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## DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE: GENDER FOCUS

*An extract from the EUDiF practices database*

Practice	Country	Implementing period	Description	Link
<b>Support for Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Algeria</b>	Algeria	1998 - current	The Association Migration Solidarité et Échanges pour le Développement (AMSED) works to improve the economic situation of women in rural communities in Tizi-Ouzou in the Kabylie region of Algeria through diaspora skills transfer to develop agricultural and apiculture skills, and provide them with the tools required to develop and maintain their livelihoods. It encourages ecological projects, in particular recycling of clothing and beekeeping, in order to preserve the environment.	<a href="https://www.amсед.fr/codeveloppement/">https://www.amсед.fr/codeveloppement/</a>
<b>Women Entrepreneurship (WE) Program</b>	Armenia	2017	Women Entrepreneurship (WE) Program, implemented by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) since 2017 offers mentorship and guidance to women in Armenia working in small and medium business. Between 2021 to 2022 EUDiF worked with AGBU in its Brussels and Yerevan offices to empower women entrepreneurs in Armenia with knowledge on business development and accessing the EU market through diaspora mentorship.	<a href="https://diasporafordevelopment.eu/cpt_actions/harnessing-diaspora-expertise-for-women-entrepreneurship-in-armenia/">https://diasporafordevelopment.eu/cpt_actions/harnessing-diaspora-expertise-for-women-entrepreneurship-in-armenia/</a>
<b>Dias'Invest 237</b>	Cameroon		The Dias'Invest 237 scheme is a project of the Ministry of External Relations of Cameroon. Programme partners in France and in Cameroon select business creation projects most relevant to the Cameroonian context, with priority given to social impact investments led by women entrepreneurs. Dias'Invest 237 partners plan to work with all selected entrepreneurs to develop a 3-phase business analysis and	<a href="http://diasinvest.cm/">http://diasinvest.cm/</a>

			an implementation plan elaborated in collaboration with the entrepreneur. The scheme is only open to Cameroonian diaspora entrepreneurs based in France.	
<b>Dominican sisters</b>	Dominican Republic		The Dominican Sisters women's network is an INDEX initiative designed to promote the development and projection of Dominican women abroad. This network is made up of professional Dominican women with leadership skills and the ability to influence other women. It seeks to empower and unite successful women of the diaspora through training programmes on topics of interest to them and networking spaces.	<a href="https://index.gob.do/dominican-sisters/">https://index.gob.do/dominican-sisters/</a>
<b>La Maison de la Diaspora</b>	Haiti	2008 - current	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.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pg/Maison-de-la-Diaspora-Diasporas-House-291124567604523/about/?ref=page_internal">https://www.facebook.com/pg/Maison-de-la-Diaspora-Diasporas-House-291124567604523/about/?ref=page_internal</a> ,  <a href="https://www.maisondeladiaspora.com/">https://www.maisondeladiaspora.com/</a>
<b>Empowering Libyan women in diaspora</b>	Libya	2017	In April 2017, the Hague Academy for Local Governance organised a tailor-made training and training of trainers for 17 Libyan women living abroad, financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in cooperation with CILG-VNG International. It aimed to connect Libyan women and support them in developing advocacy strategies to drive change. Three major topics were addressed: awareness raising of participants' own (potential) sources of power and existent power structures; secondly, exchanging different perspectives on the role of Libyan women in the diaspora, their challenges as well as new opportunities; and thirdly developing (collective) action plans and an advocacy strategy linked to these plans.	<a href="https://thehagueacademy.com/project/women-in-diaspora-libya-2017/">https://thehagueacademy.com/project/women-in-diaspora-libya-2017/</a>

<b>Diaspora Engagement Hub</b>	Moldova	2016	<p>The Hub is a governmental programme created in 2016 for Moldovan citizens who have been resident abroad for at least two years and are highly qualified experts who wish to cooperate with representatives of governmental institutions on five priority areas: social, economic, environment/ecology/rural development, justice, civil society. The Diaspora Engagement Hub included subprogrammes:- Diaspora Professional Return: grants offered to diaspora professional and highly skilled migrants, encouraging the transfer of human capital and professional experience oriented towards the academic, social and economic development of Moldova, via short-term professional returns.- Diaspora Innovative Projects: grants offered to diaspora representatives for the implementation of their innovative projects and activities in Moldova, based on the transfer of knowledge, experience and international best practices.- Thematic Regional Partnerships: grants offered to diaspora associations for their collaboration and implementation of actions on local socio-economic development, education and health care.- Diaspora Women Empowerment: grants offered to diaspora members for implementation of projects aimed at improving the social and economic conditions of women migrants via the transfer of knowledge and skills.</p>	<a href="https://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/2644">https://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/2644</a>
<b>Empowerment Trainings</b>	Myanmar	2016	<p>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.</p>	<a href="https://apmigration ilo.org/resources/implementation-of-recommendations-from-the-3rd-to-10th-asean-forum-on-migrant-labour-afml/at_download/file1">https://apmigration ilo.org/resources/implementation-of-recommendations-from-the-3rd-to-10th-asean-forum-on-migrant-labour-afml/at_download/file1</a>

<b>Fund in Support of the Investment of Senegalese Abroad (FAISE)</b>	Senegal	2008 - current	FAISE was created in June 2008 and aims to promote investments by Senegalese abroad who have financial resources and wish to invest in Senegal's national development. FAISE operates two funds: the Fund for Senegalese Abroad (FSE) to finance diaspora projects in Senegal, and the Fund for Women in the Diaspora (FFD), which promotes women entrepreneurship in host countries.	<a href="https://faise.sn/">https://faise.sn/</a>
<b>Conference on Diaspora Engagement in Sri Lanka's Post-war Development, Reconciliation and Sustainable Peace</b>	Sri Lanka		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.	<a href="https://www.cepa.lk/publications/sri-lankan-diaspora-for-post-war-development-reconciliation-and-sustainable-peace/">https://www.cepa.lk/publications/sri-lankan-diaspora-for-post-war-development-reconciliation-and-sustainable-peace/</a> ; <a href="https://www.cepa.lk/news/intergenerational-dialogue-series-youth-and-identity-discourses-in-postwar-sri-lanka/">https://www.cepa.lk/news/intergenerational-dialogue-series-youth-and-identity-discourses-in-postwar-sri-lanka/</a> ; <a href="https://twitter.com/cepaSL/status/1051751345768685568">https://twitter.com/cepaSL/status/1051751345768685568</a> ; <a href="https://www.academia.edu/41880959/Engaging_the_Diaspora_in_the_Reconciliation_Efforts_in_Sri_Lanka_Lessons_Learned">https://www.academia.edu/41880959/Engaging_the_Diaspora_in_the_Reconciliation_Efforts_in_Sri_Lanka_Lessons_Learned</a> ;
<b>Al-Sudaniya Mentoring</b>	Sudan	2013 - ongoing	Al Sudaniya Mentoring provides tailored, holistic, one-on-one mentoring to young Sudanese women by Sudanese women across the globe with the goals of providing them with the tools and resources to become engaging leaders and make a difference in their communities in Sudan, as well as to build a global network of Sudanese women for knowledge and skills sharing.	<a href="https://alsudaniyamentoring.org/">https://alsudaniyamentoring.org/</a>

<b>Mama Initiative – WAJAMAMA</b>	Tanzania		WAJAMAMA is a diaspora enterprise founded by a Zanzibari diaspora entrepreneur from the US that provides a safe space for women to get high-quality healthcare, be empowered to live healthier lives, learn about their bodies, and make exercise a part of their lives. Its Mama Initiative is a “charity pot” that allows WAJAMAMA to not only cover consultation and lab fees for underserved women, but also deliver workshops to increase their knowledge about how to care for themselves and their families. WAJAMAMA fundraise for the Mama Initiative through its workshops and selling WAJAMAMA water bottles.	<a href="https://www.wajamama.com/">https://www.wajamama.com/</a>
<b>FORWARD/MIFUM – Campaigning against early marriage</b>	Uganda		Diaspora organisations FORWARD and MIFUMI in the UK have developed innovative programmes to address social problems in Uganda such as early and forced marriage, domestic violence, and Female Genital Mutiliation. MIFUMI successfully lobbied the government and was mandated to hold the first social referendum in Uganda in December 2001, which resulted in 60% approving the reform of bride price. MIFUMI has also pushed for reform in laws resulting in enactment of The Tororo Bridal Gifts Ordinance into law in 2009, and a no-refund ruling on bride price by the Uganda Supreme Court on 6th August 2015.	<a href="https://www.forwarduk.org.uk/">https://www.forwarduk.org.uk/</a>
<b>Enaleni Community</b>	Zimbabwe	2018	Enaleni Community is a local diaspora investment platform set up by a group of female diaspora investors based in the UK, Global Native, in Enaleni, in rural Zimbabwe, in 2018. The platform, involving over 50 diaspora investors was used to set up and finance a local agricultural cooperative in Zimbabwe. Within a few years, it managed to attract almost £150,000 of blended finance (diaspora investment and grants), created 25 full-time decent jobs, provided income to thousands of farmers and their families with the associated social impact and stimulated local economic development. The platform has directly benefitted 10,000 farmers and over 40,000 local community members indirectly.	<a href="https://theglobalnative.wordpress.com/">https://theglobalnative.wordpress.com/</a>