

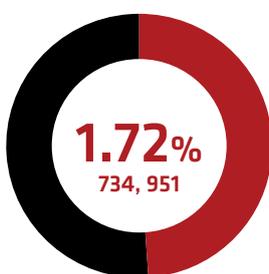


# Diaspora engagement mapping UGANDA

## Facts & figures

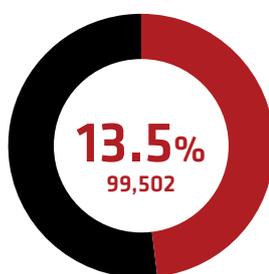
### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population<sup>1</sup>



♂ 48.9%  
♀ 51.1%

% of which in the EU



♂ 48.2%  
♀ 51.8%



**Remittances as a share of GDP: 5.0%**  
**Remittances inflow (USD million): 1,507<sup>2</sup>**



### Top countries of destination

Kenya	309,490
South Sudan	149,303
Rwanda	96,724
United Kingdom	82,054
United States of America	49,354



### Political rights



**Dual citizenship<sup>3</sup>**



**Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>4</sup>**



Terminology: From the government's perspective, the Ugandan diaspora comprises of all people of Ugandan origin living and/or working outside Uganda. It also includes Ugandans who may have lost their citizenship through acquisition of other citizenship.<sup>5</sup>

### National Diaspora Policy (draft) 2013<sup>6</sup>

In 2013 Uganda developed a draft diaspora policy in 2013 with support from UNDP and other stakeholders, although it is yet to be formally adopted. The draft policy is part of a broad national strategy designed to support mobilization and utilization of diaspora resources in the country's development agenda. The main objective of this is to accord full participation of the diaspora in national development.<sup>7</sup>



1 From UNDESA Migration Stock Statistics for 2019.

2 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues/brief/migration-remittances-data>

3 Dual citizenship is permitted for citizens of birth only. <https://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/docs/OtherEntities/OSJ%20CitizenshipAfricaStudy.pdf> However

4 <https://allafrica.com/stories/202006220239.html> .

The High Court in Kampala ruled that Ugandans in the diaspora should be allowed to vote in 2020, and due to be implemented for the 2021 elections.

5 Diaspora Service Overview <https://www.mofa.go.ug/data/smenu/16/Overview%20and%20Mandate.html>

6 Draft version of the diaspora policy is available here: <https://www.mofa.go.ug/data/smenu/16/Overview%20and%20Mandate.html>

7 Diaspora Current Programmes / Services <https://www.mofa.go.ug/data/smenu/24/Current%20Programs.html>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



2015



2019

● **National Development Plan II 2015/16-2019/20**<sup>8</sup> is Uganda's second national development strategy. It notes the importance of harnessing diaspora support and investment for national development beyond remittances. Within NDP II, the Public Administration Sector (PAS) has a strategic objective of 'attracting cooperation assistance and contributions from the diaspora', in particular regarding the recruitment of Ugandan diaspora professionals under objective 4 to 'Increase the human capital stock in the NDP II priority areas', in particular in the health and education sectors.

2020



2025

● **National Development Plan III 2020-2025 (2020)**<sup>9</sup> is Uganda's latest national development plan. Like its predecessor, it acknowledges the need to harness diaspora and the private sector to resource its full implementation, and proposes the use of diaspora bonds and online treasury bills as a means to achieve this. NDP III also includes objectives to operationalise the National Diaspora Policy and develop a National Diaspora Investment Strategy.

### » Trends

Historically, there has been a lack of trust between the Ugandan government and its diaspora. However, since the mid-2000s this perception has been evolving and the government has increasingly sought to engage its diaspora so as to harness their contributions to national development.<sup>10</sup>

While the Ugandan government's policy and strategy documents reference the importance of diversifying diaspora contributions beyond remittance flows, there is a lack of detailed planning on how this is to be achieved. Uganda has become an important host country for refugees displaced from neighbouring countries in recent years, and arguably managing immigration flows, both of refugees and irregular migrants, which has been a greater priority for the government. The Ugandan diaspora are themselves involved in humanitarian relief activities in refugee settlements in the country.<sup>11</sup>

### » Achievements

The establishment of the Diaspora Services Department (DSD) in 2007 marked an important milestone in Uganda's diaspora engagement. DSD has sought to develop programmes to enhance diaspora participation in the country's economic and technical development. The World Bank supported DSD financially to perform feasibility studies aimed at engaging diaspora talents in the infrastructure sector, specifically in the energy, roads, and railways subsectors with a focus on developing the technical skills of staff.<sup>12</sup> In 2012, DSD worked with the Uganda Investment Authority and UNDP to develop a compendium of investment opportunities for Ugandan diaspora to invest back home.<sup>13</sup>

There has been renewed interest in diaspora engagement from the government and from parliamentarians in recent years, and in June 2020 The High Court in Kampala ruled that the electoral franchise be extended to Ugandans who are incarcerated or who are in the diaspora, with the prospect that these groups will be able to vote in elections in 2021.<sup>14</sup>

8 Full text available at: <http://npa.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/NDPII-Final.pdf>

9 Full text available at: [http://www.npa.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NDPIII-Finale\\_Compressed.pdf](http://www.npa.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NDPIII-Finale_Compressed.pdf)

10 Bulwaka (2009), *Diaspora Diplomacy: A Case Study of Uganda*, (MA Thesis), available at: [https://www.diplomacy.edu/sites/default/files/23082010102413%20Bulwaka%20\(Library\).pdf](https://www.diplomacy.edu/sites/default/files/23082010102413%20Bulwaka%20(Library).pdf)

11 <https://www.iss.nl/en/research/research-projects/exploring-transnational-diaspora-engagement-refugee-settlements-northern-uganda>

12 <https://www.mofa.go.ug/data/smenu/16/Overview%20and%20Mandate.html>

13 See MOFA and UNDP articles

14 <https://allafrica.com/stories/202006220239.html>

The Ugandan diaspora are important contributors of remittances flows and investments, although the latter tend to be in the micro-, small-, and medium-enterprise (MSME) sectors of the economy.<sup>15</sup> Ugandan diaspora business and investment networks regularly hold trade and investment events in countries of residence and in Uganda, focussed on a range of sectors such as property, energy, IT and Fintech, agriculture, and hospitality.<sup>16</sup>

There were significant South Asian diaspora communities in Uganda that were deported by Idi Amin in the early 1970s, and who sought refuge in Canada, India, and the UK among other countries. These Ugandan-Asian diaspora communities maintain business and family ties to Uganda and play an important role in the Ugandan economy.<sup>17</sup>

## Obstacles



- **Lack of trust:** Among the diaspora, there is a general lack of trust of government structures and schemes, and corruption (perceived or actual) is a barrier to diaspora engagement.<sup>18</sup>
- **Lack of information & infrastructure:** Detailed information on government-led diaspora engagement opportunities in Uganda is not easily accessible to the diaspora, with a lack of targeted communications and investment-support infrastructure.
- **Capacity:** Diaspora engagement structures and programmes lack adequate human and capital resourcing to maximise their potential.<sup>19</sup>
- **High cost of capital:** Accessing financing for diaspora investment, especially long-term finance, can be extremely expensive in Uganda. Matters are aggravated by the constant need for collateral by financial institutions.<sup>20</sup>

15 Remittances are also a significant source of diaspora investment capital; it is estimated that between 20% and 30% of remittance flows are used for small-scale investments, often in family-owned businesses and land/property. See Asquith, P. and Opoku-Owusu, S (forthcoming), 'Diaspora Investment in Africa to help achieve the SDGs: Prospects and Trends' in Foreign Direct Investment Perspectives, INTECH

16 <https://www.mofa.go.ug/data/smenu/16/Overview%20and%20Mandate.html> ; <https://www.ugandainvest.go.ug/press-release-ugandan-diaspora-events-start-in-kampala/> ; <https://www.fullreachglobal.com/ugandans-diaspora-driving-the-fintech-agenda/>

17 See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-36132151> ; <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/uganda-asian-exodus-rose-tinted-memories-current-realities-180528065513973.html>

18 Investment Challenges Faces by Ugandans in the Diaspora <https://unaaonline.org/investment-challenges-faced-by-ugandans-in-the-diaspora/>

19 Ibid.

20 Ibid.

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### HEALTH; HUMAN CAPITAL

#### Diaspora skills exchange in health From 1997

Ugandan diaspora health professionals in the UK and US are active in strengthening health systems in Uganda, particularly in relation to mental health treatment. Ugandan diaspora health professionals regularly volunteer to train their counterparts in Uganda in the latest techniques and methods, with a focus on learning exchange.<sup>21</sup>

### INVESTMENT

#### Home is Best Summits and Diaspora Social Networking Event 2003

These are annual events that are organised by Uganda Investment Authority and Diaspora Services Department/MOFA. The events take place in Uganda every December, and target the Ugandan diaspora who are in country for the Christmas holidays.<sup>22</sup> The diaspora are taken on tours within different regions of Uganda; presentations on investment opportunities are made, and the diaspora are given an opportunity to share their ideas with government and the public at large.<sup>23</sup> These events seek to further strengthen diaspora partnership in investment and trade and support re-industrialization and job creation in Uganda.<sup>24</sup>

### INVESTMENT

#### Uganda Conventions 2008

Ugandans in the diaspora are active in organising their own trade and investment events. The Uganda North America Association Convention and the Uganda Convention UK are important and successful annual diaspora trade and investment expos that mobilise diaspora finance for investment in different sectors such as property, agriculture, and energy.<sup>25</sup> The Diaspora Services Department and Ugandan parliamentarians also participate at these conventions, where they take time to engage with diaspora members.<sup>26</sup>

### ADVOCACY

#### FORWARD/MIFUM - Campaigning against early marriage 2015

Diaspora organisations FORWARD and MIFUMI in the UK have developed innovative programmes to address social problems in Uganda such as early and forced marriage, domestic violence, and Femae Genital Mutilation.<sup>27</sup> MIFUMI successfully lobbied the government and was mandated to hold the first social referendum in Uganda in December 2001, which resulted in 60% approving the reform of bride price. MIFUMI has also pushed for reform in laws resulting in enactment of The Tororo Bridal Gifts Ordinance into law in 2009, and a no-refund ruling on bride price by the Uganda Supreme Court on 6th August 2015.<sup>28</sup>

### NETWORKING

#### Ugandan Convention UK 2011 UK

The Ugandan UK Convention, a Trade and Investment Forum has now become firmly established as an annual event in the UK. The forum brings together experts, business leaders, professionals and representatives from prominent organisations based in Uganda, the UK and beyond.

21 See articles from, inter alia, MH Innovation, UUKHA and BMJ.

22 <https://www.ugandandiasporanews.com/2017/12/18/home-is-best-uia-partners-with-the-uganda-diaspora-network-on-investment-promotion/>

23 Ibid; see also <http://www.ugandandiaspora.com/>

24 <https://www.ugandainvest.go.ug/investment-promotion/hib/>

25 See <https://www.ugandanconventionuk.org/> , <https://unaonline.org/sanfrancisco2020/>. In previous years the Uganda Convention Nordics has also held successful trade and investment expos, although it is not clear if this is still operational. See: <https://www.worldtradersdirectory.com/listing/uganda-convention-nordics/>

26 <https://www.parliament.go.ug/gallery-type/diaspora>

27 <https://www.forwarduk.org.uk/> ; [www.mifumi.org](http://www.mifumi.org)

28 <https://mifumi.org/who-we-are/campaign-against-bride-price>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

### **African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU-CIDO) 2001**

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

### **East African Community (EAC) 1967**

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organisation of six Partner States that works to promote greater regional integration. One of its integration pillars is the Common Market, introduced in 2010, which includes free movement of people, goods, and services, and right of residence for EAC nationals.

### **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) 1996**

Uganda is a member of IGAD, which works to promote regional cooperation and integration to add value to Member States' efforts in achieving peace, security, and prosperity. The 2012 IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework prioritises collaboration with the diaspora for national development and to address brain-drain.<sup>29</sup>

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) 1962**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for implementing Uganda's foreign policy and its networks of missions abroad. Its objectives include mobilising bilateral and multilateral resources for development; providing protocol and consular services to Ugandans and Foreign dignitaries, as well as enhancing Uganda's image abroad through Public Diplomacy. The MoFA is the lead ministry for diaspora engagement in Uganda.

### **Ugandan Parliament Diaspora Desk 2020**

In 2020, the Ugandan Parliament established a Diaspora Desk to facilitate communication with Ugandan diaspora citizens, although its services are still in development.

29 Available at: <http://migration.igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Regional-Migration-Policy-Framework1.pdf>

- At sub-ministerial level

### **Diaspora Services Department 2007**

The Diaspora Services Department handles diaspora issues and facilitates their contribution to the social, economic, technological, and policy development in Uganda. It also serves as a coordination point for various diaspora issues and offers a range of services to Ugandans in the diaspora and their relatives at home. Its responsibilities include policy development, diaspora relations and communications, and mobilising resources for diaspora programmes.

### **Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) 1991**

UIA is a semi-autonomous government agency operating in partnership with the private sector and Government of Uganda to drive national economic growth and development. UIA works with Uganda diaspora investment networks around the world to promote investment opportunities in Uganda. UIA regularly participates in Ugandan diaspora trade and investment expos held in Europe, North America, and the Middle East.<sup>30</sup>

## **Diaspora organisations in Europe**



### **Buganda Heritage Association Committee (BHA) 2003 UK and Northern Ireland**

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

BHA is an organisation that promotes, teaches, develops and preserves the cultural heritage of the Baganda (the Ganda people of Uganda, a prominent ethnic group from whom the country takes its name) within the diaspora. BHA works with other community groups/charities in supporting young people to flourish in the community and society in general.)

### **Butabika East London Link (BEL) 2005 UK**

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

BEL is a multi-disciplinary, institution-to-institution collaboration between East London NHS Foundation Trust, Ugandan diaspora health professionals in the UK, and Butabika National Referral Hospital, Uganda. It uses diaspora expertise and voluntarism to build capacity in mental health services in Uganda through training and professional development for Ugandan health professionals. It also runs projects to develop service user and carer involvement in mental health care provision in Uganda and the UK.

30 <https://www.ugandainvest.go.ug/press-release-ugandan-diaspora-events-start-in-kampala/>



## **FORWARD** 1989 UK

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

FORWARD is an African women-led organisation working to end violence against women and girls. From female genital mutilation and child marriage to domestic and sexual violence, its tackle abuse and discrimination – enabling African women and girls to have the dignity, health and equality they deserve. It delivers education, training, and health services for women and children in Uganda and other African countries, and has worked with another diaspora organisation, MIFUMI, to campaign successfully against early marriage bride price in Uganda.

## **MIFUMI** 1994 UK

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

Since its establishment, MIFUMI has directly changed the lives of more than 50,000 women and children through comprehensive services in education, healthcare, micro-enterprises and domestic violence advocacy. Its most significant achievements have been reforms in bride price and domestic violence in Uganda. MIFUMI has a regional network and partners in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and the UK.

## **Uganda Diaspora Health Foundation (UDHF)** 2011 UK

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

UDHF works to raise awareness of, and improve treatment for, mental health in Uganda and in diaspora communities. UDHF offers global research and cultural sensitivity consultation within the mental health context, with the view to breaking down barriers to accessing mental health support. UDHF works with the Butabika-East London NHS partnership project to build mental health capacity at Butabika hospital in Uganda through training and volunteering.

## **Ugandan UK Health Alliance** 2018 UK

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

The Uganda UK Health Alliance brings together organisations working in Health sector in UK and Uganda. Its Co-Chairs are Dr. Diana Atwine, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health Uganda, and Prof Jed Byrne, Director, Global Engagement, Health Education England, and its board is composed of senior health experts and officials from Uganda and the UK, including the Ugandan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

## **Ugandan Community Relief Association (UCRA)** 1984 UK

- ☑ **Integration activities**

UCRA was formed with the initial aim of assisting Asian Ugandan refugees deported by the Ugandan government at the time. UCRA designs and delivers a range of training courses for local communities to help find employment through developing soft skills, CV-building, and interview practice.

## Ugandan Community in Manchester (UCOMM) 2005 UK

### **Integration activities**

UCOMM aims to promote the wellbeing of people of Black and Minority Ethnic origin with particular emphasis on those of African heritage, be it by way of promoting health or improved social integration within the wider multicultural community.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>31</sup> <https://forevermanchester.com/uganda-community-in-greater-manchester/>

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