



Diaspora engagement mapping ANGOLA

Facts & figures

Terminology: Angola refers to its diaspora as 'Angolan communities abroad' (Portuguese: *Comunidades Angolanas no Exterior*), although the term 'diaspora' is also used in official documents.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.01%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **12.07**

Data disclaimer

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

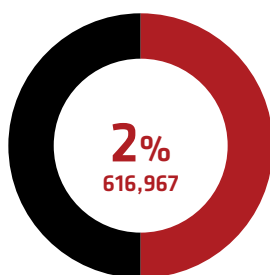
Emigration



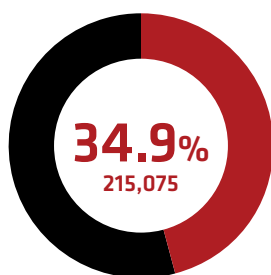
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 50.1%
♀ 49.9%



♂ 46.2%
♀ 53.8%

Top countries of destination



Portugal	201,961
Democratic Republic of the Congo	201,592
Namibia	42,539
Zambia	41,665
Congo	40,756

¹ The Constitution of Angola (2010) states that 'the child of a father or mother with Angolan nationality, born in Angola or abroad,[editor's emphasis] shall be an Angolan citizen by origin'. Dual citizenship was permitted under *Lei no 2/16 de 15 de Abril - Lei da Nacionalidade*. Full text available in Portuguese at: http://citizenshiprightsfrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Angola_Lei-da-nacionalidade_No2-2016.pdf

² LEI N.º18/21 DE REVISÃO CONSTITUCIONAL <https://pt.euronews.com/2022/08/24/diaspora-angolana-votou-em-lisboa>. Angola introduced the extraterritorial seats system with the Electoral Law of 1992, but it has not yet been implemented.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



2018
2022

National Development Plan (*Plano de Desenvolvimento Nacional, PND*)³ notes that the diaspora plays an important role in projecting Angola's image to the world and contributing to its economic growth through their skills, knowledge, and investments. The PND includes a policy aim of 'valuing Angola's relationship with the Angolan diaspora in the world'. It also acknowledges the pivotal role of the diaspora in achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The PND strategy aims to build Angola through 'improved representation in international bodies, consolidating its relationship with financial institutions, and developing a close relationship with the Angolan diaspora'. Among the associated priority actions for this strategy that the Ministry of Foreign Relations (MIREX) is undertaking as part of the PND are actions to:

- Develop and implement an engagement strategy for Angolan communities abroad;
- Develop and implement an e-portal for Angolan Communities Abroad, in order to publicize important information, resolve issues, and include the diaspora in the relevant national matters;
- Promote links with foreign communities that have historical and blood ties to Angola.

Moreover, in section 4 (Health Policy), it includes an objective to help address recruitment of health professionals that prioritises Angolan and diaspora candidates.

2023
2027

National Development Plan (*Plano de Desenvolvimento Nacional, PDN*). The PDN 2023–2027 explicitly recognises the importance of the Angolan diaspora and expresses a commitment to reinforce proximity with them to harness their contributions to national development, particularly by involving them in international business franchises. (Objective 50.1 and 50.1.2.6).⁴

Priority 50.1.3: Boosting relations with the diaspora and Angolan communities abroad focuses on:

- Developing and implementing a strategic approach to outreach to the diaspora, the Angolan communities abroad and in foreign communities that have historical and consanguineous ties with Angola.
- Installing Casas de Angola in public-private partnership.
- Resizing and equipping embassies and consular posts."

2018

Angola Migration Policy. The development of the Angola Migration Policy (AMP) was led by the SME, and it was adopted in 2018 by the Council of Ministers. The AMP focuses on: the management of migration flows; the study of migration trends; the integration of migrants and reintegration of nationals; the collection, analysis and publication of migration data; the analysis of the effects of climate change on migration policies; the promotion of tourism as a key to development; the engagement of the diaspora and its contribution to Angola's development; the return of qualified nationals; and the prevention of transnational crime.⁵

2023

Long-term development strategy for Angola 2050 (*Estratégia de Desenvolvimento a Longo Prazo para Angola 2050*) According to a note from the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP), the document provides a global vision for Angola and its role at the international level over the next 30 years. It presents five (5) priority axes for development: (I) a diversified and prosperous economy; (II) a modern and competitive infrastructure; (III) a society that values and boosts human capital; (IV) a resilient and sustainable ecosystem and (V) a fair nation with equal opportunities.⁶

³ <https://www.ucm.minfin.gov.ao/cs/groups/public/documents/document/zmlu/njax/~edisp/minfin601408.pdf>

⁴ [https://www.mep.gov.ao/assets/indicadores/angola2050/20231030\(3\)_layout_Final_Angola_PDN%202023-2027-1.pdf](https://www.mep.gov.ao/assets/indicadores/angola2050/20231030(3)_layout_Final_Angola_PDN%202023-2027-1.pdf)

⁵ <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/MGI-Angola-2021.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.mep.gov.ao/angola-2050>



» Trends

Angola suffered from several decades of conflict until the 2000s, first as part of the independence struggle with Portugal, and then as one of the last proxy conflicts of the Cold War. The government has formally acknowledged the role that the Angolan diaspora can play in national development, especially in this critical phase of reconstruction and reconciliation.⁷⁸ The Angolan Government undertook some important steps towards engaging with its diasporas through re-integration and human resources programmes immediately after the conflict, working with IOM and UNHCR to organise the repatriation of former Angolan refugees from neighbouring countries.⁹

Since a measure of peace and stability returned to the country, and with impressive economic growth from the 2000s to the mid-2010s on the back of an oil boom, Angola became a destination country for migrants in Southern Africa. This recent history, combined with a relatively low percentage of Angolans living outside the country and low dependency on remittances inflows, means there has been little incentive for the government to engage with its diaspora, with the exception of some limited programmes (running until 2008) to recruit skilled diaspora professionals to fill skills shortages in areas such as health and engineering.¹⁰ However, the increase in skilled migration coming from Portuguese citizens to Angola following the 2008 economic crash meant that the Angolan government has since been able to address some skills shortages (especially in education and engineering/construction) without necessarily recruiting diaspora professionals.

As a result of these factors, diaspora engagement policies and programmes are limited in Angola. Since 2013, IOM has been working with the Angolan government and local communities to develop diaspora engagement and migration strategies.¹¹ While these strategies have not been formally adopted, some of their recommendations have been included in the PND 2018-2022. IOM is also assisting the government in the development of the first National Migration Policy in Angola.

In response to its history of slavery, and the prolonged social and political instability following independence in 1975, Angola is witnessing a growing movement within its diaspora to reconnect with and preserve national identity through cultural expression. The Angolan diaspora is increasingly engaging with traditional arts such as theatre and performance to promote remembrance, tourism, and cultural revival. These efforts also focus on intergenerational exchange, as cultural knowledge and skills are passed down to younger generations, contributing to the positive reimagining of Angola's global image and the promotion of its heritage abroad.

7 IOM. *Migration and Development: New Strategic Outlooks and Practical Ways Forward. The Cases of Angola and Zambia*. https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/IDM/MRS21.pdf

8 Another example of this is the meeting on diaspora involvement in 2004 organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX). See ANGOP. *Meeting of Angolan Cadres From The Diaspora Starts Today*. http://m.portalangop.co.ao/angola/en_us/noticias/sociedade/2004/10/46/Meeting-Angolan-Cadres-From-The-Diaspora-Starts-Today.f21cf123-ee4c-4a76-8a23-eb77b81f62cd.html?version=mobile

9 Between 2003 and 2007, about 74,000 refugees were voluntarily repatriated back to Angola from neighbouring Zambia alone. See IOM *op. cit.*

10 Ibid.

11 IOM, *op. cit.* Angola was also one of several African states which supported the development of the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (AEDP, a forerunner of ADEPT), and MIREX officials attended several AEDP 'expert meetings' from 2012 to 2014. An AEDP diaspora mission to Luanda in 2013 made a number of recommendations for enhancing Angolan diaspora engagement, including the need for engagement structures and a diaspora skills database, but these have not yet been implemented by the Angolan government. See EU and Africa-Euro Platform. Report of the Mission to Pilot Countries – Angola 28 October – 13 November 2013

Obstacles



- **Lack of official government policies:** As Angola lacks official government policies targeting the diaspora, there is little or no framework to encourage diaspora involvement.
- **Lack of trust:** One legacy of Angola's long history of conflict has been difficult relations with its diaspora, which remains polarised politically.¹² While the Youth Wing of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (JMPLA) is active in a number of countries of residence, there is little broader diaspora engagement.¹³
- **Lack of diaspora organisational capacity:** The majority of the Angolan diaspora show no interest in joining any kind of organization or group.¹⁴

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

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Diaspora Consultation Sessions 2017

NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS

The Institute of Angolan Communities Abroad and Consular Services held a series of meetings with representatives of Angolan diaspora organisations in Lisbon and other countries of residence of the diaspora. During these meetings, representatives of the Institute listened to the concerns presented by representatives of Angolan associations in the diaspora. Issues raised included social integration, employment and social security, leadership and associative skills, legalisation and regularisation of documents, as well as the role, vision, mission, and competence of consular missions.¹⁵

Issuing Angolan ID Cards for Angolan diaspora 2019

MIGRANT RIGHTS

The Ministry of Foreign Relations (MIREX) announced in August 2019 that it would develop services so that Angolan citizens abroad could obtain an Angolan identity card, as well as other documents such as birth certificates and passports.¹⁶ One of the aims was to promote diaspora return, especially of skilled professionals.

Moreover, the Angolan embassy in Namibia announced in October 2019 that it was organising the registration of undocumented Angolan migrants and diaspora in Namibia, providing them with consular ID cards to give them greater protection and allow them to cross the Angolan border legally for work.¹⁷ This came in response to concerns raised by the Angolan community in Namibia about a lack of appropriate documentation, and the high number of young people who illegally cross the border in the Cunene province in search of work.

12 IOM (2010). *Angola: A Study of the Impact of Remittances from Portugal and South Africa*. Available at : <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs39.pdf>.


13 See, for example, <https://www.facebook.com/Jmpla-Portugal-760422410721127/>

14 IOM (2010). *Angola: A Study of the Impact of Remittances from Portugal and South Africa*. Available at : <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs39.pdf>.

15 <https://vivenciaspressnews.com/lisboa-instituto-das-comunidades-angolanas-no-exterior-e-servicos-consulares-reuniu-se-com-as-sociacoes-comunitarias/>

16 http://www.angop.ao/angola/en_us/noticias/politica/2019/7/34/Government-speeds-issuing-diaspora,b57f4594-46fc-42d2-a3bd-b4a22a4af972.html

17 <https://www.dw.com/pt-002/legaliza%C3%A7%C3%A3o-da-comunidade-angolana-na-nam%C3%ADbia-%C3%A9-autorizada/a-50716543>



National diaspora forum 2021

In 2021 IOM and the Institute Providing Support to Angolan Communities Abroad (IAECAE) organised the first national diaspora forum to engage the diaspora and promote its active participation in the development of the country.

NETWORKING

A General Consular Management System (SIGGEC) 2023

A digital platform to ensure greater integration, modernization, decentralization and operability of consular services, is being implemented by the Angolan Executive, with a view to better serving communities abroad.

DIGITAL

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU-CIDO) 2008

AU-CIDO is responsible for implementing the AU's engagement with non-state actors through the involvement of the diaspora and civil society. Angola nominates a diaspora focal point to represent the country at AU-CIDO Continental Meetings.

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) 1983

Angola is a member of ECCAS; it joined as a full member in 1999. ECCAS member states agreed a Protocol on Freedom of Movement and Rights of Establishment of Nationals of Members States (Annex 7 to the original Treaty) in 1983 that includes provisions for the freedom of movement, residence and establishment, although this has yet to be fully implemented by member states.¹⁸

- **National institutions**

Ministry of Foreign Relations (*Ministério das Relações Exteriores, MIREX*) 1975

The Ministry of Foreign Relations is responsible for Angola's foreign relations, and for its network of embassies and consulates around the world. It is Angola's lead ministry for diaspora engagement. [🐦]

- At sub-ministerial level

The Institute for the Support of Emigration and Angolan Communities Abroad (IAECAE - Instituto de Apoio à Emigração e das Comunidades Angolanas no Exterior) 1992

IAECAE forms part of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and is a 'guardianship body' (*Órgão tutelado*) responsible for diaspora engagement policies and programmes in Angola, assessment and analysis of Angolan diaspora needs, and diaspora consular services. The main responsibilities of the Institute are:

- Receiving Angolans who return home either permanently or temporarily;
- Providing information and advice on employment and investment opportunities and on other aspects related to return and reintegration (e.g. travel, transfer of personal effects, opening of foreign currency bank accounts);
- Assisting Angolans abroad with administrative and legal matters;
- Maintaining fruitful links between the country and its diaspora.¹⁹

¹⁸ According to this Protocol, the provisions on free movement and the right of establishment were to be implemented within four and twelve years respectively as of the entry into force of the Treaty. A decision related to free movement of some categories of persons was adopted in January 1990 and amended in June 2000. This decision was meant to be effective in March 2005 but discussions are still ongoing. For more information, see: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants on his mission to Angola – June 2017, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/G1709978.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://miciniinitiative.iom.int/miciniinitiative/institute-providing-support-angolan-communities-abroad-iaecae> ; see also Ministério das Relações Exteriores, Estatuto Orgânico do Ministério das Relações Exteriores, available at: http://www.saflii.org/ao/legis/num_act/eodmdre524.pdf

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



Câmara de Comércio e Indústria Portugal Angola (CCIPA, Portugal Angola Chamber of Commerce and Industry) 1987 Portugal

Founded in July 1987 by a group of Portuguese and Angolan companies, the Portugal Angola Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a bilateral private business association. The CCIPA is a non-profit public utility institution, based in Lisbon. In 1991, it opened its Delegation in Luanda and its Statutes were approved by the Angolan Government, becoming the first business association with this status in both countries.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Angolan Community in London (ACL) 1994 United Kingdom

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



Integration activities

ACL was established for the benefit of Angolans in need and residing in London. It works to relieve poverty by providing advice and information on housing, health, benefits, and immigration issues,

Angola und Kongo Solidarität Hilfsorganisation (ANKOSO) Germany

Development activities

Integration activities

An Angolan and Congolese diaspora organisation based in Cologne that organises cultural and community events in Germany, and delivers community development projects in Angola.


Angolan Business Beyond Border (ABBB) 2024 Belgium

Development activities

A non-profit organisation that fosters economic development by connecting Angola with its global diaspora and international partners and facilitates strategic partnerships between diaspora entrepreneurs, private sector actors, government institutions, and investors to promote business initiatives both within and beyond Angola.

Associação de Estudantes Angolanos em Portugal (AEAP) 1984 Portugal

Integration activities

The Association of Angolan Students in Portugal is an organisation representing Angolan students in Portugal, of an academic, social, and cultural nature. It works to support Angolan students in Portugal. []

Associação dos Residentes Angolanos no Concelho de Odivelas – ARACODI Portugal

Integration activities

Angolan community organisation that provides advice and other integration services for Angolans in Portugal.


Associação Angolana de Solidariedade em Portugal (ASAP) Portugal

Integration activities

Angolan community organisation that provides advice and other integration services for Angolans in Portugal.


Associação de Desenvolvimento e Defesa dos Angolanos (ADDA) 1996 Portugal

Integration activities

ADDA works to support integration of Angolan migrants in Portugal and provides cultural, training, and social integration services. [

Associacao da comunidade angola em Portugal 2018 Portugal

Integration activities

The aim of this association is to bring together the Angolan community living in Portugal, to promote Angolan culture and gastronomy, and to organise sporting and cultural events. [

Association des Jeunes Angolais en France (AJAF) 2013 France

Integration activities


An Angolan diaspora youth network that organises cultural events and offers training and youth activities to its members. [

AQDAFA - Associação de Quadros da Diáspora para o Apoio a Formação dos Angolanos 2020

A non-profit association made up of Angolan and foreign professionals whose main aim is to support training in Angola. The association is legalized in France and has members in 11 countries around the world.

Casa de Angola 2012 Portugal

Integration activities

An Angolan restaurant and cultural centre in Lisbon that organises Angolan cultural events and works to promote Angolan culture in Portugal. [

Federação Das Associações Angolanas em Portugal (FAAP) 2018 Portugal

Integration activities

An umbrella group of Angolan organisations in Portugal that works to serve the Angolan diaspora in the country. [

Union of the Angolan Diaspora (UDA) 2017 United Kingdom

☑ Integration activities

UDA is an Angolan diaspora association whose aim is to unify Angolan communities abroad so that they can defend their rights in countries of residence. [f]

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