

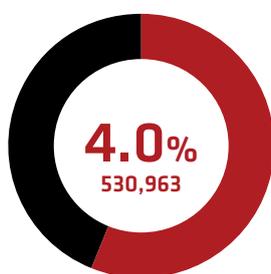


Diaspora engagement mapping GUINEA

Facts & figures

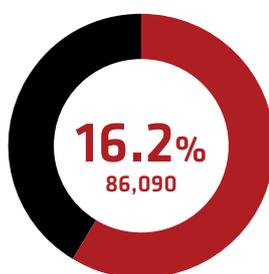
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 56.2%
♀ 43.8%

% of which in the EU



♂ 58.8%
♀ 41.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.3%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **33**



Top countries of destination

Côte d'Ivoire	166,489
Senegal	53,438
The Gambia	45,163
Mali	40,457
Sierra Leone	36,325



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad³:

At voting offices ('bureaux de vote')



Terminology: Guinea refers to its diaspora as 'Guineans abroad' ('Guinéens de l'étranger' or 'Guinéens de l'extérieur').

Guinea does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

However, the government is in the process of elaborating a National Migration Policy, while also working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to develop a strategy paper on diaspora engagement.⁴

1 *Code Civil de la République de Guinée*. 2019. Conakry: Assemblée Nationale de Guinée. <https://coursupreme.org.gn/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Code-civil-de-20192334.pdf>.

2 Ambassade de France à Conakry. 2013. "La France Finance Le Vote Des Guinéens De L'Étranger". <https://gn.ambafrance.org/La-France-finance-le-vote-des>.

3 International Organization for Migration. 2018. "Atelier Thématique". <https://www.facebook.com/OIMGuinee/posts/2198518580381593/>.

4 Key informant interview, International Organization for Migration (Guinea), 22 June 2020.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2011** ● **The Five-Year Socioeconomic Development Plan⁵** contains several references to the diaspora. The diaspora is considered an 'asset' in the plan's 'assets and opportunities' analysis. The plan foresees mobilising the diaspora to promote literacy and education, and investment in manufacturing. Furthermore the Plan of Priority Actions for 2011 mentions the preparation of a forum for Guineans abroad and the establishment of the High Council of Guineans Abroad (HCGE).
- 2017** ● **The National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) 2016-2020⁶** underlines the lack of mechanisms that encourage the transfer of diaspora resources. The PNDES also recognises the diaspora as one of the main funders of local development, especially with respect to basic community services and informal income-generating activities. The PNDES foresees the establishment of a diaspora resource mobilisation arrangement to channel remittances towards productive investments and notes the intention to develop a policy to manage Guineans abroad.
- 2017** ● **The Process for establishing a High Council of Guineans Abroad (HCGE)** was started by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad.⁷ It foresees the development of the HCGE into a quasi-governmental federative association.⁸ The HCGE is intended to represent the diaspora as a whole, bringing together national councils of Guineans abroad and serving as a conduit for government engagement.⁹ The HCGE was inaugurated at the Diaspora Forum in 2018.¹⁰

» Trends & achievements

Overall, Guinean authorities have developed relatively few policies or other initiatives to engage the diaspora. At the policy level, a National Migration Policy is still being developed but it is unclear what diaspora engagement measures will be included. Despite some references to the diaspora in the current and previous national development plans, there are no institutionalised mechanisms to facilitate their socio-economic involvement in Guinea.¹¹

Despite limited diaspora initiatives developed by the government, Guinea has worked with international partners to engage diaspora professionals in skills transfers through programmes like the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) and Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA).^{12,13} Furthermore, in 2010, a Minister for Guineans Abroad was appointed,¹⁴ although the diaspora engagement mandate was later subsumed into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad. In the past, the government has also developed a programme to encourage young overseas Guineans to gain work experience

5 Ministère du Plan. 2011. «Plan Quinquennal De Développement Socio-Économique (2011-2015)». Conakry: Ministère du Plan. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/guinea/docs/publications/demgov/plan-quinquennal-developpement-socio-economique-2011-2015.pdf>.

6 Ministère du Plan et de la Coopération Internationale. 2016. «Plan National De Développement Économique Et Social 2016-2020». Conakry: Ministère du Plan et de la Coopération Internationale. <https://pndeginee.org/images/documents/pndes/PNDES%20Volume%201.pdf>.

7 Fafaya Diallo, Alpha. 2017. «Haut Conseil De Guinéens De L'Étranger : « Les Pays Où Il Y A Plus De Mille Guinéens, Il Faudra Mettre Un Conseil De 19 À 21 Membres »». *Guinée Matin*, 2017. <https://guineematin.com/2017/12/20/haut-conseil-de-guineens-de-letranger-pays-y-a-plus-de-mille-guineens-faudra-mettre-conseil-de-19-a-21-membres/#:~:text=Haut%20Conseil%20de%20Guin%C3%A9ens%20de%20l'%C3%A9tranger%20%3A%20%C2%AB%20les%20pays,des%20guin%C3%A9ens%20de%20l'%C3%A9tranger>.

8 Bhoïe Bah, Mamadou. 2017. «Diaspora Guinéenne: Vers La Mise En Place Du Haut Conseil Des Guinéens De L'Étranger?». *Echos De Guinée*, 2017. <https://www.echosdeguinee.net/diaspora-guineenne-vers-la-mise-en-place-du-haut-conseil-des-guineens-de-letranger/>.

9 «Présentation Du Conseil». 2020. *Cge-France.Org*. Accessed June 19. <https://www.cge-france.org/#:~:text=Pr%C3%A9sentation%20du%20conseil,de%20gestion%20de%20la%20diaspora>.

10 Baldé, Alpha Assia, and Saidou Hady Diallo. 2018. «Haut Conseil Des Guinéens De L'Étranger : Kouyaté Djémory D'Allemagne Élu Président», 2018. <https://guineematin.com/2018/01/25/haut-conseil-guineens-de-letranger-kouyate-djemory-dallemagne-elu-president/>.

11 International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the International Organization for Migration. 2020. "A Survey On Migration Policies In West Africa". Vienna. https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/survey_west_africa_en.pdf.

12 «Les Guinéens De L'extérieur: Rentrer Au Pays?». 1989. *Politique Africaine* 36: 22-37. <http://www.politique-africaine.com/numeros/pdf/036022.pdf>.

13 International Organization for Migration. 2004. "Development Of Micro-Enterprises For Guinean Women Through The Provision Of Micro-Credits And Mobilization Of The Diaspora". Geneva: International Organization for Migration.

14 International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the International Organization for Migration. 2020. "A Survey On Migration Policies In West Africa". Vienna. https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/survey_west_africa_en.pdf.

in Guinea,¹⁵ and another to allow Guineans abroad to invest in property in Guinea.¹⁶

More recent engagement efforts have focused on establishing the High Council of Guineans Abroad (HCGE) to federate diaspora representations, although the establishment process has been slow – in part due to divisions between diaspora communities and the government.¹⁷ Nevertheless, in 2018 a first Guinean Diaspora Forum was held in Conakry, which saw high-level government engagement and the election of the HCGE's first president,¹⁸ while a Europe-Guinea Economic Forum was held in Brussels, which was attended by Europe-based councils of Guineans abroad.¹⁹ In 2019, the government launched a new website for the diaspora, as a means to share information, including on the activities of the diaspora and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad.²⁰ The government has also conducted a mission to meet the diaspora in Belgium and engaged in diaspora engagement 'study visits' to Mali and Rwanda.²¹

Obstacles



- **Institutional changes:** The minister responsible for diaspora affairs and the name of the department have changed several times over the years, which has arguably limited the government's ability to provide a true focal point to the diaspora and build long-term trust and relationships. Furthermore, the current Directorate General for Guineans Abroad has limited resources to develop its own initiatives.
- **Divergence of government and diaspora interests:** These divisions have contributed to the slow process of federating diaspora associations under the HCGE. For instance, in the Republic of the Congo, the diaspora and the local Guinean Consulate reportedly disagreed about the composition of the national-level Council of Guineans²² – illustrative of disagreements between diaspora and the government that delayed the HCGE's establishment.
- **Political opposition among the diaspora:** While strong opposition from the Guinean diaspora dates back to the political exiles of the Sékou Touré era, in recent years diaspora communities have been vocal in opposing the current president's moves to change the constitution, as well as the violence that followed the March 2020 elections.²³ Such opposition contributes to mistrust between the government and diaspora, constraining engagement opportunities.

15 Diallo, Boubacar. 2015. «Guinée : Comment Intégrer La Diaspora Dans Le Développement Du Pays ?». *Africaguinee.Com*, 2015. <https://www.africaguinee.com/articles/2015/04/25/guinee-comment-integrer-la-diaspora-dans-le-developpement-du-pays>.

16 Tounkara, Ahmed. 2015. «Guinée : Le Ministre Bantama Sow Met En Place Un Projet Immobilier En Faveur De La Diaspora». *Africaguinee.Com*, 2015. <https://www.africaguinee.com/articles/2015/05/28/guinee-le-ministre-bantama-sow-met-en-place-un-projet-immobilier-en-faveur-de-la>.

17 Fafaya Diallo, Alpha. 2017. «Haut Conseil De Guinéens De L'Étranger : « Les Pays Où Il Y A Plus De Mille Guinéens, Il Faudra Mettre Un Conseil De 19 À 21 Membres »». *Guinée Matin*, 2017. <https://guineematin.com/2017/12/20/haut-conseil-de-guineens-de-letranger-pays-y-a-plus-de-mille-guineens-faudra-mettre-conseil-de-19-a-21->

18 Baldé, Alpha Assia, and Saidou Hady Diallo. 2018. «Haut Conseil Des Guinéens De L'Étranger : Kouyaté Djémory D'Allemagne Élu Président», 2018. <https://guineematin.com/2018/01/25/haut-conseil-guineens-de-letranger-kouyate-djemory-dallemagne-elu-president/>.

19 "Impressions". 2020. Cga-Ev. Accessed June 19. <https://www.cga-ev.org/projet-haut-conseil-des-guin%C3%A9ens-de-l-%C3%A9tranger/>.

20 Camara, Nantady. 2019. «Conakry : Le Site Internet De La Diaspora Guinéenne Lancé». *Guinée Actuelle*, 2019. <http://guineeactuelle.com/conakry-le-site-internet-de-la-diaspora-guineenne-lance>.

21 Key informant interview, International Organization for Migration (Guinea), 22 June 2020.

22 Fafaya Diallo, Alpha. 2017. «Haut Conseil De Guinéens De L'Étranger : « Les Pays Où Il Y A Plus De Mille Guinéens, Il Faudra Mettre Un Conseil De 19 À 21 Membres »». *Guinée Matin*, 2017. <https://guineematin.com/2017/12/20/haut-conseil-de-guineens-de-letranger-pays-y-a-plus-de-mille-guineens-faudra-mettre-conseil-de-19-a-21->

23 Faivre, Agnès. 2020. «Violences En Guinée : La Diaspora Réagit». *Le Point*, 2020. https://www.lepoint.fr/afrique/violences-en-guinee-la-diaspora-reagit-31-03-2020-2369435_3826.php.

- **Smaller size of higher-income diaspora:** Relative to other West African diasporas, Guineans abroad are more likely to reside in the sub-region, with no high-income countries making the top five countries of destination. As such, the investment potential of the diaspora may be perceived as less significant.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SYNERGUI - Online business creation services

The government's Private Investment Promotion Agency (APIP) has established an online e-government platform – SYNERGUI – allowing Guineans, including the diaspora, to access businesses creation processes online.²⁴ In 2019, APIP announced that the Guinean Embassy in Belgium was able to use the platform to allow diaspora entrepreneurs to create businesses, noting that the service would soon be available in Guinean embassies in France, Germany and the United States.²⁵

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, RETURN & REINTEGRATION

BIG Diaspora

In 2020, Coweb Digital Finance, a financial technology ('fintech') company in Guinea and the Islamic Bank of Guinea developed this digital platform to 'solve the problems' of the diaspora, including by enabling the opening of personal and business bank accounts in Guinean francs and euros, rapid bank transfers, creation of enterprises in Guinea, access to property investments, and the relocation of 'high-potential' Guineans abroad back to Guinea.

NETWORKS

Diaspora Forum 2018

In 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans abroad, in partnership with APIP and the International Organization for Migration, held its first Diaspora Forum in Conakry. It brought together diaspora communities from around the world and saw high-level government engagement, with the Prime Minister among the keynote speakers.²⁶

24 «Système National D'enregistrement Des Entreprises En République De Guinée». 2020. *Synergui.Apipguinee.Com*. Accessed June 19. <http://synergui.apipguinee.com/>.

25 Agence de promotion des Investissements Privés. 2019. «Création D'Entreprise Individuelle Pour Les Guinéens Vivant À L'Étranger À Travers La Plateforme SYNERGUI». <https://apip.gov.gn/Actualite/39?fbclid=IwAR1vXDzZt5jOp1pSXDx1PCOLGZCZZOUHrJKX2mKQFRjQ42dyY3mhYiqmSPU>.

26 France Alumni Guinée. 2018. «1er Forum De La Diaspora Guinéenne À Conakry». <https://www.francealumni.fr/fr/poste/guinee/news/1er-forum-de-la-diaspora-guineenne-a-conakry-4019>.

Annex:

List of actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU CIDO)

Guinea is a member of the African Union and nominates a diaspora focal point to represent Guinea as part of the AU CIDO Continental Meetings.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad (MAEGE)

The MAEGE is responsible for diaspora engagement at the policy level. The MAEGE's diaspora responsibilities come under the Directorate General of Guineans Abroad (DGGE). The High Council of Guineans Abroad was also established under the authority of the MAEGE and the MAEGE hosts the Guinean diaspora website.

- At sub-ministerial level

Private Investment Promotion Agency (APIP)

Established under the tutelage of the Presidency, APIP promotes private investment and implements the government's investment policy. Aside from developing the SYNERGUI initiative to simplify business creation formalities, APIP has also directly marketed investment opportunities to the Guinean diaspora (notably through investment open days 'Journée Porte Ouverte' in several countries).²⁷ Moreover, APIP has a diaspora support service to provide advice, information and administrative support to Guineans abroad investing in Guinea.²⁸

Diaspora organisations in Europe



The Guinean government has attempted to restructure and federate Guinean diaspora associations in recent years into national-level Councils of Guineans which in turn participate in the HCGE. Several Councils of Guineans have been set up, notably in France (the largest), Germany and the UK. A number of other associations have also been set up by the diaspora, particularly in France which hosts associations with diverse objectives and memberships.

27 Ministère en charge des investissements et des partenariats publics privés. 2017. «APIP-Guinée À La Rencontre De La Diaspora Guinéenne De France». <https://www.invest.gov.gn/article/apip-guinee-a-la-rencontre-de-la-diaspora-guineenne-de-france#>.

28 «Guinéens Vivant À L'étranger». 2020. Apip.Gov.Gn. Accessed June 19. <https://apip.gov.gn/Guin%C3%A9ens-vivant-a-l-%C3%A-9tranger>.

Association des cadres et techniciens d'origine guinéenne en France (ACTOG) France 1986

☑ Development activities

ACTOG mobilises diaspora teachers, health professionals, legal professionals, agronomists, veterinarians, engineers and other technical professionals to support projects in Guinea. ACTOG's activities have been supported in the past by the TOKTEN programme, universities in France and other NGOs.

Association des jeunes Guinéens de France (AJGF) France 1997

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

The AJGF aims to strengthen mutual support among young Guineans in France, connect young Guineans in France and Guinea, stimulate diaspora interest in Guinea, and establish partnerships with enterprises to facilitate professional opportunities for young Guineans.

Association des Ressortissants Guinéens et Sympathisants du Canton de Vaud Switzerland

☑ Integration activities

The association brings together Guineans residing in the canton of Vaud through cultural, sporting and social activities.²⁹

Cercle des Etudiants Guinéens en Belgique (CEG-B) Belgium

☑ Integration activities

The CEG-B aims to strengthen solidarity and mutual support among Guinean students in Belgium.

Conseil des Guinéens d'Allemagne Germany 2017

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

Working closely with the Guinean Embassy, the Guinean Council in Germany aims to promote coordination of diaspora activities, interface between the Guinean community in Germany and the Guinean government, and support the engagement of the diaspora in Guinea's development.

²⁹ «Association Des Ressortissants Guinéens Et Sympathisants Du Canton De Vaud». 2020. *Site Officiel De La Ville De Lausanne*. Accessed June 19. <https://www.lausanne.ch/lausanne/vie-pratique/integration/associations-et-migration/associations-de-migrants/association-guineens.html>.

Conseil des Guinéens de France France

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The Council of Guineans in France, a member of the HCGE, brings together France-based diaspora associations to serve as a platform for consultation, provide advice to the government, and act as a monitoring mechanism for the Guinean government's diaspora engagement. It aims to advocate for the diaspora in France and engage the diaspora in the development of Guinea.

Coordination des Associations Guinéennes de France (CAGF) France

- ✔ Development activities

CAGF brings together several Guinean associations in France. It also provides several services, including supporting associational projects in the framework of the Agence Française de Développement's Support Programme to Immigrant International Solidarity Organisations' Projects (PRA/OSIM). It serves as a liaison for its member associations, builds capacities of member associations, and advocates for the Guinean diaspora in France.

Fédération des Associations Guinéennes des Hauts-de-France (FAG-HDF) France 2018

- ✔ Development activities

FAG-HDF aims to bring together different competencies to develop projects together.

Haut Conseil des Guinéens au UK UK

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The Guinean Council in the UK is an elected bureau set up to liaise between the Guinean government and Guineans living in the UK.

Solidarité Suisse-Guinée Switzerland 2011

- ✔ Development activities

Solidarité Suisse-Guinée is an association composed of Swiss and Guinean supporters who share mutual support, sustainable development and knowledge sharing as common values. The association aims to fight poverty, promote sustainable development, and strengthen democracy and human rights in Guinea.

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