



Diaspora engagement mapping TOGO

Facts & figures

Terminology: Togo refers to its diaspora as 'Togolese abroad' ('Togolais de l'extérieur').

Political rights



Dual citizenship^{1,2}



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad^{3,4}



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **7.09%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **650,39**

Voting from abroad:

At voting offices



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).

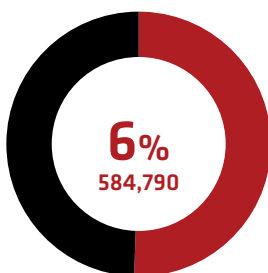
Emigration



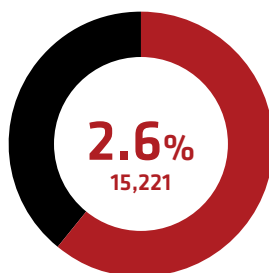
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 50.3%
♀ 49.7%



♂ 61.1%
♀ 38.9%

Top countries of destination



Nigeria	169,717
Benin	120,390
Ghana	115,972
Côte d'Ivoire	95,310
Gabon	24,966

1 *Loi Sur La Nationalité Togolaise*. 1978. Lomé: République Togolaise. <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/68455/120026/F97087116/TGO-68455.pdf>.

2 However, the loss of Togolese nationality (i.e. from acquiring another nationality) is subordinate to government decree (Article 23 of the Togolese Nationality Law). Therefore, in principle, a Togolese national could acquire multiple nationalities if the government ruled against their loss of Togolese nationality. In practice, the Togolese state seldom enforces the loss of Togolese citizenship upon acquisition of an additional citizenship - Key informant interview, Coordination des Organisations de la Diaspora Togolaise pour le Co-Développement, 4 August 2020.

3 *Code électoral de la République togolaise*. 2017. Lomé. République Togolaise. <http://togolex.com/2020/01/code-electoral-de-la-republique-togolaise-version-consolidee-a-jour-de-toutes-les-modifications.html>.

4 Dougueli, Georges. 2020. "[Tribune] Togo : La Diaspora, Un Électorat Mis À L'Écart". *Jeune Afrique*, 2020. <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/892948/societe/tribune-togo-la-diaspora-un-electorat-mis-a-lecart/>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2013** ● The **Strategic Plan for the Mobilisation of the Togolese Diaspora**⁵ constitutes a landmark in the government's diaspora engagement. The document proposes the creation of a High Council for Togolese Abroad to better structure diaspora representations; the institution of a National Agency for Togolese Abroad to be in charge of the relationship between the state and the diaspora; the organisation of diaspora forums; the channelling of remittances into national development through the creation of an Investment Fund for Togolese Abroad; the raising of public awareness about diaspora programmes; the assistance of professional and social reintegration of returning migrants; and the engagement of the diaspora in decentralised cooperation.
- 2014** ● The **diaspora visa exemption** was introduced by the government's Council of Ministers in 2014. The order, which implemented a recommendation made at the 2014 diaspora meetings, benefits those who lost their Togolese nationality after acquiring the nationality of their country of residence. Togolese abroad need only to present their previous Togolese passport, national identity card or consular card upon arrival in order to enter Togo visa-free.⁶
- 2016** ● The **Migration and Development Strategy** was launched with the support of ICMPD to bring together the government's different migration and development initiatives, including diaspora engagement, into a coherent framework. Mobilising the Togolese abroad is a recurring theme throughout.⁷ The more specific actions include putting in place a diaspora database and framework for diaspora-state dialogue; improving diplomatic and consular services; defining an active diaspora communication policy (including a website and support to diaspora meetings, areas in which the Togolese government has already made progress); exploring incentives to stimulate diaspora investment; concluding public-private partnership agreements with the diaspora; establishing a "bank of Togolese abroad"; providing financial education to migrants; facilitating the temporary and permanent return of qualified Togolese abroad; and allowing dual citizenship (tolerated in practice but not currently allowed under nationality law).
- 2017** ● The **National Labour Migration Strategy and Operational Action Plan (2018-2022)** was also developed with ICMPD's support and aims to support national development through equitable and effective labour migration governance. The document focuses on a broad range of labour migration issues (including immigration). Nevertheless, some actions aim to support Togolese labour migrants, including the establishment of a diaspora competencies and enterprises repertory; the development of skills transfer programmes; the strengthening of the National Employment Agency's international services and supervision of private employment agencies; the dispatch of labour attachés in diplomatic missions; and the elaboration of a guide for emigrants (developed in 2017).
- 2018** ● The **National Development Plan (PND, 2018-2022)**⁸ mentions the need to attract diaspora investment in plans to reform public procurement, as well as the need to mobilise diaspora resources and channel remittances towards productive investment. The Investment Fund for Togolese Abroad is mentioned as a possible mechanism to achieve this.

5 Radji, Safiou. 2013. «Plan Stratégique Pour La Mobilisation De La Diaspora Togolaise : Rapport Final». <https://cvu-togo-diaspora.org/files/2014/03/BAD-TOGO-2013-01-PLAN-STRATEGIQUE-POUR-LA-MOBILISATION-DE-LA-DIASPORA-TOGOLAISE.pdf>.

6 Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, de l'Intégration Africaine et des Togolais de l'Extérieur. 2014. «Promouvoir La Diaspora: Les Togolais Détenteurs De Passeport Étranger, Exemptés De Visa D'Entrée Et De Sortie». <https://www.manationtogo.com/promouvoir-la-diaspora-les-togolais-detenteurs-de-passeport-etranger-exemptes-de-visa-dentree-et-de-sortie/>.

7 In particular, the first two (of the four) strategic orientations are: 1) the promotion of diaspora engagement for diaspora participation in national development; and 2) the facilitation and mobilisation of diaspora remittances.

8 Government of Togo. 2018. «Plan National de Développement 2018-2022». Lomé: République Togolaise. <https://www.togofirst.com/media/attachments/2019/04/02/-pnd-2018-2022.pdf>.

2019

Government Roadmap for the Togolese Abroad.⁹ Togo's diaspora policy comprises three strands of state-led diaspora engagement:

- 1) Valuing the diaspora's human, economic and social capitals;
- 2) Strengthening communication between the government and the diaspora;
- 3) Enhancing protection and the defence of diaspora interests.

Amongst the specific initiatives proposed is the creation of diaspora competency and associational repertoires, launching a programme to support diaspora development projects in regions of origin, encouraging the diaspora to teach in Togolese universities and schools, and organising a diaspora forum (one of which was organised in November 2019).¹⁰

2020



2025

The **action program for strengthening the contributions of the Togolese diaspora in the Togo 2025 plan.**¹¹ The action plan sets several projects for the coming 3 years including a mapping of the Togolese diaspora and the establishment of a directory for diaspora entrepreneurs and investors. It introduces tools to monitor the contributions of diaspora and diaspora-related projects, such as the Observatory of Togolese Diaspora and guides to facilitate diaspora economic engagement. The plan also includes the creation of an incubator and an investment fund (FITEX) dedicated to the Togolese Diaspora and partnership platforms with local authorities.



Trends

Despite the country's developed policy frameworks,^{12 13} Togo's success in developing concrete engagement initiatives has been mixed. It has struggled to fully implement long-vaunted flagship initiatives like the Investment Fund for Togolese Abroad (the "FITEX", which was mentioned in the 2013 Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion Strategy (SCAPE) but for which a feasibility study was only commissioned in 2019),¹⁴ while also still restricting dual citizenship.

With its 2019 Government Roadmap for the Togolese Abroad already signalling a renewed commitment to diaspora engagement, Togo's foreign minister presented a new initiative, the Decade of African Diasporas, to the 33rd African Union Summit in 2020.¹⁵ The initiative aims to organise an African Diaspora Economic Forum in Lomé to lay the groundwork for a new framework for dialogue and exchange with African diasporas.

9 Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, de l'Intégration Africaine et des Togolais de l'Extérieur. 2019. "Note De Présentation De La Feuille De Route Pour Les Togolais De L'extérieur". Lomé: République Togolaise. <https://diasporatg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Note-de-pr%C3%A9sentation-de-la-Feuille-de-Route.pdf>.

10 "FEDA : Forum Économique De La Diaspora Africaine De Lomé – Le Rendez-Vous Des Diasporas !". 2019. *Forum.Diaspora.Tg*. <https://forum.diaspora.tg/>.

11 https://www.ctc-n.org/sites/www.ctc-n.org/files/2022-09/Feuille%20de%20Route%20gouvernementale%20du%20Togo%202025_1.pdf

12 Government of Togo. 2018. «Togo : Le Gouvernement Veut Définir Une Stratégie De Migration Professionnelle». <https://www.republiquetogolaise.com/politique/0404-1711-togo-le-gouvernement-veut-definir-une-strategie-de-migration-professionnelle>.

13 International Centre for Migration Policy Development and International Organization for Migration. 2017. *A Survey on Migration Policies in West Africa*. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. https://fmmwestafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/en-A_Survey_on_Migration_Policies_in_West_Africa_EN_SOFT2nd.pdf.

14 Ambassade du Togo en France. 2019. «Fonds D'Investissement Des Togolais De L'Extérieur (FITEX)». <https://www.france.ambassade-togo.org/2019/02/13/fonds-dinvestissement-des-togolais-de-lexterieur-fitex/>.

15 Republicoftogo.com. 2020. «Le Sixième Continent», 2020. <https://www.republicoftogo.com/Toutes-les-rubriques/Diaspora/Le-sixieme-continent>.

Obstacles



- **Implementing the diaspora vote:** In 2019, the diaspora was finally granted the right to vote. However, just 348 Togolese abroad were reportedly able to register to vote in the 2020 national elections.¹⁶ The legislation that allowed the diaspora vote placed several administrative requirements on prospective voters, including the need to obtain a consular card from a Togolese diplomatic mission at least six months before electoral roll registration, leading to extremely low turnout.¹⁷
- **Political division:** Opposition to the incumbent administration is considered high amongst Togolese abroad. This has at times limited dialogue between the state and the diaspora.¹⁸ In addition to the government being accused of deliberately constraining the diaspora vote to reduce support for opposition parties, the establishment of the High Council of Togolese Abroad has also been seen by some as a means to extend the ruling party's power to diaspora communities.¹⁹
- **Lack of organisation:** The lack of structure and organisation among diaspora communities has long been cited as a constraint on the diaspora's ability to express themselves and contribute to national development.²⁰ The government established the High Council of Togolese Abroad to address this challenge.²¹
- **Dual citizenship:** the Togolese diaspora is by and large required to choose between the citizenships of their countries of residence and origin. Notwithstanding the government's introduction of the visa exemption for the diaspora, many Togolese abroad, especially non-nationals, face administrative barriers when attempt to engage their country of origin.

16 Nafissa, Amadou. 2020. « La diaspora togolaise en France a manifesté ce jour de vote ». Deutsche Welle, 2020. <https://www.dw.com/fr/la-diaspora-togolaise-en-france-a-manifest%C3%A9-ce-jour-de-vote/a-52480783>.

17 Dougueli, Georges. 2020. « [Tribune] Togo : La Diaspora, Un Électorat Mis À L'Écart ». *Jeune Afrique*, 2020. <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/892948/societe/tribune-togo-la-diaspora-un-electorat-mis-a-lecart/>.

18 alome.com. 2019. « Haut Conseil Des Togolais De L'Extérieur (HCTE)/La Position De Visions Solidaires », , 2019. <http://news.alome.com/h/120396.html>.

19 Topona, Eric. 2019. « Haut Conseil Des Togolais De L'extérieur, Une Fausse Bonne Idée ? ». *Deutsche Welle*, 2019. <https://www.dw.com/fr/haut-conseil-des-togolais-de-lext%C3%A9rieur-une-fausse-bonne-id%C3%A9e/a-50394570>.

20 Haut Conseil des Togolais de l'Extérieur. 2019. « Plateforme D'élection Des Délégués Pays Du Haut Conseil Des Togolais De L'extérieur ». Haut Conseil des Togolais de l'Extérieur. <https://ambatogoindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Plate-forme-d%C3%A9lection-des-D%C3%A9l%C3%A9gu%C3%A9s-Pays-du-HCTE-Presses.pdf>.

21 Ibid.

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HUMAN CAPITAL

NETWORKING +
PARTNERSHIPS

DIGITALISATION

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DATA

TOGO

Diaspora awards

The annual Week of Diaspora Achievements (Semaine des réussites diaspora), which was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad,²² recognises the achievements of seven diaspora personalities in the fields of science, research, education, health, humanitarianism, media, economy, business and new technologies.²³ The event also brings Togolese abroad together for events that facilitate exchange. Laureates, are selected by an independent panel²⁴ and decorated by the president, underlining high-level state commitment to the diaspora.²⁵

Diaspora online portal

The Directorate of Togolese Abroad (DTE) created a modern website in 2018 to share information with the diaspora in English and French.²⁶ It regularly publishes stories on diaspora-related developments and national news, while also using the website to communicate the role of the DTE and the Government Roadmap for the Togolese Abroad, as well as posting links to diaspora services. Users can also subscribe to the website's newsletter.

Online business creation

Togo has made a number of reforms to its business environment in recent years. Among the most important was the Centre of Enterprise Formalities (CFE) introduction of online business creation in 2019.²⁷ While not a diaspora engagement initiative in itself, the move - which saw the World Bank rank Togo as the fifteenth easiest country in which to start a business²⁸ - will likely facilitate the creation of diaspora-led businesses.

First Togolese diaspora mapping 2022

The purpose of the mapping is to identify Togolese living abroad to better understand their geographical distribution and to develop a reliable and efficient database in order to enhance the government's ability to capitalise on their economic and human capital for the economic and social development of Togo.

22 aLome.com. 2016. «« Semaine Des Réussites Diaspora » : Gilbert Bawara Invite La Diaspora Togolaise À Jouer Son Rôle Dans La Modernisation Rapide Du Togo», 2016. <http://news.alome.com/h/81370.html>.

23 Republicoftogo.com. 2016. «Une Semaine Pour Récompenser Les Talents Togolais», 2016. <https://www.republicoftogo.com/Toutes-les-rubriques/Diaspora/Une-semaine-pour-recompenser-les-talents-togolais>.

24 Ibid.

25 Expertise France. 2018. «Mobilisation de la diaspora : bonnes pratiques à l'international et éléments de transposabilité en Tunisie». Expertise France. https://www.expertisefrance.fr/documents/20182/391705/EtudeLemmaC2-Benchmark_Inter_MobilisationDiaspora.pdf/3048d146-52f0-4d0a-9b8d-fd9f09e4e972.

26 MADE West Africa. 2020. «Feuille De Route Du Togo». Accessed July 30.

27 Akoda, Séna. 2020. «Togo: La Création D'Entreprises Se Démocratise Davantage». *Togo First*, 2020. <https://www.togofirst.com/fr/gouvernance-economique/1303-5127-togo-la-creation-d-entreprises-se-democratise-davantage>.

28 "Rankings". 2019. *Doingbusiness.Org*. <https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/rankings>.

Streamlining Diaspora Engagement to Catalyze Private Investment and Entrepreneurship for Enhanced Resilience (SDE4R Project)

SDE4R is a technical assistance project aimed at strengthening private sector development, economic growth and social and climate resilience in 8 African transitional states through more proactive diaspora engagement, including Gambia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe.

TogoYeye Projects

Togolese creatives, such as the duo behind TogoYeye, Malaika Nabillah and Delali Ayivi, have played a vital role in bridging the gap between the diaspora and the homeland through cultural and artistic collaboration. Their work, showcased at events like the PhotoVogue Festival 2023, reimagines Togolese culture and identity, fostering a sense of unity and pride among the diaspora and bridging the gap between Togo and its diaspora.

Annex:

List of actors

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

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU CIDO)

Togo is a member of the African Union and nominates a diaspora focal point to represent Togo as part of the AU CIDO Continental Meetings.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Inter-ministerial Committee for the Coordination and Monitoring of Migration and Development Activities 2014

The committee was established to bring together departments responsible for migration and development issues.²⁹ It meets approximately once per quarter and is chaired by the Ministry of Development Planning.³⁰

Directorate of Togolese Abroad (DTE) 2005

The DTE was established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad (MAEIMATE) to prepare and implement the state's diaspora policies and to mobilise the diaspora for national development. The DTE contains two divisions:

- 1) Protection of Persons and Goods Division
- 2) Diaspora Projects Division

National Employment Agency (ANPE)

The ANPE matches labour demand and supply. It is responsible for certifying work contracts of foreign workers and those of Togolese migrant workers. The agency also provides employment support to migrants before they depart and upon their return.³¹

Ministry of Development Planning

The Ministry of Development Planning leads on the drafting of national development plans and chairs the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Coordination and Monitoring of Migration and Development Activities. It is also working with the Coordination des Organisations de la Diaspora Togolaise pour le Co-Développement (CODT-CODEV) to facilitate diaspora involvement in local development projects.³²

29 Ma Nation Togo. 2019. «Interview : Robert DUSSEY Revient Sur Les Temps Forts De L'Action Diplomatique Du Togo En 2019», 2019. <https://www.manationtogo.com/interview-robert-dussey-revient-sur-les-temps-forts-de-laction-diplomatique-du-togo-en-2019/>.

30 Key informant interview, Ministry of Development Planning, 5 August 2020.

31 "Migration Professionnelle - ANPE". 2020. Anpetogo.Org. Accessed July 29. <https://anpetogo.org/migration-professionnelle/>.

32 Key informant interview, Ministry of Development Planning, 5 August 2020.

Directorate-General of National Documentation (DGDN) 2003

The DGDN, part of the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, processes national identity and travel documents – key documents used by Togolese abroad.³³

Togo Invest 2012

Togo Invest is a state-owned enterprise established as a strategic economic development tool. It aims to develop Togo into a modern logistics and development corridor. It serves as an investment-holding firm that aims to attract other actors to invest in major infrastructure and development projects. In 2020, Togo Invest created an investment vehicle, Kifema Capital, which aims to bring together Togolese investors, including diaspora investors, wishing to support projects associated with the government's National Development Plan.³⁴ Kifema Capital, which is co-owned by Togo Invest and several other investors (mainly public-sector), plans to take equity positions in, and manage, Togolese enterprises.³⁵

Diaspora organisations in Europe

The newly-established High Council of Togolese Abroad (HCTE) aims to serve as the principal diaspora umbrella organisation worldwide,³⁶ with delegates selected from countries of residence. Aside from the HCTE, Togolese residing in Europe have organised themselves through a variety of associations (although smaller in number when compared with other West African diaspora representations). The associational make-up can also be characterised by its political dimension, with Togolese political parties also operating representations in countries of residence; the list below only includes apolitical associations.³⁷

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



Association des exilés togolais en Suisse (ATS) Switzerland

☑ Integration activities

ATS brings together and provides support to Togolese political asylum seekers in Switzerland.³⁸

Association des Togolais de France (ATOF) France 2012

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

Association bringing together Togolese residing in France through cultural and development activities. ATOF organises the Miss Togo France beauty pageant.³⁹

33 Key informant interview, Ministry of Development Planning, 5 August 2020.

34 Agboh Ahouelete, Jean-Paul. 2020. «Kifema Capital, Un Outil De Financement De Togo Invest Pour Booster Le Plan National De Développement (PND)». Togo First, , 2020. <https://www.togofirst.com/fr/finance/2805-5611-kifema-capital-un-outil-de-financement-de-togo-invest-pour-booster-le-plan-national-de-developpement-pnd>.

35 Ibid.

36 Haut Conseil des Togolais de l'Extérieur. 2019. «Termes De Référence Du Haut Conseil Des Togolais De L'extérieur». Haut Conseil des Togolais de l'Extérieur. <http://togoembassylondon.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/HCTE-TDRs-du-Haut-Conseil-des-Togolais-de-lEx-t%C3%A9rieur.pdf>.

37 Ibid.

38 Bureau cantonal pour l'intégration des étrangers et la prévention du racisme. 2020. «Association De Migrants Dans Le Canton De Vaud». Lausanne: Canton de Vaud. https://www.vd.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/organisation/dire/spop/fichiers_pdf/publi-150824-associations-migrants.pdf.

39 alome.com. 2017. «Togo : Association Des Togolais De France Et L'Élection MISS TOGO France», 2017. <http://news.alome.com/h/96959.html>.

Associazione dei Togolesi in Italia (ATI) Italy

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

ATI brings together Togolese residing in Italy to promote cooperation between Togo and Italy through investment opportunities in Togo. ATI also brings together smaller Togolese diaspora associations established across Italy.⁴⁰

Bureau Fédéral de la Diaspora Togolaise en Allemagne (TOGO-DIASPO e.V. Bund Büro) Germany 2019

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

The association brings together Togolese residing in Germany to support their integration. The association has a federal office, local offices across Germany, and an office in Togo. In addition to its activities to support diaspora integration, the association also contributes to development projects in Togo.

Coordination des Organisations de la Diaspora Togolaise pour le Co-Développement (CODT-CODEV) France 2019

- ☑ **Development activities**

An organisation established to bring together Togolese diaspora associations to support development projects in Togo.⁴¹

Diaspora Togolaise en Allemagne Germany

- ☑ **Integration activities**

An online community bringing together Togolese residing in Germany.

Leman-Togo Switzerland 2013

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

Leman-Togo is a non-profit organisation created by Togolese and Swiss nationals, and “friends of Togo” to support development and promote cultural exchange between Switzerland and Togo.

40 “Associazioni | ATI Diaspora”. 2020. *Atidiaspora-Togo.It*. Accessed July 29. <https://atidiaspora-togo.it/lista-associazioni/>.

41 MADE West Africa. 2020. «Feuille De Route Du Togo». Accessed July 30.

Togoviwo Switzerland 2015

Integration activities

Togoviwo brings together Togolese residing in Fribourg to reflect on issues of immigration, integration and development with a view to developing actions to enhance social cohesion.

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Edited by: EUDiF
August 2020
Updated September 2025

Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union

