



# Diaspora engagement mapping SENEGAL

## Facts & figures

Terminology: Senegal refers to its diaspora as 'Senegalese abroad' (French: *sénégalais de l'extérieur*). The term 'diaspora' is also used in some official documents, for example in relation to promoting investment

### 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: **9.47%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **2,935**

### Voting from abroad:

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).

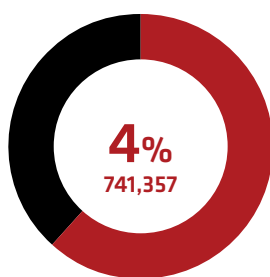
### Emigration



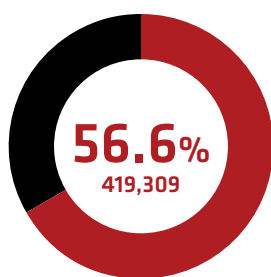
% of emigrants in  
total population



% of which  
in the EU



♂ 63.1%  
♀ 36.9%



♂ 66.4%  
♀ 33.6%

### Top countries of destination



France	176,632
Gambia	145,276
Italy	127,427
Spain	101,026
Gabon	33,087

<sup>1</sup> See Loi n° 61-70 du 7 mars 1961, Code de la nationalité sénégalaise: <http://www.servicepublic.gouv.sn/assets/textes/T-nationalite-senegalaise.pdf> ; as well as the 2013 amendments: <http://www.jo.gouv.sn/spip.php?article9794> . While dual citizenship is technically not recognised, Senegalese citizens do not automatically lose their citizenship if they acquire citizenship in another state

<sup>2</sup> English version of the full text of the 2001 Constitution (amended in 2016): [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Senegal\\_2016.pdf?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Senegal_2016.pdf?lang=en) See also <https://aceproject.org/ace-ar/topics/va/country-case-studies/senegal-a-significant-external-electorate>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



**1975** ● **Law 75-33<sup>4</sup>** states that the rights of Senegalese migrant workers in France are protected through a Convention on social security issues signed between Senegal and France on 5 March 1960 (renegotiated 29 March 1974 and through the law 75-33 of 3 March 1974).

**2006** ● **Sector Policy for Overseas Senegalese.** Sector Policy for Overseas Senegalese (*Lettre de politique sectorielle des Sénégalais de l'Extérieur*) was published in 2006 by the Ministry of Senegalese Abroad and revised in 2011. Its objectives include: ensuring good management of migration flows; ensuring social, health, and legal protection of Senegalese residing abroad; promotion of Senegalese abroad; and reinforcing institutional support structures.

**2012** ● **National Strategy for Economic and Social Development 2013–2017<sup>5</sup>** includes a number of priorities to stimulate economic cooperation, enable regional integration, and facilitate the participation of Senegalese abroad. These include developing a proactive economic diplomacy; deepening regional integration, removing impediments to the free movement of persons; and involvement of Senegalese abroad in national development efforts, by popularizing diaspora investment opportunities; and improving migration data management on the diaspora, as well as promoting the transfer of diaspora knowledge and know-how.<sup>6</sup>

**2014** ● **Plan Sénégal Emergent 2014-2035 (PSE)<sup>7</sup>** establishes the President of Senegal's development priorities.<sup>8</sup> The plan includes the aim to boost economic cooperation, regional integration and the participation of Senegalese abroad, with the objective of “developing a proactive economic diplomacy” to better attract diaspora investments, tourism, and technology transfer.<sup>9,10</sup> Based on the significant progress made and the sectoral needs identified by local players, the Government has drawn up a regional Priority Investment Program (PIP) (three-year period 2023-2025) in line with the Emerging Senegalese Plan (PSE). The PIP is structured around the sixteen orientations and decisions adopted by the Head of State, including support for the socio-economic and cultural initiatives of the region's Diaspora.<sup>11</sup>

**2018** ● **Draft National Migration Policy of Senegal (Politique nationale de migration du Sénégal, PNMS)<sup>12</sup>** comprises four strategic areas, the first of which - migration, migration management, economy and employment - includes objectives to enhance the potential contribution of the Senegalese diaspora to national development efforts. This document has yet to be formally adopted by the Senegalese government, and has been criticised for focussing on border management.<sup>13</sup> Since its technical validation, there has been little information in regards to the adoption of the PNMS.

4 [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p\\_lang=fr&p\\_isn=15480&p\\_count=99377](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=fr&p_isn=15480&p_count=99377)

5 Full text in English available at: <https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/SEN%202012%20National%20Strategy%20for%20Economic%20and%20Social%20Development%20%28NSESD%29%202013-2017.pdf>

6 Ibid.

7 Full text in French available at: [https://www.sec.gouv.sn/sites/default/files/Plan%20Senegal%20Emergent\\_0.pdf](https://www.sec.gouv.sn/sites/default/files/Plan%20Senegal%20Emergent_0.pdf)

8 'Straddling Two Worlds: Highly Skilled Migrants from Senegambia and Switzerland', Migration Policy Institute, March 2017, available at: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/straddling-two-worlds-highly-skilled-migrants-senegambia-and-switzerland>

9 Specifically, it seeks to achieve this through disseminating productive investment opportunities, supporting diaspora initiatives, ensuring protection and respect for their rights, and improving the management of data on migration.

10 The associated PSE Priority Action Plan (PAP) 2019-2023 notes that to achieve PSE's objectives, the support of various stakeholders will be required, including 'the dynamic contributions of the diaspora', although it gives no detail about how these will be harnessed. For more information, see : [https://www.sentresor.org/app/uploads/pap2\\_pse.pdf](https://www.sentresor.org/app/uploads/pap2_pse.pdf)

11 Conseil des ministres du 28 décembre 2022 | Gouvernement du Sénégal (sec.gouv.sn)

12 République du Sénégal, MEFP, DGPPE, DDCH (2018), Politique Nationale de Migration du Sénégal

13 <http://www.emedia.sn/QUAND-LA-PRIMATURE-DISPARAIT-AVEC-LE-DOCUMENT-DE-POLITIQUE-MIGRATOIRE.html>

- **Senegal Vision 2050**<sup>14</sup> outlines the national transformation agenda of President Faye's government, guided by the ambition for "a sovereign, just, and prosperous nation, rooted in strong values". Vision 2050 is organised around four strategic axes: (1) A competitive economy; (2) Human capital and social equity; (3) Good governance and African engagement; (4) Sustainable planning and development. As the 15th region of Senegal, the diaspora is considered an active participant and beneficiary of the vision, as all Senegalese; it is specifically referenced in axis 2 for the potential to mobilise diaspora for the national transformation agenda, and under axis 4 as a source of investment.

## » Trends

Senegal's approach to diaspora engagement and management can be characterised as following three broad approaches.<sup>15</sup> Firstly, the establishment of systems and institutions for the management and the monitoring of Senegalese abroad, the foremost of which is the Directorate for Senegalese Abroad (formerly the Direction Générale des Sénégalais de l'Extérieur (see Annex)), which has proved a regional leader in this regard.<sup>16</sup> The second is to actively seek to engage the diaspora in Senegal's economic development, especially through investment opportunities (see Spotlight). Lastly, it seeks to attract return migration from highly skilled Senegalese diaspora professionals.

Though diaspora has long held an important place in Senegalese policy, the 2024 change of government brought new impetus. This is most notable in the strategic decision to position the Direction des Sénégalais de l'Extérieur (DSE) as the coordinating body on diaspora engagement, to consolidate evidence and action in the field of diaspora engagement and act as the operational arm of the Secretary of State for Senegalese Abroad.



## Achievements

Senegal has a proud record of enabling diaspora civic and political participation. In addition to diaspora overseas voting, the National Assembly dedicates 15 of its 165 parliamentary seats for Senegalese abroad.<sup>17</sup>

Senegal has sought to target its diaspora populations in Africa and the Global North through its policy frameworks. The country has developed an impressive array of structures to support diaspora engagement, and has had some successes in harnessing diaspora contributions at local level.

## Obstacles



- **Institutional capacities:** The fact that migration is a domain shared across many different ministries and committees can be a source of confusion and inefficiency. Effective implementation of Senegal's diaspora engagement policies is hindered by frequent personnel changes and the fluctuating human, financial and logistical resources allocated to diaspora engagement.
- **Access to official information** on diaspora policies is often quite limited. The DGSE's page on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs currently lacks detailed information.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.economie.gouv.sn/sites/default/files/2025-04/snd.pdf>


<sup>15</sup> MTM i-Map Volet Migration et Développement – SENEGAL

<sup>16</sup> Personal communication, ICMPD April 2020

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/389303/politique/senegal-quinze-deputes-de-plus-diaspora/>. In order for these new MPs to be elected, eight new constituencies have been created: two in Europe, one in the Americas, one in Asia and the Middle East, and four others in North, West, Central and Southern Africa. See <http://www.assemblee-nationale.sn/deputes-de-l-hemicycle-1-all.xml> for more information

- **Perceptions of approach to the diaspora:** The perception amongst many in the diaspora is that the government's approach is one-way, designed to attract their funds and skills, rather than treat them as partners in national development. Although Senegal is one of the few countries to have established diaspora deputies in the National Assembly, progress is still needed to develop and implement policies that enable greater and balanced engagement across a wide spectrum of activities.

## SPOTLIGHT: Effective practices

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

### Programme of Support for Solidarity Initiatives for Development – PAISD

#### HUMAN CAPITAL + DATA

PAISD is a mechanism aiming to mobilise and support solidarity actions and economic initiatives from the Senegalese diaspora in France, Belgium, Spain and Italy for the benefit of Senegal.

The programme provides funding of up to 80% for local development activities carried out by diaspora associations in Senegal. It also conducts studies related to investment opportunities, and mobilises highly qualified expertise and youth from the diaspora for short-term missions in Senegal in education, agribusiness, health, environment, communications and tourism.

#### INVESTMENT

### Fund in Support of the Investment of Senegalese Abroad (FAISE)

FAISE was created in June 2008 and aims to promote investments by Senegalese abroad who have financial resources and wish to invest in Senegal's national development. FAISE operates two funds: the Fund for Senegalese Abroad (FSE) to finance diaspora projects in Senegal, and the Fund for Women in the Diaspora (FFD), which promotes women entrepreneurship in host countries.

#### PROPERTY & BONDS

### The Housing Bank of Senegal (Banque de l'Habitat du Sénégal, BHS) Diaspora Bond

BHS has promoted real estate investments for the diaspora through several actions, principally concerning collection, monetary transfers and access to credit.<sup>18</sup> It has also launched a Diaspora Bond with the aim of raising 20 Billion XOF.<sup>19</sup>

#### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

### IOM-UNDP Global Programme “Harnessing Migration for Sustainable Development” (Phase III) 2023

The overall aim of the programme is to harness the benefits of development and maximize the positive effects of migration for host and home communities, migrants and their families. The programme hopes to ensure the strategic inclusion of diaspora and migrant associations, as well as the private sector, in the elaboration and implementation of action plans and local development initiatives.

<sup>18</sup> [https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/33213/INTERACT\\_RR\\_2014%2016\\_.pdf;sequence=1](https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/33213/INTERACT_RR_2014%2016_.pdf;sequence=1)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/778363/economie/senegal-la-banque-de-lhabitat-lance-ses-diaspora-bonds/> . The operation offers a remuneration of 6.25% per annum over a period of 5 years. The price of the bond is 10 000 XOF. The repayment of the invested capital will be gradual with a 2-year grace period and the annual interest of 6.25% will be paid semi-annually

## 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)

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

#### Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Senegal is a member of the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and of the WAEMU (Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union) and of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS).

#### Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)

Senegal is fully integrated into all the key organisations of the international community. It is a member of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

#### Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad (*Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et des Sénégalais de l'Extérieur, MAESE*)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad's mission is to prepare and implement the foreign policies of Senegal defined by the President of the Republic, and the management and support of Senegalese living abroad.<sup>20</sup>

- At sub-ministerial level

#### Directorate for Senegalese Abroad (*Direction des Sénégalais de l'Extérieur*)

The DSE is the technical branch of the Secretary of State and the Minister of African Integration and Foreign Affairs. The role of the DSE is to address the concerns of Senegalese living abroad in both economic and social dimensions. It provides consular assistance through embassies and consulates, promotes diaspora investment, and supports the economic and social reintegration of returning migrants.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.sec.gouv.sn/d%C3%A9cret-n%C2%B0-2019-806-du-17-avril-2019-relatif-aux-attributions-du-secr%C3%A9taire-d'état-aupr%C3%A8s-du-ministre>

## **Programme of Support for Solidarity Initiatives for Development – PAISD**

PAISD falls under DAPSE and is a mechanism aiming to mobilise and support solidarity actions and economic initiatives from the Senegalese diaspora in France, Belgium, Spain and Italy for the benefit of Senegal (see Spotlight section for more detail).

## **Fund in Support of the Investment of Senegalese Abroad (FAISE)**

FAISE, created in June 2008, aims to promote productive investments by Senegalese abroad who have financial resources and wish to develop projects in Senegal (see Spotlight section for more detail)

## **High Council of Senegalese Abroad**

An advisory body supporting the DAPSE's work, the High Council of Senegalese Abroad is responsible for initiating, coordinating and implementing government policies aimed at ensuring the well-being of Senegalese abroad and represents diaspora associations around the world.

## **National Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Major Projects (*L'Agence Nationale chargée de la Promotion de l'Investissement et des Grands Travaux, APIX*)**

Founded in 2000, APIX is an agency responsible for promoting domestic and foreign investment and facilitating the implementation of major infrastructure projects in the country. It works closely with businesses and investors – including diaspora investors – to support the realisation of investment projects and to encourage Senegal's economic development.

## **Diaspora organisations in Europe**

### **Association pour le Développement par l'Innovation Sociale au Sénégal (ADISS) France**

#### **Development activities**

ADISS encourages the creation of high-impact enterprises in Senegal, by supporting the design of projects and the fundraising. It aims to create economic actions within the framework of Social Innovation through a collaborative platform.

### **La Coordinadora de les Associacions Senegaleses de Catalunya (CASC) Barcelona**

#### **Development activities**

CASC's mission is to be a channel for communication and management for formal and informal Senegalese organisations in order to strengthen their participation in policies and interventions within the framework of development cooperation with Senegal. It runs a range of development projects in Senegal. CASC also works to encourage the individual and collective promotion of Senegalese residents in Catalonia and facilitate their social inclusion.

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



## DIANA ry

### ☑ Development activities

DIANA ry is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation aimed at mobilising expertise of African academics, researchers and scientists in the diaspora and related resources.

## La Fédération des Sénégalais de la Diaspora (FSD)

### ☑ Development activities

FSD is a social platform for bringing together Senegalese in the diaspora to scale-up and share economic and social capacities, work to defend migrants' rights, and facilitate exchanges between the diaspora and the authorities of the host countries and those of Senegal.

FSD provides training tools for improved social and economic integration of migrants in host countries or upon their return to Senegal and also works to facilitate access of migrants and families to platforms for pooling and optimisation of insurance, investment and savings funds.

## Sunugal Italy

### ☑ Development activities

Sunugal is a socio-cultural association created on the initiative of a group of foreign citizens, mostly Senegalese and Italian, with the aim of promoting exchange initiatives between the two countries. It acts as a liaison network between immigrants in Italy and families in Senegal. Sunugal's activities can be grouped by country of intervention:

- **Italy:** dissemination of information on the Global South and migration to the wider public; support of the immigrant population;
- **Senegal:** promoting exchange initiatives between countries in the South and Global North; supporting the socio-economic development of the areas of origin of immigrants in Italy.

Written by: **AFFORD**  
 Edited by: **EUDiF**  
 April 2020  
 Updated August 2025



Funded by  
the European Union

