

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT



ASIA

Factsheet dossier

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This dossier contains country factsheets on diaspora engagement in Asia. The factsheets were produced during EUDiF's global mapping on diaspora engagement, the full results of which are available via an [interactive map](#) on the project's website.

Statistics included in the factsheets come from UN and World Bank datasets; where data was unavailable for 2021, the 2019 dataset is used, as per the initial publication of the mapping. As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration. We are aware that this does not include all who consider themselves diaspora. In certain cases national statistics are included in the fact sheets.

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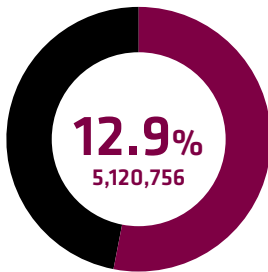


Diaspora engagement mapping AFGHANISTAN

Facts & figures

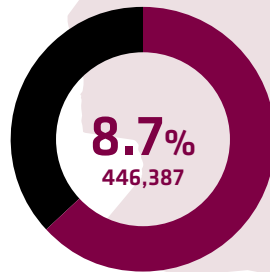
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 53.3%
♀ 46.7%

% of which in the EU



♂ 63.1%
♀ 36.9%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **4.1%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **789**



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 citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



2017: Afghanistan National Diaspora Policy³



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).

¹ Report on Citizenship Law: Afghanistan p12 https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/45933/GLOBALCIT_CR_2017_09.pdf

² 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

³ '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**⁴ 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**⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷
- **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-present⁸

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.⁹

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.¹⁰

NETWORKS

⁸ 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/IOM-Afghanistan-RQA-Factsheet-January-2012.pdf>

⁹ 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#>

¹⁰ 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://appro.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 Fayezi 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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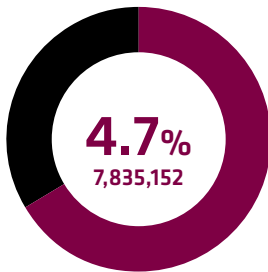


Diaspora engagement mapping BANGLADESH

Facts & figures

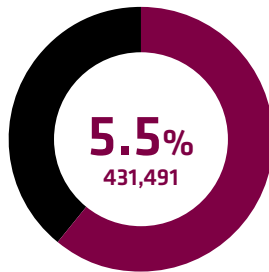
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 66.6%
♀ 33.4%

% of which in the EU



♂ 61.0%
♀ 39.0%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **6.6%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **21,750**



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 citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:

Online



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)**³ 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)**⁴ 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**⁵ 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**⁶ provides a legal framework for improved welfare services for migrant women and male workers. The governing body of the WEWB⁷ 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**⁸
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://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

6 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.⁹
- **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), 1981¹⁰

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), 2002¹¹

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

INVESTMENT

Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd¹², NRB Bank¹³, Probashi Kalyan Bank (PKB)¹⁴

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.¹⁵ 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), 2018¹⁶

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.¹⁷

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

¹⁷ <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 act¹⁸. 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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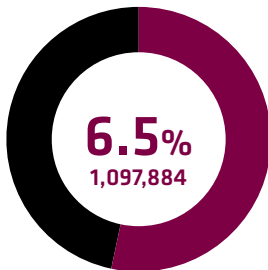


Diaspora engagement mapping CAMBODIA

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



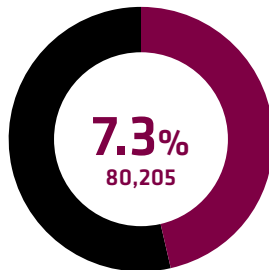
♂ 53.6%
♀ 46.4%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **4.9%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **1,272**



% of which in the EU



♂ 46.5%
♀ 53.5%



Top countries of destination

Thailand	689,451
United States of America	196,003
France	69,748
Australia	38,278
Canada	24,836

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad³



Terminology: the terms "Anekachun Khmer" or "Khmer Anekachun" are used to refer to the diaspora. However they are not commonly used.

Cambodia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/khm_e/WTACCKHM3A3_LEG_37.pdf

2 <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/more-than-1-million-cambodians-won-t-be-able-to-vote-in-2018-9397038>

3 Whilst voting from abroad is legally allowed, in practice it has not yet been implemented, as a lack of funding prevents registration of voters overseas, or opening registration offices. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/6674/nec-pressed-on-election-reforms/> or <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/group-calls-oversees-voting>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2003** ● **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Thailand and Cambodia on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers**⁴ calls for the legal and organised deployment of Cambodian workers to Thailand, with a bilateral administrative process that provides for an employment procedure for both return or repatriation workers.
- 2007** ● **Prakas 012/2007**⁵ created a labour migration taskforce to manage policy implementation. Later, sub-decree 68/2009 (2009)⁶ formalised reduction of passport costs to US\$20 and expediting of passport issuance to within 20 days. Sub-Decree No. 190 (2011)⁷ acknowledged the impact of migration on development and strengthened the regulatory framework for managing labour migration.
- 2014** ∨
2018 ● **Policy on Labour Migration (LMP) for Cambodia:**⁸ The LMP strategy outlines the government's policy goals for labour migration. It is divided into six areas of implementation, including: supervision of recruitment and placement, support services, migration in the development agenda, and return and reintegration. It encourages citizens to travel abroad by enforcing protection mechanisms in the recruitment and placement of migrant workers, including institutionalising inspection of private recruitment agencies, delivery of pre-departure training and regulating the cost of migration.⁹
- 2014** ∨
2018 ● **National Strategic Development Plan:**¹⁰ The plan incorporates migration-related challenges and measures such as improving institutional capacity and co-ordination for migration-related policy implementation that will help enhance the protection of rights, health and safety of Cambodian overseas workers. It also created the role of labour attaché in Cambodian embassies and developed a National Employment Policy.
- 2017** ∨
2025 ● **Technical and Vocational Education and Training:**¹¹ The policy serves as a guide for the implementation and formulation of strategies for skills development and for better coordination among skills development stakeholders in Cambodia. This focus on skills shows the government's interest in improving the employability of Cambodian workers abroad. .

» Trends

Emigration has been a growing phenomenon for Cambodia, seeing a 160% increase in the number of Cambodians abroad between 2000 and 2015. The recent progress in mainstreaming migration, through various government initiatives such as the implementation of the LMP and sub-decree 190, reflects the recognition of the social and economic contribution of migration. This has encouraged thousands of Cambodians to go abroad to work legally every month, aided by a 2013 guideline to simplify the procedures required to emigrate, reduce recruitment fees and improve monitoring of recruitment agencies.¹²

4 http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=93356&p_country=THA&p_count=441&p_classification=17&p_classcount=59

5 <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9789264273634-6-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/9789264273634-6-en>

6 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_145704.pdf

7 <http://www.mekongmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/PDF49.2KB.pdf>

8 <http://un-act.org/publication/view/policy-on-labour-migration-for-cambodia/>

9 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_618786.pdf

10 <https://cambodia.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-strategic-development-plan-2014-2018#:~:text=The%20National%20Strategic%20Development%20Plan,to%20a%20socioeconomic%20development%20process.>

11 http://apmigration.ilo.org/resources/implementation-of-recommendations-from-the-3rd-to-10th-asean-forum-on-migrant-labour-afml/at_download/file1

12 <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/61435/thousands-of-cambodians-going-to-work-abroad-every-month/>

In terms of diaspora engagement, the National Strategic Development Plan shows a gradual increase in government efforts to protect the rights, health and safety of Cambodians overseas through the labour attachés in Cambodian embassies. Key sectors of diaspora engagement include tourism and cultural preservation, humanitarian aid and skills transfer through medical expertise or education.

Obstacles



- **Lack of resources:** The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MOLVT) has capacity limitations, which include lack of staff and resources, weak co-ordination between relevant ministries and across countries, and ineffective mechanisms for monitoring and supervising recruitment agencies and mechanisms to settle grievances.¹³ Local authorities require guidance on the new Sub-Decree and Prakas and their role in monitoring recruitment practices. The MOLVT should issue a notification to the authorities to present the law and its implications in simple and practical terms. Regular provincial- and district-level meetings should be held to bring together various departments and partners to enhance the provision of services in the community and the capacities of officials and village leaders.¹⁴

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Migrant workers resource centres 2013

Migrant workers resource centres (MRCs) have been established in Cambodia to provide information, counselling and legal assistance to visitors and to conduct outreach to schools, training institutions, and communities. Such activities aim to reach potential migrant workers, their family members, and community leaders. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MOLVT) and International Labour Organisation about establishing an MRC in Phnom Penh to assist migrants prior to departure, and to respond to queries from local labour departments and MRCs around the country on legal issues, procedures, and complaints.¹⁵

TRAINING
+ RIGHTS

Joint project between the Cambodia Development Resource Institute and OECD 2013-2017

The team worked with the Ministry of Interior - who provided information on country goals, data and policies - to implement a project on understanding the link between migration and remittances and sectors such as agriculture and education. The post-project report argued that while the whole migration process (emigration, remittances, return migration) could contribute to Cambodia's development, it was not being fully optimised and therefore suggested a range of recommendations, such as the implementation of a national financial education programme to boost the financial literacy of Cambodians so that more remittances could be channelled towards productive investments.¹⁶

REMITTANCES

13 <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9789264273634-6-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/9789264273634-6-en#back-n-ch02-2>

14 http://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_228484.pdf: 17

15 http://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_228484.pdf: 13

16 <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264273634-5-en.pdf?expires=1595597354&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=C21223D-2B7EC84EF04E8259D617C4188>



CULTURE

Cambodge, d'hier à aujourd'hui – Season of Cambodia 2018

This festival, organised by Cambodian-led NGO Cambodian Living Arts, offers a series of artistic events around Paris, to discover the revival of Cambodia's cultural scene almost 40 years after the fall of the Pol Pot regime in 1979. It also seeks to engage the Cambodian diaspora to build ties between the generation that fled the Khmer Rouge, and their children who do not know of that period.¹⁷

TRAINING + LABOUR

The Employment Permit Scheme 2006¹⁸

The Employment Permit scheme is a partnership with South Korea to create demand for local labour. In 2014, this scheme had 745 trainees and 307 employees cumulatively from Mongolia, Cambodia and Vietnam. The scheme also offers workers customised training for employment at a local Korean firm so that they can resettle back home securely after their overseas posting.

17 https://www.lemonde.fr/culture/article/2018/05/22/la-rennaissance-culturelle-du-cambodge-est-un-travail-de-long-terme_5302893_3246.html

18 http://apmigration.ilo.org/resources/koreas-employment-permit-system/at_download/file1

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 1969

Cambodia has been a member of ILO since 1969. Since the early 1990s, the ILO has been an active partner in Cambodia's economic, social and democratic recovery, playing an important role in helping to restore livelihoods, generate sustainable employment, rebuild infrastructure and set-up and strengthen democratic institutions. Cambodia has ratified all eight of ILO's core conventions. The TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme is a part of the ILO'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 ASEAN six countries, including Cambodia, and is funded by Australia and Canada.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT) 1993

This is the primary body managing labour migration. It has five sub-departments: labour inspections, labour disputes, employment and manpower, child labour and occupational health. The MoLVT handles the complaint process for migrant workers, maintains the standard for inspections on private recruitment agencies and enforces the promulgation of minimum standards of job placement services abroad.

Ministry of Interior 1996

The MOI is responsible for providing passports, preventing illegal recruitment, and cross-border human trafficking.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC)

The MFAIC is in charge of distributing all relevant documents and regulations, facilitating legal labour migration, and managing and resolving disputes between workers and their employers in receiving countries via Cambodian embassies. For instance, during the Covid-19 period, officials at the MFAIC coordinated with the Malaysian government to facilitate the return of Cambodians who were stranded in Malaysia via a special charter flight.¹⁹

19 <https://www.mfaic.gov.kh/site/detail/41663>

- At sub-ministerial level

The Department of Employment and Manpower 2005²⁰

The Department of Employment and Manpower is the secretariat of the General Department of Labour and is tasked with the protection and management of Khmer workers in Cambodia and overseas. Its tasks involve selecting and licensing employment agencies; monitoring and evaluating recruitment agencies; resolving disputes between migrant workers and domestic employment agencies, and between migrant workers and their employers; supporting employment agencies in sending workers abroad, such as through Sub-Decree No. 190; and preventing illegal recruitment. The department has nine offices in charge of public relations; management of alien workers; monitoring and inspection of alien workers; monitoring of Khmer workers; employment and workforce statistics; job placement in Cambodia; job placement office for Malaysia and Arabic countries; job placement office for Thailand; job placement office for Japan, Singapore and all other countries. It also has five bureaus, responsible for labour inspections, labour disputes, employment and manpower, child labour and occupational health.

Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the MoU with Thailand 2005²¹

This government body was formed to oversee the implementation of the employment MoU with Thailand. Its main tasks are verifying the nationality of irregular Cambodian migrant workers and issuing them with a certificate of identity.

Inter-Ministerial Taskforce for Migration (IMTM) 2007²²

The IMTM was created by Prakas 012/07 in January 2007 to develop and implement policy and action plans on labour migration. It coordinates migration issues and provides recommendations to the government.

Manpower Training and Overseas Sending Board (MTOSB) 2006²³

MTOSB is a public employment agency, which was added to the structure by sub-decree 70 in 2006. It is tasked with recruiting, training, and sending workers to South Korea. It is a special unit within the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, which facilitates government-to-government labour migration agreements.

- At local level

Association of Cambodian Recruitment Agencies (ACRA) 2008

Based in the private sector, the association aims to enhance and effectively promote the employment of Cambodian workers and to contribute to economic and social development. It also informs its members about labourer-receiving sources (name, condition, contact details) and promotes the orderly and safe migration of Cambodian migrant workers. It also communicates with national institutions related to recruiting, sending and managing workers going to work abroad for effective social economy and communities with external institutions to find new markets for its members.

20 <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/MONOGRAPH/92808/108288/F-1312769134/KHM92808%20Eng.pdf>

21 <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9789264273634-6-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/9789264273634-6-en>

22 Ibid

23 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Manpower-Training-and-Overseas-Sending-Board-MTOSB/388811931209705>

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association Culturelle Cambodienne de l'Ain (ACCA) France 1980

Development activities

Integration activities

Set up to promote and share Cambodian culture and traditions within the French community, ACCA also serves as a meeting centre to raise funds for their traditional dance groups, develop better knowledge of Cambodian culture, go on outings to shows and religious events, and provide humanitarian aid when necessary.

Association des Médecins Cambodgiens France 1977

Development activities

The association was created by Cambodian refugees and Cambodian doctors in France who saw the need to provide both material and psychological help to their fellow compatriots. It promotes mutual assistance and brings as much help and comfort as possible to the needy. Since its establishment, the association has grown in membership and it has diversified in its field of intervention in both France and Cambodia, where large-scale humanitarian actions have been undertaken.

Association Khmers De Toulouse France

Development activities

This group aims to bring together and build friendship between the Khmer communities of Toulouse. It organises shows to raise funds for orphaned children in Cambodia and also celebrates Cambodian festivals, cultural and sports activities.

Association Solidarité Cambodge France 1999

Development activities

The association was created by Cambodian refugee families in France to promote relations of solidarity between Bretagne and Cambodia by developing mutual aid and cooperation actions and by promoting exchanges between family groups through sports, cultural and socio-educational activities.

Cambodian Cultural Association France

Integration activities

Lead by Cambodians, the association aims to promote solidarity and friendly relations between Cambodians and French people, as well as to conserve Cambodian cultural heritage. The association presently has 20 members and is based in Bron.

Khmer Rouge Victims' Collective France 2005

Development activities

NGOs, student groups, research institutes, and victims' associations in France created the Khmer Rouge Victims' Collective in June 2005 to facilitate the participation of Khmer Rouge victims in legal proceedings. Today, the Collective is the organisation in which the Cambodian diaspora is most actively involved. Its members include associations, such as Asie-Aide à la Jeunesse, Asie Extrême, Centre for Applied Research on International and European Criminal Justice (CARI ECJ), Connecté, Les Enfants du Sourire Khmer and Justice for Cambodia.

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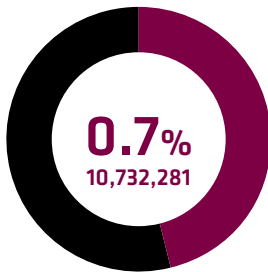


Diaspora engagement mapping CHINA

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



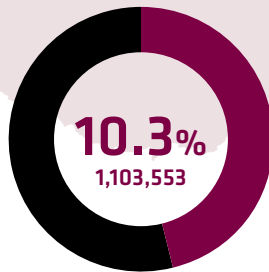
♂ 46.3%
♀ 53.7%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.4%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **59,507**



% 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 citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



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 50³** 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)⁴** establishes the principle of “equal treatment, with no discrimination; to give extra care as appropriate,” for Chinese returnees and their families.
- 1992** ● **Circular by OCAO⁵, MoF⁶, MoPS⁷ on Treatment of Returned Overseas Chinese and Relatives of Overseas Chinese Exiting China to Visit Families⁸** 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 China⁹** 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 regulations¹⁰** 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 visa¹¹** 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 foreigners¹²** - 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.¹³ 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)¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

Returned Overseas Students Industry Parks¹⁶

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.

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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

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), 2002¹⁷

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, ongoing¹⁸

NETWORK + EDUCATION

A "Twelve-words Approach" has been in place since the 1990s.¹⁹ 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.

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

¹⁸ 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

¹⁹ 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

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/

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)²⁰

<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/ART11341301498421103.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

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.”²¹ 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.

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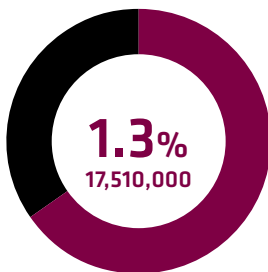


Diaspora engagement mapping INDIA

Facts & figures

Emigration¹

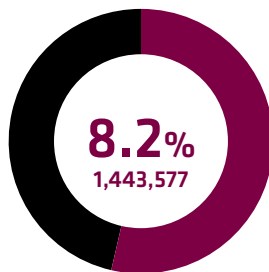
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 65.3%
♀ 34.7%



% of which in the EU



♂ 53.8%
♀ 46.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **3.1%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **83.14**



Top countries of destination²



United Arab Emirates	3.42 million
Saudi Arabia	2.59 million
United States of America	4.46 million
Oman	781,141
Qatar	746,550

Political rights



Dual citizenship³



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad⁴



Voting from abroad



India does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ UNDESA data is collected on the premise that international migrants are the number of people living in a country other than that of their citizenship. MEA emigration numbers include both NRI's and OCI holders. This distinction means that data from the MEA and UNDESA vary. According to the MEA, there are 32.1 million Indians abroad: http://mea.gov.in/images/attach/NRIs-and-PIOs_1.pdf

² Rankings presented here is on the basis of data available on the Indian Ministry of External Affairs website and covers only non-resident Indians currently present in the country.

³ However, since 2005, India has a program called Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) Introduced by The Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2005

⁴ Since 2010, an Indian citizen who is absent from his/her place of ordinary residence in India owing to employment, education or otherwise, and has not acquired citizenship of any other country, and who is not included in the electoral roll, is entitled to have his/her name registered in the electoral roll of the constituency of his/her residence in India (as mentioned in his/her passport). See: <https://ecisveep.nic.in/voters/overseas-voters/> and <https://www.nvsp.in>

Terminology: India uses the term diaspora as a generic term to describe the people who have migrated from its territories and their descendants. Indian diaspora fall into two categories for which specific data are collected.

The first category, Non-Resident Indians (NRI), refers to Indian citizens holding an Indian passport living and/or working in another country. To maintain one's NRI status, one must be in India for less than 182 days (during the relevant financial year)⁵.

The second category, Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), offers a privileged life-long status and continued relationship with India for those who have adopted another nationality and had to forfeit their Indian citizenship.⁶ Former NRI's and their families (spouses of foreign origin, child, grandchild, or a great grandchild of a citizen) are eligible if the person is not, or has never been, a citizen of Pakistan and/or Bangladesh. For more information: <https://ociservices.gov.in/>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1967** ● **The Passports Act** is an Act to provide for the issue of passports and travel documents, to regulate the departure from India of citizens of India and other persons and related support⁷.
- 1983** ● **The Emigration Act⁸** was enacted in the specific context of large-scale emigration of Indian workers to the Gulf region and mainly addresses the interest of Indian migrant workers by regulating overseas employment and recruitment. It also established the need for Emigration Clearance, a Protector General of Emigrants (PGE), and Protectors of Emigrants.
- 2016** ● The India-EU **Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM)** is a comprehensive framework for cooperation on migration management between the EU and India. One objective is to harness the contribution of migrants to the economy of destination countries as well as countries of origin, facilitating the secure and cost-effective flow of remittances and their development effect, supporting diaspora networks, and optimising the benefits of return.⁹

Bilateral social security agreements have been established with various countries to protect the interest of expatriate workers and the companies on a reciprocal basis. The Ministry of External Affairs has signed twenty bilateral Social Security Agreements.¹⁰

5 According to the Finance Act 2020 as of 2020-2021 this has been reduced to 120 days for NRI's whose income is greater than 1.5 million INR.

6 The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955, in August 2005 and launched in 2006 at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention

7 <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b55910.html>. In honour of the 53rd anniversary of the Passports Act, the Ministry of External Affairs announced that its focus for 2020 is to strengthen outreach efforts, taking passport services closer to their citizens. Additionally, the passport issuance system has been integrated into 70 missions worldwide thereby simplifying the rules and procedures for NRI's abroad. Further steps are foreseen to leverage the use of modern technology i.e. issuance of biometric passports, integration and use of the mPassport Seva app for all steps related to the renewal and/or acquiring of a passport. <https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/32781/Address+by+Minister+of+State+for+External+Affairs+on+Passport+Seva+Divas+2020> ; <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/jun/24/we-intend-to-open-passport-seva-kendras-in-every-lok-sabha-constituency-says-eam-jaishankar-2160825.html>

8 <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b5318.html>. A draft emigration bill is on the horizon and focuses on establishing new legislative provisions and measures, including an Emigration Management Authority, Bureau of Emigration Administration, and nodal authorities at the state level. Also included are additional provisions for the welfare and protection of diaspora - specifically migrant workers - abroad. See: https://mea.gov.in/Images/amb1/Salient_aspects_of_Emigration_Bill_2019.pdf

9 For more information refer to: www.icmpd.org/euindia

10 https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/26465/Social_Security_Agreements



»» Trends

Overseas Indians are the largest diaspora in the world¹¹ and sent 82.2 billion USD\$ (equalling approximately 3% of India's GDP and forming a quarter of the country's foreign reserves) in 2019 to India. Within the European context, most remittances are sent from the UK, Italy, and Ireland.

Indian State and local officials are exhibiting greater awareness towards mobility (intra- and inter-) and their diaspora communities worldwide. Political engagement between India and its diaspora is actively being sought after: the 2019 national elections saw heavy NRI participation in both the campaigning process and during the national election¹².

The Government of India has put in place the necessary institutional support for NRIs and OCIs to maximise their global success in countries of destination, whilst embracing the diversity of contributions to their communities of origin. Increasingly, state authorities have established dedicated ministries and departments to manage migration. The state government of Kerala was the first state to realise the significance (and potential of emigration) for the state economy and therefore created a dedicated department in 1996 called the Non-Resident Keralite Affairs (NORKA). Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Society was established in 2016. The government of Andhra Pradesh has also passed the AP Migrants' Welfare Policy. Since then, many other state governments (e.g. Punjab) have come forward to develop a migration policy dedicated to capturing the potential benefits and minimising the risks of migration.

» Achievements

The 2005 OCI scheme has boosted India's connectivity with its diaspora. Individuals with Indian heritage are able to retain their foreign citizenship while simultaneously enjoying rights that are conferred to Indian citizens (with a few exceptions). Consequently, the Indian economy is now able to hire OCI cardholders, who enjoy a multiple entry, multipurpose visa to visit India, sparing them the need to obtain separate work permits for life.

India's foreign policy actively develops partnerships with diaspora communities for key projects. For example, the Government of India set up the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI)¹³ in 2008 as a not-for-profit Trust to facilitate Overseas Indian philanthropy into social and development projects in India. IDF-OI's present mandate is to promote the following projects for funding by Overseas Indians: Government of India's flagship programmes – National Mission for Clean Ganga and Swachh Bharat Mission and social and development projects identified by State Governments. Priority sectors are the following: education, sanitation, healthcare, women's empowerment and sustainable livelihood.

The Indian diaspora globally act as 'agents of change' facilitating and enhancing investment back home (reverse brain drain), accelerating industrial development, and boosting international trade. With a booming Indian economy, these agents of change have begun to return, contributing to the rapid urbanisation of India and the development of India's own Silicon City: Bangalore/Bengaluru and Gurgaon. Websites such as <https://backtoindia.com> have made the physical return home easier.

11 <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/09/india-has-the-world-s-biggest-diaspora-here-s-where-its-emigrants-live/>

12 <https://www.connectedtoindia.com/the-nri-push-in-modi-20-5658.html>

13 https://mea.gov.in/images/attach/IDF_Trifold_Pamphlet_241016.pdf

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



e-Migrate

DIGITAL

As per the Emigration Act, 1983, an emigration check (ECR) is required for special categories of Indian passport holders (individuals who have not completed their 10th grade education) and who plan to travel to one (or more) of the 18 countries listed by Indian Bureau of Immigration. However, a computerised system, e-migrate, enables this process to happen smoothly, as well as providing additional support tools such as a Handbook for Pre-Departure

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2003 - present

NETWORKS

PBD is a convention held every two years to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots. During the convention, selected overseas Indians are honored with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to recognize their contributions to various fields both in India and abroad.

Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) 2009 – ongoing

WELFARE/ RIGHTS

ICWF was set up in 2009 to assist overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency in the “most deserving cases” on a “means tested basis”. In 2017, the Indian government decentralised the decision-making process empowering embassies and consulates to disburse funds that are managed by the Ambassador and Diaspora Counsellor within each Embassy.

Know India Programme (KIP)

YOUTH

KIP is a programme run by the Ministry of External Affairs. It consists of a three-week orientation programme for diaspora youth conducted with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education.

Vande Bharat mission¹⁴, April 2020 - ongoing

RETURN/ REPATRIATION

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India has put forward initiatives to ensure the safe and secure return of its citizens and their subsequent employment in India post-return. The Vande Bharat mission is widely reported to be the largest repatriation operation effort globally with the return of upwards of 500,000 Indians from over 130 countries.

14 <https://www.businesstraveller.com/business-travel/2020/08/18/vande-bharat-mission-phase-6-begins-on-september-1-2020/>



Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support (SWADES; June 2020 - ongoing)

To ensure returnees have opportunities for post-return employment, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), under the Skill India Mission, has partnered with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and created a database of qualified citizens – based on skillsets and experience. Under the SWADES programme, returning citizens are required to fill up a SWADES skill form following which a SWADES skill card is issued. The Ministry then shares the collected information with companies for suitable placement opportunities in the country.

SKILLS/ DATA

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation - BIMSTEC 1997

BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. The objective of building such an alliance was to harness shared and accelerated growth through cooperation in different areas of common interests by mitigating the impact of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages. Unlike many other regional groupings, BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization. Starting with six sectors—including trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries—for sectoral cooperation in the late 1997, it expanded to embrace nine more sectors—agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change—in 2008.

- **National institutions**

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA): Division of Overseas Indian Affairs 2016

Carried over from the now dissolved Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (OIA), this division within the MEA is dedicated to the multitude of Indian Nationals settled abroad. OIA seeks to connect the Indian Diaspora community with India. Positioned as a 'services' division, it provides information, partnerships and facilitation for all matters related to Overseas Indians (comprising Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)).

Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA): Foreigners Division

The division deals with all matters relating to visa, immigration, citizenship, overseas citizenship of India, acceptance of foreign contribution and hospitality.

Protector General of Emigrants

PGE under Ministry of External Affairs is the authority responsible for protecting the interest of Indian workers going abroad. PGE is also the registering authority to issue Registration Certificate to the Recruiting Agents for overseas manpower exporting business.

- At state level

Non-Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA) 1996

The first of its kind at state level, NORKA is a department of the government of Kerala formed to support NRIs from Kerala, and to strengthen the relationship between Keralites living abroad and state authorities. NORKA Roots, established in 2002, serve as an online platform that contain all information pertaining to the welfare of Non-Resident Keralites(NRK) and act as an interface between the diaspora and state authorities. Amidst the Covid-19 outbreak, the Norka-Roots portal facilitated registration from people all around the world to request to return to Kerala. The portal also allowed people stuck in different states of the country to register on their site from 29 April 2020.

Non-Resident Indian Affairs Department of the State of Punjab

This online portal primarily offers NRI's from the state of Punjab electronic access to relevant authorities on a series of subjects (education, farming, urban planning, Punjab policing, passport information, and emergency services). Additionally, the website also details various infrastructure development schemes offering NRI's – and NRI-connected Non-Governmental Organisations - a list of projects in need of support with the aim of developing native communities

NRI Commission of the Government of Goa 2006

The Government of Goa has established a Commission for NRI Affairs as a separate entity with a view to promoting, nurturing and sustaining a mutually beneficial and symbiotic relationship between the State of Goa and its vast and diverse community overseas.

Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRTS) 2016

ANPRTS is a government owned non-profit society established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to: bring the Non-Resident Telugu community worldwide under one roof; actively engage them to participate in the growth and prosperity of Andhra Pradesh; and to serve their needs in India. It offers guidance on sector-specific policies and incentives for investment, acts as a lobbyist, guides prospective entrepreneurs, and supports NRTs in accessing lost documentation.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Global Organisation of Persons of Indian Origin (GOPIO) 1989 Netherlands, Germany, France, UK, and Norway

☑ Integration activities

GOPIO was founded at the First Global Convention of People of Indian Origin in New York in 1989. The initial mission of GOPIO was fighting human rights violations against people of Indian origin. Although this has been improved in the last decade, human rights violations continue to be a major issue for PIOs living outside India. GOPIO has now set its priorities on pooling resources, both financial and professional, for the benefit of PIOs, their host countries and India.

Indian Students Germany (ISG) Germany

☑ Integration activities

ISG is a project initiated by the Embassy of India in Berlin (Germany) and in association with various student associations of Germany with the goal of facilitating open communication and sharing of information across all the Indian students and student organizations in Germany.

Indo-German Society (DIG) 1953 Germany

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

DIG brings together people from both India and Germany countries and promotes public knowledge and the appreciation of modern India and its many religious, ethnic, and cultural sources.

Ireland-India Business Association (IIBA) 2008 Ireland

The IIBA was founded to foster commercial links between Irish and Indian businesses. Ten years on, it is the leading bilateral trade organisation operating to build networks and commercial partnerships between Ireland and India. Members benefit from valuable sector intelligence and influencing opportunities, and the IIBA facilitates knowledge-sharing and networking among Irish and Indian business communities through research, reports and working groups.

Netherlands-India Association (NIA) 1951 Netherlands

NIA is the oldest active association in The Netherlands promoting friendly Indo-Dutch relations. The association was created by a group of Dutch people interested in philosophical and varied cultural aspects of Indian society. In the early years, the aim of the association was to organize lectures and talks on aspects of Indian religions, culture and philosophy.

For more information on diaspora organisations please refer to: <https://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/list-of-overseas-indian.pdf>

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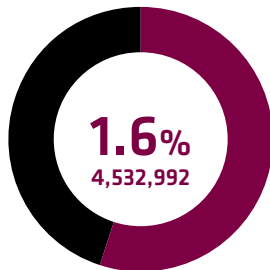


Diaspora engagement mapping INDONESIA

Facts & figures

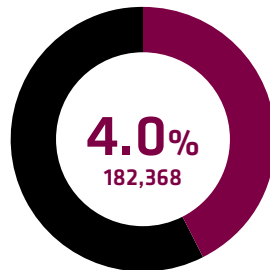
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 55.0%
♀ 45.0%

% of which in the EU



♂ 42.5%
♀ 57.5%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.9%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **9,651**



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 citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



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 12/2016³** 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 26/2016⁴** 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'⁵** 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.⁶ 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.⁷ 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.

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.

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

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Diaspora Connect¹¹

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.

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 Forum¹²

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

¹² 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 website¹³ 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 Bandung¹⁴

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.

¹³ <https://iocs.kemlu.go.id/>

¹⁴ 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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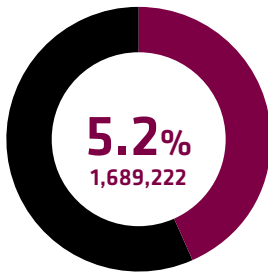


Diaspora engagement mapping MALAYSIA

Facts & figures

Emigration

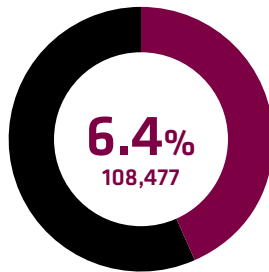
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 43.4%
♀ 56.5%



% of which in the EU



♂ 43.6%
♀ 56.4%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.4%**
Remittances inflow (USD billion): **1,454**

Top countries of destination

Singapore	952,260
Bangladesh	206,244
Australia	174,136
United Kingdom	84,638
United States of America	77,647

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:³

By postal vote



Terminology: The term 'Malaysian diaspora' refers to skilled overseas Malaysians with relevant qualifications and overseas work experience in industries and professions that are recognised by the government.⁴ The government lists these professions in their 'Critical Occupations List', with key professions in the field of finance, business services, science and technology, engineering, manufacturing, accounting and software development.⁵

Malaysia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 <https://www.jpn.gov.my/en/maklumat-warganegara/permohonan-pelepasan-taraf-kewarganegaraan-di-bawah-perkara-23-perlem-bagaan-persekutuan/>

2 https://www.kln.gov.my/web/aus_perth/events/-/asset_publisher/rQz9lJfKr02h/blog/14th-general-election-postal-voting-facility-for-malaysians-abroad?inheritRedirect=false

3 Ibid.

4 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280085147_State-led_Talent_Return_Migration_Programme_and_the_Doubly_Neglected_Malaysian_Diaspora_Whose_Diaspora_What_Citizenship_Whose_Development

5 https://www.talentcorp.com.my/clients/TalentCorp_2016_7A6571AE-D9D0-4175-B35D-99EC514F2D24/contentms/img/TalentCorp_CriticalOccupationsList_TechReport_2019-2020_Final.pdf

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2010** ● **New Economic Model for Malaysia:** Under this scheme, the government aims to attract, develop and retain the human capital necessary for the country's economic development. The government aims to attract high-skilled diaspora who have emigrated and to retain those who have yet to leave.
- 2011** ▼
2015 ● **10th Malaysia Plan** emphasises the importance of nurturing, attracting and retaining top talent to develop the economy actively. It also establishes a Talent Corporation (TalentCorp Malaysia) to source talent from among the diaspora by partnering with the public and private sector to implement initiatives that attract, nurture and retain the right expertise needed to meet the demands in Malaysia. It also provides tax and permanent residency incentives to attract the diaspora. The plan recognises the importance of establishing links with the diaspora to provide additional resources for advisory roles, international business networks and assistance for Malaysian companies entering overseas markets.
- 2012** ● **Talent Roadmap 2020** maps out strategies for Malaysia to become a top 20 global talent destination in the global talent index by 2020. The roadmap mentions 'Engaging the Diaspora of Malaysians' as one of its objectives. It identifies three strategic thrusts, including optimising Malaysian talent, attracting and facilitating global talent and building networks of top talent.

» Trends

Malaysia's historical policy of a special position for ethnic Malays – through the 'Bumiputra' policy and the New Economic Policy⁶ – resulted in the emigration of Chinese and Indian Malaysians, who had limited employment opportunities in the civil service and public education institutions. Other reasons cited to play a factor in emigration include higher pay abroad, professional development opportunities, safer public transport and education for their children.⁷ This trend resulted in significant brain drain, which made the government introduce its first diaspora-related policy, targeted at talent retention, in the New Economic Model in 2010. Government-led initiatives, such as the Returning Experts Programme (REP) and launch of TalentCorp, show the emphasis that the government places on diaspora engagement, and specifically on attracting and nurturing talent from the Malaysian diaspora. TalentCorp, for example, attracts high-skilled diaspora to return by offering incentives such as an optional flat tax rate of 15% for employment income for 5 years, tax exemption for all personal items brought into Malaysia, Permanent Resident status for foreign spouses or children arriving within 6 months, and enrolment in an international school in Malaysia for foreign children or those in an international stream overseas. The corporation actively engages with overseas Malaysian students and professionals, raising awareness about employment and business opportunities in Malaysia, supporting business and training partnerships and facilitating return for those who choose to do so. It has also seen increased interest in the REP, approving 5,366 applications from 2011-2019 compared to the 840 applications approved from 2001-2010.⁸

A third of Malaysians overseas have completed tertiary education and, in 2010, 1 in 10 tertiary-level educated Malaysians migrated to an OECD country.⁹ The majority of the Malaysian diaspora found jobs in financial services, education, healthcare, wholesale and retail or tourism.¹⁰ However, there have been some changes in government thinking with former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's own Council of Eminent Persons in 2018 suggesting that reforms to the affirmative action policies are necessary to bring Malaysia to

6 <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/new-malaysia-four-key-challenges-near-term>

7 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280085147_State-led_Talent_Return_Migration_Programme_and_the_Doubly_Neglected_Malaysian_Diaspora_Whose_Diaspora_What_Citizenship_Whose_Development

8 <https://www.talentcorp.com.my/>

9 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280085147_State-led_Talent_Return_Migration_Programme_and_the_Doubly_Neglected_Malaysian_Diaspora_Whose_Diaspora_What_Citizenship_Whose_Development

10 Ibid.

the next economic level and to encourage diaspora to return.¹¹ Though the Malaysian diaspora accounts for approximately 5% of the population, remittances to the country only contribute to 0.5% of GDP. Remittance inflow to Malaysia though has increased since 2000, but it is still an outward remittance focused country.¹²

Obstacles



- **Lack of opportunities and economic prospects:** According to a survey conducted by the World Bank, some Malaysians are prompted to leave due to limited career prospects, social injustice, poor compensation safety and security, politics and liveability. Much of the diaspora is not willing to return until these issues are rectified.¹³
- **Lack of awareness of return programmes:** Many of the brain-gain programmes that aim to attract high-skilled diaspora back to Malaysia have attracted limited returnees. This is possibly due to a lack of awareness of these programmes among the diaspora which could be due to a communication gap between the government and diaspora.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Brain Gain Malaysia (BGM) Programme 2006

BGM is a programme under the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), targeted at expediting Malaysia's development into an innovation-led economy by leveraging on the talent pool of the Malaysian diaspora, using incentives such as tax concessions and other incentives. The priority clusters are bio informatics and technology, energy, climate change related technology and cybersecurity. It has attracted close to 700 successful applicants mostly in the medical and ICT fields.¹⁴

Returning Expert Programme (REP) 2015¹⁵

Run by the Ministry of Human Resources, the programme targeted the return of Malaysians with expertise in information and communication technology, microelectronics, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, advanced materials, pharmaceuticals, and aerospace and energy. From January 2001 to February 2010, 840 out of 1455 applications were approved, of which 601 actually returned to Malaysia¹⁶. This programme was re-implemented through the TalentCorp, which approved 5,366 applications from 2011-2019. Under the Scholarship Talent Attraction and Retention programme, 6,604 scholars have served their bonds with 3,424 Malaysian employers up to 2019.¹⁷

RETURN & REINTEGRATION;
HUMAN CAPITAL

RETURN & REINTEGRATION;
HUMAN CAPITAL

11 <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Malaysia-in-transition/Mahathir-advisers-propose-review-of-Malay-privileges-to-spur-economy>; <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/new-malaysia-four-key-challenges-near-term>

12 <https://jibe.uitm.edu.my/images/june2018/Fauzianafull.pdf>

13 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265729584_Return_Intentions_of_Malaysia's_Diaspora_The_Push_and_Pull_Factors

14 https://www.kln.gov.my/web/fin_helsinki/news-from-mission/-/blogs/brain-gain-malaysia-bgm

15 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265729584_Return_Intentions_of_Malaysia's_Diaspora_The_Push_and_Pull_Factors

16 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280085147_State-led_Talent_Return_Migration_Programme_and_the_Doubly_Neglected_'Malaysian_Diaspora'_Whose_Diaspora_What_Citizenship_Whose_Development

17 <https://www.talentcorp.com.my/>; <https://www.talentcorp.com.my/resources/press-releases/prime-minister-of-malaysia-announces-revised-returning-expert-programme>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of Human Resources 1957

The ministry is responsible for skills development, labour, occupational safety and health, trade unions, labour market information and analysis and social security.

Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) 2004

MOSTI focuses on ICT, multimedia and innovation, science and technology and research and development. It played a key role in the Scheme for Appointment of Overseas Malaysian and Foreign Scientists.

National Economic Advisory Council 1971

The council embraces key themes of high-skilled human capital, efficient public services, reinvigorated private sector and equal opportunities for all Malaysians. It was the institution that published the New Economic Model for Malaysia policy.

- At sub-ministerial level

TalentCorp Malaysia 2011

This government agency falls under the Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR). It works to attract, nurtures and retain the right talent to enable Malaysia to grow. The agency shapes, influences and aligns policies, and develops demand-driven initiatives, such as the critical occupations list to guide Malaysia's talent policies. It also partners with the public and private sector to implement initiatives that attract, nurture and retain the right expertise needed to meet the talent demands of today and in the future.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Islamic Medical Association Malaysia (IMAM) UK 2002

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

IMAM aims to provide a common platform to tackle various issues regarding the promotion of Islamic fiqh in medical practice and other duties as medical practitioners. It has raised funds for disaster relief in the Islamic world.

Norway Malaysia Association Norway 1990

☑ Integration activities

The association's key activities include providing a forum for members to meet and exchange ideas and discuss matters of mutual interest, periodic dissemination of information relating to opportunities for trade, commerce and investment in Malaysia, and provision of services to members intending to visit Malaysia for business purposes using the association's contacts.

The British Malaysian Society UK 1980

☑ Development activities

The British Malaysian Society aims to encourage productive links between those involved in cultural and educational activities in Malaysia and the United Kingdom. It organises a book project to transfer reading books from UK to primary schools in rural parts of Malaysia. It also has a joint academic scholarship for a two-year master's programme in London for a qualifying Malaysian student.

The Malaysian Accounting and Finance Society (MACFIS) UK

☑ Integration activities

MACFIS is dedicated to fostering formal and informal ties between Malaysian professional and corporate bodies and Malaysian students currently enrolled in UK institutions of higher learning.

The United Kingdom and Eire (Ireland) Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC) UK 1995

☑ Integration activities

UKEC is the umbrella body and national coalition of all Malaysian student societies across Britain and Ireland. The council serves as a common platform of interaction for Malaysian students across the region, at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels. UKEC has a charity and volunteering branch, UKECares.

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Diaspora engagement mapping MALDIVES

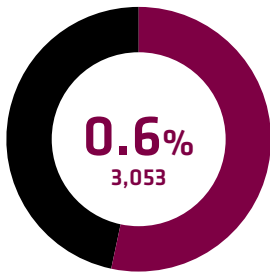
Facts & figures

Emigration

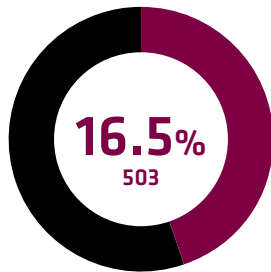
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 53.5%
♀ 46.5%



♂ 43.5%
♀ 53.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.1%**
Remittances inflow (USD billion): **4**



Top countries of destination

Sri Lanka	1,409
Australia	645
United Kingdom	402
India	194
South Africa	95



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad³:

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: In the 2014 census, the government referred to their diaspora as 'non-resident' Maldivians.

The Maldives does not have a diaspora engagement policy.⁴

1 Maldivian Citizenship Act Law No. 1/95. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/58d3c59b4.pdf>

2 https://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/ifes_maldives_parliamentary_elections_faqs_april_2019.pdf

3 Ibid.

4 https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mp_maldives_2018.pdf

2006
⌵
2010

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- **Seventh National Development Plan** included a policy on boosting the training of the labour force through education and training for sectoral development. The first strategy under this policy was to maximise the utilisation of overseas fellowships for education and training. The Ministry of Higher Education has since listed a range of scholarships and loans on their website to encourage students to go abroad for either undergraduate or postgraduate studies, and 85 of these have been taken up. This shows the government encouraging its students to study abroad.⁵

» Trends

Given the relatively low number of Maldivians living abroad, engaging them is a challenge and therefore diaspora engagement has not been a priority for the Maldivian government. As a result, there have been no schemes to encourage the return of Maldivians who emigrated abroad. Maldivian migrants are mainly those seeking employment, students and asylum seekers/refugees. The shortage of degree-level programs in the country has compelled Maldivians who wish to study to degree and postgraduate degree levels to seek their university education abroad. There is no data collected on Maldivian students studying abroad and whether they have returned. According to the 2014 Census, 5589 people were identified as “non-resident” Maldivians (citizens living or intending to live abroad for at least 1 year).⁶

Obstacles



- **Limited contact:** The diaspora seldom self-report to an embassy and thus there is limited contact between them and their home country.
- **Low priority:** There are very few Maldivians living abroad and engaging them is a challenge. Neither the Maldives, nor destination countries can prioritise contributing to an active diaspora policy for such a small part of their population. Even in Sri Lanka, which houses almost 50% of the Maldivian diaspora, Maldivians represent only 3.5% of the foreign population.⁷
- **Lack of data:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not collect data on the Maldivian diaspora. There is limited capacity and collaboration in data collection, analysis and exchange among the various organizations that manage migration in Maldives. The three databases - XPAT, PISCES, and CBN - managed by Maldives Immigration are not integrated as different developers created them. Records are also only available since 2013, when Maldives Immigration was created.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework 2015

One of the key targets of the framework is capacity building and leading advocacy at climate negotiations by inculcating climate change advocacy and awareness cross-sectorally nationwide as well as in the international arena. The framework suggests that, in order to do this, Maldives should seek to host, both in the Maldives and in their missions abroad, frequent seminars/workshops/interactive dialogues designed to promote Maldives' advocacy on climate change for climate vulnerable/frontline states.

CLIMATE CHANGE
& ADVOCACY

⁵ <https://mohe.gov.mv/scholarship-loan>

⁶ Migration in Maldives: A Country Profile 2018

⁷ IOM, “Migration in Maldives: A Country Profile 2018”, (2018)

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

International Organisation for Migration 2013

Maldives became a member state of IOM in 2011 and IOM established its office in Malé in 2013. IOM has one staff member based in Malé and it has worked with the government to promote safe migration.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Economic Development 1979

The Ministry formulates and regulates economic and trade policies. It promotes trade and investment, immigration and emigration, labour, maritime and land transport sectors. Since 2014, the Ministry has also been involved in labour management, in addition to migration management and anti-human trafficking victim support services.

- At local level

Maldivian Red Crescent 2009

A non-profit, volunteer-run humanitarian organisation with the governing board having a mix of Maldivian diaspora and Maldivians on the ground. The organisation has not produced reports or data on migration, but has been involved in several projects on the ground.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Maldivian Students' Association UK (MSAUK) 2015

- ✓ **Development activities**
- ✓ **Integration activities**

A non-profit student association that represents the Maldivian students in the UK. The group hosts events to bring together Maldivian students in the UK. The association also conducts workshops and sessions for students in Maldives who are sitting for their GCSE (formerly 'O' level) and A-level examinations (British academic qualifications for secondary education, usually taken at the ages of 16 and 18 respectively). The International Maldivian Students Association (IMSA) is an informal collective of Maldivian students associations/communities across the world. On behalf of IMSA, MSAUK has helped organise a fundraising appeal to help Maldives overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. The appeal calls upon Maldivian families living abroad and the international community at large to provide monetary donations.

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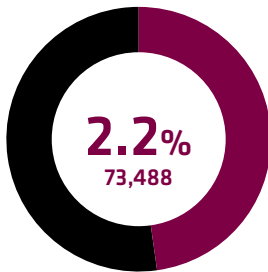


Diaspora engagement mapping MONGOLIA

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



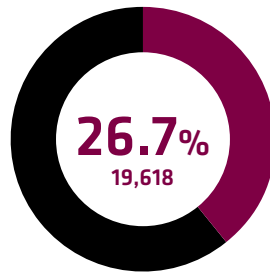
♂ 47.8%
♀ 52.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **4.2%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **549**



% of which in the EU



♂ 39.3%
♀ 60.7%



Top countries of destination

South Korea	27,145
Russia	21,158
Czech Republic	5,716
China	4,546
Ukraine	4,413



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Mongolia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ Law of Mongolia on Citizenship, 1995, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4af7dec62.html>

² <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/9/3/450535.pdf>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



2008



2012

The **Action Plan of the Government for 2008-2012**³ seeks cooperation with foreign governments to ensure the rights of Mongolian nationals and their children residing abroad to receive education and live in a safe environment. It also aims to protect the legal interests of Mongolian nationals and legal persons abroad by creating a fund to assist Mongolian nationals and expand consular activities.

2016



2020

The **Action Programme of the Government of Mongolia for 2016-2020**⁴ aims to implement targeted policies for increasing cultural tourism, promoting Mongolian national culture abroad and produce relevant products and services. As part of its foreign policy, it seeks to consistently uphold the interests of Mongolian citizens and economic entities abroad as well as improve the conditions for citizens to travel abroad. It also seeks to increase the budget and accessibility of the Fund of Assistance to Mongolian citizens abroad to protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens living and studying abroad, provide legal assistance in case of violation of their rights and improve the accessibility and quality of citizens' registration, notary and consular services. The programme also looks into supporting Mongolian schools and kindergartens established abroad by delivering books and learning materials to associations initiated by Mongolian citizens. The programme further aims to create enabling conditions for Mongolian citizens studying abroad in specialised fields to contribute to the country's development from abroad by connecting them to research institutions, universities, institutes and laboratories in Mongolia.

>> Trends

Mongolia has seen a steady growth in diaspora engagement initiatives since the government's 2008 action plan. The current action plan covers more diaspora engagement-related strategies than the 2008 version, which shows that diaspora engagement has become an increasingly important goal for the Mongolian government. Whilst the government used to focus on protecting and assisting its citizens abroad, it now seeks to mobilise the resources of its diaspora to boost infrastructure as well as use their expertise for science and technology. The government has also emphasised the promotion of Mongolian culture abroad. Over the past years, the government has partnered with cultural groups abroad to host national events like the Nadaam Festival through its embassies. Mongolian migrants are young, educated, skilled and in search of higher paying jobs and a better quality of life. Many go abroad to countries such as South Korea for higher education. There were more than 25,000 Mongolians studying abroad in 2019.⁵

Obstacles



- **Lack of dedicated institutions:** While the government has mentioned the diaspora in their action plan, there is no separate ministry or institution established to implement diaspora engagement objectives. This could hinder the implementation of some of their strategies.
- **Lack of public infrastructure:** Infrastructure challenges have been cited as a concern by members of the diaspora considering return. For example, 25 doctors who expressed interest in returning to Mongolia during the Beehive Conference shared that they hesitated because of challenges such as finding schools for their children and getting long-term work contracts.

³ https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/Government%20action%20program%20_%202008-2012.pdf

⁴ <https://zasag.mn/en/news/khotolbor>

⁵ <https://monitor.icef.com/2019/09/mongolian-outbound-higher-than-estimated-most-of-it-going-to-asian-powerhouses/#:~:text=There%2C%20on%20a%20macro%20level,abroad%20today%2C%20mostly%20in%20Asia.>

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



The Beehive Programme⁶ 2011

The Beehive Programme was implemented to encourage Mongolians living abroad to return to their native land. A Beehive conference⁷ was held in Berlin in 2011, attended by 150 Mongolians from 17 European nations, with presentations about the economic situation in Mongolia and the country's need for highly educated professionals. Information was shared about 600 job openings in Mongolia for skilled workers. The 2016-2020 action programme also mentioned a continued implementation of the Beehive Programme to encourage and provide support to young people who have studied, worked, or mastered new technology and skills abroad to work permanently in their home country.

RETURN

Soyol School 2014⁸

The school was founded in 2014 in Germany by members of the Deutsch-Mongolisches Tor in NRW e.V. 'Soyol' means culture in Mongolian, and the school aims to teach children and youth from the Mongolian diaspora in Germany the language and origins of Mongolian culture, as a defining part of their cultural identity. In the academic year of 2018-19, the school had four teachers and 29 students with Mongolian classes taking place on Saturdays twice a month.

EDUCATION

Nadaam Festival (annual)⁹

Every year, on the Anniversary of the People's Revolution National Festival, the Nadaam Festival is organised by the organisation "Austria-Linz Mongolchuud". The festival aims to promote Mongolia's traditional culture, arts, sports, customs, food and clothing to Mongolians and foreigners living in Austria and Europe. In 2019, the festival was held for the third time in Austria. The event consists of wrestling, archery, ankle archery, arm wrestling, tug of war, horseracing and an award ceremony for Mongolian leaders in arts and sports. The embassy of Mongolia in Austria attends the event and provides consular services and help during the event.

CULTURE

Returning Experts Programme 2004¹⁰

Run by the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), the programme supports individuals from developing, emergent and transition countries who live and work in Germany - or have completed education or training there - to return to their home country to use their skills and knowledge. It enables diaspora experts to contribute to development back home by applying their knowledge, experiences and contacts in the right places. The programme aims to promote international migration as a positive factor in development and to encourage the transfer of knowledge through the professional integration of returning experts. Since 2004, the programme has assisted more than 10,000 persons with career planning, returning to their home countries and the search for appropriate positions there. There is also extra financial support for experts returning to a list of 23 countries, including Mongolia.

RETURN &
REINTEGRATION

6 <https://news.mn/en/83237/>

7 <https://news.mn/en/83237/>

8 <https://www.dmt-nrw.de/index.php/soyol>

9 <https://www.facebook.com/Austria-Linz-Mongolchuud-1592848964080252/>

10 https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

International Organisation of Migration 2008

Mongolia joined IOM as a member in 2008. In 2011, IOM opened an office in Ulaanbaatar and has been contributing to the efforts of the government to manage migration effectively. It has implemented programmes such as the AVRR to help reintegrate the diaspora back to society.

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance manages the Fund of Assistance to Mongolian citizens living abroad. It aims to cover the cost for incidents related to Mongolians whose rights have been violated or have lost their lives or are victims or perpetrators of crimes abroad. The Fund of Assistance to Mongolian citizens living abroad provided financial support equalled to MNT 1.3 billion (almost 400,000 EUR) for the years 2009- 2017.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association for the Development of Mongolian Women in Europe (ADMWE) 2011 United Kingdom

Integration activities

Established to facilitate Mongolian women's networking and development in Europe. It aims to unite women of different professions and background to provide opportunities to network and develop business and social connections.

Deutsch-Mongolisches Tor in NRW e.V. 2012 Germany

Integration activities

With over 50 club members, the association aims to improve the lives of Mongolians in Germany. The association supports various integration projects and measures in Dusseldorf. It also holds cultural events and traditional national festivals.

Freunde Der Mongolei eV 1996 Germany

- Development activities**
- Integration activities**

This non-profit organisation in Munich, Germany aims to promote international understanding and cultural exchange with Mongolia. It supports development aid projects in Mongolia, especially in the environmental

and educational sectors, and with helping children. It supports cultural exchange between the two countries by making Mongolian traditions in Germany known through cultural events and celebrations. The organisation also aims to build connections between Germany and Mongolia in the fields of culture, science and development assistance.

German-Mongolian Association Gobi e.V. 2009 Germany,

☑ **Development activities**

☑ **Integration activities**

The association in Halle/Saale promotes knowledge of Germany and Mongolia and the cultural exchanges between them. It organises information and cultural events and aims to support humanitarian aid campaigns. For instance, it has held fundraising campaigns for socially disadvantaged children at schools in Mongolia. It is financed through membership fees and sponsors.

MAS Berlin e.V. 2016 Germany

☑ **Integration activities**

The student association based in Berlin helps Mongolian students from Mongolia and based in other German cities to travel to Berlin for professional development. The academic association was founded by and for trainees and students of Mongolian origin in and around Berlin. It aims to pass the Mongolian language and culture on to Mongolian children, pupils and students born and raised in Berlin. Through their projects, it aims to contribute to cultural, educational and social exchanges between Germany and Mongolia.

Mongolistik Berlin 2014 Germany

☑ **Integration activities**

Mongolistik Berlin aims to provide cultural and scientific exchange of information between Mongolia and Germany. It posts about recent happenings on politics, society and culture in Mongolia and Germany on their Facebook page. It also provides information on events happening in Berlin that are connected to Mongolia and the Mongolian community there.

Soil Society - Swedish Mongolian Culture Association 2003 Sweden

☑ **Integration activities**

A non-governmental organisation that functions as a platform for artistic collaborations between Sweden and Mongolia. The organisation's board and members are based in Sweden and Mongolia.

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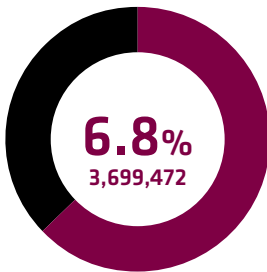


Diaspora engagement mapping MYANMAR

Facts & figures

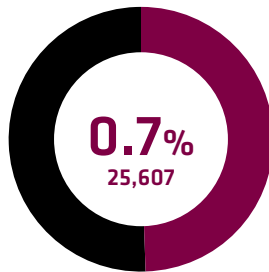
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population¹



♂ 62.8%
♀ 37.2%

% of which in the EU³



♂ 49.7%
♀ 50.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **2.8%**
Remittances inflow (USD billion): **2,250**



Top countries of destination

Thailand	1,858,735
Bangladesh	937,521
Malaysia	345,947
Saudi Arabia	261,159
United States	145,165

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad³:

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: The terms 'Myanmar's overseas communities' and 'Burmese overseas communities' are used.

Myanmar does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 [http://data.globalcit.eu/NationalDB/docs/1982%20Myanmar%20Citizenship%20Law%20\[ENGLISH\].pdf](http://data.globalcit.eu/NationalDB/docs/1982%20Myanmar%20Citizenship%20Law%20[ENGLISH].pdf)

2 <http://aceproject.org/ero-en/regions/asia/MM/burma-myanmar-pyithu-hluttaw-election-law-2010/view>

3 <https://www.irrawaddy.com/datetime/will-millions-myanmar-migrant-workers-vote-2020-election.html>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1999** ● **Law Relating to Overseas Employment (LROE)**⁴ (currently being reviewed and revised) sets out the basic architecture for managing international labour migration. It details registration procedures for workers, licensing processes for employment agencies and a range of rights and responsibilities of both workers and employment agencies. The law also provides for the establishment of the Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee (OESC) to provide coordination and cooperation necessary to achieve the law's objectives.
- 2013** ● **National Plan of Action (NPA)**⁵ has four areas of focus: governance of migration; protection and empowerment of migrant workers; inclusion of migration in the national development agenda; and data collection and management. The plan emphasises the importance of establishing skills recognition systems, promoting effective use of migrant remittances for investment at the level of the household, community development and initiating engagement with the diaspora communities to contribute to national development objectives. It seeks to achieve this through a range of channels: legislation, rules and regulation (including the LROE), better coordination at the national level through the OESC, review of bilateral Memoranda of Understanding with destination countries and alignment of national framework with international standards.
- 2016** ● **Memorandum of Understanding with Thailand (renewed in 2016)**⁶: Thailand is the first country of destination for the Myanmar diaspora. However, documentation across borders has been a challenge due to irregular migration flows between the two. In 1992, registration of undocumented migrants in Thailand was trialled. In 2009, the Myanmar government coordinated with the Thai authorities to issue temporary passports to migrants holding a Thai migrant worker registration card. Since signing of the MoU, the Myanmar government has been working towards issuing Certificates of Identity to migrants. These certificates have the longer-term goal of having the migrants apply for a full passport in the future and returning to work in Thailand as legally documented migrants.
- 2016** ● **Code of Conduct for the Members of Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation**,⁷ signed by over 100 recruitment agencies, aims to foster ethical recruitment practices and improve the quality of services provided to migrant workers throughout the process of migration. According to the code, migrant workers are briefed about details of contracts, labour rights, complaint mechanisms, social security, access to healthcare, information on local currency, wages, cost of living, remittances and banking. It also instructs the establishment of a database of all workers, and supporting agencies that can respond quickly to workers' needs.
- 2018** ● **Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan**⁸ for the period of 2018-2030 includes a section on cultivating 'Human resources & social development for a 21st century society'. This focuses on improving the quality of - and access to - social services such as education and health, improved access to food and nutrition, protecting the rights of migrant workers and strengthening the positive linkages between migration and local-level development. This is further elaborated under strategy 4.5 of the plan, which focuses on protecting the rights of migrant workers, and also emphasises the need to harness the expertise, financial resources and energies of migrants for the development of the country.

4 http://apskills.ilo.org/apmagnet/resources/building-labour-migration-policy-coherence-in-myanmar/at_download/file1

5 http://apskills.ilo.org/apmagnet/resources/building-labour-migration-policy-coherence-in-myanmar/at_download/file1

6 https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/ift-fund.org/files/publication/wcms_566066.pdf; The 2016 MoU (not publicly available) is based on the following MoU from 2003: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/genericdocument/wcms_160932.pdf.

7 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-yangon/documents/genericdocument/wcms_622961.pdf

8 https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core_Doc_Myanmar_Sustainable_Development_Plan_2018_-_2030_Aug2018.pdf



» Trends

There is a significant Myanmar diaspora due to labour migration flows, especially to neighbouring countries such as Thailand or Malaysia. Currently, there are no government lead schemes to encourage Myanmar emigrants to return. However, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and Evidence on Demand (research group supporting major development partners) have called for a structural transformation of Myanmar's economy away from agriculture towards manufacturing and services. The country is interested in wider sociocultural changes in Myanmar through social protection, health and education; it is working towards inter-linkages in these areas with the diaspora in the future. The strengthening of structures related to overseas employment illustrates the importance of labour migration for diaspora engagement in the country. For instance, instead of the Department of Labour taking over chairmanship of the Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee (OESC), the position was given to the Minister of Labour, Immigration and Population. This indicates that the government recognises the importance of the committee and its purpose. The OESC now has three working committees: administrative committee, workers' benefits committee and the workers' rights protection committee.⁹ In 2016, the Myanmar government recognised the link between migration and other policies, and pledged its support for job creation and the return of migrants.¹⁰ Since 2010, the Myanmar government has started on a series of reforms to liberalise the country's political and economic systems. The government is also encouraging its citizens to work abroad and providing them with support and information to do so. Neighbours like Thailand and Malaysia remain attractive destinations for migrants due to higher wages and better employment prospects. Overall, the government has recognised the role of migration in boosting rural development and helping with poverty reduction. Since then, it has strived to develop legal, affordable and safe channels for migration.

» Achievements

Accessibility: Myanmar has local-level labour exchange offices (LEOs), which are spaces of coordination for migration governance.¹¹ Some LEOs are also Migrant Workers Resource Centres (MRCs) and are places where aspiring migrants can learn about the opportunities and risks associated with migration, return and reintegration.

Labour Attaches: The appointment of labour attaches in receiving countries is a key protection mechanism employed by sending countries to enhance the protection of their migrant workers. Myanmar has labour attaches in the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Thailand to enhance protection of migrant workers. The role of labour attaches includes vetting potential employers and contracts, assisting with workplace disputes and complaints, providing legal counselling and other support services and monitoring employment conditions to ensure that they are just and fair.¹²

9 https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/lift-fund.org/files/publication/wcms_566066.pdf

10 Ibid.

11 http://apskills.ilo.org/apmagnet/resources/building-labour-migration-policy-coherence-in-myanmar/at_download/file1

12 http://apmigration.ilo.org/resources/implementation-of-recommendations-from-the-3rd-to-10th-asean-forum-on-migrant-labour-afml/at_download/file1

Obstacles



- **Lack of resources:** Despite the Migration Division being the focal point in the government for managing international labour migration, its capacity is limited by the relatively small size of the division within the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, as well as its limited technical capability and financial resources.
- **Marginalised Diaspora:** Authorities have long marginalised the diaspora, which has been a vocal critic of Myanmar's government for alleged human rights abuses and mismanagement of the country's economy.¹³
- **Fragmentation of Diaspora:** Because Myanmar's overseas community is ethnically and educationally diverse, it is difficult for them to unite and contribute to their country's development.¹⁴ Furthermore, most Burmese abroad are in a precarious situation, making it uncondusive to create strong unions and engage in development work.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Empowerment Trainings

Conducted since 2016, the Empowerment Trainings include a number of local CSOs training local community leaders to provide information, training and support to potential migrant workers. The CSOs include the Rakhine Womens' Union, Tavoyan Womens' Union, Women's Department of the Northern Shan State Baptist Convention and Mawk Kon Local Development Organisation. CSOs disseminate safe migration information and organise trainings for potential migrant workers and their families. They also train local community leaders to empower them to provide safe migration information and trainings, as well as support services to potential migrant workers. This has improved migrant workers' access to information, as workers can receive immediate responses from their community leaders, rather than travelling to the nearest migrant worker resource centre.¹⁵

EDUCATION
& TRAINING

Twe Let – Increasing the Development Impact of Labour Migration Through Strengthened Governance and partnership

The project was launched in 2017 and is led by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, with support from the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) Consortium, and aims to strengthen skills development training, safe migration practices and financial management.¹⁶ The project aims to increase the positive role of migration. It provides financial literacy training to households receiving remittances from migrants, provides skills training to migrants to improve their chances of accessing good jobs and provides job-matching support. It aims to reach 50,000 people in Mon, Kayin, Thanintharyi, Shan, Chin states and the Dry Zone by 2020.¹⁷

EDUCATION
& TRAINING

13 <https://asiasociety.org/blog/asia/key-myanmars-development-could-be-its-diaspora>

14 Ibid.

15 http://apmigration.ilo.org/resources/implementation-of-recommendations-from-the-3rd-to-10th-asean-forum-on-migrant-labour-afml/at_download/file1

16 Ibid.

17 <https://www.lift-fund.org/news/event-news/twe-let-migration-project-increase-developmental-impact-labour-migration>

Happy Return Programme

The programme matches returned Myanmar migrant workers from the Republic of Korea with Korean factories in Myanmar.¹⁸ The programme, instituted by the Republic of Korea in 2009, consists of pre-departure seminars, and skills and business training to prepare the participating workers for their return. Migrant workers can participate in vocational training; pre-return recruitment services (assistance in applying for jobs in Korean companies located in Myanmar); and administrative support for insurance benefit claims. It aims to help workers reintegrate into their home country and continue using their newly acquired skills.¹⁹

RETURN &
REINTEGRATION

Practical Handbook on the Management of Labour Migration

The Migration EU eXpertise initiative (MIEUX) launched a handbook to support the efforts of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MLESS) in Myanmar in enhancing their management of labour migration.²⁰ Training sessions were conducted for the staff of MLESS at the central and local levels to develop the handbook. Upon completion, MLESS staff were equipped with skills to develop and implement information campaigns on labour migration and provide services to migrant workers. A second initiative was conducted on Capacity Building on Labour Migration to support the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) in Myanmar to understand the public authorities of partner countries so as to better manage migration.²¹ This initiative included bilateral meetings; workshops on labour migration management for staff at the operational level; and sessions on ethical recruitment, prevention of exploitation and protection of migrant workers' rights. A draft prevention and protection plan was produced at the end of the initiative in November 2019.

MIGRANT RIGHTS

18 http://apmigration.ilo.org/resources/implementation-of-recommendations-from-the-3rd-to-10th-asean-forum-on-migrant-labour-afml/at_download/file1

19 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_733917.pdf

20 <https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/128-myanmar-labour-migration>

21 <https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/192>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

International Organization for Migration Myanmar 1951

IOM Myanmar covers all aspects of migration, including labour mobility, human development, migration health, immigration and border management, migrant protection, counter trafficking, emergency preparedness and post-crisis migration management.²² IOM has a strong presence in Myanmar with over 580 staff working across the country with 12 offices.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 2002

Originally, the main role of the ILO was to help the elimination of forced labour in the country and implement strategies to address its root causes. In 2007, a complaints mechanism was set up to enable victims of forced labour to seek help. In 2018, ILO signed the first Decent Work Country Program for Myanmar with the government, employers and workers organisations. The TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme²³ is part of ILO'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 ASEAN six countries, including Myanmar, and is funded by Australia and Canada.²⁴

ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour 2008

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

The Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) 2009

LIFT is a multi-donor fund that aims to strengthen the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of poor households by helping people to reach their full economic potential. LIFT is a significant actor in Myanmar's development. For 2019-2023, the fourth strategic phase of the fund, LIFT's four thematic areas are Agriculture, Markets and Food Systems; Financial Inclusion; Decent Work and Labour Mobility and Nutrition.

22 <https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/country/docs/myanmar/iom-myanmar-mission-overview.pdf>

23 https://www.ilo.org/asia/projects/WCMS_428584/lang--en/index.htm

24 https://www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/news/WCMS_677752/lang--en/index.htm



- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population 2016

The Ministry protects workers' rights, provides social services for workers, promotes higher labour productivity, and participates in international labour affairs. It is also directly responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of LROE and the NPA. The Ministry also has a nine-point approach to their labour migration policy.²⁵

Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1947

The Ministry is involved in the coordination and communication relating to Myanmar's bilateral agreements and MoUs, such as the one with Thailand. It operates embassies and consulates in 44 countries. The embassies help to provide accommodation for citizens in need as well as support them when they run into problems.

- At sub-ministerial level

Migration Division 2012

Within the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Migration Division is responsible for the management of all aspects of international labour migration. The division is leading the revision process for the LROE. It also participates in discussions on Myanmar's bilateral agreements and MoUs. The division also verifies and approves overseas employment arrangements when recruitment agencies submit the documents and deals with grievances of migrants.

Myanmar Overseas Employment Agency Federation (MOEAF)²⁶

The federation helps to shape the market for the export of labour from Myanmar and recognises the need for more ethical recruitment practices through its development of a Code of Conduct.²⁷

Overseas Employment Central Committee and Supervisory Committee 1999

The OECC is made up of the Minister of Labour along with with high-level officials from the Ministry of Labour and other relevant ministries, together with the heads of organisations related to labour affairs, and suitable citizens. The OECC is primarily responsible for laying down policy relating to overseas employment and coordination for the implementation of the policy. On the ground, the OESC is the primary coordination platform.

Myanmar Statistical Information Service 2015

The service publishes data on the placement of overseas workers according to country of destination through their statistical yearbook publications.

25 https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/ift-fund.org/files/publication/wcms_566066.pdf

26 <https://www.facebook.com/MOEAF2012/>

27 https://www.ilo.org/yangon/info/meetingdocs/WCMS_622961/lang--en/index.htm

- At local level

Migrant Resource Centres 2015

TRIANGLE in ASEAN delivers assistance directly to migrant workers and their communities through a network of seven Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) in Myanmar. These MRCs are managed in partnership with government institutions, trade unions and civil society organisations and provide a range of services to migrant workers so that they can get a better understanding of the risks as well as the potential benefits of migration.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



British Rohingya Community (BRC) 2016 UK

✔ Development activities

BRC campaigns for Rohingya rights. It also collects and distributes aid to the camps in Bangladesh. It delivers food and medicines to the camps as well. BRC works with the UK Home Office to reunite families still trapped in camps by bringing them to the UK.

Helping the Burmese Delta (HTBD) 2008 UK

✔ Development activities

HTBD was founded post-Cyclone Nargis by May Tha-Hla and her husband Jon Wilkinson. The couple raised money from contacts and May went to Myanmar to purchase and deliver food and other aid to the affected areas. The organisation also aims to create opportunities for children and adults to build their knowledge, skills and capabilities to progress towards a better quality of life.

Kachin Relief Fund UK

✔ Development activities

A non-profit registered charity organisation in England and Wales. All members are Kachin exiles in the UK who have good contacts and can ensure quick delivery of humanitarian aid to communities in the Kachin state effectively. It aims to promote health and education among internally displaced Kachin people and educate people on the difficulties experienced by Kachin refugees.

Karen Community Association UK 2006 UK

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

The association represents the Karen community in the UK and helps the community with problems they face when coming to the UK. It also raises awareness about the situation in Myanmar and raises money to help refugees and the internally displaced. They now have three branches in the UK – Bolton & Bury, London and Sheffield. The group comes together physically for community events and activities. The community organises week-long celebrations of their culture, with a fundraiser and an exhibition about the plight of their people and their new lives in the UK. Their church services provide a sense of community. It uses this opportunity to exchange news back home and this includes visits from people who have recently been in refugee camps or Karen territory.

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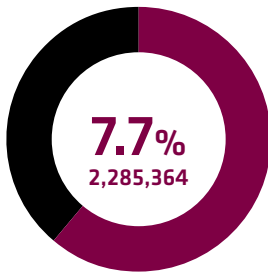


Diaspora engagement mapping NEPAL

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population

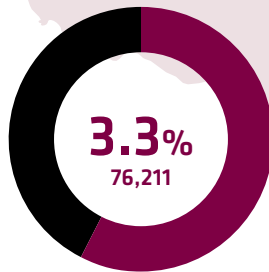


♂ 61.2%
♀ 38.8%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 23.5%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 8,102

% 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 citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



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.

¹ https://www.multiplecitizenship.com/wscl/ws_NEPAL.html

² 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 Act³



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 Policy⁴** 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 Provision⁵:** 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 Plan⁶ 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".⁷ 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

5 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 (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.⁸ 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.⁹ 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>

⁸ NRNA Vision 2020 and Beyond Final Report, 2017, NRNA, <https://nrna.org/Portals/0/Vision%202020final%20report.pdf?ver=2018-02-01-104845-657>
⁹ 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.¹⁰

<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

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/>

¹⁰ '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

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.

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Diaspora engagement mapping PAKISTAN

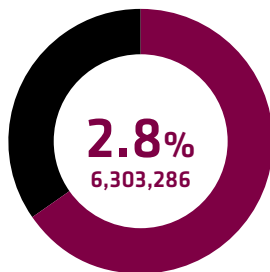
Facts & figures

Emigration

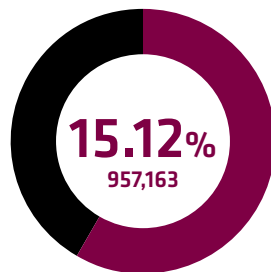
% of emigrants in total population¹²



% of which in the EU³



♂ 65.6%
♀ 34.5%



♂ 58,5%
♀ 41,5%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **9.9%**
Remittances inflow (USD billion): **26,105**



Top countries of destination⁴



Saudi Arabia	1,447,071
India	1,082,917
United Arab Emirates	981,536
United Kingdom	605,016
United States	406,509

Political rights



Dual citizenship⁵



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



Voting from abroad⁶:

Online



Terminology: While the term 'diaspora' is regularly used to define Pakistanis working, studying and/or residing abroad, 'Overseas Pakistanis' is used synonymously.

Pakistan does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 According to the BEOE: % of emigrants in total population 5.23% (total number 11,110,000). Annual Analysis of Manpower Report 2019, Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, Government of Pakistan, accessed May 12, 2020, <https://beoe.gov.pk/files/statistics/yearly-reports/2019/2019-full.pdf>. The BEOE usually track emigrants from 1971-2019 which explains the variation between their statistics and UNDESA numbers.

2 According to the "Female Labour Migration from Pakistan: A Situational Analysis", International Labour Office, accessed 12 May, 2020, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_735795.pdf, the share of women registering with the BEOE to emigrate for work purposes is very low (0.367%).

3 According to the BEOE, only 0.50% or 55,587 Pakistanis emigrate to the EU (out of which 98.54% are male and 1.46% are female), which is much lower than UNDESA's numbers. "Country-wise Emigrations", Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, Government of Pakistan, accessed 12 May, 2020, <https://beoe.gov.pk/files/statistics/2020/country.pdf>

4 According to the BEOE, the top five countries of destinations are: Saudi Arabia (5,573,948); United Arab Emirates (3,926,147); Oman (802,725), Qatar (192,988), Bahrain (177,533). "Country-wise Emigrations", Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, Government of Pakistan, accessed 12 May, 2020, <https://beoe.gov.pk/files/statistics/2020/country.pdf>

5 Pakistan Citizenship Act 1951

6 "Report on I-Voting Pilot Test in 35 Constituencies held on 14th October 2018", Election Commission of Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, accessed 12 May 2020, <https://ecp.gov.pk/documents/ivotingreport.pdf>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1973** ● **Rules of Business⁷** - Under Rule 3 (3) (iii & vi), the assigned function of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD)⁸ includes motivating Pakistani citizens abroad to strengthen their links with the mother country; as well as catering for the welfare of Overseas Pakistanis abroad and their dependents in Pakistan.
- 1979** ● **Emigration Ordinance and Emigration Rules⁹** delineate the legal framework for migration in Pakistan. The Ordinance not only controls and regulates the emigration process, but also provides safeguards for the welfare and protection of emigrants.
- 2014** ● **The Punjab Overseas Pakistanis Commission Act,¹⁰** specific to the Province of Punjab, this Act was promulgated to address the grievances of Overseas Pakistanis residing abroad who are affiliated with the province of Punjab.¹¹
- 2020** ● **National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis¹²** was developed by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) with technical and expert support from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). It focuses on three main priority areas covering all stages of labour emigration:
- Promotion of safe, orderly and fair emigration;
 - Protection and welfare of overseas Pakistanis and their families;
 - Engagement of Pakistani diaspora in the development process and reintegration of return migrants.

» Trends

The Pakistani diaspora is hailed as being one of Pakistan's greatest assets. However, in the absence of a legal framework governing diaspora engagement, the government has struggled to fully capture the trust of the diaspora – and thus far missed the opportunity to fully capitalise on their positive experiences. In this context, the government initiated the development of National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis in 2020. The policy shows that all relevant stakeholders relating to Overseas Pakistanis will coordinate to develop a Diaspora Engagement Strategy to impact on national development. The MOPHRD will develop programs for brain gain by engaging Overseas Pakistanis in knowledge transfer with the cooperation of other institutions such as the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC). A Talent Hunt Programme, which targets young overseas Pakistanis, will also be initiated. Opportunities will be increased for the diaspora to engage with local institutions of Pakistan to transfer skills and technology. The policy also guides the MOPHRD to coordinate with Pakistani associations abroad for their effective role in boosting the tourism industry in Pakistan.

7 The Rules of Business allocate and outline the functions and responsibilities of each Division of the Federal Government.

8 The Federal Ministry responsible for the welfare and protection of all Overseas Pakistanis.

9 <https://beoe.gov.pk/files/legal-framework/rules.pdf>

10 <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/99330/118491/F88939753/PAK99330.pdf>

11 For an overview of the types of issues that can be addressed by the Commission see: https://opc.punjab.gov.pk/why_need

12 It is imperative to note that the final draft of the Policy lies with the MOPHRD and is pending approval of the Prime Minister's Cabinet.



Achievements

Crisis: During times of crisis in the country, support from Pakistan's diaspora has proved both critical and timely. A recent example is the financial support which has been secured by the government during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in Pakistan considering that Pakistan's diaspora remain among the highest contributors to the Prime Minister's Covid-19 Pandemic Relief Fund. In response, the Pakistani government has launched a special portal to help the overseas Pakistanis who have lost their jobs abroad due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are facing difficulties.¹³

Remittances: Given the large proportion of Pakistanis residing abroad, remittances remain Pakistan's second largest source of national foreign exchange after exports.¹⁴ In this regard, remittances play a significant role in stabilising and refuelling the economy. The amount remitted home by Overseas Pakistanis during the last few years has increased remarkably, from less than US\$ 1 billion in 1999-2000 to US\$ 21.84 billion in 2018-19. The remittances inflow is expected to surpass \$22 billion for 2019-20.¹⁵

Obstacles



- **Diaspora policy:** Challenges stem from the fact that no formal policy or strategy exists to engage the Pakistani diaspora in socio-economic development efforts.
- **Female emigration:** Based on publically available figures, emigration of women from Pakistan is alarmingly low. This is perhaps related to the tendency for Pakistani women not to be perceived or recognised by public and private sector institutions as substantial - let alone equal - contributors to the country's overall economic and social wellbeing.
- **Remittances:** While remittances continue to grow, there is an on-going concern regarding the dominance of informal channels for sending remittances i.e. through the Hawala and Hundi systems.¹⁶ Furthermore, the limited financial literacy of Overseas Pakistanis and their families has continued to result in a lack of awareness on investment opportunities for their earnings.
- **Investment:** There is a lack of trust which deters the diaspora from investing in their motherland. This can be attributed to the underdeveloped business/investment landscape.
- **Reintegration:** There are no concrete reintegration programmes for return migrants returning after long periods abroad. As a result, they remain unguided upon their return in terms of investment, integration and social norms, as well as employment/job placement according to their acquired skills. Perhaps the lack of data on return migration (forced or voluntary) prevents undertaking a comprehensive reintegration programme in Pakistan.

13 <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/674844-govt-launches-portal-to-help-unemployed-overseas-pakistanis>

14 "Year Book 2017-18, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development", Government of Pakistan, accessed 12 May, 2020, <http://www.ophrd.gov.pk/SiteImage/Downloads/Year-Book-2017-18.pdf>

15 "Govt expects remittances to exceed \$22bln in FY2020", Pakistan Remittance Initiative, State Bank of Pakistan, accessed May 13, 2020, <https://www.pri.gov.pk/govt-expects-remittances-to-exceed-22bln-in-fy2020/>

16 "The Hawala Alternative Remittance System and its Role in Money Laundering", United States Department of Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, accessed 13 May 2020, <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/terrorist-illicit-finance/Documents/Fin-CEN-Hawala-rpt.pdf>

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOP) and Pakistan Origin Card (POC) 2002

IDENTITY

In 2002, Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) developed two types of cards linking Overseas Pakistanis to their motherland. The NICOP serves as a registration document for Overseas Pakistanis and provides visa-free entry into Pakistan for dual nationals. The POC gives eligible foreigners an opportunity to connect with their roots in the motherland, while offering many incentives such as multiple visa-free entry into Pakistan, indefinite stay in Pakistan, the right to open bank accounts, the right to manage property and real estate, and the right to obtain employment under certain circumstances.

DIGITAL

Pakistan Citizens Portal (PCP)

The PCP is a government-owned mobile application that was launched in 2019 and acts as a corridor between government institutions and Pakistani citizens, including Overseas Pakistanis. The PCP was established to ensure timely redressal of grievances, complaints or queries raised by any Pakistani with the commitment that all issues are addressed at the highest level.

REMITTANCES

National Remittance Loyalty Program

The Economic Coordination Committee of the Prime Minister's Cabinet approved the incentives for banks and facilitations to the Overseas Pakistanis to boost remittances through official banking channels. The National Remittance Loyalty Program will be launched in September 2020 and will aim to simplify the transfer of remittances for Overseas Pakistanis. The program will offer several incentives to senders (yet to be announced) and will be accessible through mobile apps and cards.¹⁷

HEALTHCARE

Yaran-e-Watan (Pakistani Diaspora Health Initiative)

This new initiative for 2020 has been introduced for overseas Pakistani health professionals to enable them to become part of the national fight against Covi-19. The initiative has been launched in collaboration with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development with support from Pakistani diaspora health organisations.

17 <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/623840-govt-incentivises-remittances-through-formal-channels>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

Budapest Process 1993

The Budapest Process is an interregional dialogue on migration stretching from Europe to the Silk Routes region - also covering Europe's Eastern neighbours, the Western Balkans and Central Asia. It provides a platform for dialogue and operational cooperation for over 50 governments and 10 international organisations. Pakistan is an actively participating state in the dialogue.

Colombo Process 2003

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. The current membership of the Colombo Process consists of 12 Member States, including Pakistan, and 8 Observer Countries.

Abu Dhabi Dialogue 2008

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) was established in 2008 as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Asian countries of labour origin and destination. The ADD consists of the 12 Member States of the Colombo Process plus six Gulf countries of destination: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Malaysia.

International Centre for Migration Policy Development: Silk Routes (ICMPD) 2011

Funded by the European Union and others, ICMPD started implementing various migration-related projects in the Silk Routes countries, including Pakistan, since 2011. Activities specific to Pakistan concern ongoing support to MOPHRD in the development of a National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis; ongoing support to Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency and its sister Academy; establishment of two Migrant Resource Centres (Islamabad and Lahore)¹⁸; and a regional cooperation initiative called Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation (RELEC).¹⁹

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH 1990

Within the priority area on sustainable economic development, GIZ is supporting the Government of Pakistan in apprentices and vocational education institutions²⁰ to enable them to meet the demands of the labour market.²¹ Support is provided on the proviso that Pakistan uphold labour and environmental standards.²²

18 mrc.org.pk/en/

19 It is an initiative among Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Turkey; its main objective is to enhance regional cooperation on preventing irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

20 "Global Project Build4Skills", GIZ, accessed May 13, 2020, <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/75066.html>

21 "Support to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector in Pakistan (phase 2)", GIZ, accessed May 13, 2020, <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/74535.html>

22 "Promoting sustainability in the textile and garment industry in Asia (FABRIC)", GIZ, accessed May 13, 2020, <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/34136.html>



International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2000

Within the sphere of migration management, IOM is presently supporting the Government of Pakistan to implement two projects: Strengthening Reception Capacities of Immigration Authorities in Pakistan; and Electronic Readmission Case Management System (RCMS). The former project focuses on strengthening the reception capacities for the increased number of Pakistani returnees from various countries, focusing on humane and orderly return. The latter project, funded by the EU through EURCAP, focuses on improving the readmission process through RCMS with greater transparency and accountability.

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

All foreign missions of Pakistan are headed by senior officials of Pakistan's Foreign Service. Any grievances, complaints or related issues faced by the Overseas Pakistanis (including settled diaspora) are addressed to Pakistan Missions abroad. To this end, the MFA plays an integral role in ensuring timely communication and coordination on pending issues with relevant ministries in Pakistan.

Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) 2013²³

The objective of MOPHRD is to deal with all the matters and affairs of the overseas Pakistanis; attending to their needs and problems, initiating schemes and projects for their welfare and working for the resolution of their problems and issues. Moreover, to promote Pakistani manpower abroad, and to elevate the living conditions of overseas workers through better protection and decent working conditions. The area of its activities encompasses the management of human capital, social protection, socio-economic up lift of working class. MOPHRD is responsible for the functioning of three core departments (BEOE, OEC and OPF). More importantly, it has nominated 14 Community Welfare Attaches (CWA) serving at Pakistan missions abroad.²⁴ CWAs are based in the Pakistan Missions and are responsible for negotiating Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements with labour importing countries. In addition, they also play an important role in engaging with the Pakistani diaspora and extending support as necessary.

- At sub-ministerial level

Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) 1971

BEOE is a centralised agency of the Federal Government for processing recruitment demands for Pakistani manpower through Licensed Overseas Employment Promoters, etc. for the different manpower-importing countries in the world, especially in the Middle East. A notable function of the Bureau is to control and regulate emigration under the Emigration Ordinance of 1979.

Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) 1976

OEC is a company limited by shares incorporated under the Companies Act 1913 as a private limited concern. Administrative and financial control is exercised by the MOPHRD. Primary objectives include the promotion of emigration of Pakistani labour for employment abroad through close coordination and liaison with international recruiters.

²³ After the merger of the Ministry of Human Resource Development with the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis. This was done as a result of re-organisation of the Federal Secretariat pursuant to Rule 3 of the Rules of Business, 1973.

²⁴ Bahrain, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, UK, UAE and USA.

Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) 1979

OPF's core mandate includes the establishment and management of welfare programmes, educational institutions and housing schemes for overseas Pakistanis. OPF looks after the social welfare of emigrants and their families in Pakistan and abroad.

- At local level

Provincial Labour Departments 2010

Pursuant to Pakistan's 18th Constitutional Amendment, several ministries including the Ministry of Labour and Manpower (at the time), were devolved to the Provinces. As a result, each Province now has its own Labour Department headed by Provincial Secretaries and core team members. In this regard, decisions relating to overseas employment and engagement are managed by Provincial Labour Departments directly. In parallel, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development continues to operate at a Federal level and acts as the focal ministry in terms of decision making.

Punjab; Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; Sindh; Balochistan

Diaspora organisations in Europe



All Pakistan Women's Association UK (APWA UK) 2010 United Kingdom

☑ Integration activities

APWA UK gives British Pakistani women a platform and a voice in the United Kingdom so that they can contribute to the UK and also integrate and benefit from what it has to offer. The aim is to inspire women to develop their potential and support them by putting them in touch with government departments within APWA UK's network.

Austria-Pakistan Association Austria

☑ Development activities


The association works to promote culture, trade and social service projects, human rights and individual interactions between Austria and Pakistan.

Austria-Pakistan Society 1976 Austria

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

The Austria Pakistan Society with a view to cultivating the cultural and scientific contacts between Austria and Pakistan and to further the knowledge of the wider public about the politics, economy and social system of Pakistan. Several members are successfully engaged in cooperation projects in the educational and humanitarian sector and in the promotion of sport activities in Pakistan.



British Pakistan Foundation (BFP) 2010 United Kingdom

Development activities

BFP engages, unites and empowers the UK's more than one million British Pakistanis, by bringing them together through a single platform, creating networks and making a real difference to their work and their lives across the UK. While boosting community building, the BPF also acts as a liaison between the diaspora and governmental and non-governmental organisations in both the UK and Pakistan.

G.A.T.E to Pakistan e.V. Germany

Integration activities

G.A.T.E. to Pakistan e.V. may be seen as communication platform for Germans and Pakistanis to enable access to the respective regions in the areas of sciences, culture and development cooperation and projects (for instance, in the areas of health and infrastructure).

Italian-Pakistan National Association Italy

Development activities

The non-profit organisation aims to supporting and develop social, economic, commercial, spiritual, cultural and tourism from and to Pakistan.

Pak-France Alumni Network (PFAN) France

Integration activities

The vision of the club is to tighten the bonds between the alumni of French universities in Pakistan and to create an active and dynamic community for strengthening research and cultural ties between Pakistan and France. More importantly, the PFAN endeavours to promote educational and academic links between Pakistan and France through exchange programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences and visits in order to achieve, inter alia, a network of solidarity between doctoral students, Masters, Bachelors and Diploma programmes graduates, or long-term trainees.

SOAS Pakistan Society 1968 United Kingdom

Integration activities

The society aims to continue to provide a forum for people of Pakistani descent to get to know each other, as well as to promote Pakistani culture to non-Pakistanis and raise awareness of both issues faced by Pakistan and the Pakistani diaspora.

The Pakistan Society 1951 United Kingdom

Integration activities

The society is an international organisation with some five hundred members, almost equally divided between those of British and Pakistani origin. It aims to increase public knowledge in Britain of the arts, history, geography, economic life and institutions of Pakistan. It does this through a series of lectures, meetings and social events, usually held at the Pakistan High Commission. Its patrons are HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh and HE the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

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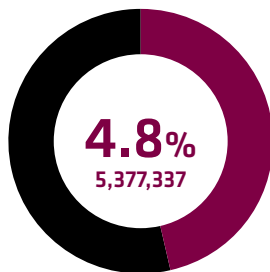


Diaspora engagement mapping PHILIPPINES

Facts & figures

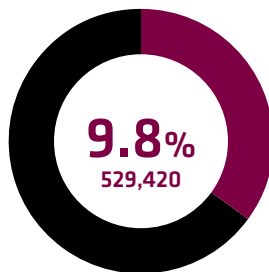
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 46.4%
♀ 53.6%

% of which in the EU



♂ 35.1%
♀ 64.9%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **9.6%**
Remittances inflow (USD billion): **34,913**



Top countries of destination

United States of America	2,047,269
Saudi Arabia	628,894
Canada	626,569
United Arab Emirates	556,407
Australia	281,216



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: The government refers to the diaspora as Pilipino sa Ibayong Dagat to refer to overseas Filipinos or people of Filipino ancestry living abroad. The term directly translates to overseas Filipinos.³

The Philippines does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 https://cfo.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Legal_Mandate/35.-R.A.-No.-9225_Making-the-Citizenship-of-Philippine-Citizens-Who-Acquire-Foreign-Citizenship-Permanent.pdf

2 https://cfo.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Legal_Mandate/RA-9189-Overseas-Absentee-Voting-of-2003.pdf

3 <https://cfo.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/mensahe-para-sa-mga-of-03-31-2020.jpg>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1974** ● **Presidential Decree No. 442** saw the creation of the Overseas Employment Development Board, now the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration). It set up a systematic programme for the overseas employment of Filipino workers and established a system to register and monitor emigrants leaving the Philippines.
- 1980** ● **Batas Pambansa Bilang 79** is an act creating the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO). The following year, this was followed by Executive Order No. 728 to retain the Commission on Filipinos overseas under the Office of the President as a critical agency, designating members of the commission and providing organisational guidelines for the secretariat of the commission.
- 1988** ● **Proclamation No. 276** declares December as the Month of Overseas Filipinos every year to honour their contribution to the development of the Philippines. This was followed by the Administrative Order No. 202 in 2007, which created an inter-agency committee for celebration of both the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day.
- 1995** ● **Republic Act No. 8042** established the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, which instituted the policies of overseas employment and codified a higher standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers, their families and other overseas Filipinos in distress. It was later amended by Republic Act No. 10022 in 2010, to further improve the standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers and other overseas Filipinos in distress.
- 2003** ● **Republic Act No. 9189** provided for a system of overseas absentee voting of qualified citizens abroad. This allowed all citizens abroad above the age of 18 to vote in elections for the president, vice-president, senators and party-list representatives.
- 2016** ● **Administrative Order No. 2016-0007** sets up the National Policy on the Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos to handle issues and concerns related to the health of migrants and the allocation of the budget and funding for it.

» Trends

As early as the 1970s, the government created dedicated structures and programmes to facilitate overseas employment for Filipinos. Since the 2001 Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration, the government has made it a major policy not only to facilitate, but also to encourage Filipinos to go abroad for work. For instance, the government invites recruiters to the country and actively seeks to match global labour needs with local talent.⁴ Since 2003, the government has sought to mobilise greater participation from Filipino communities for overseas voting due to the growing number of overseas Filipinos. It also hopes to encourage investments and contributions from Filipinos overseas to support the building of schools and other infrastructure. Many Filipino diaspora organisations maintain their links to their homeland through fundraising campaigns for relief and charity and by supporting small-scale development projects in the Philippines in sectors such as education and health. Remittances from the diaspora generally increase after natural disasters or financial crises to act as a safety net for households with family members abroad.⁵ For instance, remittances increased by \$600 million in the three months after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.⁶

4 <https://www.cbd.int/financial/charity/philippines-diaspora.pdf>

5 https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/annex_ii_diaspora_mapping_report_002.doc

6 <http://www.bsp.gov.ph/statistics/keystat/ofw.htm>

At the time of writing, to encourage diaspora engagement for development, there is a proposed legislation by the Department of Overseas Filipinos aimed at consolidating all migrant-related agencies under one department. The proposed department is also set to have one office for diaspora engagement and special concerns.

In 2020, the government's sectors of interest include health and welfare, education, small-scale infrastructure and livelihoods.⁷



Achievements

Government Relations: The government has established a permanent dialogue with Filipino communities abroad. Since Proclamation no. 276 in 1988, which made December the 'Month of Overseas Filipinos', the relationship recognising the contributions of the diaspora, has continued to grow. In 1991, for instance, the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations overseas were institutionalised, and 485 outstanding Filipino individuals and organizations overseas based in 52 countries have since been awarded for their contributions.

Obstacles



- Limited formal diaspora-government connection: Many Filipino diaspora rely more on informal channels (church groups, family or friends) rather than formal channels (institutions, embassies) for news, visa information, jobs and remittances. As a result, many of them prioritise group events/activities over those organised by the government.⁸
- Skill mismatch: While some of the diaspora may be considered as professionals when leaving the Philippines, in the country of residence many of them are relegated to lower-paying jobs or low-skilled jobs due to the lack of recognition of their credentials and the preference for those educated in the host countries.⁹

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



BaLinkBayan

BaLinkBayan connects Filipino individuals and communities to the Philippines through the Diaspora to Development programme of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO). The programme focuses on diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, philanthropy, returning talent, educational links and medical mission co-ordination. The BaLinkBayan portal is also a one stop online portal for diaspora engagement for overseas Filipinos. It allows the diaspora to start a business, donate, volunteer and access government services online.

NETWORKS &
PARTNERSHIPS

⁷ <https://cfo-linkapil.org.ph/index.php/accomplishments/>

⁸ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000153056>

⁹ <https://dirp4.pids.gov.ph/ris/dps/pidsdps1330.pdf>

HUMAN CAPITAL;
REINTEGRATION

Balik Scientist Program

The programme encourages Filipino scientists, technologists and experts to return to the Philippines and share their expertise for the country's scientific, agro-industrial and economic development. From 2007 to May 2019, the programme attracted 236 scientists for 348 projects. Most of them came from North America and Asia and a few from Europe, Australia and Africa.

RETURN &
REINTEGRATION

National Reintegration Centre for Overseas Filipino Workers (NRCO)

NRCO was established in 2010 with the aim to support returning migrants' reintegration into society and their employment in the local labour market. The reintegration services and programmes in the Philippines fall under the Comprehensive OFW Reintegration Program (CORP), which serves as a guide for national and local government units, CSOs and development partners that provide reintegration services. In May 2018, the NRCO was transferred from the Department of Labor and Employment to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). An important NRCO initiative is the "Sa Pinas, Ikaw and Ma'am/Sir" project, which aims to re-train domestic workers on the skills required to obtain a Teacher 1 Position and find employment in their hometown.¹⁰

YOUTH; IDENTITY

Youth Leaders in the Diaspora

The two-week cultural immersion programme began in 2019 for Filipino youth who were born abroad or migrated at a young age. Organised by the organisation Connecting Filipinos in Europe (ENFiD), it seeks to help participants understand their identity and move them towards a meaningful relationship with their extended family and/or the country.

INFRASTRUCTURE;
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL - Service to Fellow Filipinos)

LINKAPIL is a programme initiated by the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) in 1989 to systematically manage donations from Filipinos based overseas and direct them towards enhancing local development initiatives. It provides a means for the transfer of various forms of resources from overseas Filipinos to support small scale, high impact projects to address the country's needs. The programme was designed for overseas Filipinos to support projects in livelihood development, education, health related activities and small-scale infrastructure. Through the programme, the CFO acts as the intermediary between the overseas Filipinos and the local beneficiaries. Between 1990 and 2017, LINKAPIL has facilitated around Php3.3 billion (USD68.1 million) worth of assistance from overseas Filipinos and organisations, benefitting around 15.7 million Filipinos across the 81 provinces of the Philippines. The bulk of this assistance went into health and welfare, followed by education and small-scale infrastructure.

REMITTANCES

Overseas Filipinos Diaspora Remittances for Development (OFsReD)

OFsReD was a 2010 project jointly implemented by the CFO, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Western Union. The project successfully worked to mainstream migration and development in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016. A collective remittance fund was created to lend to migrant-owned enterprises in the province of Ilocos Norte. A website was also set up to document the initiatives and implementation of the project and to serve as a platform for future crowdfunding among the Ilocano Diaspora to contribute to the fund.¹¹

¹⁰ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_713541.pdf

¹¹ https://cfo.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/publications/1.-ofred-accomplishment-report_presentation_reduced.pdf

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

International Organization for Migration 1975

IOM established its office in the Philippines in 1975. In 1988, the Philippines became an IOM Member State – among the first Member States in Asia, with Manila as one of the first regional IOM offices in late 1996.

International Labour Organization (ILO) 1948

The Philippines became a member of the ILO in 1948, two years after gaining its independence. In 1970, the ILO established an office in Manila. Through government, employers and workers partnership, the Philippines was the first country in Asia to participate in a pilot programme on decent work in 2002. The TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme is a part of the ILO'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 ASEAN countries, including Philippines, and is funded by Australia and Canada.¹²

ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour 2008

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

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Department of Foreign Affairs 1898

Guided by three pillars of Philippine foreign policy, namely national security, economic security and the protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare and interest of Filipinos overseas. The department oversees a number of offices, including the office of consular affairs and consular offices. The consular section, headed by the consul general and a labour attaché, has the most frequent contact with Filipino workers and migrants for passport and visa matters. They also liaise with local authorities when problems involving Filipinos arise. The attachés are sometimes assigned specialised work on labour, commercial, trade and agriculture as well.

12 https://www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/news/WCMS_677752/lang--en/index.htm

Department of Labour and Employment 1933

The department aims to protect workers and promote their welfare. Replacing the Overseas Employment Development Board, under the Department of Labour and Employment, the [POEA](#) aims to facilitate the generation and preservation of decent jobs for Filipino migrant workers, to promote their protection and to advocate for their smooth return and reintegration into society.

- At sub-ministerial level

Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) 1980

Established through Batas Pambansa 79, the CFO is an agency of the government under the Office of the President. It is tasked to promote and uphold the interests, rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos and to strengthen their ties with the Philippines. It provides pre-departure orientation seminars to emigrants, promotes transfer of technology, material and financial contributions from overseas for development projects in communities across the Philippines, and provides Filipino youth overseas with opportunities to learn about Filipino history and culture. The CFO manages operations of all consulates and embassies outside the country in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs. The CFO aims to be the premier institution in promoting policies, programmes and projects with 'Migration and Development' as a framework to strengthen and empower Filipinos overseas. The CFO is also involved in several innovative initiatives, such as LINKAPIL, that serve to connect the overseas diaspora with local contacts.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) 1977

The OWWA is attached to the Department of Labour and Employment. It protects and promotes the welfare of Overseas Filipinos and their dependents. Formerly known as Welfare and Training Fund for Overseas Workers, OWWA is present in 31 overseas posts in 27 countries. It also has a presence in the seventeen regions of the Philippines.

- At local level

Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) 2007

The IAC is chaired by the President of the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch, an umbrella organisation of 12 migrant civil society organizations working for the recognition, protection, and fulfilment of the rights of Filipino migrants in the Philippines and abroad. The CFO co-chairs the committee and the IAC is composed of members and partners from the national government agencies, private sector and NGOs.


Diaspora organisations in Europe



Babaylan Europe 1992 Europe

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

The first meeting in Barcelona in 1992 was a response to the need for Filipinos living and working in Europe to link together and forge unity to improve their situation, and address specific issues affecting women. The network is now Europe-wide and aims to promote women empowerment through full participation in development. It promotes an education programme to tackle issues affecting women in Europe and the Philippines, to establish links of support with women's groups of other nationalities in Europe and the Philippines and to project their voices through effective lobbying at all policy-making levels in the Philippines government.



The group is present in Austria, Denmark, France, Germany (Philippine Women's Forum), Greece (Diwata), Italy, the Netherlands (Diwang Pilipina/Diwa), Spain (Amistad de Mujeres Filipinas), Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers (CFMW) 1979 Netherlands

☑ Integration activities

A support and service institution that provides programmes and services in response to the needs of the overseas Filipino migrant community in Europe. It works in partnership with Filipino migrant organisations in Europe and aims to develop migrant empowerment through self-organisation, education and campaigns for migrant rights and welfare. CFMW undertakes joint programmes with partner organisations in Rome, Greece and Barcelona.

European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFiD) 2012 Europe

☑ Development activities

ENFiD was formed in 2012 in the UK, Netherlands, Italy, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Norway and a few other European countries. A relief drive called ENFiD Bayanihan para sa Biktima ni Pablo was also set up for the victims of Typhoon Pablo in Philippines. In the following years, the network expanded to Malta, Iceland, Romania and Ireland, which also began mobilising cultural and relief projects. It has held events to keep the Filipino culture alive amongst Filipinos abroad and organised projects to help victims of typhoons in Philippines. In 2017, Young ENFiD was launched for youth of Filipino-European origin.

Filipino LGBT Europe Netherlands

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

A shelter/support group for Filipino LGBTs living in Europe, advocating for equality and empowerment, acceptance and social change for LGBTs in the Philippines. They aim to maintain an inclusive environment for LGBT Filipinos in Europe and support education and increase HIV awareness in the Philippines. They also promote and campaign for equality and legal recognition of LGBT marriage in the Philippines.

Filipino Women's Association UK 1988 UK

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

The association aims to raise funds to support youth from vulnerable families in the Philippines through an Education and Development Programme. It also seeks to support women in the UK and in the Philippines through education and personal development. Additionally, it provides support during calamities or unexpected events back in the Philippines.

Filippiinit-seura ry (Finnish-Philippine Society) 1988 Finland

☑ Integration activities

Established to promote friendship between the people of Finland and the Philippines, the association disseminates information on the social, political and cultural conditions in the Philippines through publications and public events.

Finnish-Philippine Association (FPA) 1988 Finland

☑ Integration activities

FPA aims to promote social interaction between the members, assist Filipinos in the Finnish way of life and showcase Filipino traditions and cultures to the Finnish people.

Philippine Centre 1985 UK

☑ Integration activities

Endeavours to provide a programme of activities that will encourage Filipinos to develop a greater sense of community and mutual support. It also aims to provide opportunities, facilities and services to foster a continuing interest and appreciation of Filipino values and tradition, culture and social norms.

Phil-UK 2000 UK

☑ Integration activities

Phil-UK is a community information website for first and second generation Filipinos living in the UK. It aims to unite the British-Filipino community through its network of members.

Lëtzebuergesch-Philippinesch Aktioun fir den Development (LPAD) 2006 Luxembourg

☑ Development activities

☑ Integration activities

LPAD supports the microfinance, cooperative and micro-enterprise development sector in the Philippines by mobilising investments from Luxembourg. The non-profit, non-stock solidarity association was founded by 10 Filipinos and Europeans in Luxembourg. It works on promoting entrepreneurship in the Philippines and within the Filipino community in Luxembourg. It also provides technical training on preparation, management and evaluation of projects to Filipinos in Europe, Europeans and other migrants who are keen on promoting development. LPAD has also organised fund-raising activities for the victims of natural disasters in the Philippines.

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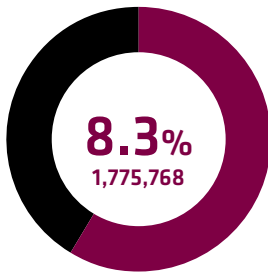


Diaspora engagement mapping SRI LANKA

Facts & figures

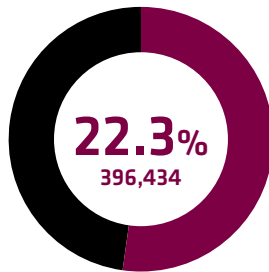
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 58.7%
♀ 41.3%

% of which in the EU



♂ 52.3%
♀ 47.7%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 8.8%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 7,140



Top countries of destination

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



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



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.

¹ 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 2015² 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.

² 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

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

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.

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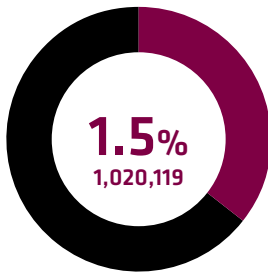


Diaspora engagement mapping THAILAND

Facts & figures

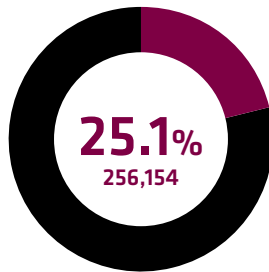
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 35.6%
♀ 64.4%

% of which in the EU



♂ 21.2%
♀ 78.8%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.6%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **8,067**



Top countries of destination

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



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:³

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 Act⁴** 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)⁵** by the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Thailand⁶ 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.⁷ 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.⁸ Research on the returning Thai diaspora is also relatively limited.

4 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

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.⁹

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Counselling Services @ Bangkok Bank¹⁰

The largest commercial bank in Thailand offers counselling services for those interested in local investment opportunities, including information on how to obtain business loans.¹¹ The bank also helps to settle transactions with overseas business partners and provides travel advisory services¹² and 'AEC Connect'¹³ which helps customers identify business opportunities in AEC.

INVESTMENT

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

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.

RETURN & REINTEGRATION

Reverse Brain Drain Project, 1997-2015¹⁴

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.

HUMAN CAPITAL

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

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/migmain.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

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

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.

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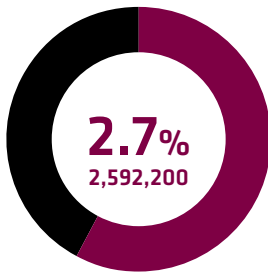


Diaspora engagement mapping VIETNAM

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population

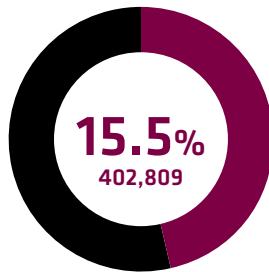


♂ 57.9%
♀ 42.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 5.0%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 17,200

% of which in the EU



♂ 46.6%
♀ 53.4%



Top countries of destination

United States of America	1,352,449
Australia	236,750
Japan	209,731
Canada	191,988
France	127,937

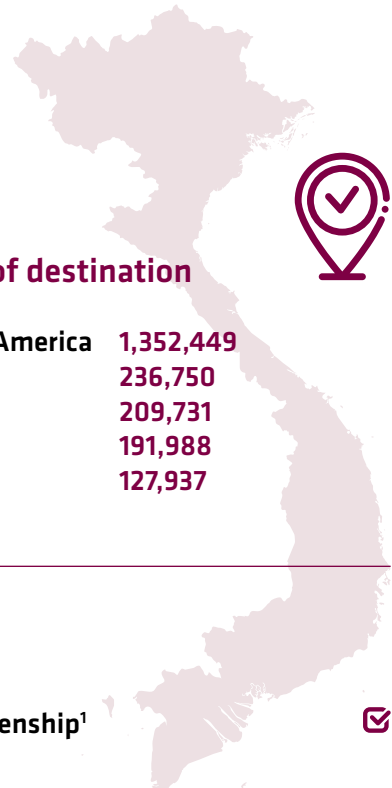
Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Terminology: *Viet Kieu* refers to Vietnamese people living outside of Vietnam; those who left Vietnam prior to the Vietnam war, those who left as refugees during the war or the newer immigrants who grew up post-war. The term is used by people in Vietnam to refer to ethnic Vietnamese living outside the country.

Vietnam does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ <https://vietnamlawmagazine.vn/tackling-the-issue-of-dual-citizenship-3591.html>

² <http://en.dangcongsan.vn/news-and-events/where-do-overseas-vietnamese-vote-389473.html>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1986** ● **Doi Moi reforms** was a set of economic reforms to transition Vietnam from a command economy to a socialist market economy. The reforms saw the Vietnam government loosening up control of foreign trade and allowing consumer goods to be sent back home by Vietnamese who worked or studied in other socialist countries. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the reforms emphasised that in a post-communist market economy, Vietnam should continue to keep its door open to foreign trade and investment.
- 2004** ● **Resolution 36³** was a law on the rights of the Viet Kieu, entitling them to certain privileges, such as incentives to buy property and invest in business and an exemption from visas. It was the first resolution of the Communist Party of Vietnam that addressed Viet Kieu issues. It aimed at creating favourable conditions and supporting them to “stabilise their life, integrate into the society of residing countries and maintain close links with the homeland”. As a result of this law, important legislation, such as visa exemption, home ownership, single price system and dual nationality, have subsequently been passed.
- 2018** ● **Law on Vietnamese Nationality** encourages and creates favourable conditions for persons of Vietnamese origin residing abroad to maintain close relations with their families and homeland and contribute to the building of their homeland. It also protects the lawful rights of Vietnamese citizens abroad through domestic state agencies and overseas Vietnamese representative missions.

» Trends and achievements

The legal framework for diaspora engagement in Vietnam is not very developed. However, the government has increasingly recognised the critical importance of diaspora engagement through activities that promote Vietnamese culture and the provision of incentives to attract the diaspora back home. Incentives include facilitating buying property and investing in businesses, visa exemption, allowance for dual nationality and a single price system. Through such measures, Vietnam has benefitted from economic growth. In the early 2000s, there were only 50 listed companies in Vietnam, whereas today there are over 750 companies with market capitalisation of around \$150 billion.⁴

Vietnam has also focussed heavily on promoting its culture to the diaspora by inviting them to summer camps or cultural programmes in Vietnam. The private sector is also tapping into the fact that many overseas Vietnamese - encouraged by the government’s fight against Covid-19 - wish to come home. Companies are using this opportunity to encourage diaspora with academic qualifications and experience working in leading multinational corporations to return and work in Vietnam’s growing economy.⁵

Obstacles



- Lack of policy framework: Vietnam lacks an overall policy framework for diaspora engagement, which prevents the various government ministries and private sector companies from working together more coherently. It also means that there is a lack of an overall guidance on what should be done to better the government’s diaspora engagement.

3 http://viet-studies.net/kinhte/VietKieuComeHome_Sojourn.pdf

4 <https://www.euromoney.com/article/b11192v8p6q9bh/vietnams-diaspora-returns-with-attitude>

5 <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/vietnamese-diaspora-professionals-inspired-to-return-by-nation-s-covid-19-success-4131881.html>

- **Divisions within the diaspora:** More than 45 years after the Vietnam War, the Vietnamese diaspora remains divided due to the country's complex tapestry of migration.
- **Emphasis on financial linkages:** The State Commission for Overseas Vietnamese (SCOV) has focussed mainly on establishing financial linkages to Vietnam to speed up national development, but has not put in place activities or policies to heal emotional and political scars.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Come Home Pho Good

The programme aims to attract high-skilled Vietnamese talent from the diaspora. Increased demand for talented professionals makes private sector companies keen to recruit from overseas Vietnamese professionals because they have a wide exposure to international experience and technology. The programme seeks to convince companies to attract Vietnamese diaspora professionals and provide the mechanism for companies to secure talent. For instance, the recruitment agency Robert Walters identifies and connects with Vietnamese diaspora professionals who are keen to return and potentially interested in jobs in Vietnam, based on their extensive database.

RETURN & REINTEGRATION;
HUMAN CAPITAL

Vietnam Summer Camp annual since 2004

The SCOV organises an annual camp in 10 localities across the country at which the diaspora comes to Vietnam to pay their respects to former President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum in Hanoi and visit other cultural and historical sites across Vietnam. There are also social activities, such as presenting gifts to relatives of martyrs, orphans and children in need, and interacting with local Vietnamese in several provinces. Since 2004, the camp has attracted 2,000 members of the diaspora from 30 countries and gives them a chance to connect with other Vietnamese in Vietnam and the diaspora.

IDENTITY;
NETWORKING

Xuan Que Hong (Homeland Spring) Programme annual

The Homeland Spring Programme brings together Vietnamese diaspora from around the world to strengthen solidarity between them and people in the homeland. It also seeks to inspire national pride and reiterate traditional cultural values amongst the diaspora. The programme includes a day of various activities, such as incense offering, ceremony for peace, and a food festival.

IDENTITY;
NETWORKING

Trip to Truong Sa (Spratly) archipelago Since 2011

This trip brings Vietnamese diaspora to the archipelago in the East Sea, which is also the nation's sacred territory. In 2019, the eighth such visit welcomed 50 diaspora members from 19 countries. The visitors attended commemorations events of martyrs and also donated gifts of essential food, equipment and cash to the soldiers and people in Truong Sa.

TOURISM;
IDENTITY

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) 1987

IOM operates under a cooperation agreement with the government of Vietnam. It has provided English training courses to migrant workers prior to departure overseas and more recently, it cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement a project to promote development friendly migration policies in Vietnam. It has also paid particular attention to the issue of human trafficking during migration out of Vietnam.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 1992

Vietnam rejoined the ILO in 1992 and an ILO Country Office was opened in Hanoi in 2003. The main aims of the ILO in Vietnam are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues. The TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme is a part of the ILO'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 ASEAN countries, including Vietnam, and is funded by Australia and Canada.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1945

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the central government institution charged with leading the foreign affairs of Vietnam.

- Sub-ministerial level

The State Committee on Overseas Vietnamese Affairs is an agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which handles overseas Vietnamese affairs and its contribution to national development. The agency provides consultancy to the Party and the State by implementing policies related to the overseas Vietnamese. It also helps mobilise overseas Vietnamese to support the homeland.

The HCMC Committee for Overseas Vietnamese, a sub-division of the MFA, for matters pertaining to Viet Kieu based in Hoh Chi Minh City as it is the main destination for most returning migrants. The ministry offers reintegration assistance to returning migrants, including support for finding work and accommodation, and organises events for diaspora who return every year for the Vietnamese New Year celebrations. Returning Vietnamese are also taken on tours of central investment projects in Ho Chi Minh City in order to make them aware of the city's economic achievements.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Deutsch-Vietnamesischer Freundeskreis e.V. (DVFAachen) 1999 Germany

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

DVFAachen aims to build and maintain friendships between people from Germany and Vietnam through cultural exchange, integration aid and promotion of education for Vietnamese youth. The organisation also provides support for people in need in Vietnam post-natural disasters. [f]

Làm Cha Me CZ (LCMcz) Czech Republic

- ☑ Integration activities

Làm Cha Me is a Vietnamese for “parenting”. LCMcz started as a Facebook group for Vietnamese parents in the Czech Republic to share useful information, explain issues that others might face and provide tips on how to educate children. At present, they find teachers to provide extra classes for children, help parents find suitable schools for their children, provide information on the healthcare system in Czech Republic, post useful information about traditional Czech festivals and holidays and basic knowledge about living in the Czech Republic and conduct community outdoor activities for children. [f]

Reistrommel e.V. association 1993 Germany

- ☑ Integration activities

Provides counselling for migrants and their family members, implements integration measures through language courses or migration advice, promotes Vietnamese culture, publicly educates and lobbies politically about living conditions of Vietnamese migrants. [f]

Vietnamese Entrepreneurship Society in Finland (VietES) 2019 Finland

- ☑ Integration activities

VietES guides Vietnamese arriving in Finland for higher education to embark on start-up ventures. The group incubates Vietnam-connected start-ups in Finland by combining the strengths and ecosystems of Finland and Vietnam. [f]

Union Générale des Vietnamiens de France (UGVF) 2016 France

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

UGVF aims to promote social activities, studies and integration into French society while maintaining and developing the cultural identity of the Vietnamese community, including helping the younger generation to understand Vietnamese culture. It also participates actively in the development of Vietnam by providing humanitarian and emergency aid. Key activities include cultural activities, celebration of traditional Vietnamese festivals, Vietnamese and French language courses and trips to Vietnam. [f]

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