



Diaspora engagement mapping HAITI

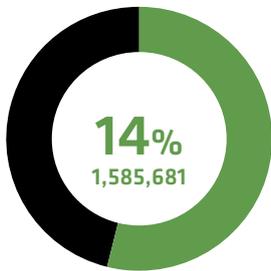
Facts & figures

Emigration

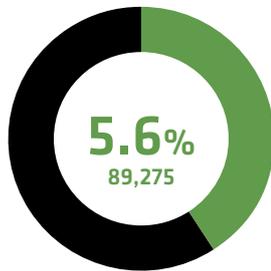
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 54.0%
♀ 46.0%



♂ 41.0%
♀ 59.0%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 22.4%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 4,532



Top countries of destination¹

U.S.	737,058
Dom. Rep	491,013
Canada	99,564
France	81,854
Chile	68,643

Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³



Haiti does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

2 Haiti's dual citizenship was recognized in 2012 amending the 1987 Constitution (article 13). <https://www.refworld.org/docid/50fd44852.html>

3 <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/ElecSys/Haiti/haiti.html>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2008 ● **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Haiti Renewal Alliance (HRA)**, signed between the Minister of Haitians Living Abroad and the Head of Mission of the International Organization for Migration, the MOU seeks to establish the terms to allow the HRA to conduct an inventory of the country's diaspora worldwide. Minister Ternier, who signed the agreement, announced that "it is necessary to list all the sons and daughters of the country living in foreign lands, in order to have information on their host country, their areas of expertise or profession and their willingness to return to Haiti or to help the country in well-defined circumstances." The information gathered through the inventory is to be used to create a database of diaspora members. This initiative is seen by the government as a step needed to enable the diaspora to reintegrate into the social and economic aspects of the country.⁴

» Trends

Overall: The Haitian government's engagement with the diaspora reflects uncoordinated efforts between the Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad (MHAVE) and a wide range of initiatives that relate more to emergencies, outside actors, or differentiated impacts. Key sectors of diaspora engagement include emergency relief, new technologies, business development and investment. Despite the fact that the Haitian economy is largely dependent on remittances, the government is unresponsive and ineffective in leveraging these funds for economic growth or development.

Continued disaster relief efforts: The Haitian Diaspora Emergency Response Unit (HDREU) provides a coordinated and effective disaster response within the diaspora and between diaspora and other stakeholders, such as emergency responders and the local population. The coalition of more than 30 diaspora organisations mobilised resources to better support the needs of communities impacted by Hurricane Dorian.⁵

Business development and investment: the U.S. Government, through USAID, launched an initiative to attract private capital and credit for small and medium sized enterprises (SME) across Haiti. The Haiti INVEST project, for example, created a facilitation platform to mobilize financing for investment in high potential sectors in Haiti, such as agriculture. Through Haiti INVEST, USAID opens a path to mitigate risks and share rewards with diaspora and Haitian investors.⁶ As of 2021, several companies have already benefited from the support offered through this program.⁷

In October 2022, USAID launched the Civil Society Strengthening Program, which main objective is to develop the capacities of Haitian civil society organizations (CSOs), including those working with the diaspora that are registered and operating in Haiti. The program will also support productive working relationships between CSOs and development actors, including the private sector and major donors from the diaspora.⁸

4 <https://www.caribbeanationalweekly.com/caribbean-breaking-news-featured/haiti-to-conduct-survey-of-all-nationals-in-the-diaspora/>

5 <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-strengthens-engagement-diaspora-organizations-disaster-response-preparedness-and-recovery>

6 <https://ht.usembassy.gov/usaids-launches-haiti-invest-to-open-access-to-credit-and-capital-for-haitian-enterprises/>

7 <https://www.juno7.ht/haiti-invest-lusaids-vole-au-secours-des-pme/>

8 <https://ht.usembassy.gov/fr/30598/>

Obstacles



- **Lack of resources, legitimacy, and trust:** In principal, the diaspora has support through the Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad but, despite being the only government institution that engages with the diaspora, it struggles with funding and legitimacy. Diaspora engagement mainly occurs through non-profit or private institutions. While many of the challenges to diaspora engagement involve a lack of resources and economic development, there is also a lack of trust between the Haitian State and the diaspora. In some cases, the diaspora resents the Haitian government, which at some point fueled migration.⁹ Additionally, members of the diaspora may be discouraged from investing due to political instability and perception of corruption.¹⁰ Furthermore, limited economic opportunities in the country may create a perception of competition between the government and members of the diaspora that may wish to return later. Past issues with foreign involvement have created a lack of confidence and mistrust. The existing mistrust and lack of collaboration diminishes the ability to strengthen diaspora engagement.¹¹
- **Few Remittances for development initiatives:** Despite a high remittance growth rate (36% of the country's national income in 2019) and numerous development initiatives in Haiti, there are few that link remittances to the country's development needs. This missing policy intervention dovetails with the already severe challenges to promote economic change in the country. Moreover, the World Bank has announced that long-term remittance growth is likely to be threatened by tightening of immigration policies. A threat to remittance growth can limit the potential government engagement with the diaspora through projects that leverage the use of remittances for development.¹²

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



La Maison de la Diaspora 2008

La Maison de la Diaspora supports the Haitian Diaspora wishing to invest or move to Haiti with a focus on development. It helps different groups such as youth, women, retirees, the disabled. One of the main objectives is to pressure the Haitian Parliament to give the diaspora the right to vote abroad, and to allow the diaspora to hold government positions and to participate in elections as candidates, senators, deputies, general secretaries, etc.

INVESTMENT +
ADVOCACY

"By and for the Diaspora" campaign 2019

In the "By and for the Diaspora" (2019) campaign, the government aims to present, through interactive live broadcasts on television and social networks, the different ministries, directorates, and government services to the diaspora in order to increase understanding and better access to government services. More than one hundred thousand Haitians in the diaspora followed the first two broadcasts, mainly via Facebook Live. MHAVE plans to offer these sessions continuously to introduce public services to members of the diaspora.¹³ Prior to this campaign MHAVE had also launched a promotional tool for diaspora members willing to invest in the country. The purpose of this tool was to simplify administrative procedures and provide information to diaspora members to facilitate their ability to conduct business in the country.

DIGITAL

9 <https://books.openedition.org/pur/26979?lang=en>;

10 <https://www.csis.org/analysis/role-haitian-diaspora-building-haiti-back-better>

11 <https://books.openedition.org/pur/26979?lang=en>; <http://yris.yira.org/essays/1534>

12 <https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-24198-haiti-flash-record-of-remittances-from-the-haitian-diaspora.html>

13 <http://www.loophaiti.com/content/par-et-pour-la-diaspora-nouveau-programme-au-service-de-la-diaspora>



Diaspora Challenge Initiative 2016

INVESTMENT + ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Diaspora Challenge Initiative aims at leveraging ideas about successful development concepts amongst members of the diaspora looking for opportunities to contribute to Haiti's economic development. Funded by the United States' Agency for International Development (USAID), the initiative is part of the broader Leveraging Effective Application of Direct Investments programme (LEAD) implemented by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). The LEAD programme encourages the Haitian diaspora in the United States to support Haitian businesses. LEAD has organised four roadshow events in the United States, as well as sponsored two Investment Expos. Out of 272 applicants to the LEAD Business Plan Competition, 34% and 9 of the 31 winning enterprises were from the Haitian Diaspora. These diaspora projects involve diverse issues and sectors, including economic development and the environment. Combined, they are valued at over \$3.85M.¹⁴

NETWORKS

The Annual National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals (NAAHP) National Conference 2011

The Annual NAAHP National Conference, routinely attended by more than 500 participants, has been held in major public and academic settings located in areas that feature large or growing populations of Haitian-Americans.

HUMANITARIAN AID + DIGITAL

Haiti Renewal Alliance (HRA)

This is a platform aimed at promoting diaspora engagement for the sustainable development and investment in the Caribbean, particularly, Haiti. It also supports more streamlined coordination among diasporas and institutional humanitarian actors, to promote more effective humanitarian assistance to affected people and communities worldwide, and is implemented with the support of IOM.

¹⁴ <https://leadinvestmentshaiti.info/diaspora-engagement>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level



Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad (previously Ministry of Diaspora Affairs)¹⁵ 1994

The MHAVE is a body for information, liaison, orientation, facilitation, integration and coordination between the diaspora and the Haitian government. Created to enhance the value of the Haitian diaspora in the economic and social life of the country, the MHAVE represents almost all the services of the Haitian Government with this community. The ministry aims to encourage the participation of diaspora communities in technical and professional activities that advance Haiti's development efforts.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Coordination Europe-Haiti¹⁶ Europe 2004

Development activities

The Coordination Europe-Haiti is a network of engaged European civil society organisations and member-driven platforms. It works closely with civil society organisations and movements in Haiti, and its members come from six European countries. The network lobbies and advocates at the national and international level. Each member works with a network of partner organisations and civil society leaders in Haiti. One of its priorities is giving a voice to the concerns of Haitian civil society in Brussels and Strasbourg.

Fondation de France¹⁷ 2014

Development activities

Through "Haiti Solidarity," Fondation de France supports long-term rebuilding projects of French organisations or NGOs working in partnership with Haitian organizations. These projects can last for up to 48 months aim and aim to rebuild disaster areas and help the Haitian population to get back to normal life.

Fédération de la Diaspora Haïtienne d'Europe (FEDHE)¹⁸ Europe 2010

Development activities

The FEDHE is an organisation created with the purpose of supporting Haiti's reconstruction process post-earthquake. It is present in seven European countries including France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Federation initiatives focus on philanthropic support in health and education issues aiding non-profits in Haiti.

¹⁵ <http://mhavie.gouv.ht/>

¹⁶ <http://coeh.eu/about-us/>

¹⁷ <http://fdnweb.org/ffdf/donors/haiti/>

¹⁸ <http://www.fedhe.org/>

PAFHA (Plateforme d'Associations Franco-haïtiennes)¹⁹ France 2000

✔ Development activities

PAFHA is a collegial structure formed by associations with activities in both France and Haiti that share their experiences, lessons learned, and seek solutions to the challenges of development in Haiti. This platform is recognised for the large role that the associations play in the integration of Haitian migrants in France as well as their role in Haiti's development.²⁰

19 <https://www.coordinationsud.org/membre/plateforme-dassociations-franco-haitienne/>
20 <https://www.coordinationsud.org/membre/plateforme-dassociations-franco-haitienne/>

Written by: Dr Manuel Orozco
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