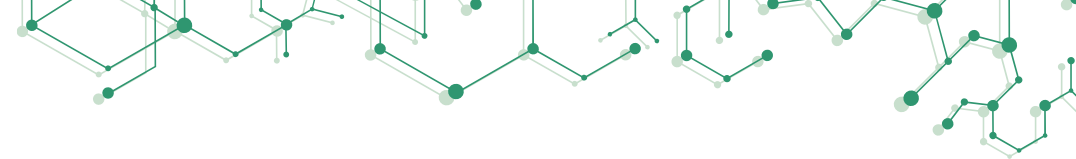


COLLECTION >>

Remittances





DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES: REMITTANCES

An extract from the EUDiF practices database

Practice	Country	Implementation Period	Description
Financial inclusion of remittance recipients	Nicaragua	2014	In partnership with the International Organization for Migration and a consortium of foundations, Central America and Mexico Alliance for Migration (CAMMINA), a financial inclusion project for remittance recipients was developed with the private bank BANPRO. The purpose was to increase rates of savings for Nicaraguans receiving remittances. This project aimed to enhance financial literacy and practices, as well as provide information on financial products. More than 10,000 clients were beneficiaries and savings through the scheme totalled US\$ 960,000.
Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd, NRB Bank, Probashi Kalyan Bank (PKB)	Bangladesh	2010–2012	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. The state-run PKB provides collateral free loans to workers going abroad, returnees, facilitate remittances and encourage investment.
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.
Guide for Malians Abroad	Mali	1998	A guide for the Malian diaspora was drawn up in 1998, updated in 2004 and is currently being revised to adapt it to the institutional changes that have taken place and to the new context of migration. It contains information on the High Council of Malians Living Abroad and the criteria for the status of Malian abroad. It lists the





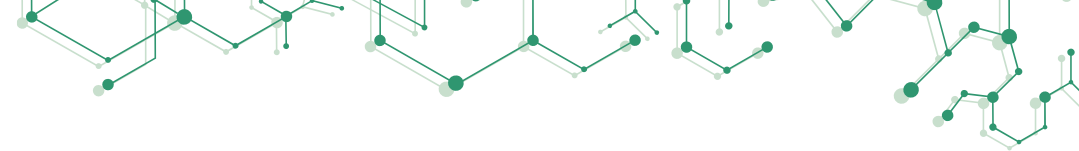
			structures available for the assistance, protection and social security of migrants. Its updated version also promises to give improved information on current conditions for remittances as well as investment and employment opportunities in Mali, the formalities of business creation, and the role of the one-stop shop for future investors from the diaspora.
Diaspora Investment Measures	Mali	2016	<p>In order to promote diaspora investment and its contribution to economic development in Mali, the government has taken a range of measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of a ‘one-stop shop’ to provide advice on and facilitate registration of businesses, which can act as a barrier to diaspora investment; it now only takes 72 hours to establish a business in Mali. Registration of businesses is a significant barrier for diaspora investors in many countries so this strongly participates to creating an enabling environment for entrepreneurs;• Customs exemption on investment equipment for Malians in the diaspora;• Signature of an agreement with two banks (ATTIJARIWAFABANK, BIM and the Development Bank of Mali, BDM) to facilitate remittance transfers and diaspora investments, as well as develop financial products targeting the diaspora, such as diaspora savings accounts;• Signature of conventions with some host countries to better protect Malians abroad and their assets.
Remittances and Financial Inclusion Program	Bolivia		Financed primarily by the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) and the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), the programme aims to support central banks and other relevant authorities through the development of regulatory frameworks that promote the financial inclusion of remittance clients through services, information and products . It supports central banks, particularly the Bolivian Central Bank and other relevant authorities to identify, reduce and eliminate barriers to financial inclusion.
Tigo Money and Western Union	Bolivia	2016	To improve the effectiveness of remittances to Bolivia, Tigo Money and Western Union collaborated to offer immediate international remittance transactions through mobile wallets. Users can send funds from a Western Union agent or through their digital channels onto Tigo’s Mobile Wallet application. The funds can be transferred or used to make payments. Western Union’s tariffs are applied to the money transfer, which is paid by the person who sends the money; the



			recipient is not charged. The objective is to provide clients with access to Western Union's services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
SIMPLE	Brazil	2019	Brazil-based exchange broker Frente Corretora de Câmbio (The Front Exchange) launched a fintech collaboration with San Francisco-based startup Ripple. The blockchain platform, Simple, is designed to allow people in Brazil to send money abroad without the high fees and the slow transaction times that are common in traditional money transfer mechanisms. Ripple uses Simple to address the fragmentation and unreliability of current remittances structures.
CAIXA	Brazil		This government-run bank acts as the main agent of Brazil's social policies. It offers support to migrants and their relatives with financial services tailored to their needs. Its mission is to provide training to migrants to help them become future business leaders. The Brazilian Support Service for Micro and Small Businesses (CAIXA's partner) is also taking steps to ensure that remittance recipients in Brazil receive training to start and strengthen businesses. The program has established a partnership with a US bank, conducted needs assessments for migrants and their families living in Massachusetts, and developed six remittance-linked financial products tailored to the target population.
Upgrading the Rungika domestic money transfer system	Burundi	2017	Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the Burundi National Postal Service (RNP) worked in partnership with IOM and RIA Money Transfer to upgrade the Rungika domestic money transfer system, allowing remittances to be collected via the national postal service network of 144 offices. Its international corridor, run in partnership with RIA Money Transfer was launched in 2017 and aims to leverage existing domestic money transfer services. The Rungika project aims to support financial education, inclusion, and communication among rural communities in Burundi via a network of 144 national Rungika agencies. As of November 2018, RNP has received nearly 20,000 deposits, amounting to a total of 1,238,284,150 Burundian Francs (approximately \$695,400 USD).
The Interrelations between Public Policies, Migration and Development (IPPMD) project	Cambodia	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,



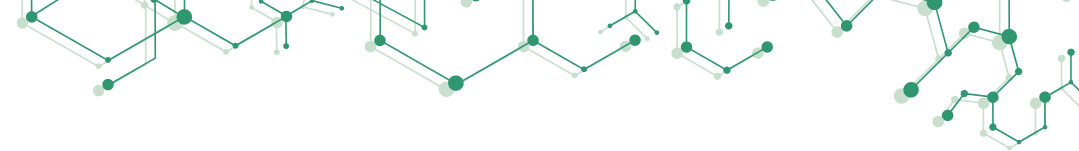
			such as the implementation of a national financial education programme to boost the financial literacy of Cambodians so that more remittances could be channelled towards productive investments.
Pare 1+1 - National Program on Attracting Remittances into the Economy	Moldova	2010	PARE was launched in 2010 and it is designed to attract remittances into the economy through the mobilisation of migrants' savings, stimulating SME development, and supporting job creation especially at the local level. Every Leu invested from remittances was matched with a Leu from PARE. It supported and co-financed about 1623 business initiatives.
Colombia Unites Us	Colombia		Colombia Unites Us is run by the Directorate for Immigration, Consular Affairs and Citizen Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As of this writing, Colombia Nos Une had two "investment projects" which provide a total of \$2.5 million in general programme support and intend to strengthen and provide support to the Colombian community abroad. Colombia Nos Une offers a housing programme for emigrants who are interested in buying a home in Colombia but require financial support. The initiative runs the program Mi Casa con Remesas together with the National Bank of Colombia and IDB. Colombia Nos Une has also partnered with the Colombian Foreign Trade Bank (BANCOLDEX) to offer lines of credit to diaspora entrepreneurs. In addition, it offers nonfinancial support to entrepreneurs such as working with local universities to train individuals on business management. It also has a virtual portal, Portal RedEsColombia to increase interaction among members of the diaspora and promote new ideas for development. The Colombian government considers the website to be one of its most successful initiatives.
National Remittance Loyalty Program	Pakistan	2021	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. /!\(It was ultimately launched on 25 November 2021 under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and is currently known as the Sohni Dharti Remittance Program (SDRP))
MIF and Visión Banco Partnership	Paraguay		The Remittances and Savings Program of the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), member of the Inter- American Development Bank, and Visión Banco signed a



			<p>project agreement to reduce the vulnerability of remittance clients in Paraguay and improve their livelihoods by promoting savings at a formal financial institution. This project was also financed by Australian Aid, which supports projects within the MIF's Remittances and Savings Program. The initiative aims to directly benefit 27,750 Paraguayan remittance recipients residing in Paraguay and remittance senders in two migrant communities in Spain.</p>
Overseas Filipinos Diaspora Remittances for Development (OFsReD)	Philippines	2010	<p>Overseas Filipinos Diaspora Remittances for Development (OFsReD) is a project jointly implemented by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Western Union in 2010. The project successfully worked towards mainstreaming migration and development in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016. A collective remittance fund was established 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 also serve as a platform for future crowdfunding among the Ilocano Diaspora to contribute to the fund.</p>
Temporary return agreement for crisis-response	Samoa	2009	<p>After the 2009 earthquake and tsunami, the Samoan and New Zealand Governments concluded an agreement that permitted Samoan migrants in New Zealand to return temporarily to Samoa and stay in the country for one month to support relief and recovery efforts, without losing their jobs in New Zealand. According to the affected households, this initiative provided great emotional support and contributed in facilitating 'informal' remittance and in-kind transfers to Samoa.</p>
Remittance-fee waive in crisis response	Samoa	2009	<p>After the 2009 tsunami in Samoa, Western Union adopted a 'no fees policy' on remittance transfers to the country. This initiative contributed to encourage the Samoan diaspora to remit more in order to support the recovery process, as well as to utilise more formal channels on the long term.</p>
Programme of Support for Solidarity Initiatives for Development – PAISD	Senegal		<p>The PAISD is a mechanism for mobilising and supporting solidarity actions and economic initiatives by the Senegalese diaspora to benefit their country of origin. The scheme is financially supported by the Senegalese government, the European Union and the Agence Française de Développement, and is aimed particularly at Senegalese living in France, Belgium, Spain and Italy. PAISD supports and subsidises up to 80% of the local development initiatives of diaspora associations in their countries of origin, adds value to the savings of the Senegalese diaspora by supporting their initiatives to set up businesses in Senegal, undertakes studies</p>



			<p>relating to the theme as part of a forward-looking approach, mobilises highly qualified expertise and young people from the diaspora for short-term assignments in Senegal. It revolves around two main objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mobilization of migrants' savings for private investment projects and local development initiatives in their regions of origin in Senegal through capacity building, dissemination of information and the conduct of studies, as well as technical support and subsidies for projects ran by associations of Senegalese nationals living abroad. The projects vary in scale, from small food shops to the construction of a private French school or the development of a multi-shareholder transport company. • The development of migrants' human resources in the context of expert or voluntary work through the funding of Senegalese experts' mobility to take part in the selected initiatives on short or medium-term assignments. The PAISD is coordinated by the Senegalese Technical Assistance Department, with funding delegated to the French Embassy in Dakar. This co-piloting by Senegal and France oversees the Coordination Unit, which provides a forum for dialogue between migrants and the Programme. The operational mechanism covers both Senegal and France.
‘Ave Pa’Anga Pau’ remittance voucher	Tonga		<p>Ave Pa’Anga (“Send Money Securely” in Tongan) is a cashless remittance voucher which was developed by the World Bank Group and the Tonga Development Bank (TDB), with support from the governments of Australia and New Zealand. This instrument, which facilitates sending remittances to Tonga at a lower cost, allows recipients in Tonga to access remittances from TDB branches in the country. TDB is also making use of the remittance voucher as part of a loan programme to help Tongan migrant workers engaging in the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme in New Zealand to pay for local costs of the programme before their departure.</p>
City Juan Bosch (Cuidad Juan Bosch)	Dominican Republic	2018	<p>This public-private-partnership coordinated by the President’s Ministry and executed through the Public Matrix’s Trust for the Construction of Low-Cost Housing Dominican Republic assists all Dominicans, including those abroad, access housing. Dominicans living abroad are able to access benefits such as the ITBIS bond and the Land Bond, which may provide between 8-12% of the value of housing</p>



			within City Juan Bosch. When the banks associated with this project analyse a participants' ability to pay, they take income supported by remittances into account.
Socialisation Workshop for the Processes of the Dominican Diaspora Integration into the Local Development Processes in the Dominican Republic 2019	Dominican Republic	2019	Through this workshop, the Ministry of Economics, Planning, and Development in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) strategised on how to include the Dominican diaspora for the development of the country, including new methods for the sending and receipt of remittances. As an outcome, a community-based pilot diagnostic (not yet implemented by the government) to identify the key areas of engagement of the diaspora will be conducted. Subsequently, a Working Group for Local Development will be created and will include the diaspora as participants. The plan is to then institutionalise the resulting structures and actions in order to replicate this process in communities beyond the pilot community. At this workshop, IOM presented its proposal for an International Guarantee Fund (FIG DOMEX) which would support saving and access to credit in the country of destination for investment in the Dominican Republic.
Seasonal Worker Programs	Tuvalu		Tuvalu has signed various seasonal worker programs with New Zealand and Australia, including the PAC (2002), RSE (2007), SWP (2012) and PLS (2018). The policies allow industries to recruit workers from Tuvalu for seasonal work. These initiatives allow workers to build their skills and earn money to send remittances home to support their families.
Housing Subsidy for Migrants (Bono de Vivienda para la Persona Migrante)	Ecuador		The Housing Subsidy for Migrants is provided by the Ecuadorian government to a migrant or the migrant's immediate family members as a reward for saving. The programme aims to facilitate access to housing for migrants and their families, strengthen migrants' links to Ecuador, increase private sector participation through the construction industry, and incentivise individuals' desire to save their remittances to acquire housing.
Egyptians abroad e-portal	Egypt	2018	Egypt's e-portal provides digital services to Egyptians abroad. These include a diaspora complaints portal, guides on investment opportunities in Egypt (especially in the housing and infrastructure sectors, but also IT), remittance service registration with the Central Bank of Egypt, guides on housing for Egyptians abroad, civil rights and obligations guide (including military service, nationality and migration documents, election guides), a Question and Answer portal, a 'Science Hub' for skills and knowledge collaboration and exchange; and an e-fatwa service providing

			religious guidance. "An hour with the minister" is a series of weekly meetings, often online, with groups of expatriates in different countries to consistently connect with them, listen to their needs and update them on the developments in Egypt.
Tax relief and mobile banking services	Egypt		Only approximately 10% of remittances to Egypt are sent formally, entering the Egyptian banking system. In order to promote greater remittance inflows and to strengthen hard currency reserves, Egypt offers Egyptians abroad the opportunity of ten-year tax relief on remittance transfers if they register with the National Bank of Egypt. The National Bank of Egypt also provides e-banking and mobile banking services, and Egypt has launched debt certificates denominated in dollars and euros to ease hard currency shortages.
ACP-EU Migration Action	Vanuatu	2019	In Vanuatu, technical assistance through the ACP-EU migration action (implemented by the IOM) focused on visas, remittances, trafficking and smuggling. The initiative supported writing a Melanesian remittances policy for the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG, see annex) in 2019. Although it has not yet been formally validated due to a refocus of priorities for the MSG related to COVID-19.
Building the capacity of migrant workers and government to harness the potential of remittances	Vanuatu	2020	Implemented by IOM, this project aims to increase understanding of remittances flows and practices in Vanuatu 2020–2021. Planned activities include developing training for migrants on remittances and financial literacy.
Vodafone and Digicel to extend Mobile Money services to international remittances	Vanuatu	2021	Vanuatu's two mobile network providers, Vodafone (M-Vatu) and Digicel Mobile Money, should, in 2021, make their mobile wallets available for international money transfer. This will provide seasonal workers with the ability to easily send small amounts of money home, at low cost, to rural locations where their families are often based.
Opportunities for My Community Project	Guatemala	2016-2019	The project, implemented by USAID and the Inter-American Dialogue, links remittances, education and savings to promote economic and human development in Guatemala. It works to engage the Guatemalan government and the diaspora with the country's development through resource mobilisation directed toward educational programs within Guatemala. The project has supported diaspora engagement through partnerships with Guatemalan Hometown Associations (HTAs), for example HTAs contacted teachers to teach and then the project trained them, monitored the classes, and provided educational materials. The Project has also collaborated with remittance companies to engage the Guatemalan diaspora



			<p>in addressing development obstacles. For example, it collaborated with the companies Dolex and Viamericas and delivered about 20,000 informational brochures to Guatemalan remittance senders, raising awareness about the importance of financial literacy in Guatemala. The Ministry of Education works with local schools and diaspora organizations to implement after school education programs funded by the diaspora.</p>
<p>Raising funds through remittances for an educational camp for people with disabilities in Guatemala</p>	Guatemala		<p>NGO Vlamistad partnered with remittance company Viamericas to mobilise diaspora resources. The company launched a platform at eleven remittance-sending points located in Maryland from which the Guatemalan diaspora was able to make donations at no additional cost. Through using social media campaigns and newspaper advertisements, the diaspora living in Maryland learned about the campaign and was invited to participate by donating. In ten days, the campaign reached over 5,000 users, of which more than half interacted with the ad.</p>
<p>Assisting returning migrants</p>	Honduras	2011	<p>In 2011, the Asociación Hondureña de Instituciones Bancarias (AHIBA) has initiated the ""Friends of the Migrant Project"", a corporate social responsibility initiative which includes assistance on: Awareness raising and education of migrants and their families on the proper use of remittances; Encouraging saving practices; Holding a semi-annual running event to raise funds for returned migrants with disabilities.</p> <p>AHIBA and the Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional (INFOP) of Honduras, signed a Cooperation Agreement in 2012, through which they offer training with an entrepreneurial approach to promote entrepreneurship to deportees. AHIBA's participation is considered strategic as financial inclusion strategy to help returnees, mainly in terms of access to housing and productive assets.</p>
<p>Real-time remittance data reporting</p>	The Gambia	2021	<p>Previously, much of the available data on remittances to The Gambia was collated by the World Bank. However, the MSDG Project has worked with the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) to strengthen remittance data collection, including holding quarterly technical roundtables to convene the key remittances stakeholders. This led to the establishment of monthly collation of activity volumes from Money Transfer Operators, the proactive identification of pay-out agents, and the installation of real-time payment monitoring software enabling Bureaux des Changes outlets (where many Gambians collect their remittances) to enable real-</p>



			time reporting of key remittance data to the CBG.
Balcón del Migrante	Ecuador	2024	In 2024, consulates began implementing Balcón del Migrante (“Migrant’s Window”) service desks as one-stop help centres for the diaspora. These are dedicated counters (physical or virtual) where Ecuadorians abroad can get guidance on a range of issues – from renewing documents and transferring remittances, to accessing Ecuadorian government programmes.
LEAD-Armenia project	Armenia	2020-2024	The Republic of Armenia in close cooperation with ICMPD launched the LEAD-Armenia project in 2021. The project aims to increase the number of migration-related investments, encourage businesses and create jobs in Armenia. It will develop diverse and innovative diaspora investment instruments as a future investment scheme for Armenian banks and other financial institutions and raise awareness on investment opportunities among Armenian migrant communities.