



DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES: RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY

An extract from the EUDiF practices database

Practice	Country	Implementation Period	Description
Temporary Return Agreement for Crisis-Response	Samoa	2009	Following the 2009 earthquake and tsunami, the Governments of Samoa and New Zealand established a temporary return scheme enabling Samoan migrants in New Zealand to return home for one month to directly support relief and early recovery efforts without losing their employment abroad. The initiative strengthened diaspora-led recovery by facilitating emotional support, informal remittances, and in-kind contributions critical to community reconstruction.
Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN Lebanon)	Lebanon	2010–2012	Implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in partnership with Lebanon’s Council for Development and Reconstruction, TOKTEN mobilised skilled Lebanese diaspora professionals for short-term consultancies in national institutions. By deploying 19 experts, strengthening 16 institutions, and training 600 nationals, the initiative contributed directly to post-crisis institutional recovery and long-term reconstruction capacity.
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Diaspora Project	Liberia	2005–2009	Liberia’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission systematically engaged diaspora members through documented statements and interviews with victims, witnesses, and perpetrators. Over 1,600 Liberians in the diaspora contributed statements, and more than 20 diaspora witnesses participated in public hearings.
Diaspora Forum 2021	Republic of the Congo	2021	The Government of Republic of the Congo organised a diaspora forum attended by President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi to explore diaspora contributions to sustainable development and national reconstruction. The forum emphasised inclusion of the diaspora and promotion of foreign investment to boost economic development.
Transfer of Capital through Expatriate Knowledge (TOKTEN UNDP) / Global Volunteers for Supporting	Palestine	1994–present (expanded 2023)	TOKTEN deploys highly qualified diaspora professionals as short-term volunteers in Palestinian institutions in the West Bank and Gaza, primarily in education, health, and IT. Following the October 2023 war, a Global Volunteers platform was launched with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to mobilise diaspora expertise for humanitarian recovery and reconstruction.





Palestine, Implemented by the UNDP			
Somali Diaspora Engagement Programmes	Somalia and Afghanistan	2012–present	The Danish Refugee Council has run a diaspora programme since 2012 engaging Somali and Afghan diasporas in Denmark to support humanitarian and development efforts in countries of origin. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency finances programmes enabling Swedish Somalis to contribute to Somalia’s reconstruction, including return placements in ministries (in partnership with the International Organization for Migration) and small grants for diaspora-led development projects.
Voice of the Diaspora (La Voz de la Diáspora) – Research Project	Venezuela	2017	Developed by a team at Universidad Central de Venezuela, this research project characterises and quantifies the global Venezuelan diaspora and promotes participation in reconstruction efforts. Drawing on surveys, focus groups, and interviews with nearly 4,000 participants, it analyses sociodemographic profiles, integration levels, return intentions, and willingness to engage in national recovery.