunky Toonz" Animation studio (supported by PMD)	Diaspora member (supported by GIZ)	Produce entertainment content specifically tailored to create a climate and social awareness for Children
Germany	Digital Diaspora Dialogue series (part of the PMD , now MEG)	GIZ	Offer various online formats for dialogue with and within the diaspora, including regular 'Diaspora meets BMZ' events, which provide including updates and information to the diaspora on relevant changes and topics within development policy
Germany	Inclusion of diaspora in development policy dialogue and planning	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Include diaspora organizations in dialogue around development policies and the design of development projects (e.g. Africa Development Cooperation Strategy, colloquium of diaspora women)
Germany	<i>PowerSouth</i> initiative (supported by PMD)	Diaspora members (supported by GIZ)	Create a more equitable relationship between the global (German/European) resource providers, implementers and entrepreneurs of environmental and sustainable initiatives in the Global south, with a focus on including women as leaders and decision makers in climate action

Germany	Programme 'Migration and Diaspora' (PMD), now 'Shaping development-oriented migration' (MEG) (commissioned by BMZ)	GIZ	Promote diaspora contributions to economic and social development through support for entrepreneurship, projects, and placements.
Germany	WIDU.africa (commissioned by BMZ)	GIZ	Improve employment and income potential of micro and small entrepreneurs in six African countries by cooperating with the African diaspora in Europe
Ghana	Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana (Ashanti and Western Regions)	AFFORD (on the Research and piloting crowdlending pilot); Other partners involved: SNV (the lead partner), UNCDF.	Research into diaspora engagement and piloting diaspora crowdlending platform to channel diaspora Investment into green businesses
Ghana, Nigeria	AFFORD Business Centre (ABC) Remitskills	AFFORD	Deliver skills and knowledge to entrepreneurs in the diaspora and countries of origin and vocational training schools through a digital platform, focusing on upskilling graduates in their vocational field and in line with labour needs, as well as providing them with new skills in entrepreneurship. It pools in skills-sharing from diaspora professionals to support the TVETs as well as the graduates.
Global	Building Trust, Mobilizing Resources and Ensuring Sustainability – Insights and Reflections Paper	IOM, iDiaspora, GRFDT, CISAN, and ADEPT	Summarizes insights, recommendations, and key highlights from the 2021 Virtual Global Diaspora Exchanges focused on Building Trust, Mobilizing Resources, and Ensuring Sustainability that explored best practices across regions and discussed concerns and opportunities in supporting diaspora empowerment
Global	Capacity building videos on Diaspora Engagement	IOM	Diaspora leaders showcase initiatives driving sustainable development in education, health, and entrepreneurship in their countries of origin. Video series features academics, diaspora members, and practitioners discussing diaspora engagement and developmental impact.
Global	Certificate programme on migration governance and diaspora engagement	Global Research Forum on Diaspora & Transnationalism (GRFDT), IOM- iDiaspora, CISAN, ADEPT	Certificate programme on migration governance and diaspora engagement which targeted diaspora actors and organizations

Global	Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries	IOM, Migration Policy Institute (MPI)	Provides a step-by-step guide to the development of government policies and programmes to engage diasporas
Global	Development IEC materials	IOM, diaspora organizations	Raise awareness of DRR and BBS methodology by developing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials that were then disseminated through networks
Global	Diaspora And Transnational Identities - An Analysis of Legal Frameworks And Policies	IOM	Focuses on the legal framework of diaspora engagement, evaluating the rights and opportunities available to diasporas in selected countries of origin and destination. It examines the understanding of the “diaspora” by governments, its reflection in national policies and legislation, the rights granted to diasporas, and the policies’ consideration of women’s role and participation in diaspora engagement.
Global	Diaspora Covid-19 relief	IOM	Support COVID-19 response and relief in the three selected countries and enhance the capacities to better support current and future humanitarian and development effort
Global	Diaspora Mapping Toolkit	IOM	Presents a systematic, comprehensive yet very flexible and agile approach to conducting diaspora mappings in differing contexts, allowing implementors to collect information about their diaspora communities in a systematic, comparative and holistic manner.
Global	Diaspora Module on the Global Migration Media Academy	IOM	Introduces the concept of diaspora, emphasizes its significance, and provides practical guidance on engaging with diaspora actors and amplifying their voices.
Global	Diaspora response to COVID-19 ³³	FAO, ADEPT	Supported countries of origin through COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns, knowledge and capital transfer, targeted support to the agricultural sector, and contributions to employment generation in agribusiness
Global	Diasporas And Their Contributions: A Snapshot Of The Available Evidence	IOM	Presents relevant data and trends on diaspora engagement, including estimations, contributions, current trends, and future opportunities.
Global	Diasporas at the forefront of social protection; impacts, dynamics, and future	iDiaspora and Routed Magazine	Explores how diaspora leaders and organizations contribute to informal social protection measures in areas like unemployment, pensions, family benefits, minimum resources, and health benefits; it emphasizes the importance of social protection systems for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and supporting individuals and families in various aspects of their lives.
Global	Empowering Global Diasporas in the Digital Era	iDiaspora and Routed Magazine	Showcases diasporas’ impactful initiatives during the pandemic and highlights the importance of digital platforms in their efforts
Global	EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF)	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD),	Support diaspora engagement for development

³³ Also see: : [Diaspora make a difference in COVID-19 rural recovery - YouTube](#)

		funded by the European Commission (DG INTPA)	
Global	EUDiF capacity development action with FORIM	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and FORIM	Strengthen the capacities of certified support operators within diaspora networks under FORIM through the delivery of several trainings with topics including project management, management of public funds, communications, ecological transitions, solar energy, gender mainstreaming and stocktaking
Global	EUDiF Future Forum	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	Serve as a platform for discussions, collaborations, and knowledge sharing related to diaspora engagement and its impact on sustainable development by bringing together diverse stakeholders, including diaspora communities, governments, civil society, and international organisations.
Global	EUDiF knowledge hub on diaspora engagement	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	Provide a repository of knowledge and resources related to diaspora engagement for sustainable development developed by EUDiF and its partners
Global	GCM webinar series	Global Research Forum on Diaspora & Transnationalism (GRFDT) (Migrants Forum in Asia, Civil Society Action Committee; International Institute for Migration and Development (IIMAD); Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants; Metropolis Asia-Pacific)	Depict the issues, strengths, and elasticity of diaspora engagement for new migrants, diasporas as well as with governments, homeland actors and the wider development community
Global	Global Diaspora Policy Alliance	IOM	Create a networked platform for expertise exchange, complementing existing facilities by prioritizing diaspora engagement in global development policies including specialized Technical Working Groups focused on climate action, youth, gender, health, and wellbeing
Global	Global Diaspora Summit Report	IOM	Summarize the key consensuses, insights, and practices discussed at the Global Diaspora Summit, as well as in the ongoing GCM review processes and contemporary literature on diaspora engagement, offering an overview of global progress towards GCM Objective 19 and providing reflections on how States can further advance this objective
Global	Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges	Global Research Forum on Diaspora & Transnationalism (GRFDT), IOM- iDiaspora, CISAN, ADEPT, Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), Global Diaspora Confederation (GDC) and the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)	Bring together experts and stakeholders to address common challenges in transnational initiatives

Global	Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges 2020	IOM	Provide a space for exchanging ideas and sharing best practices in response to the pandemic resulting in the development of a Joint Statement in Solidarity of Victims of Xenophobia caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which garnered support from over 200 diaspora organizations as signatories
Global	Global Diasporas reacting to the COVID-19 crisis – Best Practices from the Field	IOM	Showcases the best practices of diaspora communities in Africa, America, Asia, and Europe during the COVID-19 crisis collected through Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges facilitated by iDiaspora
Global	Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development (GFRID)	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Secretary General’s Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), World Bank	Discuss challenges and opportunities, present innovative initiatives and lessons learned, and promote recommendations on remittances and diaspora investment
Global	Guidelines to support Member States and other stakeholders in leveraging the economic contribution of diasporas to sustainable development in countries of origin	United Nations Network on Migration (UNMN)	Support Member States and other stakeholders in leveraging the economic contribution of diasporas to sustainable development in countries of origin, based on multi-stakeholder dialogue and assessment of existing diaspora-engagement initiatives and policies
Global	iDiaspora	IOM	Allow users to connect, learn and contribute through a digital platform
Global	iDiaspora Photo contest (part of iDiaspora)	IOM	Raise international awareness of the importance of cultural capital of global diasporas
Global	iDiaspora Stories (part of iDiaspora)	IOM	Inspire and motivate other leaders around the world to find ways to contribute, learn and connect with their diaspora communities from wherever they are through short video clips by diaspora leaders
Global	Impactful Skills, Effective Strategies and Innovative Tools	IOM, iDiaspora, GRFDT, GDC, MYCP	Discover how concrete strategies enrich communication skills, employ strategic techniques, and integrate novel tools to amplify the influence of transnational endeavours
Global	Regional Consultations: Towards the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance	IOM	Update key partners on the progress made during the consultative process aimed at establishing the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance
Global	Social media initiative	Sobre los Márgenes	Share knowledge about feminist movements among young people, both in Arab countries and youth diaspora members residing in Spain through a communication campaign, a poetry event, and a series of live discussions on social media covering topics such as decolonial and intersectional feminism, Islamic feminism, and women in sports
Global	SOPs for Shelter Actors and Diasporas	IOM	Enhance coordination through standard operating procedures (complete with document index, key processes) for Shelter Actors and Diaspora

Global	Startup Competition	GFMD Business mechanism	Invite app and software developers to submit proposals for innovative tools designed to reach and assist migrants
Global	Technical Working Group No.2: Diaspora Human Capital	IOM	Provide practical recommendations for enhancing and optimizing the impact of diaspora human capital contributions on both countries of origin and residence.
Global	The Future of Diasporas	IOM, iDiaspora and ADEPT	Presents insightful articles written by global experts dedicated to understanding diaspora engagement and promoting their contributions to sustainable development, emphasizing the value of collaboration across disciplines and geographic regions and the potential of diasporas for both countries of origin and residence
Global	Thematic Working Group No.1: Diaspora Economic Capital	IOM	Focuses on diaspora economic capital as part of a broader understanding of diaspora capital, examining interventions and collaborations between diaspora communities, countries of origin and residence, and other actors to unleash economic potential
Global	Thematic Working Group No.3: Diaspora Social Capital	IOM	Explores diasporas' political participation in ancestral and current countries, as well as civic engagement through civil-society organizations
Global	Thematic Working Group No.4: Diaspora Cultural Capital	IOM	Examines diaspora perspectives on identity and belonging to ancestral and current countries, including language preservation, cultural heritage, and engagement in national or religious customs and events
Global	Tripartite dialogue	ILO	Social dialogue includes negotiation, consultation and information exchange between and among governments, employers' and workers' organizations collective bargaining between employers/employers' organizations and workers' organizations; dispute prevention and resolution; and other approaches such as workplace cooperation, international framework agreements and social dialogue in the context of regional economic communities
Global	Young Diaspora Leaders Initiative (part of iDiaspora)	IOM	Empower young diaspora members by showcasing their experiences, ideas, and motivations
Guyana	EUDiF capacity development action with the Diaspora Unit of Guyana	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Diaspora Unit of Guyana	Support the Diaspora Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Guyana, preparing the unit to advocate for the integration of diaspora engagement into national digitalization efforts while also developing its knowledge and skills in digital service delivery and skills transfer mechanisms.
Haiti, Philippine, Ukraine, Somalia	Framework for Diaspora Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance	IOM, Haiti Renewal Alliance (HRA)	Support more streamlined coordination among diasporas and institutional humanitarian actors, to promote more effective humanitarian assistance to affected people and communities worldwide
Haiti, Sudan, Syria	Switchboard	Shabaka	Connects diaspora across generations and networks to improve the reach and impact of diaspora humanitarianism, increase knowledge on diaspora humanitarian engagement and strengthen diaspora networks and bridge intergenerational divides
Haiti, Togo and Vietnam	EUDiF case study on mobilising the diaspora for the green transition	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Gret and FORIM	Explores the diaspora's potential contributions to the energy and waste sectors in EU's partner countries (specifically Haiti, Togo and Vietnam), highlighting various ways the diaspora can contribute, including entrepreneurship, financial support, and advocacy.

Lebanon, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sudan, Ukraine and Zambia	EUDiF case study on diaspora engagement in times of crisis	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and Shabaka	Showcase the significant roles played by diaspora communities in providing humanitarian assistance and support during various environmental crises in their countries of heritage(Nepal, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Sudan, Ukraine and Zambia)
Lesotho	National Diaspora Policy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations (IOM, Lesotho National Development Cooperation)	Maximize the diaspora's impact on Lesotho's development by fostering coordination and collaboration through dedicated diaspora forums and networks
Mali	Babyloan crowdfunding platform	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Enable the Malian diaspora to contribute to the loan financing of young microentrepreneurs in Mali via a crowdfunding platform
Mali	Diaspora investment in Malian small-to-medium enterprises (2019-2024)	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P),, Fadev	Establish a dedicated capital impact investment solution for the Malian diaspora to invest in SMEs in Mali, including resource mobilization and training
Mali	L'Union des Ambassadeurs	Diaspora community	The association founded in Mali by repatriates offers support to young people from the diaspora to invest and settle in Mali
Mali	Study on Malian diaspora's practices and preferences of investment in their country of origin	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Inform decision-makers about the potential and obstacles to investment by the Malian diaspora and orient their actions in favor of facilitating diaspora investment in Mali.
Mali	Study trips (related to above project)	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Ciwara Capital, Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P)	Organize study trips to Mali to accompany diaspora investor representatives to meet with companies in which to invest
Mexico	"Programa Consular de Emprendimiento para Mexicanas en el Exterior (PCEME)" (Consular Entrepreneurship Programme for Mexican Women Abroad)	Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME)- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico	Train and provide technological tools for learning and creating a business abroad to Mexican women entrepreneurs through digital platforms.
Mexico	"Semana de Educación Financiera Integral para Mexicanos en el Exterior (SEFIME)" (Week of Financial Inclusion of Mexicans Abroad)	IME	Provide advice, guidance, workshops and activities on financial topics to the Mexican community abroad, using a hybrid format
Mexico	Concurso de Literatura para diáspora mexicana	IME	Promote literary creation by involving the Mexican community abroad, using social networks, emails and digital materials

	("Mexican Diaspora Literature Competition")		
Mexico	Encuentro Dreamers ("Dreamers Meeting")	IME	Strengthen "Dreamer's" personal and professional development through virtual meetings
Mexico	EUDiF capacity development action with Red Global MX (UK Chapter)	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and Red Global MX (UK Chapter)	This EUDiF initiative aims to harness knowledge transfer within the Mexican diaspora in the United Kingdom for climate change action. This partnership focuses on creating a structured scheme to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between academic diaspora members and Mexico. The specific areas of focus are climate change and circular economy education, leading to the development of a toolkit for citizen climate action.
Mexico	Online magazine "House of Mexico" ("Revista digital "Casa de México")	IME	Connect the Mexican diaspora through information about services, activities and actions
Mexico	Portal web e-sar	IME, Comisión Nacional del Sistema de Ahorro para el Retiro (CON SAR)	Carry out online procedures easily and securely
Mexico	Programa de Inmersión Cultural y Voluntariado ("Cultural Immersion and Volunteering Programme")	IME	Provide students of Mexican origin at universities and community colleges in the United States and Canada a cultural immersion experience in Mexico, fostering cultural ties
Mexico	Red Global MX ("Global Network MX")	IME	Brings together highly qualified Mexicans living abroad who are interested in promoting the development of our country, using digital resources
Mexico	Sin Fronteras ("Without borders")	IME, Instituto del Fondo Nacional de la Vivienda para los Trabajadores (INFONAVIT)	Allow Mexican nationals living in the United States to make making payments or amortizations for Infonavit loans through a branch of the Infonavit offices in Mexico
Moldova	"Integrating the migration and climate change perspective into the National Adaptation Plan 2 and the Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Agriculture" Project	IOM Moldova	Integrate the migration perspective into climate change policies and the climate change perspective into migration policies
Moldova	"Moldova – Making the Most of Migration" Programme	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (implementation partners: State Chancellery / Diaspora Relations Bureau; UNDP	Improve living standards for Moldovan people, benefitting from more inclusive, accountable, responsive, and evidence-based governance, as well as from increased participation of migrants / diaspora in their home country's sustainable development.

		Moldova; UNFPA (Moldova)	
Moldova	Diaspora Engagement Hub	Diaspora Relations Bureau within the State Chancellery	Support Moldovan citizens abroad in implementing their ideas and engaging the human and professional capital of the diaspora towards national and local socio-economic development
Moldova	Diaspora Home Succeeds (DAR 1+3)	Diaspora Relations Bureau within the State Chancellery	Harnessing diaspora investment potential for the development of their hometowns in various sectors, including energy efficiency and climate change
Moldova	DiasporaConnectPlatform	NGO Fortius	Serve as a 'LinkedIn for Moldovan Diaspora' (including around 1000 profiles) and to create a community of professionals and share knowledge related to various professional fields. Diaspora members can register in an online portal, create their profile to implement projects, organise trainings, exchange on the forum, look for partners and post job offers.
Moldova	eMoldovata Platform	Diaspora Relations Bureau within the State Chancellery, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, IOM Moldova	Promote engagement, information services, mobilization of expertise and transfer of skills as well as active participation in the development of the country of origin through an online communication platform
Morocco	[Not available]	IOM	Leverage diaspora knowledge to support the spread and implementation of agricultural practices for sustainable food production in resource scarce areas of the country
Pakistan	[Not available]	IOM UK, IOM Pakistan	Improve diaspora access to DTM data about needs and displacements in Pakistan and facilitate knowledge exchange among diaspora actors, humanitarian actors and other local actors
Pakistan	Promotion of Decent Work Opportunities for the Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Segments of Society	ILO (Government of Pakistan, Trade Unions Institute for Development Co-operation)	Promote job creation, social protection, and decent work by strengthening national capacities to eliminate exploitative labour practices, establishing a coordinated social protection system and engaging the Pakistani diaspora in Italy
Philippines	Bahay Matibay Project	IOM, LifeBank Foundation	Use diaspora remittances as a guarantor for microfinance loans through a collaborative diaspora financing model
Philippines	EUDiF capacity development action with the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development	Connect Filipino diaspora professionals in Europe with local authorities in Palawan, Philippines, focusing on knowledge transfer in three key areas: education for sustainable development, funding for climate adaptation, and project management for environmental projects

Portugal	National Program to Support Investment in Diaspora	Government of Portugal	Support Portuguese and Portuguese-speaking emigrants to invest or expand their economic activity in Portugal and national entrepreneurs who wish to internationalise their business through the diaspora
Portugal	Portugal for Ukraine	Government of Portugal	Combine in one place all the Portuguese State actions underway regarding the conflict in Ukraine, in terms of international action, sending humanitarian aid and the integration and hosting of displaced persons in Portugal
Portugal	Program of Support to Migrant Associations (PAAI)	The High Commission for Migration (ACM)	Support of projects and activities developed by immigrant associations to defend their own interests and promote intercultural exchanges
Romania	Loginro.com	N/A	Targets the IT-skilled Romanian diaspora
Romania	RePatriot	Romanian business leaders	Encourage the diaspora to start a business or invest in Romania by distributing job and investment opportunities and fostering networking through an app
Senegal	Agroecological Farming Collective Project in Diolofira Wolof Village	Association Nénétouti (Forum des Organisations de Solidarité internationale issues des Migrations, FORIM)	Establish an agroecological farming collective in Diolofira Wolof Village
Senegal	Programme d'Appui aux Initiatives de Solidarité pour le Développement, PAISD ("Support to diaspora initiatives for development")	French government	Promoting local, economic and social development and support productive investments from the Senegalese diaspora in France, Spain, Italy and Belgium
Somalia	Somali National Diaspora Policy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Develop the Somali National Diaspora Policy as a main tool for engaging the diaspora and enhancing their contributions
Somalia	SomaliAgriFood Fund	IFAD, Shuurako	Target the successful Somali matching their interest to invest with small and medium enterprises in agribusiness in Somalia on fishing, agriculture, food processing, packaging, cold storage facilities, and livestock
Sri Lanka and Ghana	EUDiF publication on diaspora-driven green partnerships	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Comdu.it and Zidicircle	Highlights the role of diaspora communities in driving green partnerships, connecting resources, and expertise from countries of residence to benefit countries of heritage, focusing on practices from Sri Lanka and Ghana
Sudan	[Not available]	IOM UK, IOM Sudan, Shabaka	Increase the understanding of the Sudanese diaspora in the UK to inform effective diaspora engagement in response to the current crisis and humanitarian programming in Sudan, and to support reconstruction and sustainable development

Sudan	Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit (SCCU)	Shabaka	Facilitate the coordination of resources and efforts among various groups and networks, including diaspora organizations, humanitarian aid agencies, local civil society organizations and government agencies.
Switzerland / Bosnia and Herzegovina	BiH Diaspora Platform	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation	Serve as a bridge-builder among the heterogeneous members of the BiH diaspora in Switzerland and between the two countries, facilitating partnerships, know-how transfer, and investments through a digital platform
Tunisia	PERSPECTIVES project	Swisscontact	Support Tunisia's efforts in managing youth professional mobility and diaspora engagement through a multi-stakeholder approach
Türkiye	[not available]	Government of Türkiye	Manage the humanitarian aid coming from the diaspora after the earthquake through coordination efforts, involving consulates and embassies worldwide
Uganda	Strengthening capacity to harness the positive effects of migration in Uganda ³⁴	FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Diaspora Department	Promote the role of migrants in the agrifood systems, empowering diaspora agripreneurs, and facilitating their investments and skills transfer, including the establishment of the Uganda Diaspora Agribusiness Network (UDAN) and the launch of a diaspora agribusiness award
United Kingdom	DEMAC – Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination	Danish Refugee Council (DRC) (AFFORD, Berghof Foundation)	Increase engagement, visibility, and recognition for diaspora organizations within the humanitarian system
United Kingdom	Return of the Icons programme	AFFORD	Ensure the eventual return of looted African artefacts to their countries of origin through conversations around and human remains held by UK museums and other cultural institutions, highlighting programmes for their preservation and promoting campaigns
United States	Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement in the United States	United States	President Biden announced the inaugural members of the President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement in the United States

³⁴ See also: [Boosting the contribution of the diaspora to agribusiness in Uganda \(fao.org\)](#)

Annex 2: Summary of the thematic workshop “Enhancing diaspora contributions to sustainable climate action. Practices, challenges and opportunities”

The thematic workshop was organized by the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) within the frame of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) France 2022-2023 Chair’s programme. It aimed to inform the discussions of GFMD Roundtable 3 on “Diasporas as actors of economic, social and cultural development”, focusing on how to unlock the full potential of diasporas to better contribute to sustainable climate action.

The workshop promoted the discussion and exchange of ideas to enhance exchange among a multiplicity of stakeholders to better understand the challenges and opportunities to create an enabling environment for diasporas to contribute to sustainable climate action; identify innovative practices to facilitate diaspora contributions to sustainable climate action in countries of origin; foster dialogue on solutions that unlock contributions of diasporas to sustainable climate action; and provide inputs for GFMD Roundtable 3 on diasporas as actors of economic, social and cultural development.

Three panellists (Brice Monnou from FORIM, Stella Opoku-Owusu from Afford and Aurelie Sgro from ICMPD) shared examples of existing initiatives related to diaspora engagement in climate action. FORIM’s “Generation Climate Programme” encourages young people to become active participants in the fight against climate change by converting organic waste into fuel briquettes, setting up recycling centres and reducing plastic waste in Benin. This new approach to waste management creates jobs, is socially beneficial and environmentally friendly, and raises awareness of climate change. In Ghana, Afford’s “Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities” -Project aims to enable diaspora investment in green businesses in Benin through a crowdlending platform, with a focus on safety and security. Diasporas can also foster climate education among civil society, as was done through an EUDIF-supported initiative in Mexico, or enhance local knowledge on climate adaptation, for example in Palawan. This was followed by in-depth brainstorming and discussions on the main challenges or barriers in effectively harnessing diaspora contributions for climate action and solutions that aimed to further concrete solutions to unlock the full potential of diasporas to better contribute to sustainable climate action.

The workshop showed the significant role that diasporas play in promoting sustainable climate action and supporting adaptation and mitigation efforts. The initiatives presented illustrate the diverse range of engagement opportunities for the diaspora, including green investment, knowledge transfer, and advocacy. The emphasis on research highlights the importance of data-driven approaches to diaspora engagement.

Simultaneously, it underscored the need for stakeholders to collaborate in fostering an environment that empowers diasporas to make substantial contributions. Along these lines, the discussions highlighted the importance of capacity development. On one hand, there is a need to enhance the understanding of climate change language and terminology among diaspora members. This also extends to creating spaces that facilitate connections, exchanges, collaboration and learning among diasporas. However, the discussions also revealed the need for capacity building among governments, particularly at the local level, to effectively utilize the contributions of diasporas in addressing the climate crisis.

Dedicated funding streams are urgently needed to support diaspora engagement in climate action, as targeted funding is currently lacking. National governments can play a crucial role in supporting local and diaspora-led climate action by providing funding and technical support. They can also develop enabling policies and regulations, create platforms for dialogue and collaboration, and facilitate access to resources and opportunities. To effectively address climate change, governments must collaborate with diaspora groups and other stakeholders, including those from the private sector.

Climate action may not rank among the top priorities for diasporas, who often grapple with other pressing concerns related to their home countries. In addition, a lack of understanding of climate change language and terminology can pose a barrier to effective communication and participation. To overcome these challenges, it is essential to reframe climate action within the context of issues that have historically resonated with diasporas, such as livelihoods and job creation. Highlighting existing contributions that align with climate action goals, even if not explicitly framed as such, can help diasporas recognize their potential impact. Moreover, adopting simpler and more accessible language is crucial for fostering understanding and engagement.

Furthermore, flexibility is paramount in tailoring climate action approaches to the diverse needs and priorities of diaspora communities. This adaptability ensures that initiatives resonate with the specific contexts and interests of diasporas, fostering their meaningful participation and enhancing the overall effectiveness of climate action efforts.

To promote the representation of women and gender-diverse individuals in leadership roles and engage diaspora youth as part of innovative solutions related to climate action, a specific focus needs to be put on women and youth in these initiatives and these groups need to be better represented.