



Diaspora engagement mapping DOMINICA

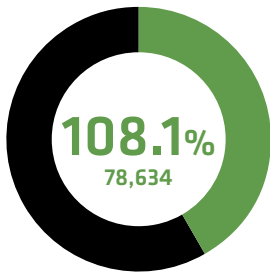
Facts & figures

Emigration

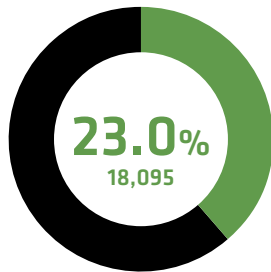
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 41.8%
♀ 58.2%



♂ 38.7%
♀ 61.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 9.5%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 49



Top countries of destination

U.S.	34,965 (44%)
U.K.	9,272 (12%)
France	7,093 (9%)
U.S. Virgin Islands	5,510 (7%)
Antigua & Barbados	4,934 (6%)



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



Voting from abroad



Diaspora Policy 2010



Established by the Ministry of Trade, Employment, Industry and Diaspora, the Diaspora Policy focuses on the Dominican diaspora and recognises its ability to contribute meaningfully to the country's social and economic development.

The Diaspora Policy focuses on citizenship rights, skills retention, skills transfer, financial and economic incentives, investment opportunities, trade promotion, tourism promotion, and cultural exchanges. In relation to each of these topics, the policy commits the government to a range of activities such as working with its diaspora to develop financial instruments through which they may contribute to funding projects at national and community levels; establishing a database of skilled non-resident Dominicans; and encouraging information flow from the diaspora to the government to guide policy and strategies. The Diaspora Policy also established an annual Dominican Diaspora Day in November in order to meet with visiting overseas nationals to monitor the implementation of the Diaspora Policy.³

1 Dominica Citizenship Act, Part II, <http://www.dominica.gov.dm/laws/chapters/chap1-10.pdf>

2 https://www.dominicagardens.com/uploads/9/2/0/3/92034718/dominica_diaspora_policy.pdf

3 https://www.dominicagardens.com/uploads/9/2/0/3/92034718/dominica_diaspora_policy.pdf

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



2019 ● The National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS): Dominica 2030

The NRDS was created through the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and with the participation of various ministries, departments, and agencies. It sets the governmental priorities to reach sustainable economic growth, generate employment, reduce poverty and increase social protection, and improve the overall quality of life of its citizens. The NRDS recognises that the diaspora can play an important role through knowledge transfer to Dominica's citizens. A priority area is to focus on social planning strategies to encourage the return of the diaspora through strategies which allow them to contribute to the country's workforce at a later age. The NRDS recognizes the need to engage the diaspora through remittance flows, knowledge transfers, application of skills and investments for a resilient and prosperous nation.⁴

» Trends

There is an evident understanding that the diaspora should be engaged for local development as seen through the Diaspora Policy and the current National Resilience Development Strategy. The government's view of the diaspora's impact is expansive and recognises the need to direct efforts towards creating knowledge transfer activities and incentivising the diaspora to invest in the country and promote tourism.

In October 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations, announced that the government was in an advanced stage of putting together a National Diaspora Policy. It is not clear whether this is a update of the 2010 Diaspora Policy or a new policy document. Additionally, based on this work, the government created a Diaspora Advisory Committee made up of members of key Dominican diaspora organisations with the aim of creating a communication bridge between the country of residence and Dominica.⁵

Obstacles



- **Inactivity:** While there is a specific diaspora policy, it has not been updated since 2010. Furthermore, the potential of diaspora involvement is limited by the few projects and activities executed by the government.
- **Resources:** Recent natural disasters have reduced the resources available to engage with the diaspora and have redirected them to respond to immediate needs. The government needs to find options to dedicate time and resources to identify and create relationships with the diaspora.
- **Institutional reach:** Embassies and consulates are key spaces for government representatives to meet with and engage the diaspora. However, there are currently only six embassies and one consulate in operation.⁶ This may limit the diaspora's access to its representatives abroad and therefore the potential to establish relationships and potentially work together for the country's development.

4 <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/sites/default/files/plan/files/Dominica%202030The%20National%20Resilience%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>

5 <https://dominicanewsonline.com/news/diaspora/national-diaspora-policy-in-advanced-stage-of-development-says-darroux/>

6 <https://www.dominicaembassy.com/>

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Diaspora Connect - 2017

Following Hurricane Maria, the High Commission for The Commonwealth of Dominica relaunched its website to include a section called “Diaspora Connect” in order to identify and strengthen its diaspora. Diaspora Connect shares information related to Dominican associations and events relevant to the diaspora. This section includes a volunteer registration page that allows Dominicans to enter their information so they can be contacted when their assistance is required. The High Commission plans on creating a skills database to identify individuals within specific professions.⁷

HUMANITARIAN
AID

Dominica Diaspora Connection (DDC) - 2018

This initiative was established by the Discover Dominica Authorities (DDA) to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the country’s independence and recognise the contribution that Dominicans living abroad have made to their home country. The DDC is an open membership group for Dominicans in the diaspora. Members receive special benefits and information on cultural and national development, airline and accommodation specials, recognition and rewards for contribution to the national economy, and assistance in travel for members’ groups visiting from their country of residence. To launch this initiative, the DDA conducted the Distinguished Dominicans activity featuring members of the diaspora community in social media channels. In addition, the ‘First Forty’ awards rewarded the first forty diaspora members to arrive to Dominica in November with commemorative gifts and the ‘Bring Home a Friend Campaign’ awarded a special prize to individuals who sent or brought the most friends to Dominica between October 2018 and March 2019.⁸

TOURISM

Diaspora Dialogue 2022

In October 2022, the Government of Dominica hosted the annual Cabinet of Ministers meeting with the Dominican diaspora. This event was held in person in Dominica, and gave selected members of the Dominican diaspora the opportunity to interact directly with government officials, such as the Prime Minister of Dominica.

NETWORKING

⁷ <https://www.dominicahighcommission.co.uk/single-post/2017/11/29/Dominica-High-Commission-launches-new-website-and-Social-media-feeds>

⁸ <https://dominicafestivals.com/dominica-diaspora-connection/>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent countries which Dominica joined in 1978. The member countries have agreed to promote development, democracy, and peace. Through coordination and cooperation, the Commonwealth group attempts to mitigate threats to peace and security, human rights, and democracy.⁹

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

The Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Business and Export Development

The Ministry's mission is to formulate and implement policies to advance and encourage Dominica's trade, industry, domestic and foreign investment, private sector relations, consumer protection and the full engagement of the diaspora for greater growth and development. This Ministry has the responsibility to manage diaspora relations.¹⁰

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations

This entity is responsible for formulating and implementing the foreign policies of the government. It executes all diplomatic and consular relations with foreign governments and represents Dominica in international organisations. Its mission is to increase social and economic development through foreign policies.¹¹

- At sub-ministerial level

The Discover Dominica Authorities (DDA)

The DDA is a statutory body responsible for the implementation of tourism promotion and marketing activities. The DDA has developed specific promotion activities focused on the diaspora such as the "Dominica Diaspora Connection."¹²

9 <https://thecommonwealth.org/about-us/charter>

10 http://dominica.gov.dm/services/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=137&Itemid=298

11 <http://www.dominica.gov.dm/ministries/foreign-affairs-international-business-and-diaspora-relations>

12 [http://dhta.org/talking-tourism/2018/10/25/discover-dominica-authority-launch-diaspora-initiatives/;](http://dhta.org/talking-tourism/2018/10/25/discover-dominica-authority-launch-diaspora-initiatives/)
<https://discoverdominica.com/en>

Diaspora organisations in Europe



The UK and France are the second and third largest destination for Dominicans living abroad with a combined population of Dominicans totalling 16,365. The relatively small population of Dominicans living abroad can explain the limited number of diaspora organisations in Europe.

Dominica First 1995 UK <https://www.dominicafirst.com/about>

Development activities

This group collaborates, plans and facilitates rapid disaster relief response between member associations and groups. This group is composed of seven charities and other groups.¹³

Dominican UK Association (DUKA) 1976 UK

Development activities

This charity's key focus areas include poverty relief, health care provision, education, and the youth primarily in Dominica and the United Kingdom.¹⁴

Grand Bay UK Dominica Community Alliance 1992 UK

Development activities

This NGO is focused on providing economic and educational assistance for Grand Bay in the south of Dominica. It relies primarily on the support of Dominicans for fundraising activities for organisations in Dominica such as the Grand Bay's primary and secondary schools, Saint Jerome's home for the elderly, and the Grand Bay Public Library.¹⁵

Slough Dominican Association - SDA 2018 UK

Development activities

This non-profit organisation is composed of a community of Dominicans supporting efforts to rebuild the country following Hurricane Maria in 2018. Their aim is to provide long-term support to schools, medical centres, and infirmaries through fundraising activities.¹⁶

¹³ <https://www.dominicafirst.com/about>

¹⁴ <https://www.duka.org.uk/index.php/about-us>

¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/GrandBayUKDominica>

¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/pg/sloughdominican/about/>

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March 2020

Updated September 2022

Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union

