



Diaspora engagement mapping **BURKINA FASO**

Facts & figures

Terminology: Burkina Faso uses the terms “Burkinabè de l'étranger” and “Burkinabè de l'extérieur” (Burkinabè overseas/abroad).

Political rights



Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship is effectively allowed as no legislation prohibits it.^{1,2}



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



Burkinabè nationals residing abroad were able to vote for the first time in the 2020 presidential elections.^{3,4}

Voting from abroad



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **2.9%**

Remittances inflow (USD million): **578.94**

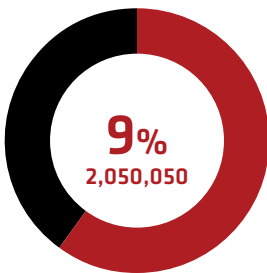
Emigration



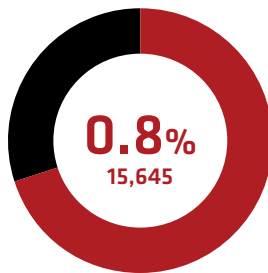
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 59.8%
♀ 40.2%



♂ 70%
♀ 30%

Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2023).

Top countries of destination



Côte d'Ivoire	1,820,882
Ghana	75,339
Mali	69,919
Niger	31,858
Italy	15,279

1 UNHCR, *A Comparative Analysis of Nationality Law and Statelessness in the Region*, 2015. Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/reference/research/unhcr/2015/en/106477> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

2 Jeune Afrique, *Double Nationalité : Quels Pays Africains l'Autorisent?*, 5 December 2015. Available at: <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/284412/societe/double-nationalite-pays-africains-lautorise/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

3 TV5 Monde, *Présidentielle au Burkina Faso : la diaspora en Côte d'Ivoire a voté pour la première fois*, 22 November 2020. Available at: <https://information.tv5monde.com/afrique/presidentielle-au-burkina-faso-la-diaspora-en-cote-divoire-vote-pour-la-premiere-fois-10006> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

4 In September 2023, the military-led government postponed indefinitely elections scheduled for July 2024. Africa Center for Strategic Studies, *2024 Elections: Burkina Faso*, September 2023. Available at: <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/2024-elections/burkinafaso/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2017** ● The **National Migration Strategy (2016-2025)** recognises the importance of the diaspora's developmental contributions under strategic axe 3 regarding the positive impact of international migration on poverty reduction. This calls for the facilitation of mechanisms for diaspora knowledge transfer and the channelling of remittances towards high-potential sectors. The strategy also defines the diaspora as the "collection of individuals from the same community living abroad." The strategy reportedly saw limited implementation due to coordination and resource mobilisation challenges.⁵
- 2017** ● The **10-year Strategy for Decentralisation (2017-2026)** makes numerous references to the diaspora, including noting the need for localities to better mobilise and coordinate diaspora capital, as well as to support the financial and technical engagements of the diaspora in the development of their localities of origin. Component 6 of the "financing of decentralisation" section is dedicated to "the contributions of the diaspora to local development". It targets a 50% increase in the diaspora's technical and financial contributions to local projects by creating the enabling conditions to facilitate diaspora engagement at the local level. The strategy also commits the government to holding a series of roundtables with a range of stakeholders, including diaspora organisations.
- 2021** ● The **National Economic and Social Development Plan 2021-2025 (PNDES-II)** targets the improvement of diaspora engagement (EA 2.3.4 under the strategic objective to strengthen economic and financial governance, and regional and international cooperation). This includes increasing the proportion of diplomatic missions that map diaspora competencies, increasing the rate at which litigation files involving the diaspora are processed, enabling 60% of the diaspora to participate in electoral consultations in 2025, and reducing the time taken to process administrative formalities at diplomatic missions from five days to three days in 2025. The document also targets the issuance of diaspora bonds to partially finance the PNDES-II.
- 2024** ● The **Decree on the creation, composition and attributions of the High Council of Burkinabè Abroad (HCBE)** restructures the predecessor organisation, the Superior Council of Burkinabè Abroad (CSBE). The HCBE is envisaged to serve as the principal quasi-state representative body of the diaspora, comprising elected diaspora delegates from around the world.
- 2024** ● The **National Strategy for the Management of the Diaspora (SNGD) [in draft]** was validated in March 2024 but has not yet been adopted. The SNGD highlights three strategic orientations, including facilitating the integration of the diaspora in countries of destination (such as by strengthening their protections and strengthening diaspora representational structures), improving the contributions of the diaspora to national development (including through remittances, diaspora investment, and knowledge transfer), and strengthening strategic coordination and institutional capacities in diaspora management (including by improving diaspora data collection).



Trends

The Burkinabè government's approach to diaspora engagement reflects an increasingly strategic and multi-layered framework aimed at recognising and harnessing the developmental contributions of Burkinabè abroad. While the government's engagement with the diaspora, especially its largest community in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire, dates back many years, the government's more recent engagement of a broader set of emigrant communities appears

⁵ Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, *Étude de la Migration au Burkina Faso*, April 2023. Available at: <https://www.kas.de/documents/265798/23405107/Etude+migration+Burkina+Fasol.pdf> [Accessed 7 November 2024].



to have accelerated through the organisation of diaspora-themed forums in 2017 and 2018.⁶⁷ Following these convenings, the government supported an initiative to channel diaspora funds towards housebuilding in Koubri, a department in central Burkina Faso.⁸ This appears to have generated a trend towards state-led diaspora investments in property developments known as “Diaspora Cities”. The government subsequently established a state-owned company, the Centre for the Management of Cities (CEGECI), whose diaspora programme now manages diaspora investment in another housing development in the west of the country.⁹

At the same time, the government has delivered critical advancements in the legal and constitutional rights of its diaspora. Perhaps most fundamentally, Burkinabé citizens abroad were permitted to vote in the last presidential and legislative elections in 2020, although this achievement was to some degree mired by many diaspora members not receiving polling cards.¹⁰ The military junta, which overthrew the elected government in 2022, postponed the planned 2024 elections indefinitely.

Other key state-led initiatives include the work of the Directorate-General of Burkina Abroad (DGBE) work with the diplomatic network to map diaspora organisations and competencies, the Agency for the Promotion of Community Entrepreneurship’s (APEC) pooling of diaspora and in-country capital to launch a tomato processing plant,¹¹ and the Patriotic Support Fund’s fundraising from the diaspora to support defence and national security.¹²¹³ The fact that multiple government departments and agencies have been involved in diaspora engagement initiatives underscores the cross-cutting and decentralised approach that recent administrations have advanced.

In addition, the government has set in train a range of diaspora engagement policies, programmes and initiatives, including developing a National Strategy for the Management of the Diaspora, assessing the feasibility of establishing a diaspora investment fund, developing a network of diaspora professionals, restructuring the quasi-state diaspora umbrella representative body (the HCBE), and planning another state diaspora forum.

In Côte d’Ivoire, which hosts the largest single Burkinabé diaspora community, the Burkinabé state has developed a unique diaspora engagement framework over the years. This includes a Consular Consultation Framework – a nationwide engagement system that enables diplomatic and consular officials and delegates to provide support to and engage this significant diaspora constituency.¹⁴

6 Koanari, Y., *Développement économique et social du Burkina Faso : quelle contribution de la diaspora?*, Lefaso.net, 6 April 2017. Available at: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article76554> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

7 International Organization for Migration, *Migration Governance Indicators Profile: Burkina Faso 2021*, 2021. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-governance-indicators-profile-2021-burkina-faso> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

8 Zongo, T.S.P., *Forum national de la diaspora : Pose de la première pierre de la cité de la diaspora à Guiguemtenga*, Lefaso.net, 11 July 2018. Available at: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article84447> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

9 Touré, H., *Lancement officiel de la Cité de la diaspora du Grand Ouest à Sowéleni*, Lefaso.net, 31 March 2023. Available at: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article120532> [Accessed 7 November 2024].


10 TV5 Monde, *Présidentielle au Burkina Faso : la diaspora en Côte d’Ivoire a voté pour la première fois*, 22 November 2020. Available at: <https://information.tv5monde.com/afrique/presidentielle-au-burkina-faso-la-diaspora-en-cote-divoire-vote-pour-la-premiere-fois-10006> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

11 Dofini, R., *Burkina Faso : Pose de la première pierre de l’usine de transformation de tomates de Bobo-Dioulasso*, Lefaso.net, 2023. Available at: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article124490> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

12 Quedraogo, H., *86 milliards pour le Fonds de soutien patriotique : le patriotisme des Burkinabé d’ici et d’ailleurs salué*, Burkina 24, 1 July 2024. Available at: <https://burkina24.com/2024/07/01/86-milliards-pour-le-fonds-de-soutien-patriotique-le-patriotisme-des-burkinabe-dici-et-dailleurs-salue/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

13 Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Forecasting, *Launch of the Fonds de soutien patriotique (FSP) to Support National Security Efforts*, Burkina Faso, 20 January 2023. Available at: https://www.finances.gov.bf/forum/detail-actualites?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=667&cHash=5dd315a88895742a3218ef0274a68daa [Accessed 7 November 2024].

14 Kouakou, K.L.-Ph.A., *Côte d’Ivoire : La Représentation diplomatique du Burkina Faso lance les cadres de concertation consulaire*, Burkina 24, 11 October 2021. Available at: <https://burkina24.com/2021/10/11/cote-divoire-la-representation-diplomatique-du-burkina-faso-lance-les-cadres-de-concertation-consulaire/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].



Alongside these central governmental efforts, it is noteworthy that local authorities in the Centre-East Region have made particular efforts to engage their Bissa ethnic diaspora residing in Europe (especially Italy), which has long provided various forms of financial and technical support, including funding housing, schools, and healthcare. Furthermore, non-state operators have organised their own diaspora forums, including the second edition of the Forum of Entrepreneurs of the Burkinabé Diaspora, which took place in September 2024, and the Forum for Employment and Entrepreneurship of the Burkinabé diaspora in France held in November 2024.

Obstacles



- **Fragmented diaspora communities:** Burkinabé diaspora communities vary significantly in terms of cohesion and organisation, posing an obstacle to unified engagement. The Bissa diaspora in Italy, for instance, is considered highly organised and has developed established channels for collective engagement with their localities of origin. Other Burkinabé communities in Europe, among other regions, are considered more fragmented, often gathering through smaller networks based on regional or linguistic ties rather than as a unified national diaspora. The lack of progress towards operationalising a functional quasi-state umbrella organisation, notwithstanding the efforts underway to restructure and relaunch the HCBE, is perhaps both a consequence and cause of this representational fragmentation.
- **Limited diplomatic presence and engagement:** resource constraints limit Burkina Faso's diplomatic outreach, leaving diaspora communities in many countries feeling unsupported and unable to access key administrative services. For instance, the Burkinabé embassy in Belgium serves several European countries and has occasionally sent delegations to assist with administrative tasks (e.g. passport renewal) for diaspora members in these countries. However, these missions do not always fully meet the needs of the diaspora, who have reportedly fallen foul of immigration authorities in countries of residence as a result.
- **Regulatory barriers to diaspora investment:** although many point to diaspora interest in supporting businesses and startups, regulatory barriers remain. For instance, current regulations make it challenging for the diaspora to develop crowdfunding platforms – with the diaspora often required to establish separate legal entities in both their country of residence and in Burkina Faso, a process that discourages some investors.



SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

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Diaspora Cities

The government has channelled diaspora investment towards housing projects in several regions, establishing a practice of state-led diaspora property investment. An early initiative in 2018 saw funds directed towards housebuilding in central Burkina Faso, which has been followed by several other initiatives¹⁵ and led to the government creating the Centre for the Management of Cities (CEGECI) to manage the diaspora-funded projects.¹⁶

INVESTMENT,
HOUSING

Burkina Faso Golden Card (2024)

The Burkina Faso Golden Card is a marketing campaign created by the Burkinabé diaspora in the United States in 2024 to enhance the country's global presence and strengthen ties with citizens abroad. Launched as a "business card" for Burkina Faso, featuring a QR code that links to the government's website, this symbolic card highlights the country's values and potential on the international stage. The Golden Card initiative facilitates greater diplomatic outreach, encouraging diaspora members to act as ambassadors for their homeland.

COMMUNICATION &
INFORMATION, CULTURE

Forum of Employment and Entrepreneurship of the Burkinabé Diaspora (2024)

The Forum de l'Emploi et de l'Entrepreneuriat de la diaspora burkinabé (FEED) is a diaspora-led forum organised in November 2024 and supported by diaspora organisations and sponsors. It sought to foster entrepreneurship and professional integration of the Burkinabé diaspora in France and beyond. It was organised by the diaspora and for the diaspora, incorporating a range of innovative engagement modalities, including providing a platform for notable diaspora individuals by inviting them to speak, and connecting younger Burkinabé in France with diaspora mentors for business and career advice.

EMPLOYMENT,
MENTORSHIP

Diaspora skills exchange

Stars Group Consulting, a private consulting firm, has, since 2021, organised workshops that bring senior professionals from Burkina Faso to Paris for specialised skills exchange sessions with diaspora experts. This initiative has focused on fields such as public accounting, allowing Burkinabé professionals to learn directly from their compatriots abroad. Diaspora organisations were engaged to identify diaspora talent.

SKILLS EXCHANGE, EDUCATION
& VOCATIONAL TRAINING

15 Touré, H., *Lancement officiel de la Cité de la diaspora du Grand Ouest à Sowéleni*, Lefaso.net, 31 March 2023. Available at: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article120532> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

16 Faso 7, *Burkina Faso : 600 logements sociaux bientôt disponibles pour la diaspora*, 3 August 2024. Available at: <https://faso7.com/2024/08/03/burkina-faso-600-logements-sociaux-bientot-disponibles-pour-la-diaspora/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

Annex: List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate AU CIDO

Burkina Faso nominates a diaspora focal point to the African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU CIDO) Continental Meetings, which works to coordinate diaspora policy across AU MS.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabé Abroad MAE

Decree n°2022-0996/PRES-TRANS/PM/SGG-CM of December 2023 made the MAE responsible for the implementation of foreign policy and cooperation, as well as the promotion and the engagement of Burkinabé abroad in national development.

Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts MDICAPME

The MDICAPME is responsible for formulating and implementing policies related to industrial development, commerce, and artisanal activities. It oversees the APEC and the investment promotion agency (ABI) which both engage with the diaspora to varying degrees.

- At sub-ministerial level

Directorate-General of Burkinabè Abroad DGBE (Unit within ministry)

The DGBE, established in 2018, is the main directorate-general (and one of the six directorates-general of the MAE) responsible for diaspora engagement, including diaspora-related policy coordination, protection and consular assistance, mapping, communication, and support to the HCBE.

High Council for Burkinabè Abroad HCBE (Quango)

The HCBE is a quasi-state institution representing Burkinabè citizens abroad. In April 2024, it was restructured from the former Superior Council of Burkinabè Abroad (CSBE), which was officially established in 1993 but had ceased functioning.¹⁷ The HCBE intends to serve as a liaison between the government and the diaspora.

17 Bertoncello, B., *Diaspora, développement et urbanisation : des Burkinabè de l'étranger acteurs des projets urbains de Zaca et Ouaga 2000 à Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)*, *Annales de Géographie*, no. 675, 2010, pp. 560-583. Available at: https://www.cairn.info/load_pdf.php?ID_ARTICLE=AG_675_0560 [Accessed 7 November 2024].

Agency for the Promotion of Community Entrepreneurship APEC (Sub-ministry)

Established in 2023, the APEC aims to mobilise collective savings to finance community enterprises. APEC encourages both domestic and diaspora participation through common shareholding, enabling the diaspora to invest in national development projects.

Burkinabé Agency for Investments ABI (Sub-ministry)

Established in 2018, the ABI assists the government in implementing its investment promotion policies and supporting domestic, diaspora and foreign entrepreneurs and investors. ABI has conducted overseas visits to sensitise the diaspora regarding investment opportunities.

Small and Medium Enterprise Financing and Promotion Agency AFP-PME (Sub-ministry)

Established in 2008, the AFP-PME supports the creation and development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through financial assistance and technical support. The agency also engages with the diaspora, offering dedicated resources and information to encourage their investment in national development projects.¹⁸

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Association des Bissas en France 2023 France

Integration activities

This association is dedicated to the Bissa community within the Burkinabè diaspora in France. Through events and gatherings, it promotes Bissa culture and fosters unity among members.

Association des Burkinabés de Bremen et Environ (ABBE e.V.) Germany (Bremen)

Integration activities

ABBE brings together Burkinabè residents in Bremen and surrounding areas. The organisation promotes cultural exchange through community gatherings and supports new arrivals with integration services.

Association des Burkinabè à Hambourg et environnants (CBH e.V.) Germany (Hamburg)

Integration activities

CBH e.V. brings together Burkinabè residents of Hamburg. The association offers a welcoming space for cultural exchange and social support, enhancing community connections and integration.

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



¹⁸ Bayala, G., *Appui aux initiatives de la diaspora burkinabè : une délégation de Burkina Faso Global Council chez le Directeur Général*, Small and Medium Enterprise Financing and Promotion Agency (AFP-PME), 4 November 2021. Available at: <https://afppme.bf/actualite/appui-aux-initiatives-de-la-diaspora-burkinabe-une-delegation-de-burkina-faso-global-council-chez-le-directeur-general/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

Association des Burkinabè et Amis en Saxe et en Allemagne (ABASA e.V.) Germany (Dresden)

Integration activities

ABASA serves the Burkinabè diaspora in Saxony by organising cultural events and support programmes. The group fosters connections within the Burkinabè community and promotes intercultural understanding.

Association des Burkinabè de Belgique (ABB) 2003 Belgium (Brussels)

Integration activities

ABB advocates for the rights and interests of the Burkinabè community in Belgium. It organises social events, promotes cultural awareness, and offers practical support for new residents.

Association des Burkinabè de Lyon (ABL) 1995 France (Lyon)

Integration activities

ABL fosters cultural pride and social integration within the Burkinabè community in Lyon. Through events and educational programmes, it supports members to integrate into French society.

Association des Burkinabè de Niedersachsen (ABNs e.V.) Germany (Hannover)

Integration activities

ABNs e.V. provides a social network for Burkinabè residents in Niedersachsen, organising cultural events and social support activities to strengthen community bonds.

Association des Burkinabè et Sympathisants résidant à Munich et banlieues (ABSM) 2006 Germany (Munich)

Integration activities

ABSM promotes Burkinabè culture and supports members in Munich through social gatherings, cultural events, and language assistance.

Association des Etudiants Burkinabè de France France

Integration activities

This association supports Burkinabè students in France, offering academic resources, networking opportunities, and social events that help members connect and integrate into French society.

Association des Ressortissants Burkinabè d'Autriche Austria

Integration activities

Development activities

This association provides a supportive environment for Burkinabè in Austria, helping with cultural and professional integration, and promoting Burkinabè culture through regular events and gatherings.

Association «Faso Traffen» en Suède Sweden

Integration activities

Faso Traffen is dedicated to preserving Burkinabè traditions and culture among the Burkinabè community in Sweden. The association organises cultural events and provides a support network for newcomers.

Burkina Faso Community in the United Kingdom (BFCUK) 2019 UK

- Integration activities**
- Development activities**

BFCUK brings together Burkinabè residing in the UK through cultural activities, integration support, and opportunities to collectively fund development projects in Burkina Faso.

Fédération des Associations des Burkinabè en Italie (FABI) Italy¹⁹

Integration activities

FABI represents Burkinabè associations across Italy, promoting Burkinabè culture and advocating for diaspora rights. It organises cultural and social events to strengthen community bonds and provide support for members.

Fédération des Associations Féminines Burkinabè en France (FAF-BF) France (Paris)

Integration activities

FAF-BF unites Burkinabè women across France to support entrepreneurship, cultural exchange, and social integration. It organises events that empower women and enhance community solidarity.

Organisation des Burkinabè de France (OBF) 2020 France (Paris)

- Integration activities**
- Development activities**

OBF brings together Burkinabè residents in France around their professional and social interests to promote their involvement and contribution to the socio-economic development of both countries.

Union Burkinabè du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg 2020 Luxembourg

- Integration activities**
- Development activities**

The union aims to bring together and create the harmonious unity of the Burkinabe community of Luxembourg, while also raising funds for development projects.

¹⁹ The Burkina Faso Embassy to Rome maintains [a list of diaspora associations in Italy](#), though few have an online presence.

Union des Associations Burkinabè de France (UABF) 2004 France

Integration activities

UABF brings together Burkinabè associations in France, advocating for members' rights and providing a platform for cultural exchange. It organises events and facilitates cooperation among Burkinabè associations in France. In November 2024, it organised the FEED Burkina forum.

 The Burkina Faso Embassy to Rome maintains a [list of diaspora associations in Italy](#).

Written by: Loksan Harley
Edited by: EUDiF
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