



Diaspora engagement mapping MADAGASCAR

Facts & figures

Terminology: The terms 'Malagasy diaspora' and 'Malagasy Ampielezana' (which translates as 'Malagasy abroad') are used in official communications and legislative and policy documents. In the National Policy for Malagasy diaspora engagement, the diaspora is defined as "all persons with Malagasy nationality and descendants of Malagasy who reside abroad".

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **2.4%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **385.29**

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).

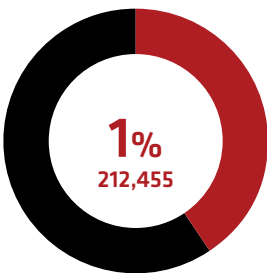
Emigration



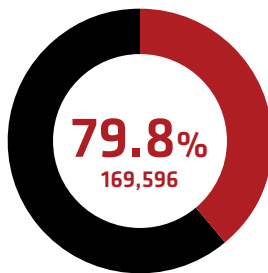
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 40.8%
♀ 59.2%



♂ 39%
♀ 61%

Top countries of destination



| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| France | 162,751 |
| including: | |
| - Réunion | 17,859 |
| - Mayotte | 10,316 |
| Comoros | 9,569 |
| Italy | 2,903 |

1 Razafindrakoto M., Razafindratsima N., Razakamanana N., Roubaud F., (October 2017). The Malagasy diaspora in France and in the world: an invisible community?

2 Although the Organic Law n°2012-005 foresees the right to vote for all Malagasy citizens, this right is not effective for Malagasy living abroad. However, the 2021 national policy on Malagasy diaspora engagement plans a revision of the electoral provisions in order to implement the right to vote for the Malagasy diaspora from constituencies outside Madagascar.

2021 National policy for Malagasy diaspora engagement (LPNED)



Developed between 2017 and 2019 with the participation of the diaspora and in collaboration with the Migration EU expertise (MIEUX) initiative, then formally adopted by the Council of Ministers on 17 February 2021, the National policy for the engagement of the Malagasy diaspora specifically acknowledges the important role that the diaspora can play in the consolidation of national unity and the socio-economic recovery of the country. The policy is articulated around five strategic axes:

1. the protection and accompaniment of the diaspora,
2. the enhancement of its social, cultural, technical, economic and financial capital,
3. the strengthening of knowledge about the diaspora,
4. the civic and political participation of the diaspora,
5. the strengthening of strategic partnership and cooperation on the issue of diaspora mobilisation.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2016** ● The **National Strategy for Domestic Resource Mobilisation 2016-2030 (SNMRI)** aims to encourage domestic resource mobilisation as an instrument for promoting innovative financing for the country's economic, social and cultural development. One of the sub-objectives of the strategy is to encourage remittances and investments from the diaspora in public and/or private investment programmes.
- 2019** ● The **General State Policy (PGE): Initiative Emergence Madagascar (IEM) 2019-2023** was launched by President Andry Rajoelina with the objective of elevating Madagascar to the rank of emerging middle-income country and to overcome the development gap accumulated since independence. The PGE calls for a change in the strategic approach to mobilising available expertise for the country's development, in response to which the government has developed the national policy for Malagasy diaspora engagement. The PGE's vision will be detailed and accompanied by strategic and operational actions in a Plan Emergence Madagascar (PEM), the content of which has not yet been made public.

» Trends & achievements

The Malagasy government has made significant efforts in recent years to strengthen dialogue with its diaspora. Two areas have been prioritised: strengthening the strategic and institutional framework on diaspora engagement, and promoting the diaspora as an important actor of Madagascar's development in the years to come.

The first step in this process came at institutional level with the creation in 2015 of a Diaspora Directorate within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), in response to requests from the Malagasy diaspora for a structure dedicated to them. This was followed in 2016 by a collaboration between the MFA, the French Embassy in Madagascar and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to build knowledge of the Malagasy diaspora. The initiative generated a study of the profile of the Malagasy diaspora in France, the country of residence with the largest Malagasy diaspora. The study highlighted certain socio-cultural and economic specificities of the Malagasy diaspora, notably the high proportion of individuals with a Master's or Doctorate degree, as well as the high number of individuals in managerial positions or working in intellectual and liberal professions in France.³

³ Study of the profile of the Malagasy diaspora in France, Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale Issues des Migrations (FORIM) & International Organisation for Migration, 2016

In 2017, the government took another step forward in its commitment to make diaspora engagement one of the pillars of Malagasy economic diplomacy⁴ through a collaboration with the Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX) initiative to develop a national policy for the engagement of the Malagasy diaspora. In the same year, the Diaspora Directorate also organised their first Diaspora Forum with more than 300 participants.

Since the formal adoption of the national diaspora engagement policy in February 2021, Madagascar has multiplied efforts towards its implementation. For instance, the government has initiated discussions with several actors of international cooperation on the issue of mobilising the diaspora for development. In parallel, with the important progress made in strengthening the strategic and institutional framework on diaspora engagement, the Malagasy government is also striving to promote a mutually beneficial relationship between the state and the diaspora by taking into account the needs and aspirations of the latter.

For example, the government has expressed its commitment to putting into effect the diaspora's right to vote. In August 2021, President Andry Rajoelina indicated during a meeting organised with the diaspora in Paris that preparations were underway to allow Malagasies in France to participate in the 2023 presidential elections. In 2022, following this promise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with ICMPD, conducted a feasibility study on the implementation of the diaspora's right to vote.⁵ Although the study was finalised in January 2023, the right to vote was not realised for the presidential election held later in November, as the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) reported time and resource constraints.⁶

Obstacles



- **Lack of civic and political representation:** The current legal and logistical arrangements do not yet allow for full civic and political participation and representation of the Malagasy diaspora. The diaspora is not represented in the Malagasy National Assembly, the right to vote of the diaspora has not yet been implemented and dual nationality is not recognised by the government.⁷
- **Lack of knowledge:** Due in part to the limitations of existing statistical sources and the lack of a comprehensive mapping of the Malagasy diaspora worldwide, information and knowledge available to the government is a major obstacle to diaspora engagement in the country, particularly in some key areas such as the mobilisation of diaspora skills for the development of Madagascar.
- **Lack of trust:** The lack of trust between the diaspora and the government is an important obstacle to engagement, as illustrated for instance by the low number of Malagasy Ampielezana registered at the consular missions of Madagascar abroad.⁸

4 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar, Diaspora Malagasy.

5 <https://www.diplomatie.gov.mg/index.php/actualites1/556-droit-de-vote-de-la-diaspora-malagasy>

6 https://2424.mg/election-la-ceni-conditionne-la-participation-de-la-diaspora-malgache-aux-moyens-et-au-temps-quelle-a-a-disposition/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

7 Razafindrakoto M., Razafindratsima N., Razakamanana N., Roubaud F., (October 2017). The Malagasy diaspora in France and in the world: an invisible community?

8 TV5Monde (8 July 2017). [La diaspora malgache peut-elle améliorer le sort de Madagascar?](#)



SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

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LOHARANO Programme: First Edition 2019 and Second Edition 2024

YOUTH; SKILLS TRANSFER;
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The LOHARANO programme is a volunteering initiative for young people from the Malagasy diaspora. Its first edition was launched as a pilot programme in February 2019 by the MFA in collaboration with the IOM, aiming to strengthen the engagement and valorisation of the diaspora, as well as to create a space for exchange and interaction between the diaspora and the Malagasy population. As part of this pilot phase, nine young Malagasies living abroad were selected to spend three months in rural communities in Madagascar to share their knowledge and support community work in sectors such as education, IT, health, or handicrafts.

Building on the success of the first edition, LOHARANO II was launched in 2024 under the AFD-funded TADY project, implemented by the MFA in partnership with the IOM, Expertise France and the Institut de recherche pour le Développement. This second edition aims to sustain connection between the diaspora and their homeland through meaningful engagement in local development projects. Over a four-year period, it plans to mobilise 40 diaspora youth volunteers to engage in community development projects in Madagascar for four to six months and ultimately contribute to socio-economic growth in different regions.

Identification of the skills of the diaspora in France and Switzerland 2021

HUMAN CAPITAL;
SKILLS TRANSFER; DATA

An action was launched in September 2021 by the European Union Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) in partnership with the Diaspora Directorate of Madagascar in the framework of EUDiF's technical support mechanism Diaspora Professionals for Development (DP4D). The action, which will be implemented over a period of one year, mobilises Malagasy diaspora professionals to provide Madagascar with the tools and knowledge necessary to profile the technical, intellectual and financial skills of its diaspora. Three professionals from the Malagasy diaspora will support the implementation of the action and develop a standard methodology for profiling the skills of the Malagasy diaspora; they will also pilot the methodology in France and Switzerland.

First Malagasy Diaspora Forum 2017

NETWORKING AND
PARTNERSHIPS

Organised in October 2017 by the MFA, the first Malagasy Diaspora Forum aimed to promote the role of the diaspora in national development. Around 300 diaspora individuals took part in the event which was held over three days in Antananarivo.⁹ The event offered participants opportunities to exchange with various national actors (ministerial departments, local authorities, private sector), and led to the adoption of a series of recommendations in relation to themes such as "The diaspora and legal issues", "State and diaspora: for a shared growth", and "Diaspora and business: time for opportunities!".¹⁰ The strategic axes of the diaspora engagement policy were also discussed. The organisation of additional events is foreseen in the Action Plan of the National Policy for Malagasy diaspora engagement.

9 Malagasy Treasury (2017) Together to build the future.

10 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2017) Final conclusion of the Malagasy diaspora forum.



Tantsoroka ho an'ny diaspora (TADY) 2023

Financed by France through AFD to the tune of 7 million euros and lasting four years, the TADY project contributes to the implementation of the national policy letter on the involvement of the Malagasy diaspora in order to create favourable conditions for mobilising the diaspora for Madagascar's socio-economic development. The project has three main objectives: to strengthen the capacity of institutional players to manage and report on the implementation of the LPNED; to make the most of the social, cultural, economic and financial capital of the diaspora; and to set up a knowledge development mechanism (research component) to feed into the public policy dialogue.

SKILLS TRANSFER

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)

Established within the African Union, the African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU CIDO) aims to strengthen the participation of the African diaspora in the continent's integration and development agenda. Madagascar has been a member of the African Union since 1963 and appoints a diaspora focal point to represent the country at AU CIDO continental meetings.

Southern African Development Community (SADC) 1980

Madagascar joined SADC in 2005. It is an intergovernmental organisation created in 1980 to promote development, peace and security, economic growth, poverty reduction and improvement of the standard of living and quality of life of the people of Southern Africa. One of the organisation's strategic objectives for the period 2020-2030 is to promote remittances from the Southern African diaspora.¹¹

Indian Ocean Commission (COI) 1982

Madagascar is a member of the Indian Ocean Commission, an intergovernmental organisation that also includes the Union of the Comoros, France (on behalf of Reunion), Mauritius and the Seychelles. The COI collaborates with the International Organisation for Migration in the framework of the Migration Dialogue for COI Countries project, in which issues of diaspora engagement for development are discussed.¹²

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) 1994

Madagascar is a member of COMESA, an international organisation working for regional economic integration in Eastern and Southern Africa. Through its Trade and Customs Division, COMESA has called on its member states to reform their financial regulations in order to reduce the costs of remittances sent by the diaspora in the region.¹³

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

The MFA is in charge of the external policy of the Republic of Madagascar. It provides a number of consular services to Malagasy abroad through its foreign missions. The Diaspora Directorate was established within the MFA in 2015. The MFA has played a central role in diaspora engagement over the past few years: it was behind the drafting of the national diaspora engagement policy, the organisation of the first Diaspora Forum, and the launch of the LOHARANO programme.

11 SADC. Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030

12 IOM. Migration dialogue for Indian Ocean Commission countries

13 COMESA (2020) Diaspora Remittances Critical for Covid-19 Recovery

Ministry of Communication and Culture

The Ministry of Communication and Culture has played a key role in the implementation of the LOHARANO programme to enable young people from the Malagasy diaspora to volunteer, in particular through its Volunteer Promotion Unit (CPV).

Ministry of Economy and Finance

Formerly the Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Ministry of Economy and Finance is responsible for the implementation of the National Strategy for Domestic Resource Mobilisation 2016-2030. As such, one of the ministry's missions is to encourage remittances and investments from the Malagasy diaspora in public or private investment programmes in Madagascar.

- At sub-ministerial level

Directorate of Diaspora and Migration Issues 2015

Created in 2015 within the MFA, the Diaspora Directorate is mandated to promote the participation of the Malagasy diaspora in the socio-economic development of Madagascar through remittances, transfer of know-how and knowledge, development of investment by the diaspora, tourism and strengthening of national solidarity.¹⁴ The Diaspora Directorate is the body in charge of ensuring the implementation of the 2021 National policy for the engagement of the Malagasy diaspora.

Volunteer Promotion Unit (CPV)

Established within the Ministry of Communication and Culture, the CPV has collaborated with the Diaspora Directorate and the IOM to implement the LOHARANO volunteer programme for young people from the Malagasy diaspora in 2019.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

FEDER' ACTIONS MADAGASCAR (FACT Madagascar)

2015 France

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

FACT Madagascar is a federation of associations and non-governmental organisations working for Madagascar in the fields of health, infrastructure, civic education, education and aid to the most vulnerable. In addition to providing its members with information on funding and current events, FACT also offers training and support for grant applications. FACT Madagascar is also one of the organisations that took part in the consultations organised by the MFA during the elaboration of the national policy for diaspora engagement.

National Executive Committee of the National Sports Meeting (CEN-RNS) France

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

Composed of 43 member associations, the CEN is the federation of Malagasy associations participating in the National Sports Meeting. The CEN aims to unite individuals from the Malagasy diaspora and to consolidate friendship and fraternity between them through the annual organisation of their National Sports Meeting.

¹⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Diaspora Malagasy](#)

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



ZAMA diaspora France 2015

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

Created following the organisation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Malagasy Diaspora in September 2015, ZAMA is the group in charge of the annual meetings of the same name that have taken place in Aix-en-Provence (2016), Lille (2017), and Paris (2018 and 2019).

Association of Students of Malagasy Origin of Toulouse (AEOM Toulouse) France

- ☑ **Integration activities**

A member association of the CEN-RNS, AEOM Toulouse brings together the Malagasy diaspora in the Toulouse region around sporting and cultural activities (volleyball, basketball, traditional dancing, etc.).

HETSIKA “Welcoming, Arts and Culture of Madagascar” France

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

HETSIKA (“to move” in Malagasy) is an association based in Nantes that aims to promote Malagasy arts and culture in France and Madagascar. The association is a member of FACT Madagascar, as well as the CEN-RNS collective. HETSIKA has been involved in musical education in Madagascar since 2012.

SOATATA France 2003

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

The association SOATATA aims at promoting culture and education in the south of Madagascar. SOATATA notably supports the delivery of food and the organisation of meals in schools in the region.

Association Sportive Malgache Paris (ASM) France 1986

- ☑ **Integration activities**

The association brings together the Malagasy diaspora in Paris for football and basketball matches. Several players of the association have been selected to play in the national football team of Madagascar.

Association des Anciens de Saint-Michel en France (ASMF) France 1999

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

The ASMF aims to bring together former students and teachers of the Collège Saint-Michel Amparibe in Antananarivo living in France around cultural, social, sporting and artistic activities. The association is also active in several development projects in Madagascar, particularly in the field of education.

Association Miandra France 2009

- ☑ **Development activities**

The Association Miandra aims to help promote local development projects (aid to schools, hospitals, etc.) and its actions are mainly directed towards the paediatric department of the Befelatanana hospital in



Antananarivo. In order to finance its activities, the Association Miandra organises various fundraising activities in Paris.

Fivoarana Development Network (RFD) France 2006

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

Founded in 2006 in Paris by young people at the end of their university studies or at the beginning of their professional careers, the RFD organises cultural activities in France, such as the “Harendrina” event to celebrate Madagascar’s independence. The RFD is also involved in a number of development initiatives in Madagascar, particularly in the area of infrastructure.

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