



# Diaspora engagement mapping

## ALGERIA

### Facts & figures

Terminology: Algeria refers to its diaspora as 'Algerians (residing) abroad' (Arabic: الجزائريون المقيمون بالخارج *al-jaza'iryyoun al-muqayyimoun bi-l-kharj*), as well as 'the national community established abroad' (French, *communauté nationale établie à l'étranger*).

#### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>2</sup>



#### Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.78%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **1,867**

#### Voting from abroad<sup>3</sup>:

At embassies/consulates



#### Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2023).

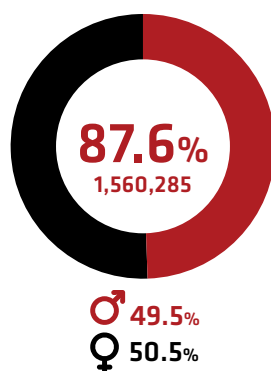
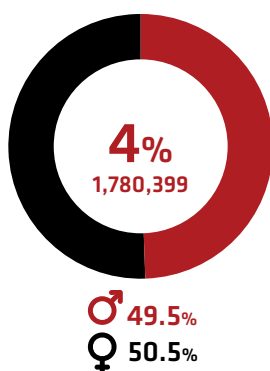
#### Emigration



% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



#### Top countries of destination



France	1,405,235
Canada	83,122
Spain	57,140
Israel	53,589
Belgium	30,393

1 The 1970 Code of Algerian Nationality and amendments sets out issues of citizenship for Algerians, and confers the right to dual nationality. It defines Algerians as born to either an Algerian father or an Algerian mother. In 2005, Algeria recognised that women have the right to pass on their nationality to children born of a foreign father. Full text (French and Arabic) available at: [https://droit.mjjustice.dz/code\\_nation\\_alger.pdf](https://droit.mjjustice.dz/code_nation_alger.pdf)

2 Since 1997, Algerian citizens abroad have been given the right to vote in Algerian elections. The right to vote of Algerian citizens residing abroad was further elaborated on in Article 11 of the Electoral Law 2007. Full text (French and Arabic) available at: [https://www.joradp.dz/J02000/2012/001/F\\_Pag.htm](https://www.joradp.dz/J02000/2012/001/F_Pag.htm)

3 Ibid.

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework<sup>4</sup>



- 2012** ● **Electoral Law Reform of 12 January 2012** reserves 8 of the 462 seats in Algeria's National Peoples' Assembly to represent Algerian citizens residing abroad. The reform also reaffirmed expatriate voting rights.<sup>5</sup>
- 2015** ● **Action Plan of the Government on the Implementation of the Programme of the President of the Republic (2015-2020)** addresses, *inter alia*, issues relevant to the Algerian diaspora including: fostering cultural links with Algerians abroad and the contributions of the diaspora to national development, in particular for diaspora professionals trained abroad. It also includes better protection for Algerian diaspora returnees.<sup>6</sup> Chapter 7 focuses on Algerian nationals established abroad, noting that: "The national community abroad has always constituted a major concern for the Algerian state [...] activities will be undertaken to improve the conditions of citizens in host countries, strengthen consular and judicial protection, supporting Algerian associative movement, and establish pathways in particular to national skills abroad."<sup>7</sup>
- 2020** ● **Action Plan of the Government on the Implementation of the Programme of the President of the Republic** adopted in February 2020<sup>8</sup>, includes a reference to "initiating incentives for diaspora investment capital and updating double taxation treaties" under a section on "Knowledge economy and accelerated digital transition", including facilitation of access to appropriate sources of finance access for start-ups, in particular by setting up a dedicated fund. It also encourages venture capital investments.<sup>9</sup>
- 2021** ● **Action Plan of the Government on the Implementation of the Programme of the President of the Republic** adopted in 2021 stipulates that means and mechanisms will be put in place to mobilise all national skills abroad and encourage their active participation in the development of Algeria. Building on the previous plans, the 2021 plan defines diaspora engagement activities at multiple levels, with the ultimate objectives to better serve, communicate with and capitalise on the diaspora. These levels include the political, associative, institutional, organisational, economic, financial, scientific, technological, cultural, social and bureaucratic and consular levels. The plan also stipulates to adopt of a new diaspora engagement strategy.<sup>10</sup>
- 2022** ● **Investment law N°22-18** redefines and clarifies the legal and institutional framework of investing in Algeria while adopting principles of freedom to invest, transparency and equality. Based on this law, diaspora has now several incentives to invest in Algeria such as the ability to transfer their money and profits abroad and to obtain construction permits.<sup>11</sup>

### » Trends

Algeria has moved significantly from being a newly independent state that was distrustful of its diaspora, to one that is actively seeking to recruit diaspora returnees for national development. Labour migration in the 1970s and 1980s, primarily to Europe as well as other MENA states, brought a development paradox – an increase in remittance inflows, but also an increase in 'brain drain' as skilled migrants left the country.

4 For a fuller discussion of legal and policy frameworks relating to migration and diaspora in Algeria, please see Fargues, P (ed) (2013), EU NEIGHBOURHOOD MIGRATION REPORT 2013 pp9-24, available at: [https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/27394/MPC\\_EU\\_NeighbourhoodMigrationReport2013\\_web.pdf?sequence=5](https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/27394/MPC_EU_NeighbourhoodMigrationReport2013_web.pdf?sequence=5)

5 Ibid.

6 Full text (French) available at: <https://www.cabri-sbo.org/en/documents/governments-action-plan-for-the-president-of-the-republics-implementation-programme>

7 Ibid.

8 <http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/33006-executive-approves-action-plan-to-implement-president-s-programme>. Full text in French available at: [http://www.apn.dz/fr/images/actualite\\_speciale\\_2/Plan-action-gouvernement-fr-6-fev-2020.pdf](http://www.apn.dz/fr/images/actualite_speciale_2/Plan-action-gouvernement-fr-6-fev-2020.pdf)

9 [http://www.apn.dz/fr/images/actualite\\_speciale\\_2/Plan-action-gouvernement-fr-6-fev-2020.pdf](http://www.apn.dz/fr/images/actualite_speciale_2/Plan-action-gouvernement-fr-6-fev-2020.pdf)

10 <https://amb-algerie.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Pland-action-du-gouvernement-pour-la-mise-en-oeuvre-du-programme-du-president-de-la-republique-2021-fr.pdf>

11 <https://observalgerie.com/2022/06/14/economie/code-investissement-diaspora-algerienne-pourra-transferer-benefices-etranger/http://algerian-embassy.be/code-dinvestissement-2022/>

The focus of Algeria's diaspora engagement in recent years has been primarily on skills transfer and recruitment of high-skilled diaspora professionals to fill skills gaps in the country.<sup>12</sup> However, it is unclear what progress has been made by the government to deliver against the objectives targeting the national community abroad set out in Chapter 7 of the Action Plan of the Government on the Implementation of the Programme of the President of the Republic for the years 2015 to 2020.

Algeria is also promoting diaspora enterprise and return such as through the PACEIM scheme in partnership with the European Bank, or the more recent ANSEJ diaspora entrepreneur support scheme (see Spotlight section for both).<sup>13</sup> Since the mid-2000s when the security situation improved, there has been a flow of Algerian diaspora entrepreneurs from Europe or North America returning to the country seeking to take advantage of economic opportunities.<sup>14</sup>

There is also an interest in the diaspora as being well placed to unlock investment finance, especially in sectors such as agriculture, tourism, industry, new technologies and energy transition.<sup>15</sup>

Algerian diaspora organisations, mostly based in France, have been active for several years in implementing co-development projects in Algeria, albeit on a small-scale.

## Obstacles



- **Legacy of distrust:** There is a legacy of distrust between the government and its diaspora, stemming both from Algeria's difficult independence from France and from the Algerian civil war in the 1990s. These tensions have been heightened, as evidenced by a report documenting state-led transnational suppression targeting certain groups of Algerian abroad.<sup>16</sup>
- **Lack of strategic focus on diaspora engagement:** Irregular migration from Sub-Saharan Africa from the 1990s onwards has turned Algeria into a country of transit for migrants seeking to reach Europe. The priority of the government has therefore been on migration and border management, rather than diaspora engagement.
- **Lack of fiscal incentives:** In comparison with other African states, diaspora remittances to Algeria make up only 1.1% of GDP, so there is not the same fiscal incentive for the government to prioritise mobilisation of diaspora financial capital. Government-led diaspora initiatives have arguably prioritised brain circulation over other forms of diaspora engagement.

12 Abdelkader Djeflat 2012, 'Les compétences algériennes à l'étranger: entre tabous et fausses promesses', *Hommes et migrations* 1300 | 2012 : Nouveaux modèles migratoires en Méditerranée <https://journals.openedition.org/hommesmigrations/917>

13 <http://www.animaweb.org/en/paceim>

14 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/french-algerians-return-parents-native-land-151006110146341.html>

15 <https://www.pwc.fr/fr/assets/files/pdf/2019/02/pwc-the-report-algeria-2018.pdf>

16 <https://cihrs.org/a-web-of-intimidation-new-report-reveals-algerian-governments-global-crackdown-on-dissent/?lang=en>

## SPOTLIGHT: Effective practices

Explore 400+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



### Support for Diaspora Enterprise

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Programme d'Aide à la Création d'Entreprises Innovantes en Méditerranée (PACEIM), delivered in partnership with the European Investment Bank, ran from 2011-2014, and aimed to accompany and support the creation of 100 innovative businesses in the South and East of the Mediterranean. In addition, since 2017, young Algerian diasporans (18-35 years) have been eligible to apply for start-up credit for micro- and SMEs in Algeria at the National Youth Employment Support Agency.<sup>17</sup> Incentives include access to unsecured loans; access to additional loans if necessary for triangular financing; and tax exemptions during business start-up and the first three years of operation.

### Summer Universities for Algerians Abroad

#### EDUCATION + NETWORKING

Algerian diplomatic missions have organised a number of events targeting Algerian diaspora professionals in Europe, the US and Canada, and regularly hold 'summer university' courses and events in Algeria involving guest lecturers and experts from the Algerian diaspora.<sup>18</sup> The aim of the scheme is to promote skills transfer and build the connections of young Algerians in the diaspora with their country of origin.

### Affordable Housing in Algeria for the Algerian community established abroad

#### HOUSING

The Algerian Ministry of Habitation, Urbanism, and Towns established the 'Logements publics promotionnels' (LPP) affordable housing scheme in 2014 to support young Algerians with means to acquire affordable property and get on the property ladder. The scheme was extended to cover Algerians abroad in 2018.<sup>19</sup> Applications can be submitted through the [L'Entreprise Nationale de Promotion Immobilière \(ENPI\)](#) website. Successful applicants pay a monthly subscription. The LPP scheme is also open to Algerian diaspora youth (35 or under) who own no property and who have received no additional state aid. The criteria for minimum salaries have been waived for Algerians abroad.

### Support for Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Algeria

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP + WOMEN

The Association Migration Solidarité et Échanges pour le Développement (AMSED) works to improve the economic situation of women in rural communities in Tizi-Ouzou in the Kabylie region of Algeria through diaspora skills transfer to develop agricultural and apiculture skills, and provide them with the tools required to develop and maintain their livelihoods. It encourages ecological projects, in particular recycling of clothing and beekeeping, in order to preserve the environment.

### Voluntary affiliation to the national pension system

#### SOCIAL PROTECTION

A newly approved scheme (2022) allows Algerian diaspora to voluntarily access retirement pension rights and to benefit from social security coverage and health insurance benefits in Algeria. This decision reflects a commitment of the President of the Republic towards the members of the diaspora. This concern has been raised many times by members of the national community abroad.

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.algerian-consulate.org.uk/images/COMMUNIQUE\\_AUX\\_JEUNES\\_DE\\_LA\\_COMMUNAUTE\\_NATIONALE\\_A\\_LETRANGER\\_.pdf](http://www.algerian-consulate.org.uk/images/COMMUNIQUE_AUX_JEUNES_DE_LA_COMMUNAUTE_NATIONALE_A_LETRANGER_.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.konsulat-algerien.de/Competences%20Nationales%20etranger.htm>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/27281-algerian-community-abroad-gets-access-to-housing-pro-gramme-in-2018>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)

### Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

#### African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU CIDO)

Algeria is a member of the African Union and nominates a diaspora focal point to represent Algeria as part of the African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU CIDO) Continental Meetings.

#### Arab League

Algeria is also a member of the Arab League, the Arab-Maghreb Union, and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

#### Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

The MFA oversees Algeria's foreign relations, and its relations with the Algerian diaspora. Developing links with the Algerian diaspora has been a concern for the Algerian government for decades, and several government bodies have been created to respond to this, including the Delegate Ministry in Charge of the National Community Established Abroad established in 2009 and dissolved in 2019.

#### **Secretary of State for the National Community and National Skills Abroad**

This position has responsibility for diaspora engagement and diaspora skills transfer. The role was created in the Cabinet Office in 2020.<sup>20</sup>

- At sub-ministerial level

#### **Consultative Council for the National Community Abroad**

The Consultative Council for the National Community Abroad was set up in 2010 and works to "establish bridges between Algerians and create a sustainable partnership between Algerian competences inside and outside the country."<sup>21</sup> The Consultative Council is responsible for the permanent improvement of services for nationals abroad, particularly in the context of consular protection, but also for promoting the participation of national expertise established abroad in Algeria's development in scientific, economic and other fields.<sup>22</sup>

20 <https://emb-algeria.org/about-algeria/>

21 <https://amb-algerie.fr/la-fonction-coordination-consulaire/> ; <https://amb-algerie.fr/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ccne.pdf>

22 <https://www.djazairress.com/fr/lemaghreb/22601>

## 2020 The Algerian Agency on International Cooperation for Solidarity and Development

The Algerian Agency on International Cooperation for Solidarity and Development, established by Presidential Decree No. 42-20, plays a role in advancing the interests of the Algerian diaspora. This agency holds key responsibilities, including active participation in the formulation and execution of the national policy for international cooperation across various domains such as the economic, social, cultural, religious, educational, scientific, and technical sectors. Additionally, the agency collaborates closely with diplomatic entities and ministries to optimise foreign technical and financial assistance, supporting national development initiatives. Notably, it coordinates the implementation of policies related to the training of foreigners in Algeria and facilitates the training of Algerians abroad in consultation with relevant ministries. The agency is dedicated to promoting the employment of national talents overseas within the framework of international cooperation and actively fosters relationships with the Algerian scientific community and business professionals residing abroad, thereby enhancing diaspora engagement and contribution to national development efforts.<sup>23</sup>

### Diaspora organisations in Europe

#### A.I.D.A - Association Internationale de la Diaspora Algérienne France

##### Development activities

AIDA works to connect Algerian diaspora associations and diaspora professionals worldwide for networking, training, and employment opportunities.

#### AMSED (Association Migration Solidarité et Echanges pour le Développement) France

##### Development activities

AMSED delivers co-development and overseas volunteering opportunities for people in France and Algeria.

#### Association des Anciens Appelés d'Algérie et leurs Amis Contre la Guerre (A4CG) France

##### Development activities

A4CG is a secular Algerian diaspora association, independent of any political, philosophical or religious institution. It carries out co-development projects in France and Algeria, including local development, women's empowerment, and education programmes.

#### Conseil Mondial de la Diaspora Algérienne (CMDA) 2024

CMDA, also known in English as the World Council of Algerian Diaspora, was established in March 2024 by Karim Zeribi, a former member of the European Parliament of Algerian origin. CMDA aims to create a global network of Algerian expatriates and mobilise their resources and skills for development by utilising a digital platform to streamline expert and funding pools.

Read more about diaspora organisations in [“Starting guide: What is a diaspora organisation”](#)



<sup>23</sup> In arabic only: [https://migrationpolicy.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/policies/2020\\_Algeria\\_Gazette\\_12\\_Feb.pdf](https://migrationpolicy.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/policies/2020_Algeria_Gazette_12_Feb.pdf)  
Reference in English: <https://migrationpolicy.unescwa.org/node/3641>

## **Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations** France

### **Development activities**

FORIM is a leading African diaspora network based in France. Although not primarily an Algerian diaspora group, its members include many Algerian organisations in France, and they have funded and co-delivered a range of educational, entrepreneurship, WASH, and other development projects in Algeria over the last decade.

## **Touiza Solidarité** France 2012

### **Development activities**

The Touiza Solidarité network is made up of the Touiza Solidarité association in Marseille and Touiza Solidarité Ile-de-France in Paris. The network serves France's Algerian and Moroccan diaspora communities and carry out co-development projects in Algeria, Morocco, and France.

Its projects in Algeria include a solidarity fund; community development projects in the Wilaya of Tizi-Ouzou; and the CODESOL project<sup>24</sup>, supporting rural artisan skills through training young people and connecting craftsmen and women to local markets.

24 <http://new.cofundy.com/projects/a9b410d8-e819-419f-82c8-0999ff93e7ba/codesol-artisanat-kabyle>

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