

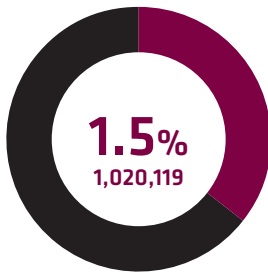


# Diaspora engagement mapping THAILAND

## Facts & figures

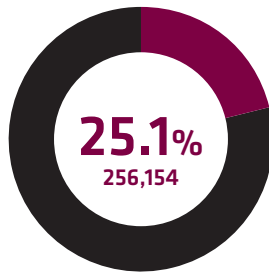
### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 35.6%  
♀ 64.4%

% of which in the EU



♂ 21.2%  
♀ 78.8%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.4%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **7,038**



### Top countries of destination

U.S.	289,346
Australia	80,831
Germany	70,280
Japan	49,967
Sweden	43,741



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



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

by post   
at embassies/consulates 

**Thailand does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

1 <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/506c08862.pdf> (Section 13 and 14)

2 <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/1633350/120-000-thais-registered-to-vote-overseas>

3 However, overseas voters faced numerous problems in 2019, such as late arrival of ballot boxes, incorrect candidate information and poor voting facilities. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/1647132/poll-agency-does-fine-job-of-not-inspiring-trust>; <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Thai-election/Thai-election-regulator-comes-under-fire-for-irregularities>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1985** ● **Recruitment and Job Seekers Protection Act<sup>4</sup>** established an intergovernmental committee called the 'Employment Development and Job-Seekers Protection Committee' which advises on overseas employment standards and stipulates the setting up of a 'Fund for Job-Seekers Working Abroad' in the Department of Employment to support returnees to Thailand, deployment abroad as well as skill testing and training prior to working abroad.
- 2019** ● **Relaxation of Thai Exchange Control Act (1942)<sup>5</sup>** by the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Thailand<sup>6</sup> to stimulate capital outflows to support capital flow balance and lessen the pressure on the Baht. The relaxations include, among others, more freely allowing the outward remittance of foreign currency whereby most of outward remittance transactions will not require approval from the Bank of Thailand.



### Trends:

Thailand has not yet fully recognised the importance of offering attractive benefits, such as building better diaspora networks and encouraging network membership, to lure back its diaspora. The Thai government has tried to address the issue by initiating programmes, such as the Reverse Brain Drain, in order to recruit the talents that the country needs.<sup>7</sup> The Thai embassies abroad have also assisted in the formation of diaspora organisations.



### Achievements:

The government of Thailand requires receiving countries to provide Thai migrants with proper rights in terms of wages, social welfare and other basic human rights. To do this, and to ensure support to Thai nationals living abroad, the Thai government has established several departments in different ministries, embassies and divisions.

## Obstacles:



- **Inadequate policy framework:** For Thais living abroad, there are few official government programmes or initiatives encouraging emigrants' involvement in the economy of their home country.
- **Data and coordination:** While the government wishes to develop a more robust policy on diaspora engagement, there are inter-ministerial disagreements regarding the drafting of ministry regulations, and no practical guidelines for government officers regarding the diaspora. This is due to the result of the limited number of studies relating to diaspora issues and a lack of data.<sup>8</sup> Research on the returning Thai diaspora is also relatively limited.

4 [http://thailaws.com/law/t\\_laws/tlaw0071\\_3.pdf](http://thailaws.com/law/t_laws/tlaw0071_3.pdf)

5 <https://www.bot.or.th/English/FinancialMarkets/ForeignExchangeRegulations/FXRegulation/Pages/default.aspx>

6 See the difference between previous regulations and current regulations: <https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/11/thai-exchange-control-law-relaxed>

7 'Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development', IOM and Migration Policy Institute (MPI), 2012, [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)

8 'Thai Diaspora: What happens when they return 'home'?', Monchai Phongsiri and Maniemai Thongyou, 2012, Journal of Population and Social Studies, file:///Users/Vani/Downloads/84513-Article%20Text-204729-1-10-20170425.pdf

- **Legal restrictions:** Although the returning Thai diaspora identify themselves as Thai, speak and write the Thai language and maintain Thai cultural practices, they face discrimination upon return in terms of legal rights to own land and housing, for example. The children of returning diaspora also have difficulty finding places in higher education institutions.<sup>9</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Counselling Services @ Bangkok Bank<sup>10</sup>

#### INVESTMENT

The largest commercial bank in Thailand offers counselling services for those interested in local investment opportunities, including information on how to obtain business loans.<sup>11</sup> The bank also helps to settle transactions with overseas business partners and provides travel advisory services<sup>12</sup> and 'AEC Connect'<sup>13</sup> which helps customers identify business opportunities in AEC.

### Project RETURN, 2014 - present, <https://atper.eu/return/>

#### RETURN & REINTEGRATION

An initiative of the Association of Thai Professionals in Europe (ATPER) in Denmark, the project aims to create a forum for Thai people with knowledge, skills and experience accumulated abroad to apply and share it back home. It also seeks to inspire all Thai people through cooperation and communication as well as to give them an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience from abroad. Target areas are science and technology, law, agriculture, forestry and environment, energy, transportation and health.

### Reverse Brain Drain Project, 1997-2015<sup>14</sup>

#### HUMAN CAPITAL

The project was established within the National Science and Technology Development Agency to use the knowledge and connections of Thai professionals overseas to help in Thailand's development, particularly in the science and technology sectors. Around 35 projects were initiated before RBD began to shift its emphasis to short-term visits, involving knowledge sharing and technology transfer workshops. Through e-newsletters, RBD also disseminates information about Thailand's science and technology needs among overseas Thai professionals, government agencies, academic communities and the industrial sector.

9 'Transnational Livelihoods of the Returning Thai Diaspora in Thai Society', Monchai Phongsiri and Maniemai Thongyou, 2011, <http://www.ipedr.com/vol20/18-ICHSC2011-M00041.pdf>

10 Bangkok Bank, Business Banking, <https://www.bangkokbank.com/en/Business-Banking> <https://www.bangkokbank.com/en/Business-Banking/My-International-Trade>

11 'Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development', IOM and Migration Policy Institute (MPI), 2012, [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)

12 <https://www.bangkokbank.com/en/Business-Banking/My-International-Trade/Trade-Advisory-Services>

13 <https://www.bangkokbank.com/en/International-Banking/AEC-Connect>

14 ILO Good practices database, [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/migmmain.showPractice?p\\_lang=en&p\\_practice\\_id=43](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/migmmain.showPractice?p_lang=en&p_practice_id=43) (please see the ppt file under the documents section of the page for further details by the Ministry of Science and Technology)

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

### **International Organisation for Migration (IOM) <https://thailand.iom.int/>**

IOM began its operations in Thailand in 1975 and joined IOM as a member state in 1986. IOM's cooperation with the Royal Thai Government has expanded to cover all aspects of migration affecting the Kingdom and its neighbours, including labour migration, migration health, counter trafficking, emergency and post crisis, institution building, border management, security and law enforcement. IOM has a strong presence in Thailand and is home to the IOM Mission in Thailand and the IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. It has over 400 staff working on more than 35 active projects in 10 locations across the country.

### **ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour [https://www.ilo.org/asia/WCMS\\_214213/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/asia/WCMS_214213/lang--en/index.htm)**

The annual forum, formed in 2008, is an open platform for review, discussion and exchange of good practices and ideas between governments, workers' and employers' organizations, and civil society stakeholders on key issues facing women and men migrant workers in South-East Asia, and develop recommendations to advance the implementation of the principles of the ASEAN Declaration on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

### **TRIANGLE in ASEAN [https://www.ilo.org/asia/projects/WCMS\\_428584/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/asia/projects/WCMS_428584/lang--en/index.htm)**

The TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme, which was established in 2015, is a part of the International Labour Organisation's global efforts to promote fair migration. Through delivery of technical assistance and support to governments, social partners, civil society and regional bodies, TRIANGLE in ASEAN aims to create a set of policies, tools and services that enhance the contribution of labour migration to stable and inclusive growth and development. It involves six countries, including Thailand, and is funded by Australia and Canada.

- **At national level**

- At ministerial level

### **Ministry of Labour <https://www.mol.go.th/en/departments/mol-duties/>**

Since 2002, The ministry's functions are to provide services pursuant to Article 86 of the constitution which requires the government to promote the employment of people of working age, protect workers, organise labour relations system, provide social security and ensure fair payment, and to render services in labour administration and solve labour problems. The ministry has authority in labour administration and protection, skill development, and promotion of employment of people.

- At sub-ministerial level

### **Department of Skill Development <http://www.dsd.go.th>**

This department functions under the Ministry of Labour and its duties include coordinating linkages and to establish and develop networking for the development of labour potential in the country and abroad.

## Department of Employment <https://www.doe.go.th/prd/>

The department is under the Ministry of Labour and promotes - among other things - overseas employment for Thai workers. It monitors the procedure of sending them abroad and ensures that the procedures comply with Thai laws and regulations. It also protects the rights and benefits of job seekers and Thai workers who are working or training overseas.

## Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA)

<https://toea.doe.go.th/LBANK-WEB/main.php?menu=registerchoice>

Since 1993, the TOEA has been in charge of supervising and facilitating the process for Thai workers wishing to work overseas. The administration monitors recruitment and job seeker's protection, it also helps to improve administrative procedures, coordinate with host countries (with regard to facilitating, sending and protecting the permitted workers) and to develop bilateral cooperation with the main destination countries. TOEA also protects overseas workers through several labour affairs offices in Thai embassies overseas from which it provides necessary information and assistance to Thai workers.

## The Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad Division

<http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/services/16266-Protection-of-Thai-Nationals.html>

In 1998, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established the Department of Consular Affairs, which includes the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad Division. The Division was opened officially in 1999. The division provides assistance to Thai nationals in distress, promotes and protects Thai workers abroad, assists Thai fishing or commercial vessels as well as their crews outside of Thailand, supports Thai women who are victims of illegal trafficking, provides assistance in the case of a major natural disaster, political turmoil or war, and assists Thai nationals who are arrested.

## The Office of International Peoples' Rights Protection (OIPP)

The office was established in 2006 by the Order of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). It gives legal advice to Thai nationals who marry foreigners, to foreigners who visit, work or reside across the country, and to Thai nationals living abroad. To do this it has law clinics in foreign countries where a large number of Thai nationals work or have residency. It answers legal questions sent via the internet from Thai persons who reside abroad as well as from foreigners residing in Thailand. It cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour to provide legal assistance to Thai nationals being prosecuted in foreign jurisdictions.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



**Association of Thai Professionals in Europe (ATPER)** 1993 Europe <https://atper.eu/>

### Development activities

The Association was born from the integration of Thai professionals living in Europe and Thai students currently studying at graduate level in Europe. The association, formally established in 1993 and officially registered in 1997 in Paris, has been supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment and the Office of Higher Education Strategy, Ministry of Education of Thailand. The association promotes the transfer of knowledge in science and technology from Europe to Thailand through activities such as training in various fields such as IT, biotechnology, environment and education, research collaboration and teaching at tertiary level, provision of news and information exchange services in various fields that are beneficial to the development of Thailand such as education, science, medicine, human rights, law and patents in Europe, and facilitation to contact and coordinate between agencies in Thailand and various agencies in Europe.

**Puer Thai e.V.** 2005 Germany <http://www.puer-thai.com/>

Puer Thai e.V. was founded in Berlin jointly by Thais and Germans to bridge cultural differences in Berlin. It teaches German with Thai interpreters and helps Thais with integration.

**Thai Asa eV.** 2000 Germany <http://www.thai-asa.de/>

Thai Asa eV is a non-profit association in Germany for the promotion of German-Thai relations. As the official integration agency of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, it offers German courses to help people from abroad with integration. At the same time, anyone interested in the Thai language and culture can attend Thai language courses.

**Thai Freundschaft Gruppe Erlangen** 2007 Germany  
<https://de-de.facebook.com/pg/thaifreundschafterlangen/about/>

A group formed by Thai women in Erlangen, Germany, committed to protecting the interests of Thai women living in Germany. It aims to provide the German population with a better understanding of Thailand and its culture as well as to educate them on the situation of Thai women in Germany.

**Thai Women for Thai Women Association** 1998 Switzerland <https://thaifrauenverein.ch/>

A group of Thai women in Switzerland met in 1998 with the idea of creating a support group whose objective was to try to find solutions to various problems. The Royal Thai Embassy in Bern provided support for the association by allowing subsequent meetings to take place at the embassy and by providing the initial funds to help the association start its activities and projects.

**THARA Association (Thai Women Articulate Their Rights Abroad)** 1991 German  
<https://www.tharaverein.de/%C3%BCber-uns/>

The THARA Association was founded in 1991 by a group of Thai women in Germany who have helped and advised compatriots with problems. Officially registered as THARA eV since 1997, the association supports Thai women in Germany and helps them know and exercise their rights.

Written by: **Dr Ronojoy Sen**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
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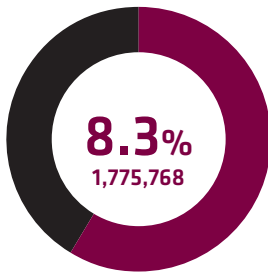


# Diaspora engagement mapping SRI LANKA

## Facts & figures

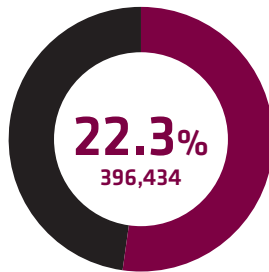
### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 58.7%  
♀ 41.3%

% of which in the EU



♂ 52.3%  
♀ 47.7%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **9.1%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **7,681**



### Top countries of destination

Saudi Arabia	516,256
United Kingdom	161,334
Qatar	155,825
India	152,536
Canada	140,579



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



During the civil war (1983-2009), the term “diaspora” was used to label a segment of the Sri Lankan community overseas that was perceived as a threat towards the Government of Sri Lanka. The government labelled this group as “enemies of the country” which played a crucial role in changing public perceptions about the diaspora. In 2009, the “Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission” (LLRC) identified the importance of constructively engaging with the diaspora. As a result, the term “Overseas Sri Lankans” is used to officially refer to the Sri Lankan diaspora.

**Sri Lanka does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=299&Itemid=59&lang=en](http://www.immigration.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=299&Itemid=59&lang=en). Dual citizenship is applicable to: A person whose citizenship of Sri Lanka has ceased under section 19, 20 or 21 of the Citizenship Act, No 18 of 1948 or a person whose Citizenship of Sri Lanka is likely to cease.

- Resumption - Section 19(2) of the said Act makes provisions in respect of a person whose citizenship of Sri Lanka has ceased due to obtaining of citizenship in another country and who there after desires to resume the status of a citizen of Sri Lanka. Or
- Retention - Section 19(3) of the said act makes provisions in respect of person who is having a desire to obtain citizenship in another country, while intends to retain the citizenship of Sri Lanka.

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2008** ● **Sri Lanka National Labour Migration Policy**, ensures that labour migration is integrated and mainstreamed in national development. The policy has three main components: governance of the migration process, protection and empowerment of migrant workers and their families, and linking migration and the development process. The policy recommends a coordinated effort between national and international agencies and departments to ensure that labour migration is incorporated into all relevant policy frameworks.
- 2012** ● **National Human Resources and Employment Policy**, includes measures to help create an environment that promotes the participation of diaspora in activities where local expertise and skills are in short supply. For example, a national science, technology and innovation research cadre was established to employ expatriate Sri Lankans or foreigners for highly skilled jobs for which suitably qualified resident Sri Lankans were not available. For the construction sector, plans were made to encourage private sector contractors to attract qualified diaspora individuals back to the country to take on higher-skilled jobs. The policy also mentions establishment of bilateral agreements with labour receiving countries to promote respect for, and safeguard, the labour rights of migrant workers.
- 2015** ● **Sub-policy and National Action Plan on Return and Reintegration of Migrant Workers**, aims to support return and reintegration of migrant workers. It covers social reintegration, economic reintegration, physical and psychological wellbeing of returnees and their family members, mobilisation and empowerment of migrant returnees and the effective management of the return and reintegration process. In line with this, a Reintegration Coordination Unit was also set up at the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE).
- 2018**  
▼  
**2022** ● **Decent Work Country Programme**, seeks to improve services offered by the reintegration unit of the SLBFE and public employment services to ensure better employment or self-employment options within the country for returned migrants.



### Trends:

The government of Sri Lanka is increasingly viewing the dividends of successful engagement with Sri Lanka's diaspora as useful for the country for improved relations between communities, increased national unity and stability, and a more positive international image. As a result, Sri Lanka is now exploring ways to engage its overseas community for future growth, as well as reconciliation. Key sectors of diaspora engagement include housing, restoring livelihoods, psychosocial wellbeing, economic diversification and the tourism sector.



### Achievements:

Sri Lanka's Labour Migration Policy and its Sub Policy on Reintegration of Returning Migrant Workers is recognised as a model by several other countries. Given the highly dynamic nature of labour migration, the policy - adopted nearly a decade ago - is now undergoing revisions to better reflect changes in labour market supply and demand within the country, region and destination countries. An ILO study in 2015<sup>2</sup> examined the workforce skills gap across the four industrial sectors projected to grow: ICT, tourism and hospitality, construction and light engineering. This revealed the prevailing challenge of a skills mismatch. To address this, the ILO, in collaboration with the Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC), offers job placement services for returned migrant workers with the appropriate skill levels to fill labour shortages in key sectors.

<sup>2</sup> Decent Work Country Programme 2018-22, International Labour Organisation, [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-colombo/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_632743.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-colombo/documents/genericdocument/wcms_632743.pdf)



## Obstacles



- **Trust:** Given the history of the civil war in Sri Lanka and the circumstances in which many Sri Lankans left the country, there is a lack of trust between the diaspora and the national authorities. Consequently, diaspora engagement is mostly informal, short term and ad-hoc, targeting the local rather than national level.
- **Data:** There is no comprehensive mapping of Overseas Sri Lankans. Data is mainly based on information collected by embassies and high commissions.
- **Lack of policy framework to support diaspora investment:** Much private investment, both local and foreign, has gone into real estate and related sectors. The lack of direction in promoting specific sectors and limited regulatory framework in other sectors prevent Overseas Sri Lankans from investing in Sri Lanka. For instance, the government relaxed foreign investment restrictions for deep sea fishing in order to attract investment to the sector. However, the lack of publicity or a designated ministry to bring in investments from the diaspora prevents them from knowing about the policy and investing in the requisite sector

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Conference on Diaspora Engagement in Sri Lanka's Post-war Development, Reconciliation and Sustainable Peace, 2018

Organised by the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA), the themes of the conference included the politics of diaspora identity and definitions, the complexities of diaspora post-war development initiatives, the flow of skills, ideas and capital of the diaspora beyond the political and diaspora activism in justice, reconciliation and social cohesion. The conference outcome report brings a refreshing focus on diaspora literature – which is usually dominated by research on Tamil diaspora communities – by bringing in case studies of the Sinhala and Muslim diaspora communities. It also points to gaps that need to be addressed, such as the negotiation of aid between the diaspora and local communities and the role of women in diaspora engagement. The report concludes that the diaspora does not carry one identity, but multiple identities, and that can be used as a platform for finding commonalities leading to a more impactful engagement.

IDENTITY

### Condominiums in Wellawatte, 2018

Wellawatte has been a historically multi-ethnic place, which was known as 'Little Jaffna'. In recent years, it has seen small-scale investments by returning diaspora Tamils in condominiums in Wellawatte. Diaspora Tamils now view the place as connecting them to a larger community. Despite these investments being very small in scale, the fact that diaspora Tamils were investing in this part of Colombo was encouraging.

INVESTMENT

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions

- At regional level

**Colombo Process, <https://www.colomboprocess.org/>**

The Colombo Process is a regional consultative process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origins in Asia. It is a member state-driven, non-binding and informal forum to facilitate dialogue and cooperation on issues of common interest and concern relating to labour mobility.

**International Alert, <https://www.international-alert.org/sri-lanka>**

It has been working in Sri Lanka since 1989 and opened its country office in 2003. It engages with civil society, local businesses, donors and the government to build inclusive peace. The organisation helps young politicians play a positive role in supporting peace, ensures that development organizations are sensitive to the impact that their funding has on the complex context of Sri Lanka and promotes the positive role that the diaspora can play in reconciliation, both in their own communities and in Sri Lanka as a whole.

**International Organisation for Migration, <https://www.iom.int/countries/sri-lanka>**

Sri Lanka became a member state of IOM in 1990 and IOM established its presence in the country in 2002. IOM's focus of work is towards addressing long-term sustainable development goals across the country. They work in close partnership with national and local government institutions, NGOs, community organisations and the donor community, to address emerging issues, needs and priorities of the Sri Lankan government, migrants, partners and member states.

**International Labour Organisation, <https://www.ilo.org/colombo/lang--en/index.htm>**

Sri Lanka became a member of the ILO in 1948. Its areas of work in Sri Lanka includes child labour, employment promotion, equality and discrimination, green jobs, informal economy, international labour standards, labour market governance and working conditions, labour migration, safety and health at work, skills and employability, social security and workers and employer organisations. It is also instrumental in the implementation of the Decent Work Country Programme in Sri Lanka, where it works with the government on outlining policy direction, and prioritising areas of work that will contribute to decent work for all.

- National Institutions

- At ministerial level

**Ministry of Foreign Employment, <http://www.mfe.gov.lk/index.php?lg=EN>**

The main function of the ministry is to promote foreign employment, provide welfare to migrant workers and expatriate Sri Lankans, regulate and supervise employment agencies, provide career guidance on foreign employment, and supervise the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) and Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (SLFEA).



- At sub-ministerial level

### **Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), <http://www.slbfe.lk/>**

The bureau's key functions are in training and registration of migrant workers, licensing of recruitment agencies, complaint management mechanisms and the publishing of annual statistics.

### **Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (SLFEA), <http://www.slfea.lk/index.html>**

The agency is a subsidiary of the SLBFE. It recruits skilled and semi-skilled workers for various clients in East Asian, West Asian and European countries.

### **Department of Immigration and Emigration Sri Lanka, <http://www.immigration.gov.lk/web/index.php?lang=en>**

The department regulates the entry and exit of persons and provides citizenship services. It also keeps and maintains a register of persons who are non-citizens of Sri Lanka at entry and departure points.

- At Local Level

### **The Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC), 1929, <http://www.employers.lk/index.php>**

It was established as an organisation of employers dealing with labour and social issues in Sri Lanka, today it is the principal organisation of employers, promoting employer interests at the national level, especially focusing on industrial relations and labour law.

## **Diaspora organisations in Europe**



### **Association of Sri Lanka Lawyers in the UK (ASSLUK) 2003 UK <http://aslluk.org.uk/>**

It brings together lawyers of Sri Lankan origin (both Sri Lankan and British born) and aims to provide a common forum in the UK, where barristers, solicitors, academics and students in the legal field, as well as others who are associated within the legal field can interact and exchange ideas with a view to assisting each other, including providing continuing education and interaction with professional bodies.

### **British Tamil Forum (BTF) 2006 UK <https://www.britishtamilsforum.org>**

#### **☑ Development activities**

It aims to be the bridge between the British Tamil Community and the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, campaign for the Tamil people's collective right to self-determination in Sri Lanka, alleviate the sufferings of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and help Tamil people rebuild their lives after the war.

### **Global Tamil Forum (GTF) 2009 Global <http://www.globaltamilforum.org>**

It is the largest Tamil diaspora organisation with members drawn from across five continents, including Europe. It seeks to rebuild the lives of Tamils post-conflict, ensure justice for innocent victims of the conflict and facilitate international engagement for the Tamil political representatives from Sri Lanka.

**Sri Lanka Association Berlin e.V.** 1978 Germany <http://srilankans-berlin.de/index.php>

 **Development activities**

It is a non-profit association to give Sri Lankans the opportunity to get to know each other better, to create a platform for everyday problems and solutions, and to make the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka better known to the citizens of the host country as well as promote and deepen the cultural and social relations between Sri Lanka and Germany. Supporting the homeland, especially in emergency situations, as well as promoting education, training and the integration of young people remain priority tasks of the SLA.

**Sri Lankan Association of Norway** 1984 Norway  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/SLANpage/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/SLANpage/about/?ref=page_internal)

The association's primary purpose is to provide a common ground for the diaspora to gather, share, use, cultivate and promote Sri Lankan culture, language, sports, etc. In addition, the association has undertaken humanitarian work, such as disaster relief, in Sri Lanka, initiated arrangements to strengthen the cooperation between Norwegians and Sri Lankans as well as support diversity and integration work in Norway. At present, the association has approximately 200 members from across Norway.

Written by: **Dr Ronojoy Sen**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
February 2020



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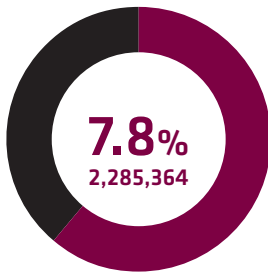


# Diaspora engagement mapping NEPAL

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population

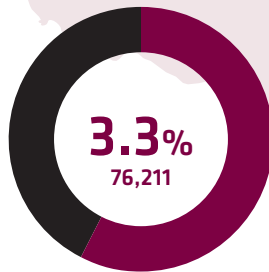


♂ 61.2%  
♀ 38.8%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **29.9%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **8,643**

% of which in the EU



♂ 57.7%  
♀ 42.3%

### Top countries of destination

Malaysia	578,082
India	533,646
Saudi Arabia	490,965
Qatar	254,340
United States	114,120

### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



Terminology: Nepal terms their diaspora as 'Non-resident Nepalis' (NRN).

This refers to a person who acquired citizenship of a foreign country and who resided in a country outside the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and who was previously a citizen of Nepal or his/her parents/grandparents were citizens of Nepal.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.multiplecitizenship.com/wscl/ws\\_NEPAL.html](https://www.multiplecitizenship.com/wscl/ws_NEPAL.html)

<sup>2</sup> Nepal's Supreme Court ruled, in 2018, that legal and constitutional provisions did not make it mandatory for citizens to remain in the country to exercise their voting right. The court ordered the government to ensure external voting rights for all Nepalis living abroad either through postal or electronic means. However, it is yet to be implemented <https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/ensure-voting-rights-for-nepalis-living-abroad-supreme-court-tells-government/>

## 2008: Non-Resident Nepali Act<sup>3</sup>



Provides legal provisions to motivate non-resident Nepalis to take part in the all-round development of Nepal. The Act includes the rights to open a bank account or invest using convertible foreign currency, to repatriate money, to purchase land or property, and to run any industry or business that they have invested in. It also exempts non-resident Nepalis (NRN) from tax on any amount which is sent to social religious, academic, cultural, charitable, sports or natural calamity rescue-related institutions. The Act also facilitates diaspora engagement through the issuance of NRN Citizen cards. Cardholders do not need to obtain visas and can receive many of the same benefits as citizens in social, cultural and economic aspects.

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2012** ● **The Foreign Employment Policy<sup>4</sup>** was formulated to give direction for the effective management of foreign employment and to make the process of migration safe and accessible in addressing problems related to foreign employment. It promotes the use of resources acquired abroad for investments in Nepal through a favourable policy environment, promoting investment of workers' remittances in the industrial sector, community development projects and local infrastructure development programmes, with co-financing and investment from the Government of Nepal.
- 2016** ● **NRN Citizenship Provision<sup>5</sup>:** In 2016, the Constitution of Nepal was amended to include an NRN Citizenship Provision. This enabled NRN to enjoy the economic, social and cultural rights as provided for by federal law.
- 2016** ▼  
**2019** ● **Fiscal Year 2016/17-Fiscal Year 2018/19:** The Fourteenth Development Plan<sup>6</sup> addressed foreign employment, its contribution to the economy and development of the country, internal and cross-border movement, private sector engagement in broad areas of economic development, the role of the diaspora in the promotion of Nepali products, and economic diplomacy. The Fifteenth Development Plan, endorsed in March 2020, will cover FY2019/20 to FY2023/24.

### » Trends:

For over 10 years Nepal has acknowledged the contribution that diaspora can make to development. Remittances contribute to nearly 30% of the country's GDP. NRNs have been making important contributions to Nepal's development process and the creation of the Brain Gain Centre in 2019 has helped institutionalise this. The promulgation of the new constitution and successful holding of elections have ushered in a new era of peace and stability. As a result, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pradeep Gyawali, said in 2018 that it was essential to have "an enhanced level of economic partnership with NRNs, diaspora and private sector".<sup>7</sup> Nepal also plans to send more skilled migrants abroad to meet international labour market demand.

3 <http://www.nepalimmigration.gov.np/post/non-resident-nepalese-act-2064>

4 [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/policy/wcms\\_539895.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/policy/wcms_539895.pdf)

5 [https://constituteproject.org/constitution/Nepal\\_2016.pdf](https://constituteproject.org/constitution/Nepal_2016.pdf)

6 14th Development Plan <https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/14th-plan-full-document.pdf> (In Nepali) 15th Development Plan Approach Paper, 2019, [https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th\\_Plan\\_Approach\\_Paper2.pdf](https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_Plan_Approach_Paper2.pdf) (in Nepali)

7 'Nepal Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali's Speech on 'Role of Nepali Diaspora for Development Policies'', 2018, <https://www.npi-nrna.org/2018/11/22/speech-by-hon-pradeep-kumar-gyawali-minister-for-foreign-affairs-on-the-theme-role-of-nepali-diaspora-for-development-policies/>

### Achievements:

Nepal plays an active role in the regional labour migration processes in order to advocate for its migrant workers and in doing so build trust in the destination countries. There has been an enabling environment for the diaspora since 2008, which has allowed initiatives like the Non-Resident Nepali Association to grow as well as resulted in the creation of the Brain Gain Centre. These have had an impact on policymaking and socio-economic development in Nepal.

### Obstacles



- **Government incentives:** Even though the government has been active in reaching out to NRNs, the diaspora mostly returns to Nepal through their own personal connections rather than because of any incentive from the government. They either come in through volunteering organisations, such as the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), through the NRNA, or through their own personal connections to their place of birth, ancestral town or district. There are also no formal government programmes for attracting Nepalese nationals who have emigrated to return or to facilitate the reintegration of returnees.
- **Government coordination:** There is still no proper coordination and initiative from the government to involve the diaspora in the development of specific sectors. As a result, most volunteers work outside of the government system with no proper mapping or clear process of identifying where the demand for the diaspora is. Migration governance and policymaking are often spread across several ministries and departments.

### SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



#### Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), 2003

The NRNA is an association committed to creating a global network of Nepali migrants and streamlining their energy and resources to make the diaspora a catalyst of economic and social transformation in Nepal.<sup>8</sup> Over time, the NRNA has emerged as the central organisation for Nepali migrants. The NRNA has established National Coordination Councils (NCCs) in 80 countries with 70,000 members as of 2019. The NRNA has also launched a global ID campaign to build a unified system to register members and provide services/discounts to them.<sup>9</sup> Key sectors of engagement include economic development, foreign direct investment, human capital formation and development, technology transfer and climate change financing.

<https://www.nrna.org>

<sup>8</sup> NRNA Vision 2020 and Beyond Final Report, 2017, NRNA, <https://nrna.org/Portals/0/Vision%202020final%20report.pdf?ver=2018-02-01-104845-657>

<sup>9</sup> [https://nrna.org/Portals/0/id\\_card\\_global.pdf](https://nrna.org/Portals/0/id_card_global.pdf).



## Nepal Policy Institute (NPI), 2016

### NETWORKS + RESEARCH

The NPI is an international think-tank and knowledge platform dedicated to the people-centred and sustainable development of Nepal and Nepali people, including diaspora Nepali. In 2019, the NPI and NRNA organised an event in Thailand where diaspora professionals, experts, academics, entrepreneurs and NRN leaders interacted with the National Planning Commission (NPC) team on identifying the role of diaspora in transforming development planning and policies of Nepal. During the programme, a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding between NPC and NPI was proposed; this is likely to be signed soon.<sup>10</sup>

<https://www.npi-nrna.org/>

### INFRASTRUCTURE + ENERGY

## Ujyalo Nepal, 2017

This scheme has been promoted by NRNA and is aimed at replacing traditional electric bulbs in Nepal with LED lights, which could have a significant impact on energy savings. The NRNA has teamed up with the Nepal Electricity Authority and its target is to replace 10,000,000 traditional bulbs with LED lights.

[https://nrna.org/committee-taskforce/ujyalo\\_nepal](https://nrna.org/committee-taskforce/ujyalo_nepal)

### SKILLS TRANSFER

## Brain Gain Centre, 2019

The government opened a unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs aiming at fostering partnership with Nepali experts and professionals overseas. Prior to the centre's opening, Nepali professionals abroad were invited to register with the centre's database; more than 450 registered within a month.

<https://mofa.gov.np/bgc/>

<sup>10</sup> 'MoU between NPC and NPI in the Offing', 2019, <https://www.npi-nrna.org/2019/06/04/mou-between-npc-and-npi-in-the-offing/>  
<https://www.npi-nrna.org/2019/06/04/mou-between-npc-and-npi-in-the-offing/>



## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

#### **International Organisation for Migration <https://nepal.iom.int/>**

Established in 1951, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is the UN Migration Agency and the leading inter-governmental organisation in the field of migration. Nepal became an IOM member state in 2006. In 2007, the Government of Nepal and IOM signed a cooperation agreement to encourage cooperation and the delivery of services to Nepal, which is a country of origin, transit and destination of migration.

- **National institutions**
  - At ministerial level

#### **Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security [https://moless.gov.np/?page\\_id=218](https://moless.gov.np/?page_id=218)**

The Ministry formulates, plans, implements, monitors and evaluates labour and employment related policies.

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs <https://mofa.gov.np>**

The Ministry has a dedicated division for diaspora engagement to organise diaspora-related activities.

- At sub-ministerial level

#### **Department of Consular Services <https://nepalconsular.gov.np/en/>**

The department liaises with Nepali missions abroad to coordinate on issues pertaining to the Nepali working there. They work together on the provision of legal assistance, compensation and insurance. Established under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the department also deals with diaspora-related matters.

#### **Department of Foreign Employment <http://www.dofe.gov.np/Home.aspx>**

Established under the Ministry of Labour, the department conducts work related to the labour agreements with foreign employers in destination countries, cooperates with national and international organisations, and coordinates on foreign employment and international immigration. It also tracks and maintains data on Nepali migrants.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



Diaspora engagement is mostly through the NRNA's NCCs in various parts of the world, including Europe. NCC Germany, NCC Switzerland and NCC Italy are among the more active. In the NRNA's current executive committee, two vice-presidents are from Europe.

**British Gurkha Welfare Society** UK 2003 <http://www.bgws.org/>

### Development activities

The society campaigns for those Gurkha veterans who retired before 1997 to receive pensions equal to the British and Commonwealth Soldiers they fought alongside. The BGWS seeks to improve the situation of Gurkhas in both the UK and in Nepal.

**Greater Rushmoor Nepali Community** UK 2004 <http://grncommunity.com/>

The principal objectives of the organisation are to address any welfare issue related to the Rushmoor Borough Nepali Community, maintain Nepali culture and actively involve the Nepali community to integrate with the wider community.

**Kirat Rai Yayokkkha (KRYUK)** UK 2004 <http://kryuk.org/>

### Development activities

The Kirat ethnic group founded this organisation of Gurkhas. At present, several ethnic groups in Nepal, including the Rai and Yakkha, claim that they are Kirat. However, most of the documents regarding the activities of the organisation are in the Nepali language.

**Naya Yuva** UK <https://www.facebook.com/Nayayuva.org>

### Development activities

This is a voluntary organisation in the UK established with the aim of helping Nepali youth and implementing development projects in Nepal.

**Nepal Samaj e.v.**, Germany 2007 <http://www.nepalisamaj.org/index.html>

The Nepali Samaj association was founded in Darmstadt and has been located in Frankfurt since 2007. It is an association that unites Nepalis in the Rhine-Main area through culture and tradition. At the same time, it supports Nepalese who come to Germany to make it easier for them to settle in and also aims to bring the tradition and culture of Nepal closer to German citizens.

Written by: **Dr Ronojoy Sen**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
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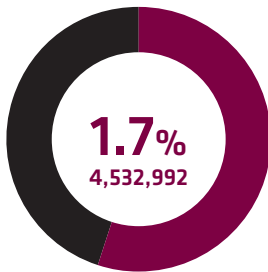


# Diaspora engagement mapping INDONESIA

## Facts & figures

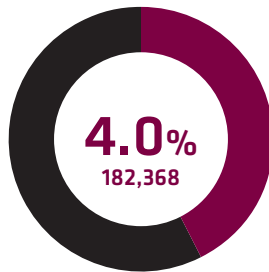
### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 55.0%  
♀ 45.0%

% of which in the EU



♂ 42.5%  
♀ 57.5%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.1%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **11,679**



### Top countries of destination

Saudi Arabia	1,667,077
Malaysia	1,225,156
United Arab Emirates	314,089
Honk Kong	174,380
Bangladesh	154,877



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



### Voting from abroad:

By post



**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 12/2016<sup>3</sup>** 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 26/2016<sup>4</sup>** 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'<sup>5</sup>** 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.



### 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 that the government has been projecting in recent times.<sup>6</sup> 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'.



### 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. Minister for 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.<sup>7</sup> 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 Indonesia's many domestic and foreign workers whose passports are often held by their foreign employers.

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](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](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 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>

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

## 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.<sup>8</sup>
- **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.
- **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.<sup>9</sup> There is also a lack of acceptance of foreign qualifications and difficulties in obtaining formal recognition of diplomas and certificates.<sup>10</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Diaspora Connect<sup>11</sup>

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/diasporaconnect.id/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/diasporaconnect.id/about/?ref=page_internal)

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.

NETWORKS

8 [https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/struktur\\_organisasi/100/special-advisor-to-the-minister-on-socio-cultural-affairs-and-indonesian-diaspora-empowerment](https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/struktur_organisasi/100/special-advisor-to-the-minister-on-socio-cultural-affairs-and-indonesian-diaspora-empowerment).

9 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>.

10 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>.

11 iOS and website are under construction.



## Annual Congress of Indonesian Diaspora <http://congress.diasporaindonesia.org/>

### 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 2019 congress had the theme of 'Empowering Indonesia's Human Capital'. The 2017 Congress was attended by around 6,000 overseas Indonesians and had former US President Obama as the guest of honour.

### NETWORKS

## Diaspora Forum<sup>12</sup>

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

<sup>12</sup> 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>.

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions



- At regional level

**Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM)**  
<https://www.cimonline.de/en/html/index.html>

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** <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en>

The Ministry issues the diaspora cards/KMILN and runs the website<sup>13</sup> for Indonesian diaspora to apply for the card.

**Ministry of Research and Technology** <http://www.international.ristekdikti.go.id/>

The ministry attracts scientists and educational staff from the diaspora.

- At Sub-Ministerial Level

**Municipalities of Jakarta and Bandung**<sup>14</sup>

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

**Indonesian Diaspora Network** <http://www.diasporaindonesia.org/>

Indonesia's overseas communities have more actively organised themselves through lobby groups such as the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN). IDN has demanded greater recognition of their rights, regardless of whether they are still Indonesian citizens or not.

<sup>13</sup> <https://iocs.kemlu.go.id/>

<sup>14</sup> 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  
<https://www.aipse.org/en/home/>

### 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 <https://www.bugi-ev.org/>

### 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.

**Franco-Indonesian Association Pasar Malam** France 2001  
<http://association-franco-indonesienne-pasar-malam.com/>

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

<https://iasi-germany.de/about-us/>

 **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 <http://house-of-indonesia.de/>

 **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 <https://indonesiandiasporanetwork.com/>

 **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 <http://idn-nl.nl/>

 **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 <https://sekarjagat.fr/actualites/sji/>

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.

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Edited by: **EUDiF**  
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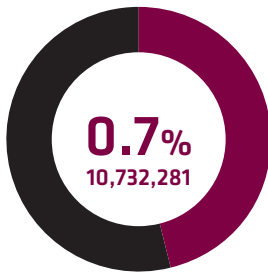


# Diaspora engagement mapping CHINA

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



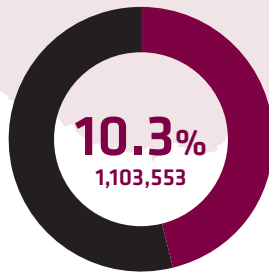
♂ 46.3%  
♀ 53.7%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.5%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **70,266**



% of which in the EU



♂ 46.2%  
♀ 53.8%



### Top countries of destination

United States	2,899,267
Hong Kong SAR	2,272,293
Japan	784,763
Canada	691,489
Australia	641,624



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



**China does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

1 <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/policies-politics/article/2134570/entry-denied-identity-crisis-facing-chinas-covert-dual>

2 <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/chinas-overseas-delegates-connect-beijing-to-the-chinese-diaspora/>; Guofo Liu and Zejun Du, 'The People's Republic of China Policy and Institutional Frameworks, National Report' (2014) INTERACT Research Report 2014/19 <https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/32660/INTERACT-RR-2014%20-%202019.pdf?sequence=1>

## Overview of policy and legislative framework



- 1982** ● **The 1982 Constitution (2004 Amendment), Article 50<sup>3</sup>** states that “The People’s Republic of China protects the legitimate rights and interests of overseas Chinese, Chinese returnees and their family members.”
- 1990** ● **The Law on the “Protection of the Rights and Interests of Returned Overseas Chinese and the Family Members of Overseas Chinese” (1990 - revised in 2000)<sup>4</sup>** establishes the principle of “equal treatment, with no discrimination; to give extra care as appropriate,” for Chinese returnees and their families.
- 1992** ● **Circular by OCAO<sup>5</sup>, MoF<sup>6</sup>, MoPS<sup>7</sup> on Treatment of Returned Overseas Chinese and Relatives of Overseas Chinese Exiting China to Visit Families<sup>8</sup>** emphasises that all returned overseas students shall be welcomed no matter what their past political attitudes were. For those who were sent overseas by their employers, the circular urges the employers to reach out to and keep in touch with them.
- 2006** ● **Regulations on the Relevant Questions for Returning Offspring of Overseas Chinese for Enrolment in Compulsory Education in China<sup>9</sup>** state that children of diaspora Chinese who go to a public school in China for compulsory education, where their domestic guardian’s household is registered will be treated equally to the children of local residents.
- 2011** ● **The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security regulations<sup>10</sup>** states that in the case of those who leave China before meeting the statutory conditions for receiving state pensions, social security accounts should be retained so that when they reach the age required by law, they can enjoy the pension benefits that they are entitled to.
- 2018** ● **Five-year visa<sup>11</sup>** allows foreigners of Chinese origin to apply for visas that permit them to stay in China for five years or enter the country multiple times in that period. The policy aims to attract more overseas ethnic Chinese people to do business in China.
- 2020** ● **Permanent residence permit for foreigners<sup>12</sup>** - This new policy, in its trial version, allows foreigners who fulfil the application requirements to obtain a Chinese permanent residence permit, which is similar to citizenship. Requirements include following Chinese law, economic security, contribution to economic and social development and good tax and credit records. It will be a major bonus for the overseas Chinese who have obtained foreign citizenship, but lived in China for a significant period or have made major contributions to the Chinese society, such as through investment or scientific innovation.

3 <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/chn164427.pdf>

4 Guofo Liu and Zejun Du, ‘The People’s Republic of China Policy and Institutional Frameworks, National Report’ (2014) INTERACT Research Report 2014/19 <https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/32660/INTERACT-RR-2014%20-%202019.pdf?sequence=1>

5 Overseas Chinese Affairs Office

6 Ministry of Finance

7 Ministry of Public Security

8 Xiang Biao ‘Emigration from China: A sending country perspective’, (2003) International Migration <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1468-2435.00240>

9 Guofo Liu and Zejun Du, ‘The People’s Republic of China Policy and Institutional Frameworks, National Report’ (2014) INTERACT Research Report 2014/19 <https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/32660/INTERACT-RR-2014%20-%202019.pdf?sequence=1>

10 Ibid.

11 <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/china-to-issue-new-five-year-visas-to-attract-foreigners-of-chinese-origin-from-feb-1?login=true&close=true>. According to China’s official definition, a foreigner of Chinese origin refers to a former Chinese citizen who has obtained foreign citizenship, or the offspring of present or former Chinese citizens.

12 Via <https://www.chinalawtranslate.com/>



### Trends:

The Chinese diaspora are keen to receive permanent residency status, to not have to apply for work visas and to be treated like Chinese citizens in areas such as investment, property purchase and education. The government is aware of this interest among overseas Chinese and is trying to develop a programme that incorporates these interests. The Xi administration's relevant policies focus on jump-starting immigration reform and strengthening education exchanges to shape the diasporic identity of overseas Chinese.<sup>13</sup> In terms of diaspora engagement, the government focuses on the economic and cultural dimensions of Chinese diaspora. The government seeks to attract overseas Chinese capital, technology and talent for national development as well build up the transnational imagination of the Chinese nation through cultural exchange programmes.



### Achievements:

Since 2012, the vision of Xi to realize the 'Chinese Dream' has provided a foundation for the current efforts in China's diaspora engagement. Since 2014, the return rate of overseas Chinese students has remained above 78%. There is an integrated set of institutional mechanisms for the diaspora from the central to local level and this has been supported and facilitated by other mechanisms, such as consular departments in overseas embassies and a variety of universities and research institutes providing policy consultations and training of officials pertaining to overseas Chinese policy.

The Ministry of Public Security has launched 20 immigration policies to support the development of Beijing. The bulk of these are on facilitating residence and entry/exit for returned overseas Chinese entrepreneurs.

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC)<sup>14</sup> and Conference for Friendship of Overseas Chinese Associations, ongoing

The WCEC was first organised in 1991. Biannual conventions have been organised since then to appeal to the overseas Chinese. The ninth edition of Conference for Friendship of Overseas Chinese Associations was held in Beijing in 2019. Xi Jinping graced the conference, which was attended by over 450 members of overseas Chinese associations from more than 90 countries.<sup>15</sup>

### Returned Overseas Students Industry Parks<sup>16</sup>

Since the mid-1990s, Shanghai, Beijing, Zhejiang, Guangdong, Fujian and Shandong, to name a few, have adopted numerous policies to offer skilled returnees high salaries, beneficial tax rates, special business loans, housing subsidies and subsidies for children's education. Industrial parks also offer facilities and beneficial policies.

NETWORKS

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

13 Shen Ding, 'Engaging Diaspora via Charm Offensive and Indigenised Communication: An Analysis of China's Diaspora Engagement Policies in the Xi Era', (2015) Sage Journal 35 (3-4) <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1467-9256.12087>

14 <https://www.wcecofficial.org/en/>

15 [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201905/28/WS5ced49c9a3104842260be51f\\_1.html](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201905/28/WS5ced49c9a3104842260be51f_1.html)

16 Xiang Biao 'Emigration from China: A sending country perspective', (2003) International Migration <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1468-2435.00240>

## Developing Motherland and Benefitting-Assisting Overseas Chinese (xingguo li qiao-zhu qiao), 2002<sup>17</sup>

### NETWORKS + RETURN

The plan has two components: the first aims to promote the interaction between overseas Chinese and 'new migrants' (those who left China after 1980s) on a global scale. Activities include the pairing of Chinese associations in North America with those in South-East Asia to facilitate collaboration. The plan also promotes websites of Chinese associations and plans to hold web-based business and technology fairs among Chinese around the world. The second component seeks to enhance connections between Chinese communities overseas and China. For example, delegations were sent from China to North America to raise the community's awareness of China's recent policy to attract returnees.

## Talent Plans, ongoing<sup>18</sup>

### NETWORK + EDUCATION

A "Twelve-words Approach" has been in place since the 1990s.<sup>19</sup> Programmes such as the Changjiang Scholars Programme or the Hundred Talents programme offer high salaries and research funds. The 2008 Thousand Talents Plan (*qianren jihua*) focused on four areas, namely national innovation, science and laboratories, SOEs and hi-tech parks. In 2013, Xi expanded the 'twelve words' policy by adding four additional words '*fahui zuoyong*' (playing a role), pledging that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the government would ensure that the Chinese diaspora could play a significant role when returning to China, and that it could also contribute to China's development when remaining overseas.

## Obstacles



- **Disconnection:** The majority of the Chinese entrepreneurs at the 2019 WCEC conference were foreign nationals of Chinese descent. Asking them to serve China's interests was somewhat problematic because of differing ideologies.
- **Incentive delays:** Although government initiatives have promised many incentives for overseas returning talents, such as giving overseas returnees huge grants for scientific research, the funds are not immediately paid to the recipients.
- **Freedom of speech:** The scholars who return to China and work in higher education institutions (HEIs) are often advised not to teach anything politically sensitive, or risk being fired. Those who do their research in political science have more concerns over returning, since some of the topics are deemed taboo in Chinese academia.
- **Opaque bureaucratic system:** The Chinese society is built upon *Guanxi*, which means that leaders can sometimes override rules, especially if they are not clearly defined and implemented. This gives rise to a lot of opacity in the bureaucratic operations in HEIs. Returnees are sometimes seen as outsiders and can face great difficulties in breaking into the domestic network. The social norms of proper behaviour and social exchange can also be quite different from the West, hampering (re)integration.

<sup>17</sup> Xiang Biao 'Emigration from China: A sending country perspective', (2003) International Migration

<sup>18</sup> Hong Liu, 'China's Diaspora Policies as a new mode of transnational governance' (2016) Journal of Contemporary China. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304032491\\_China's\\_Diaspora\\_Policies\\_as\\_a\\_New\\_Mode\\_of\\_Transnational\\_Governance](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304032491_China's_Diaspora_Policies_as_a_New_Mode_of_Transnational_Governance)

<sup>19</sup> Xiang Biao 'Emigration from China: A sending country perspective', (2003) International Migration <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1468-2435.00240>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions

- At regional level

### The China Zhigong Party [www.chinazhigongparty.org.cn](http://www.chinazhigongparty.org.cn)

Founded in 1925 in San Francisco, the China Zhigong Party consists mostly of returned overseas Chinese and family dependents. In 1947, the party reorganised in Hong Kong and became part of the United Front led by the CCP. Its role today is the advancement of multi-party cooperation and political consultation, in which strengthening ties with Chinese overseas organizations occupies a central role. Through visits and exchanges, the Zhigong Party attracts overseas capital and strengthens ties with organisations in over 40 countries. Following more flexible policies, it both encourages Chinese overseas to return to China and to serve from overseas.



- National institutions

- At ministerial level

### Overseas Chinese Affairs Office (OCAO) <http://www.gqb.gov.cn/>


An administrative office under the State Council that was reinstalled in 1978, the OCAO's main tasks are the coordination of policy formulations with regard to overseas Chinese work by the CCP and the State Council, and monitoring implementation. In addition, it seeks to advance the protection of the rights and interests of the Chinese overseas and of the returned overseas Chinese and family dependents (*guiqiao qiaojuan*). Apart from research and policy recommendations on attracting Chinese overseas capital, technology and talent, it also develops cultural exchange and Chinese language education programmes. Local offices are present in all provinces, the autonomous regions and municipalities. In some cases, such as major *qiaoxiang* like Guangdong and Fujian, a separate OCAO office is integrated into government structures. It works closely with the Office of Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs. Specific activities organised by the OCAO to increase networking with overseas Chinese are the 'Grand union of Global Chinese Overseas Organizations' (*Shijie huaqiao huaren shetuan lianyi dahui*), the 'Global Ethnic Chinese Forum' (*Shijie huaren luntan*) and the 'Global Chinese Language Media Forum' (*Shijie huawen chuanmei luntan*).

### China Overseas Exchange Association <http://www.coea.org.cn>

Founded in 1990, this organisation is affiliated with the OCAO and serves as a platform for people-to-people exchange through both individuals and organisations based within and outside China. It promotes exchange and cooperation in the areas of trade, science and technology, culture and education, as well as tourism and media. It currently has 52 advisors from 88 different countries and regions.

### United Front Work Department of the CCP Central Committee (Zhonggong zhongyang tongue zhanxian gongzuobu) [http://www.tzb.sz.gov.cn/jgsz\\_2/nbjg/](http://www.tzb.sz.gov.cn/jgsz_2/nbjg/)

This department contributes to the formation and implementation of China's diaspora policies. The Western Returned Scholars Association is affiliated to this department. Some local United Front Work departments, such as the one in Shenzhen, incorporate elements of religious policy, ethnic minority policy and overseas Chinese affairs (which is in turn divided into 'domestic overseas Chinese affairs' and 'external



overseas Chinese affairs'). In addition, for each core area of Chinese diaspora policies, such as economic development, science and technology, propaganda, policies with regard to Taiwan, and public diplomacy, additional actors are involved.

- At sub-ministerial level

### **Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee (OCAC) of the National People's Congress (NPC)<sup>20</sup>**

<http://www.npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/c2849/column.shtml>

The OCAC was set up as one of six permanent committees in the 1982 constitution with the right to draft legislative proposals and examine bills and inquiries. The OCAC investigates and deliberates legislative proposals by the presidium or the standing committee of the NPC and puts forward new legislative proposals. It also deliberates and reports on regulations, resolutions, orders and directives of the state council, its ministries, committees and local governments. Overseas Chinese Committees also exist at the various lower levels of government. Cities and counties in important sending areas of migration each have their own committee.

### **Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Compatriots and Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee of the CPPCC (Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference)**

<http://www.cppcc.gov.cn/zxww/2012/07/03/ARTI1341301498421103.shtml>

This committee of the CPPCC is composed of representatives from the CCP, the eight democratic parties (one of which is the China Zhigong Party) and 25 other civil society groups. These groups include “person-ages without party affiliation, mass organisations, all ethnic groups, and sectors of society, compatriots from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macau Special Administrative Region and Taiwan, returned overseas Chinese and specially invited public figures”. The committee’s tasks are political consultation, democratic supervision and participation in the administration of state affairs.

### **Western Returned Scholars Association/Overseas-Educated Scholars Association of China (Oumei tongxuehui Zhongguo liuxue ren yuan lianyihui) (WRSa) [http://www.wrsa.net/content\\_40128737.htm](http://www.wrsa.net/content_40128737.htm)**

Established in 1913, the WRSa is a national association of returned Chinese students from overseas. Since 2003, WRSa acquired a new title – Overseas educated scholars association of China to meet the requirements of the CPC leadership. It has intensified its efforts in ideological, organisational, cultural and membership building. Leveraging its human and intellectual resources, it has established bases for overseas scholars to make contributions to China and it has provided a large number of ideas and proposals for the CPC and government. It has provided good services to high-level Chinese talents overseas and become increasingly influential. It keeps close contact with more than 100 associations of Chinese scholars overseas in major destination countries for Chinese students.

- At local level

### **All China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese (ACFROC)**

<http://www.chinaql.org/sites/ql/index.html>

The ACFROC - part of the CPCC Committee and established in 1956 - is an organisation for returned overseas Chinese and their family members. It is recognised nationwide and works as a hub bringing together the party, the government, returned overseas Chinese and their families. Its key function is to “work with people, participate in politics, protect the rights and interests of overseas Chinese and promote friendship.”<sup>21</sup> The 18 vice chairmen and secretary are either returnees or dependents, the majority

20 In the case of both the NPC and the Committee of the CPPCC, an increasing number of overseas Chinese have been attending the two meetings. Between 2001 and 2015, 437 delegates from 66 countries have been present at the NPC and CPPCC meetings.

21 <https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/32660/INTERACT-RR-2014%20-%202019.pdf?sequence=1>



of whom are from Southeast Asia and the US. Its main tasks include liaising with returned overseas Chinese, dependants and overseas Chinese, assistance with policy formulation and supervision of policy implementation. The ACFROC emphasises the importance of Chinese overseas in economic construction and technological advancement. The ACFROC Youth Committee (Zhongggguo qiaolian qingnian weiyuanhui), founded in 2001, promotes economic, scientific and cultural exchange with a special focus on youth. Another affiliated organisation, the China Federation of Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs (Zhongguo qiaoshang lianhehui), established in 2003, promotes overseas Chinese enterprises and strengthens overseas Chinese entrepreneur organizations.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



**Association des jeunes chinois de France** 2009 France <https://www.lajcf.fr/>

AJCF provides a space for exchange, mutual aid and development for young French people of Chinese origin. The association aims to improve inclusion in the French cultural landscape and to promote Chinese culture in France. AJCF was active in Covid-19 response activities, including in anti-racism campaigning and promoting Chinese businesses in Paris.

**British Chinese Network** UK <https://e-voice.org.uk/bcn/>

The BCN organises Manchester-based networking events for the British-born Chinese and wider British Chinese community to get together and meet new people.

**London Chinatown Chinese Association** 1978 UK <http://www.lccauk.com/>

LCCA was founded with the aim of developing and expanding businesses in Chinatown and representing British Chinese to engage effectively with the British government. LCCA is also devoted to working closely with the London Chinese Community Centre in providing a wide range of essential services for the many Chinese “living in the United Kingdom and with a heart connecting to China”. More importantly, LCCA serves as an outlet for Chinese businesses to voice their concerns and together bring better conditions and prosperity to the whole of Chinatown.

**London Chinese Community Centre** 1980 UK <http://www.ccc.org.uk/>

The London Chinese Community Centre was founded in 1980 and was the first Chinese Community Centre in the UK. Within its first year the centre received almost 1,000 requests for support with people coming from as far as Scotland. To date, it has helped over 50,000 people by providing advice and assistance and is seen as a valuable service and resource for many of the Chinese Community in London and beyond.

**UK Chinese Business Association** 2012 UK <http://www.ukcba.uk/En/Index>

### Development activities

The association was formed by a group of Chinese entrepreneurs in the UK. During its founding, it received strong support from the Chinese Embassy and the British government. It aims to promote business cooperation and cultural exchange between the UK and China.

**UK Federation of Chinese Professionals UK** <https://www.ukfcp.com/>

The UKFCP brings together four regional professional associations across the UK. It is an association which supports UK-China professionals with networking and training. It is notable for its work in Covid-19 response in 2020, including anti-racism campaigning.

**Written by: Dr Ronojoy Sen**  
**Edited by: EUDiF**  
March 2020



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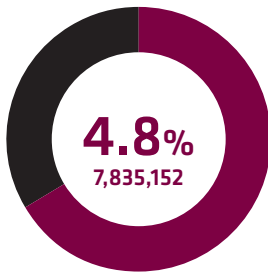


# Diaspora engagement mapping BANGLADESH

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

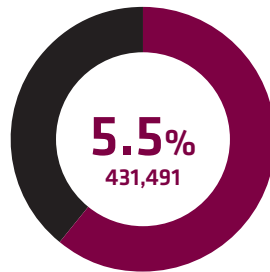
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 66.6%  
♀ 33.4%



% of which in the EU



♂ 61.0%  
♀ 39.0%



### Top countries of destination

India	3,103,664
Saudi Arabia	1,246,052
United Arab Emirates	1,079,013
Malaysia	410,195
Kuwait	370,844



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



### Voting from abroad:

Online



Remittances as a share of GDP: 5.5%  
Remittances inflow (USD million): 17,539

**Bangladesh does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

1 <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/3ae6b51f10.pdf>  
<http://www.ourtimebd.com/beta/2019/01/15/the-legality-of-dual-citizenship-in-bangladesh/>  
 2 <https://tbsnews.net/bangladesh/overseas-voter-registration-begins>

## Overview of policy and legislative framework



- 2013** ● **Overseas Employment and Migrants Act (OEMA)**<sup>3</sup> facilitates foreign employment and ensures a safe migration governance system. As part of the Act: (1) all workers migrating from Bangladesh, including domestic workers, are recognised as workers and are guaranteed basic labour rights; (2) they have the right to legal remedy; (3) they can access labour courts, mobile courts, and other courts; and (4) the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) and labour attachés in destination countries are recognised as key rights custodians.
- 2016** ● **Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy (EWOEP)**<sup>4</sup> complements the OEMA 2013 by offering a more comprehensive policy framework for safe labour migration. Its priority areas include: protection of the rights of migrants and their families; welfare support for migrant workers; gender-specific labour migration; integrating labour migration with national development; and migration governance. The government will work in consultation with various stakeholders, including prospective migrants, trade unions, recruiting agencies, employers and international organisations.
- 2016** ∨  
**2020** ● **Seventh Five Year Plan**<sup>5</sup> has a separate section called 'Migration for Development' which focuses on areas of economic growth and equity, skills and overseas labour market development and protection, human development and migration and enabling frameworks for migration and development through South-South cooperation.
- 2018** ● **Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) Act**<sup>6</sup> provides a legal framework for improved welfare services for migrant women and male workers. The governing body of the WEWB<sup>7</sup> includes relevant ministries and two delegates from recruitment agencies as well as migrant workers, including women.
- 2018** ● **Bangladesh National Strategy and Action Plan on Migration and Development**<sup>8</sup>  
This plan focuses on eight priority areas: recruitment process and related financial costs; social costs; skills development; social protection and rights; irregular migration and human trafficking; remittances; diaspora engagement; and climate migration.



### Trends:

Successive governments of Bangladesh have gradually realised the importance of its migrant communities. The most decisive step in this respect was in creating a separate ministry, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE), in 2001 to efficiently manage the migration sector. Banks have also begun to provide financial incentives to the diaspora and migrants. They provide loans to migrant workers and minimise income tax for diaspora who invest through these banks. They also provide tax rebates on diaspora investments.



### Achievements:

National efforts have so far focused on creating an enabling environment for migrants and built trust through an increased attention to labour migrants' rights. The government has shown a strong commitment to develop a migration system that complies with global human rights norms, including by regulating the role of recruitment agents.

3 <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/docs/169/Act.pdf>

4 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/annual\\_migration\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/annual_migration_report_2017.pdf). [https://mof.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mof.portal.gov.bd/page/3ef1111d\\_f0d6\\_41ea\\_aca9\\_6afb61228825/G-2\\_08\\_65\\_Expatriate%27s\\_English.pdf](https://mof.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mof.portal.gov.bd/page/3ef1111d_f0d6_41ea_aca9_6afb61228825/G-2_08_65_Expatriate%27s_English.pdf)

5 [https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/sites/unicef.org.bangladesh/files/2018-10/7th\\_FYP\\_18\\_02\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/sites/unicef.org.bangladesh/files/2018-10/7th_FYP_18_02_2016.pdf)

6 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/annual\\_migration\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/annual_migration_report_2017.pdf). <http://www.wewb.gov.bd/>

7 <http://www.wewb.gov.bd/site/page/41931875-0d57-42f1-a51c-b9f8a1a4c3dd/>

8 <http://www.mainstreamingmigration.org/sites/default/files/2017-06/bangladesh-programme-brochure.pdf>

## Obstacles:



- **Formal channels:** Bangladesh does not have a specific institution that targets diaspora engagement so formal and structured support from the government (including the embassies) could be further strengthened to channel such engagement. There is also no regular and comprehensive system to tap into diaspora support for development initiatives in areas such as technology, skills transfer and tourism.
- **Remittances:** most remittances are informally transferred to individual households due to concerns of corruption, red tape, political instability, high money transfer fees and a feeling of not knowing how to help.<sup>9</sup>
- **Diaspora networks:** initiatives to establish Bangladeshi diaspora networks mushroom and compete for resources and funding.
- **Return:** There is a gap in framing policies on returning migrants, this undermines reintegration programmes. Low-skilled migrants often come back with higher skills than are in demand domestically. However, the absence of a database hinders employers from hiring appropriately skilled workers.

## Spotlight: effective practices



### Wage Earners' Development Bond (WEDB), 1981<sup>10</sup>

The central bank of Bangladesh has taken the initiative to attract the investments of overseas wage earners and diaspora members. Bonds can be purchased without opening a foreign currency account by submitting the copy of the wage earners' passport and through the exchange companies of Bangladeshi banks working abroad.

INVESTMENT

### US Dollar Investment Bond (USDIB) and US Dollar Premium Bond (USDPB), 2002<sup>11</sup>

The Government introduced these bonds to facilitate investment in foreign currency by non-resident Bangladeshis.

INVESTMENT

### Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd<sup>12</sup>, NRB Bank<sup>13</sup>, Probashi Kalyan Bank (PKB)<sup>14</sup>

The stock exchange provides incentives for Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) such as a 10% quota in all Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) reserved for NRBs, individual income tax assessment similar to resident Bangladeshis and a 10% tax rebate on security investment. The NRB Bank incentivises NRBs to invest in Bangladesh through remittances directly credited to a savings account which can be used to invest in WEDB; attractive interest rates; WEDB principal amount repatriated to the NRB's residing country; and USDPB entirely tax waived and principal amount repatriated to residing country in US Dollar.<sup>15</sup> The state-run PKB provides collateral free loans to workers going abroad, returnees, facilitate remittances and encourage investment.

REMITTANCES

9 'Diaspora-driven development: how to turn wealth to health in Bangladesh', The Guardian, 2013, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2013/feb/05/bangladesh-diaspora-development-health-wealth>

10 <https://www.bb.org.bd/investfacility/wedbond.php>

11 <https://www.bb.org.bd/investfacility/premibond.php>

12 <https://www.dsebd.org/pdf/facilities%20for%20nrb.pdf>

13 <https://www.nrbbankbd.com/nrb-banking-bd/>

14 <http://www.pkb.gov.bd/>

15 <https://www.nrbbankbd.com/forms-downloads/#interest-rates>



## Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC), 2018<sup>16</sup>

HUMANITARIAN  
AID

The EU-ICMPD MICIC programme in Bangladesh initiated cooperation between diaspora communities in Italy and Malaysia, the embassies in both host countries and the Bangladeshi central authorities (MFA and MEWOE) to engage diaspora in crisis preparedness and response effort. MICIC also held a workshop in December 2019 in Dhaka to validate the country's new Migration Crisis Operational Framework, as well as crisis preparedness and response plans for countries hosting large numbers of migrants from Bangladesh.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/policy-research/policy/migrants-in-countries-in-crisis/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://micicinitiative.iom.int/events/bangladesh-strengthening-crisis-assistance-nationals-abroad>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

**International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Dhaka** <https://bangladesh.iom.int/>

IOM has partnered with the Government of Bangladesh since the mid-1990s and has provided continuous support to the government in its migration management efforts. The IOM regional office has partnered with the government on several initiatives, including publication of an annual migration report.

**International Labour Organisation (ILO) Dhaka** <https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/lang--en/index.htm>

The International Labour Organization (ILO) works with the Bangladeshi government, workers and employers' organisations to promote decent and productive employment opportunities for women and men in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has been an active member state of the ILO since 1972 and has ratified 35 ILO Conventions including seven fundamental conventions.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

**Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE)** <https://probashi.gov.bd/>

The ministry was established in 2001 to ensure the overall welfare and equal opportunities for expatriate Bangladeshi citizens to explore new labour markets, to create a skilled labour force through training according to the demands of the market, to reduce unemployment through foreign employment and to increase remittance inflow. MoEWOE is the focal ministry for labour migration policies and programme implementation and it performs these functions in cooperation with other government institutions.

- At sub-ministerial level

**Bangladesh Bank** <https://www.bb.org.bd/>

The Bangladesh Bank is the central bank and apex regulatory body for the country's monetary and financial system. It formulates and implements monetary and credit policies, regulates and supervises banks and non-bank financial institutions, manages international reserves, prevents money laundering and implements the foreign exchange regulation act<sup>18</sup>. The bank was involved in the setting up of the Wage Earners' Development Bond, which was one of the first diaspora engagement initiatives established in Bangladesh.

**Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET)** <http://www.bmet.gov.bd/>

BMET was established in 1976 by the Government of Bangladesh as a department under the then Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare. It is now under the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) serving as its main executive arm. It is responsible for monitoring private recruitment agencies as well as facilitating the process of recruitment and migration of Bangladeshis for overseas employment.

18 Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-218.html>

## **Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) <http://www.baira.org.bd/>**

BAIRA is one of the largest trade bodies in Bangladesh affiliated with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex body on trade & industry. It was established in 1984 to cater to the needs of the licensed recruiting agencies who are engaging Bangladeshi migrant workers. Currently BAIRA has about 1,000 government approved recruiting agents as its members.

## **Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited (BOESL) <http://www.boesl.gov.bd/>**

BOESL, which is a government agency under MoEWOE, is involved in recruiting Bangladeshis for overseas employment. BOESL operates the Employment Permit System with the Republic of Korea. It also manages recruitment schemes for Jordan and Japan.

## **NRB Bank <https://www.nrbbankbd.com/>**

NRB Bank commenced banking operations in 2013, with a vision to be the leading dedicated financial institution for Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) to invest in Bangladesh and for Bangladeshi individuals and corporates to access international markets. It has a wide variety of products and services such as retail banking, SME banking and NRB Banking. As of 2019, it has 42 branches, 43 ATM booths and 165 agent outlets across the country.

## **Probashi Kalyan Bank <http://www.pkb.gov.bd/>**

The bank was set up in 2010 to disburse loans to Bangladeshi migrant workers. To date, the bank has given loans to 35,400 migrant workers. It has 63 branches and aims to have a presence in every district in Bangladesh.

## **Diaspora organisations in Europe**



### **Associazione Shabuz Bangla 2015 Italy <https://www.facebook.com/asshabuzbangla/>**

This is an organisation in Italy, which aims at helping Bangladeshi migrants. It celebrates Bangladeshi national days, such as Mother Language Day and Bangla New Year. It also has its own cricket team.

### **Bangla Mirror Group 2002 UK <http://banglamirrornews.com/>**

The Bangla Mirror is a British English-language weekly newspaper for British Bangladeshis. It aims to give a voice to more than 500,000 British Bangladeshis with a view to strengthening the community's sense of its own identity.

### **Bangladesh Caterers Association (BBCA) 2015 UK <http://www.bbca-co.uk/>**

#### **☑ Development activities**

The association represents British-Bangladeshi restaurateurs and is one of the important business associations in the UK. Catering has become the flagship business of British Bangladeshis in the UK and British Bangladeshis manage almost 12,000 restaurants with a yearly turnover of nearly £3 billion and about 100,000 employees. The association plays an active role in providing assistance during disasters in Bangladesh and has undertaken initiatives to support development work in Bangladesh.



**Bangladesh Medical Society in the UK** 2013 UK <http://www.bmsuk.org.uk/>

This volunteer organisation is made up of Bangladeshi medical doctors and medical students working and living in the UK. Its aim is to promote and serve the interests of the British Bangladeshi doctors' community.

**Brick Lane Housing and Community Trust** 1987 UK <https://thcvs.org.uk/contacts/view/351>

 **Development activities**

The trust assists residents and claimants living and working in Tower Hamlets (London) of Bangladeshi origin on education, housing, employment, human rights and community development. It also liaises and works with UK government agencies and NGOs in education, housing, cultural heritage, development and to assist people in need of health care and social services in Bangladesh.

**British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI)** 1991 UK <http://www.bbcci.org.uk/>

 **Development activities**

BBCCI was founded by a group of Bangladeshi businessmen who wanted to promote trade and investment opportunities and cooperation between the UK and Bangladesh. The chamber offers a wide range of services to both Bangladeshi and British companies already involved in - or planning to become part of - the long-standing bilateral trading relationship. These services include the provision of business information and research, seminars and workshops, cultural advice and networking opportunities.

**Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council (GSC)** 1993 UK <http://www.gscuk.org.uk/>

 **Development activities**

GSC is a national voluntary organisation working for the welfare of Sylheti people living in Britain and Bangladesh. Sylhetis constitute 95% of the Bangladeshis living in Britain and GSC is Britain's largest Bangladeshi organisation. Since its inception, it has provided leadership in nation-wide programmes ranging from campaigns for voting rights, to racial discrimination. The council has 12 regional committees in England and Ireland, with four branch offices in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

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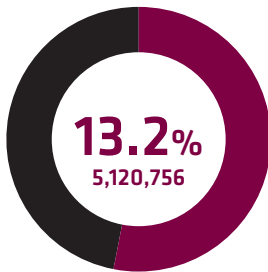


# Diaspora engagement mapping AFGHANISTAN

## Facts & figures

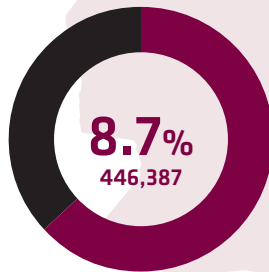
### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 53.3%  
♀ 46.7%

% of which in the EU



♂ 63.1%  
♀ 36.9%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **4.4%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **884**



### Top countries of destination

Islamic Republic of Iran	2,310,292
Pakistan	1,589,146
Saudi Arabia	469,324
Germany	208,732
United States	80,026



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



## 2017: Afghanistan National Diaspora Policy<sup>3</sup>



President Ashraf Ghani prioritised the National Diaspora Policy as a mean of achieving development and self-sufficiency for Afghanistan. The policy seeks to create an institution to act as a focal point for diaspora organisations wishing to be active in Afghanistan, in addition to encouraging investment from diaspora businesses. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is assisting the government with collating data on the Afghan diaspora, identifying critical areas of diaspora engagement and capacity building (see Spotlight section).

<sup>1</sup> Report on Citizenship Law: Afghanistan p12 [https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/45933/GLOBALCIT\\_CR\\_2017\\_09.pdf](https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/45933/GLOBALCIT_CR_2017_09.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Voting from Abroad <https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/voting-from-abroad-the-international-idea-handbook.pdf>  
However, this is not implemented due to lack of funding and operational capability

<sup>3</sup> 'Afghanistan looks to Diaspora to Promote Development', International Organisation for Migration, 2018 <https://www.iom.int/news/afghanistan-looks-diaspora-promote-development>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2005** ● **Law on Domestic and Foreign Private Investment in Afghanistan**<sup>4</sup> promotes economic development and allows domestic or foreign entities to invest in all sectors of Afghanistan. The law has done away with sector restrictions regarding foreign investment, guarantees equal treatment with nationals for foreign investors and allows them to lease land for up to 30 years. Companies can also be wholly foreign-owned.
- 2019** ● **Comprehensive Migration Policy**<sup>5</sup> was developed by the Afghan government in partnership with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The policy focuses on four key areas: the safe reintegration of returnees, promotion of regular and labour migration, prevention of irregular migration and efforts to maximise the development potential of migration. In June 2019, the final draft of the policy was officially presented to Afghanistan's chief executive and the Displacement and Returns Executive Committee. ICMPD plans to support policy implementation, after the final endorsement by the government.



### Trends:

The government is aiming to use diaspora engagement to attract foreign investment and skills transfer. During the Senior Officials Meeting in 2017, President Ghani discussed the 11 top constraints facing the private sector in Afghanistan. Since then, business licensing has been improved, punitive tax penalties abolished and public-private partnerships legislation developed. The government views diaspora engagement as productive for both the government and society due to transfer of knowledge and skills acquired by the diaspora as well as remittances and business investments.

## Obstacles



- **Context:** Afghan diaspora organisations have highlighted insecurity, insufficient knowledge about development policies in Afghanistan and the need for greater government cooperation as priority areas to enhance diaspora engagement.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, diaspora organisations without sufficient local connections face difficulties implementing projects, especially in rural areas.
- **Heterogeneity of the diaspora:** The Afghan diaspora varies in terms of ethnicity, political views, time of arrival, and generational or religious beliefs. This limits membership, collaboration and coordination within and among diaspora organisations. Members of the diaspora are often looked upon with suspicion by some locals when returning home, as they are perceived to have abandoned the country.<sup>7</sup>
- **Funding:** The voluntary nature of work in diaspora organisations means that they struggle to have adequate time dedicated to operational issues and are unable to attract technical staff to help with proposal writing, funding bids and project cycle management.

4 Law on Domestic and Foreign Private Investment in Afghanistan, Government of Afghanistan, <https://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/arch/afg/PrivateInvestmentLaw.pdf>

5 Comprehensive Migration Policy for Afghanistan, November 2019, <https://www.budapestprocess.org/component/attachments/download/400>, Project News: Comprehensive Migration Policy for Afghanistan presented in Kabul, Afghanistan, 2019.

6 Meshkovska, Biljana, Nasrat Sayed, Katharina Koch, Iman Rajabzadeh, Carole Wenger & Melissa Siegel, 2019, *Afghan Diaspora in Europe: Mapping engagement in Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom*, Study commissioned by Danish Refugee Council <https://www.merit.unu.edu/publications/uploads/1576769428.pdf>

7 Ibid

## Spotlight: effective practices



### IOM Support for Implementation of National Diaspora Policy

IOM funds and implements a project to support the roll out of the Afghanistan National Diaspora Policy, with the backing of the Afghan president. The project consists of:

1. A mapping of the Afghan diaspora in selected countries;
2. Diaspora engagement needs assessment;
3. Capacity building for the government.

POLICY

### Return of Qualified Afghans (RQA) programme, 2001-present<sup>8</sup>

The IOM initiated the RQA programme in December 2001 to tap into the expertise of qualified Afghans abroad and to engage them in the reconstruction process. The programme helped Afghans abroad to return home and to place them in key positions within ministries, government institutions and the private sector, thus enabling them to contribute to national development. By 2018, 1665 Afghan experts had returned home from 29 countries.

HUMAN CAPITAL

### Afghan Diaspora for Development Forum, 2018.

<https://www.cimonline.de/en/html/cim-forum-2018-afghan-diaspora-for-development.html>

The Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) hosted the event to facilitate diaspora engagement, networking and support the involvement of the diaspora in policy making. The event, which seems to have been a one-off initiative, brought together more than 100 participants from several Afghan diaspora organisations to discuss their work, establish new contacts and reinforce existing networks.<sup>9</sup>

NETWORKS

### Danish Refugee Council's Diaspora Programme

<https://drc.ngo/relief-work/diaspora-programme/what-we-do/diaspora-project-support>

Since 2018, the Danish Refugee Council has been engaging the Afghan diaspora in Europe to promote local humanitarian assistance, contribute to development through skills training, vocational training, and market development and improve coordination. It also commissioned the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/United Nations University, MERIT, to conduct a study of the Afghan diaspora and diaspora organisations in Denmark, Germany, Sweden and the UK to support an improved coordination and collaboration with the Afghan diaspora.<sup>10</sup>

NETWORKS

<sup>8</sup> Return of Qualified Afghans (RQA) Programme, IOM Afghanistan, [https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/afghanistan/rqa\\_programme\\_08.pdf](https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/afghanistan/rqa_programme_08.pdf) <https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/afghanistan/IOM-Afghanistan-RQA-Factsheet-January-2012.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Other conferences include 'Knowledge Transfer and Support. The Role of the Afghan Diaspora in Europe', 2019. <http://www.vidc.org/en/topics/global-dialogue/2019/networking-conference-the-role-of-the-afghan-diaspora-in-europe/> and 'The Afghan Diaspora's Role in Afghanistan's Social, Economic and Political Development Process', 2019 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-academic-diaspora-conference-afghanistan-by-the-farkhunda-trust-tickets-57722306974#>

<sup>10</sup> Meshkovska, Biljana, Nasrat Sayed, Katharina Koch, Iman Rajabzadeh, Carole Wenger & Melissa Siegel, 2019, *Afghan Diaspora in Europe: Mapping engagement in Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom*, Study commissioned by Danish Refugee Council <https://www.merit.unu.edu/publications/uploads/1576769428.pdf>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions



- At regional level

### **World Bank Afghanistan** <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/afghanistan/overview#2>

Afghanistan became a member in 1955 but operations were suspended in 1979, shortly after the Soviet invasion. The World Bank continued to provide assistance through its office in Pakistan and operations resumed in 2002. To date, the World Bank has provided over \$4.48 billion for development and emergency reconstruction projects, \$4.14 billion in grants and \$436.4 in no-interest loans. The bank has 10 active International Development Association (IDA) projects worth \$908 million and 14 projects jointly funded with the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund valued at over \$2.3 billion from IDA. The International Finance Corporation (private sector development arm of World Bank) has a current cumulative committed investment portfolio of over \$238 million and advisory services portfolio of \$11.5 million.

### **International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)** <https://www.icmpd.org/home/>

Founded in 1993, ICMPD is an international organisation with 17 member states, 300 staff members and is active in more than 90 countries worldwide. It takes a regional approach in its work to create efficient partnerships along migration routes. It has signed an MoU with Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation to develop a Comprehensive Migration Policy (CMP). They have also partnered to set up a Migrant Resource Centre in Kabul, Afghanistan, to provide clear information on possibilities for orderly migration and pre-departure information to potential migrants. This was officially presented in 2019 in Kabul. ICMPD is also the implementing partner of the project "support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest process". The Silk Routes Partnership Project aims to strengthen the migration management capacities of the Silk Routes countries – Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan – and is funded by the EU, Bulgaria, Hungary (lead), Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the UK. ICMPD also engages extensively with the Ministry of Labour on their labour migration practices and policies and supports the Ministry of Interior Affairs in regional law enforcement cooperation initiatives.

### **International Organisation for Migration Afghanistan** <https://afghanistan.iom.int>

The IOM Afghanistan works closely with national and local government institutions, NGOs, community organisations and donor communities to deal with migration management, humanitarian emergencies and improved living conditions for vulnerable communities.

### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/358.html>

GIZ's work is mainly commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA). It also works for international donors such as the World Bank and the Government of the Netherlands. GIZ's work in Afghanistan focuses on improving living conditions for the population and in the northern provinces of Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh and Samangan.

## **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Afghanistan**

<https://www.af.undp.org/content/afghanistan/en/home.html>

The UNDP has been working in Afghanistan on challenges related to climate change and resilience, gender, governance, health, livelihoods and rule of law. Its work is guided by the government, its development councils and is carried out in close coordination with partner UN agencies.

## **USAID in Afghanistan <https://www.usaid.gov/afghanistan>**

USAID's goal in Afghanistan is to promote a stable, inclusive and prosperous country. The key elements of USAID's strategy going forward call for sustaining the significant achievements in health, education, and women's empowerment; stimulating agriculture-led economic growth and fiscal sustainability; and supporting legitimate and effective Afghan governance.

## **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) <https://unama.unmissions.org/activities>**

UNAMA was established by the UN Security Council in 2002 at the request of the Government of Afghanistan. Its mandate is reviewed annually with the latest mandate renewal in September 2019 when resolution 2489 was adopted to continue to lead and coordinate international civilian efforts in full cooperation with the Afghanistan government.

## **Southern Western Afghanistan & Baluchistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC)**

<http://www.swabac.org>

The association was established in 1988 by 12 international NGOs in Pakistan based on the needs of having a coordination mechanism to harmonise their activities. Its activities fall within three categories: coordination, advocacy and capacity building.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

### **Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled <https://molisa.gov.af/en/about-ministry-0>**


The ministry has four key programmes: labour welfare & skills development; welfare of the families of martyrs & disabled; social welfare; and administration & finance capacity development. This is currently the lead ministry responsible for diaspora engagement and it is responsible for administration and management.

### **Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), <https://morr.gov.af/en>**

The ministry addresses issues related to returned refugees, reintegration and internally displaced person (IDP) management.

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), <https://www.mfa.gov.af>**

The ministry focuses on bilateral and multilateral relations with migrant host countries and deals with cross-border issues that might stem from migration or returning diaspora.



**Ministry of Interior (Moi), <https://moi.gov.af/en>**

The ministry is responsible for issuing legal documents, such as passports and visas, as well as handling the prevention of irregular migration.

- At sub-ministerial level

**Da Afghanistan Bank, <https://dab.gov.af/index.php/>**

The Central Bank of Afghanistan has introduced a lot of legislation related to international money transfers and remittance transfers. It introduced the Law of Da Afghanistan Bank (2003/4) which contains 134 articles focusing on aspects such as currency, securities services and transfer systems, foreign exchange controls and exchange rate policy.

**High Commission for Migration <https://president.gov.af/en/about-high-commission-for-migration/>**

After being mooted by the Minister of Refugees and Repatriations, the formation of a High Commission for Migration was discussed and approved in an Afghanistan cabinet meeting in 2015. The High Commission is assigned to manage affairs related to refugees, provide rights and social services to refugees and those returning to the country and also garner aid from countries, especially that of host countries.

- At local level

**Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation, 2008, <https://apro.org.af>**

It is an independent social research organisation with a mandate to promote social and policy learning to benefit development efforts in Afghanistan through conducting research, monitoring, evaluation, training and mentoring. They are registered with the Ministry of Economy in Afghanistan as a non-profit NGO.

**Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR), 1988  
<http://www.acbar.org/page/3.jsp?title=background>**

The agency was created in Pakistan in response to the demand from NGOs working with Afghan refugees in Pakistan and across the border in Afghanistan to coordinate assistance and delivery of services more efficiently. It focuses on information sharing, coordination, advocacy with NGO members, the government, UN, donors and wider civil society.

**Afghanistan Institute for Civil Society, 2014, <https://aicsafg.org/>**

It aims to support a credible and competent civil society sector in Afghanistan by linking civil society organisations, donors, government and capacity building services through culturally appropriate certification schemes. It seeks to encourage the growth of a vibrant civil society, promoting pluralism and participatory development in Afghanistan.

**Afghan NGO Coordination Bureau, 1991, <https://www.ancb.org/index.php>**

It was founded as a network of national NGOs in Afghanistan coordinating the activities among its members, the government, international organisations, UN and donor Agencies. It strives to enhance the capacity of member organisations through workshops, seminars and building partnerships with other or-

organisations to boost technical capacity. It has 200 members in health, agriculture, human rights, women empowerment, education, environment, civic education sector and capacity building.

**Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo), 2001, <https://acsf.af/>**

The organisation was established in partnership between Afghan civil society actors and 'Swisspeace' (a Swiss private foundation for the promotion of peace). It aims to coordinate, expand and foster civil society networks in Afghanistan and identify, raise and incorporate the needs, concerns and views of Afghan citizens into the social, economic and political development processes.

**American University of Afghanistan, 2006, <https://www.auaf.edu.af/>**

The American University of Afghanistan is Afghanistan's only nationally accredited, private, not-for-profit, non-partisan and co-educational university. It enrolls more than 1700 full and part time students and has produced 29 Fulbright scholars. It also maintains partnerships with American universities. The university was founded by Dr Sharif Fayeze who was from the Herat province in Afghanistan and pursued his graduate education in the US.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



**Afghan Academy International early 1980s UK <https://www.afghanacademy.org.uk>**

This independent, non-political and non-tribal organisation was set up to serve and support newly-arrived Afghans in the U.K. with early personal and social needs as well as to provide and promote cultural and educational activities to the new Afghan community.

**Afghan Council of Great Britain (ACGB) UK <http://a-cgb.co.uk>**

ACGB is the first national council of the British Afghan community in the UK affiliated with regional public, private and nongovernmental organizations from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It promotes consultation, cooperation, and collaboration on Afghan affairs in the UK. It also founded the Federation of European Afghan Associations, which is the largest independent non-political union of Afghan diaspora organisations from across Europe.

**Afghan-German Doctors Association-Weimar (ADAV) 2004 Germany  
<https://www.afghan-telemedicine.org/en/adav-weimar>**

**☑ Development activities**

ADAV is a registered voluntary association in Germany which provides scientific and practical help with establishing medical facilities and efficient healthcare in Afghanistan. It trains Afghan doctors and medical staff by sending doctors from Germany and other European countries to Afghanistan or by finding scholarships for Afghan doctors. It also engages in the psychological support of Afghans living in Germany.

**Afghanisches Kommunikations-und Kulturzentrum (Afghan Communication and Culture Centre) 1987  
Germany <https://afghan-kultur.de>**

Promotes Afghan culture in Germany to assist with the integration of recent Afghan arrivals in Berlin, including German lessons. It also offers social and psychosocial counselling, cultural activities and social events, and Dari and Pashto courses.





**Afghan Medical Staff Association** 2002 Germany <http://www.afghanmedstaff.de/>

 **Development activities**

Combining Afghan and German medical expertise, AMSA supports the continuous training and qualification of Afghan doctors through capacity building either in Germany or in Afghanistan. It carries out projects that are intended to contribute to the development and modernisation of the healthcare system in Afghanistan.

**Association of Afghan Healthcare Professionals** 2011 UK <http://aahpuk.org>

 **Development activities**

This organisation assists with the education and training of healthcare professionals of Afghan origin in the UK and works with other medical organisations in the UK and Afghanistan to promote clinical awareness and contribute to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan's healthcare sector. The Wheelchair project was a joint charitable venture between AAHP, The Karen Woo Foundation and Baaz Foundation (Afghanistan). The Clean Drinking Water project was implemented in Balkh province (2013) and Provincial Hospitals set up in Ghor (2015) and Chaghcharan Ghor (2014). It has also supported the Khwaja jam clinic in providing healthcare services to its local population for nearly three decades. The association also organises fund-raising events.

**Bildung, Kultur, Begegnung (Education, Culture, Encounter) (YAAR)** 2012 Germany  
<http://yaarberlin.de/english/>

This organisation offers German, Dari/Farsi and Pashto language courses and legal advice for refugees from Afghanistan in Germany, in addition to social activities for women empowerment and political participation.

**Dachverband des Afghanischen Medizinischen Fachpersonals (DAMF) (Association of Afghan Medical Professionals)** 2002 Germany <http://damf-ev.com/Startseite/>

 **Development activities**

This organisation functions as a coordinating NGO of all medical and other Afghanistan-focused NGOs based in Germany. They focus particularly on providing books for Afghan universities, have built and fund the running costs of the Dewanbegi clinic in Kabul and organise the annual Hamburg-Afghan week. The organisation coordinates activities with the German Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education and the German institutions, including GIZ in Afghanistan.

**Farkhunda Trust for Afghan Women's Education** 2016 UK <http://www.farkhundatrust.org>

Farkhunda Trust supports Afghan women with exceptional academic records by providing mentorship and scholarships to attain their education in the UK. The trust has institutional links with Kabul University and Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education in Kabul.

**Freundeskreis Afghanistan (Friend's Circle Afghanistan)** 1980s Germany <https://www.fk-afghanistan.de>

 **Development activities**

Freundeskreis is a result of cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Defence in Afghanistan for transportation services, school equipment and other materials. It also partners with humanitarian NGOs from Germany and Afghanistan.

**Katib Kultur Forening (Katib Cultural Association)** 2007 Denmark <http://www.katib.dk>

KKF supports younger generations of Afghans to preserve culture and prevent cultural clashes between newcomers and the general population in Denmark.

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