



Diaspora engagement mapping INDONESIA

Facts & figures

Terminology: In general, the Indonesian diaspora is referred to as “Orang Indonesia perantauan” or “Diaspora Indonesia”. In the official documents, the Indonesian government uses the term “Masyarakat Indonesia di Luar Negeri” to refer to the diaspora. While there is no formally recognised English translation for the term, the official English sources and media normally switch between “Indonesian Overseas Community”, “Indonesian Society Overseas” and “Indonesian Communities Abroad”.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.06%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **14,467**

Voting from abroad:
By post



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).

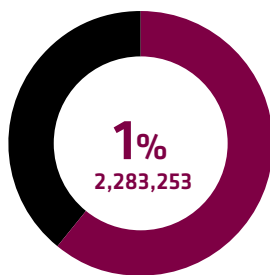
Emigration



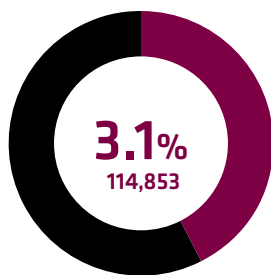
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 61%
♀ 39%



♂ 41%
♀ 59%

Top countries of destination



Malaysia	1,761,502
United Arab Emirates	298,351
China, Taiwan Province of China	292,830
Bangladesh	205,947
Singapore	180,437

Indonesia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ Law Number 12/2016 on citizenship

² <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/some-overseas-indonesia-voters-face-problems-with-casting-their-ballots>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2016** ● **Law Number 12/2016³** governs citizenship and allows for the children of Indonesian nationals married to foreign nationals to remain as a dual citizen until the age of 18, at which age they have to choose whether to remain an Indonesian citizen or give up the citizenship.
- 2016** ● **Government Regulation Number 26/2016⁴** enables former Indonesian nationals living abroad to apply for multiple-entry five-year visas.
- 2017** ● **Presidential Regulation Number 76/2017 on ‘Facilities for Indonesian Communities Abroad’⁵** put into law the ‘Diaspora Card’/Kartu Masyarakat Indonesian di Luar Negeri (KMILN/Card for Overseas Indonesian Communities). The card is given to overseas Indonesians who voluntarily register themselves with the foreign ministry either in Jakarta or through their embassies. It enables Indonesians abroad to apply for fast-tracked immigration processing during entry and exit from Indonesia, as well as provides diaspora members who are still Indonesian citizens with the ability to open Indonesian bank accounts, own property and take part in business ventures.
- 2018** ● **The Law on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (No. 17/2018)⁶** is enforced to provide end-to-end protection to overseas Indonesian workers via integrated welfare and protection services throughout the migration cycle, skill improvement programmes for workers and capacity-building for the relevant public agencies.
- 2023** ● **Minister of Law and Human Rights Regulation No. 22 of 2023⁷** officially enforced the ‘Golden Visa Policy’ to attract high-net-worth individuals, business leaders, global talents, and the Indonesian diaspora who can contribute to the country’s economic development. The golden visa scheme provides the investors, including the diaspora, with streamlined procedures for establishing and investing in businesses in Indonesia and also offers an extended residency period to live and work in the country for between five and ten years. After a successful pilot process with nearly 300 permits issued and USD 123 million attracted, the visa issuance was officially launched in 2024.
- 2023** ▼
2023 ● **The 2025 - 2045 National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) for Golden Indonesia⁸** maps out Indonesia’s 20-year roadmap to achieve high-income status by 2045 through ensuring state stability, fostering sustainable development and building quality human capital. Under this roadmap, the Indonesian diaspora is strategically positioned as key agents of change in three crucial sectors, including arts and culture, and sports, and research and innovation, particularly that of emerging technologies like renewable energy and artificial intelligence.



Trends

The direct government appeal to Indonesians abroad to either return home or contribute to Indonesia’s national development through financial or other means is in line with the message

3 Unable to access the actual document, further information in this article: ‘Harnessing the potential of the Indonesian Diaspora’ by Charlotte Setijadi https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321145845_Trends_in_Southeast_Asia_HARNESSING_THE_POTENTIAL_OF_THE_INDONESIAN_DIASPORA_CHARLOTTE_SETIJADI.

4 Unable to access the actual document, further information in this article: ‘Harnessing the potential of the Indonesian Diaspora’ by Charlotte Setijadi https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321145845_Trends_in_Southeast_Asia_HARNESSING_THE_POTENTIAL_OF_THE_INDONESIAN_DIASPORA_CHARLOTTE_SETIJADI.

5 Presidential Regulation 76/2017 on facilities for Indonesian communities overseas: <https://iocs.kemlu.go.id/assets/downloads/PER-PRES-76-THN-2017-KMILN.pdf>

6 See translated policy document: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Law-of-Indonesia-No-18-of-2017-on-Protection-of-Indonesian-Migrant-Workers.pdf>

7 Unable to access official document, further information in this article: <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesia-launches-golden-visa-to-drive-investment/>

8 See further information in: https://www.itd.or.th/en/itd-data-center/67_42en-2/; <https://en.antaranews.com/news/323095/indonesia-eyes-diaspora-talents-for-innovation-boost>

that the government has been projecting in recent times.⁹ In the past, governments have made similar appeals to overseas Indonesians to return home, but President Jokowi has amplified the rhetoric. The current government has sought to bring more foreign investment into key sectors, such as manufacturing, tourism, fisheries and infrastructure through diaspora bonds. It also seeks to increase remittances by asking the Indonesian diaspora to act as economic go-betweens in trade deals between Indonesia and host countries as well reducing the cost of remittances. The diaspora is lobbying for legislative changes that would allow them to maintain both material and emotional attachments with Indonesia, such as land ownership and business interests. In response, the government has promised to review the dual citizenship law and has proposed other initiatives to strengthen ties between overseas Indonesians and the 'homeland'.

In 2024, there has been gradual progress regarding the reform of Indonesian citizenship policy. Starting from March 2024, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights was tasked to conduct a feasibility study on the citizenship status of Indonesian diaspora. A comparative study on citizenship regimes in other countries was also undertaken. These studies are used as a basis for new citizenship policies, which are currently under the drafting process as reported by the Minister of Law and Human Rights in February 2025.



Achievements

The diaspora card will allow the Indonesian government to keep more accurate data on its diaspora abroad, which will be useful for business and networking in the future. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi, stated that the data will be used to improve government services for the diaspora, which currently consists of only two full-time staff within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.¹⁰ The Ministry's Expert Staff for Diaspora Affairs, Niniek Kun Nasyatie, has added that the card will also be a useful form of identification and marker of diplomatic protection for Indonesian domestic and foreign workers whose passports are often held by their foreign employers. However, the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN) raised concerns over unclear eligibility criteria for diasporas and bureaucratic delays that made KMILN implementation less effective than what was being proposed.¹¹

Obstacles



- **Low level of government support:** There is currently no special government branch to liaise with the millions of diaspora subjects living abroad, and there are presently only two dedicated officers for diaspora matters in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.¹²
- **Lack of societal support:** The recent increase in nationalist rhetoric surrounding land and business ownership might cause some political pushback on the idea of land/business ownership by non-citizen members of the diaspora. Indonesia has traditionally held a deep distrust of foreigners and citizens living abroad. The idea of non-resident Indonesians receiving privileges through the diaspora card does not sit well with more conservative Indonesian politicians and public.
- **Lack of representation:** the lobby group Indonesian Diaspora Network has been lobbying for the Indonesian diaspora to have its own member of parliament representing a separate overseas electoral district in the national parliament. IDN members have complained that members of parliament have not properly looked after the concerns of Indonesians abroad.

9 Indonesian President Joko Widodo's first speech since being re-elected on 14 July, 2019 <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/president-joko-widodo-delivers-first-speech-after-re-election-sets-out-vision-for>

10 <https://www.embassyofindonesia.org/index.php/2015/08/12/foreign-ministry-to-issue-indonesian-diaspora-card/>.

11 See further information in: <https://www.abc.net.au/indonesian/2020-09-08/kartu-diaspora-indonesia-belum-dirasakan-manfaatnya/12637570> and <https://theperantau.com/perantau-indonesian-diaspora/>

12 https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/struktur_organisasi/100/special-advisor-to-the-minister-on-socio-cultural-affairs-and-indonesian-diaspora-empowerment.

- **Poor implementation:** There is a lack of clarity on details on special privileges for diaspora citizens who are citizens of foreign countries. The regulation states that benefits to diaspora Indonesians are to be administered by the relevant ministries and government institutions. There are many legislative, administrative and jurisdiction hurdles to overcome before the full benefits of the diaspora card are enjoyed.
- **Enabling environment:** Indonesian professionals and associations who are keen to contribute to Indonesia's development lack the necessary information and guidance to do so. Professionals such as medical doctors face obstacles collaborating with Indonesians due to differences in work ethics and formal practices.¹³ There is also a lack of acceptance of foreign qualifications and difficulties in obtaining formal recognition of diplomas and certificates.¹⁴

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

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



Diaspora Connect

NETWORKS

Founded in 2018, Diaspora Connect is a platform to connect Indonesians abroad with Indonesia. Its current focus is to find high-quality talent to contribute to any professional sector in Indonesia through an app. It also provides support to the returning diaspora, such as relevant job openings, networking through the diaspora community by holding events and offering options such as investments and bonds for the Indonesian diaspora to contribute to their country.

Congress of Indonesian Diaspora

NETWORKS

The congress, a project of the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN), is one of the largest gatherings of the Indonesian diaspora. It seeks to raise the visibility of the Indonesian diaspora and its potential to contribute to Indonesia. The 2017 Congress was attended by around 6,000 overseas Indonesians and had former US President Obama as the guest of honour. The 2019 congress had the theme of 'Empowering Indonesia's Human Capital'. The latest congress, held in August 2023, had the theme of "Empowering Indonesia Diaspora in the Strategy for National Branding towards Indonesia 2045".

Diaspora Forum¹⁵

NETWORKS

The Indonesian Embassy in Berlin organises an annual Diaspora Forum. The forum also promotes a regular dialogue between the diaspora and the Indonesian Government.

¹³ Indonesians in Germany – their engagement in the development of Indonesia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH <https://www.cimonline.de/static/media/giz2016-en-indonesia-diaspora.pdf>.

¹⁴ Indonesians in Germany – their engagement in the development of Indonesia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH <https://www.cimonline.de/static/media/giz2016-en-indonesia-diaspora.pdf>.

¹⁵ Indonesians in Germany – their engagement in the development of Indonesia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Diaspora Loan programme 2021

Initiated by PT Bank Negara Indonesia (Persero) Tbk, a state-owned bank, to provide financial support for Indonesia-related businesses run by the diaspora. It provides loans to help them expand their business to more locations overseas. By September 2022, the programme has collaborated with 29 diaspora customers across various sectors, and has helped launch 14 restaurants, 11 trading/services, 3 minimarkets and 1 transportation service.

FINANCE

Diaspora Bonds 2020

The Ministry of Finance introduced the issuance of Diaspora Bonds, a new type of bond exclusively offered to Indonesian diaspora abroad including migrant workers. The main requirement for purchasing Diaspora Bonds is to have an Indonesian overseas card. To prepare for the initiative, the Ministry of Finance distributed surveys to collect insights from the diaspora in Europe.

FINANCE

Second-home visa 2022

Indonesia announced second home visas, which would allow foreigners or former Indonesian citizens to stay in the country between five to ten years. The visa was introduced to attract wealthy foreigners to Indonesia, make positive contributions to the Indonesian economy, and encourage growth of investments in the country.

INVESTMENT

Annex: List of Actors

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

Diaspora related institutions

- At regional level

Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM)

CIM supports the transfer of migrants' social remittances such as their knowledge and skills to their country of origin. It aims to encourage migrants' role as mediators, bridge builders and knowledge bearers as well as strengthen the capacity of partners and institutions in the country of origin.

- National institutions
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry issues the diaspora cards/KMILN and runs the website¹⁶ for Indonesian diaspora to apply for the card.

Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (MoECRT)

Formerly known as the Ministry of Research and Technology, MoECRT has the task of implementing affairs in the field of research, science and technology, including coordinating and funding relevant programmes. It attracts scientists and educational staff from the diaspora.

- At Sub-Ministerial Level

Municipalities of Jakarta and Bandung¹⁷

Both municipalities try to attract diaspora for know-how transfer in urban planning.

¹⁶ <https://iocs.kemlu.go.id/>

¹⁷ Indonesians in Germany – their engagement in the development of Indonesia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH <https://www.cimonline.de/static/media/giz2016-en-indonesia-diaspora.pdf>

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Association of Indonesian Professionals for Science, Technology and Enterprises (AIPSE) Germany 2004

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



☑ Development activities

Registered in Mainz, but with members across Germany, AIPSE aims to contribute to development in Indonesia by stimulating economic relations and technical cooperation between Indonesia and Germany and by using the potential of Indonesian professionals living in Germany. AIPSE regularly facilitates Indonesian trade delegations and tries to act as a bridge between Indonesian and German partners, including Indonesian provinces and regions and German federal states. AIPSE also aims to establish a database with profiles of Indonesian professionals in Germany.

Batak Diaspora Germany

☑ Development activities

Based in Frankfurt, the organisation initiates and implements projects aimed to improve livelihoods around Lake Toba in Northern Sumatra, where the Batak people come from.

Bildung und Gesundheit fut Indonesien e.V. (BUGI) Germany 2014

☑ Development activities

BUGI was founded by a group of young professionals and students based in Hannover. The group consists of about 18 active members and it aims to contribute to the improvement of the health and education sectors in Indonesia. BUGI's members include professionals in biomedicine, quality management and veterinary medicine. BUGI organises awareness raising events and workshops and facilitates exchanges for Indonesian medical students.

Diaspora Indonesia in Bremen e.V. 2016

Established as an umbrella organisation for all Bremen-based Indonesian diaspora associations, diaspora individuals and German citizens who are interested in Indonesia. The aims of the organisation are to strengthen ties between different nationalities and cultures, and to support development co-operation between Germany and Indonesia.

Franco-Indonesian Association Pasar Malam France 2001

Founded in 2001, the association brings together Indonesians and all those interested in Indonesian culture. Since 2005, it has published a biannual review *Le Banian*, which reports on intellectual and artistic life in Indonesia and publishes an extract from unpublished Indonesian works in France. Since 2010, Pasar Malam puts together the *Collection du Banian*, which publishes works by Indonesian writers, poets, essayists, etc. Through these activities, it seeks to build Indonesia's popularity.

German Indonesian Medical Society (DIGM) Germany 1996

Development activities

Founded by Indonesian and German medical doctors and the former German Ambassador to Jakarta, the organisation aims to stimulate relations and cooperation on healthcare between the two countries. DIGM provides emergency care during disasters, including the tsunami-hit areas of North Sumatra in 2005. It also facilitates exchanges, training and cooperation projects between Indonesian and German medical faculties, such as between the University of Muhammadiyah in Yogyakarta and the University of Munster. DIGM has about 300 members, including both Indonesians and Germans, working in all medical fields. It has a chapter in Jakarta.

German-Indonesian Specialist and Academician Association (IASI) Germany 1972

Development activities

Based in Hamburg, IASI's goals are to stimulate bilateral economic relations between Indonesia and Germany, build bridges between the two societies and to help improve the quality of human resources in Indonesia for the benefit of Indonesia's development. IASI has over 300 members and has carried out numerous activities and projects. It organises seminars, workshops and conferences on a wide range of topics related to Indonesia and German-Indonesian linkages, including technology and resource utilisation, economic cooperation with Indonesia and bureaucracy reform. IASI is also involved in the preparation and organisation of the annual Indonesian Diaspora Forum and works with Indonesian ministries.

House of Indonesia Germany 2015

Development activities

Established in Bremen by an Indonesian diaspora entrepreneur with the support of the Indonesian Ministry of Trade, the aim of the House of Indonesia is to promote Indonesian products and support the local Indonesian economy, to help to improve the capacity of Indonesian businesses and to strengthen economic relations between Indonesia and Germany.

Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN) France 2012

Development activities

This is an umbrella organization for all to Indonesia related organization with the aim to advance the multilateral relations between Indonesia and the countries of residence of the Indonesian diaspora. IDN organises social-cultural, sporting and lifestyle activities, as well as dialogue and cooperation with organisations and people who can contribute to Indonesia.

IDN Netherlands 2012

Development activities

The organisation is part of the worldwide Indonesian Diaspora Network. It strives to protect the interests of the Indonesian diaspora residing in the Netherlands, especially in the field of immigration, including through special visa arrangements and dual nationality. It also aims to transfer their knowledge, skills and capital to Indonesia through collaborative projects in fields such as medical care, urban development, education, research and development, business and joint ventures.

Indonesia Integrated Europe 2012

☑ Development activities

This group of Indonesian executives and professionals in Europe established with the support of the Indonesian embassy in Brussels. It aims to make available the skills and talents of the diaspora for Indonesia's development and cooperates, among others, with the Ministry for Research and Technology and the Indonesian State Agency for Aerospace. Its members include Indonesians who live and work in Germany.

Persatuan Masyarakat Indonesia Frankfurt (PERMIF)/ Germany

☑ Development activities

This organisation links 17 Indonesian organisations in Frankfurt and the surrounding area and has over 300 members. The founder of PERMIF is involved in several affiliated organisations, such as the German Indonesian Society in the Rhine-Main area, the Indonesian Club Germany and the Indonesian Muslim community in Frankfurt.

Sekar Jagat Indonesia (SJI) France

SJI focuses on Indonesian dance and performances. It was initially led by the Balinese diaspora in Paris, but gradually increased its members to various tribes and ethnicities across Indonesia. SJI seeks to introduce the traditions, art and culture of Indonesia to French society; it is often invited to perform in various cities in France, Netherlands and Belgium and has around 55 members from various backgrounds. Some members are native Indonesians or descendants of native Indonesians and some are Europeans who cherish Indonesian culture.

Young Indonesia Professionals' Association in the UK (YIPA UK) 2015

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

UKYIPA aims to foster business, investment and social links between the United Kingdom and Indonesia through a community of future leaders. Its activities include mentoring programmes, information and knowledge sharing and events for students and professionals with private sector businesses in the UK and Indonesia, as well as Indonesian government bodies. They say that "at the core of everything we do is the desire to contribute to our home country, despite being based abroad".

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