

MAPPING THE
RWANDAN
DIASPORA
IN
GERMANY

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Publisher: International Organization for Migration
KG 632 St, Gasasa 239
Rugando Cell
Kigali, Rwanda
Tel.: +250 252 586710
Fax: +250 252 586711
Email: iomrwanda@iom.int
Website: www.iom.int

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MAPPING THE RWANDAN DIASPORA IN GERMANY

Prepared by

Katerina Kratzmann





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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AERK	Association des Etudiants Rwandais de Kaiserslautern
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
CIM	Centre for international Migration and Development
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2013-2018
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICT	Information and communications technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-governmental organization
RDD	Rwandan Diaspora in Germany e.V.
RDGN	Rwanda Diaspora Global Network



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For decades, Rwandans have been migrating into different parts of the world for political, social or economic reasons. As a result, there are important Rwandan diaspora communities in various countries across the world, including Germany. Germany and Rwanda have enjoyed a long bilateral relationship dating back to the 1960s. At the end of 2017, there was a total number of 1,145 Rwandan nationals living in Germany of whom 600 were males and 545 were females, with the majority living in regions of former West Germany.

The Rwandan diaspora in Germany is very heterogenic with a variety of backgrounds and groups from international students, employees, business owners and retired persons to people who are seeking international protection. Affiliation to the country of origin is, in general, quite high but cannot be assumed for all members of the Rwandan community. Some Rwandans do not engage in diaspora activities and are not part of any network. However, the mapping exercise clearly shows that parts of the Rwandan diaspora in Germany play an important role in the development in Rwanda, as they are an important reservoir of knowledge and resources and actively contribute to development on different levels: on a very organized level with financial support from public bodies, on a professional civil society level, on a small-scale civil society level, as well as on a private level.

In general, the Rwandan diaspora in Germany is very well-informed about Rwanda's socioeconomic situation, with some members informed on a very detailed level, especially when they engage in development activities. There are expectations from the Government in terms of support in overcoming practical and administrative obstacles in Rwanda to engage in development activities.

The analysis shows that persons who engage in development activities share some characteristics: most have been living in Germany for many years (over 15 to 20 years) and are well established and integrated (have fixed jobs and speak German). They also share a sense of belonging to Rwanda and want to help their fellow nationals in Rwanda (altruistic motivation). In addition, they are willing to work voluntarily and overtime. Consequently, awareness and interest to contribute depends on the specific individual social situation.

The mapping exercise also shows that most development activities follow a sustainable approach and are initiated thanks to personal connections. For example, if a need arises in the place where a member of the Rwandan diaspora was born and/or went to school and/or where their family lives, an activity will usually be started to meet the identified need.



Actual initiatives and projects cover a variety of areas, such as the following: (a) support to the local community; (b) education and schools; (c) vocational training and investment opportunities; (d) health; (e) civil society; (f) Rwandan culture; and (g) sending remittances.





1. BACKGROUND, METHODOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

1.1. BACKGROUND

The present mapping exercise was commissioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Government of Rwanda. The aim of the exercise is to provide the Government of Rwanda with relevant information on the Rwandan diaspora in Germany. The information gathered will be used to assist the Government in further mobilizing the Rwandan diaspora abroad for development activities.

For decades, Rwandans have been migrating to different parts of the world for political or socioeconomic reasons. These migratory dynamics date back to pre-colonial times, and became more important during the colonial period and especially since 1960 and 1994. As a result, Rwanda has an important diaspora community in various countries across the world, with major concentrations in neighbouring countries, Western and Central Europe and North America. The total number of emigrants who have left the country in 2019 was 539,900.¹

Rwanda is one of the fastest-growing economies in Central Africa with a constantly growing GDP until 2018.² Rwanda's growth slowed down from mid-2016 to mid-2017, reaching 3.4 per cent, but was expected to recover to 5.2 per cent for the second half of 2017, and to accelerate in 2018 and 2019 as private and public investment picked up and agriculture became more productive.³ The country's growth is mainly driven by construction, services, agriculture and manufacturing.⁴

In 2000, the Government of Rwanda introduced a development programme called Vision 2020, which includes the following goals that should be achieved by 2020: (a) good governance; (b) an efficient State; (c) skilled human capital (including education, health and information technology); (d) a vibrant private sector; (e) a world-class physical infrastructure; and (f) modern agriculture and livestock. The programme's main objective is to transform the country into a knowledge-based middle-income country, thereby reducing poverty and health problems, and to construct a united, democratic nation.⁵

¹ See https://migrationdataportal.org/data?i=stock_abs_&t=2017&cm49=646.

² See <https://tradingeconomics.com/rwanda/gdp>.

³ World Bank, 2018.

⁴ Hutt, 2016.

⁵ Government of Rwanda, 2012.



The Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) 2013–2018⁶ for Rwanda was also introduced by the Government. It enjoyed ownership by a wide range of stakeholders and focused on economic transformation, rural development, as well as productivity and youth employment: “Community-based solutions, working closely with the population, have made possible fast-track and cost effective implementation”⁷ in education, agriculture and community-based health-care programmes.

Within this context, the Rwandan diaspora plays an increasingly important role. A growing body of research suggests that skilled diasporas and country networks abroad are an important reservoir of knowledge and resources.⁸ Migrants can act as agents of development and contribute to their countries of origin through financial and social remittances, knowledge transfers, investment ventures and the like.

The present mapping exercise offers an overview of the Rwandan diaspora in Germany, gives an analysis of the diaspora’s engagement in development and explains the diaspora’s awareness on Rwanda’s socioeconomic situation, as well as expectations from the Government of Rwanda.

1.2. METHODOLOGY

A mixed methodology approach was used to produce the present report and gather information about the Rwandan diaspora in Germany. The research was carried out between May and July 2018 and consisted of a desk research, key informant interviews, interviews with members of the Rwandan Embassy and an online survey. It was not possible to plan focus groups in the German context due to the time constraints of the target group.

Desk research: The desk research included a review of existing web pages of initiatives, reports and other sources of information on the topic of the Rwandan diaspora in Germany and its engagement. In addition, existing statistical data was reviewed. The main source for data on population stocks and flows, as well as disaggregated data was the German Federal Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt).⁹

Key informant interviews: The key informant interviews were one of the main methodological tools for the mapping exercise. These were qualitative interviews with people who were aware of what was “going on” in their community. The purpose of the key informant interviews was to collect information and first-hand knowledge about the community. As the Rwandan diaspora in Germany is quite small and cautious, and active stakeholders are limited in numbers, only 15 key informant interviews were carried out.

⁶ International Monetary Fund, 2013.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ See, for example, Wickramasekara, 2009.

⁹ See www.destatis.de/DE/Startseite.html.

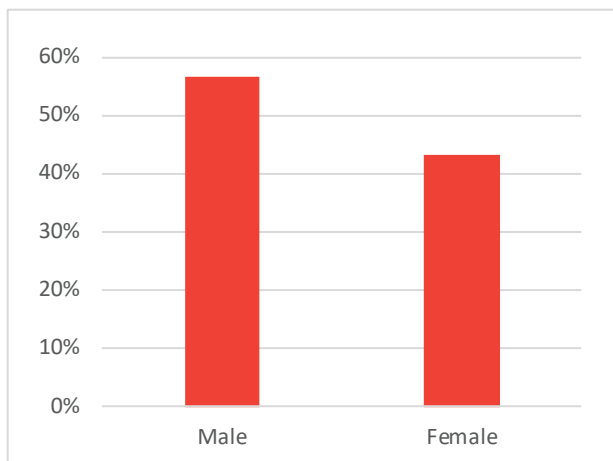


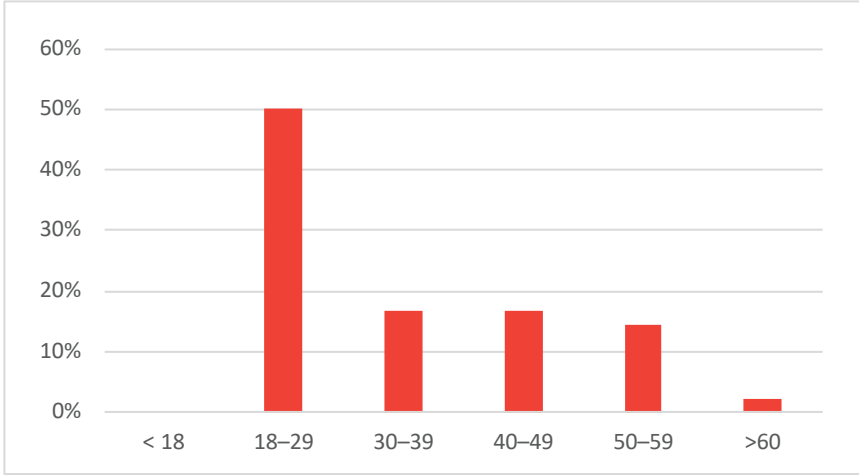
Interviews with members of the Rwandan Embassy: The Rwandan Embassy in Berlin was also approached with a tailor-made interview to capture the role played by the Rwandan diaspora in Germany regarding their participation in the development of Rwanda. An appointment was made with the Embassy, and a long interview with the Ambassador and his staff took place in Berlin. As a result, it was possible to establish contact with a number of key informants.

Online survey: An online survey (in German) was designed for Rwandan nationals in Germany. Survey Monkey was used for this exercise. The online survey was promoted through several channels. It was posted on different web pages, such as those of IOM and the Rwandan Diaspora in Germany e.V. (RDD, Rwandische Diaspora in Deutschland e.V.), in the Partnerschaftsverein Rheinland-Pfalz/Ruanda e.V. newsletter and in several email distribution lists, such as those of the Rwandan Embassy in Berlin, the Association des Etudiants Rwandais de Kaiserslautern (AERK) and the Ruandahilfe Hachenburg e.V. In addition, through a member of the Rwandan Embassy, the survey was circulated via WhatsApp groups. At first, it seemed that the target group would not participate in the online survey, but after distribution via email and WhatsApp with support from the Embassy, 90 responses were obtained that mirrored the different groups of Rwandans living in Germany as had been identified during the key informant interviews. Consequently – even with a smaller number of respondents than originally anticipated – the responses were analysed.

The profile of the people who completed the online survey was as follows:

Figure 1. Survey respondents by sex



**Figure 2. Survey respondents by age**

The distribution of male/female respondents was almost at 50/50 (Figure 1); the 18 to 29 age group was dominant, followed by the 40 to 49 age group, while the 30 to 39 and 50 to 59 age groups were almost equally distributed (Figure 2).

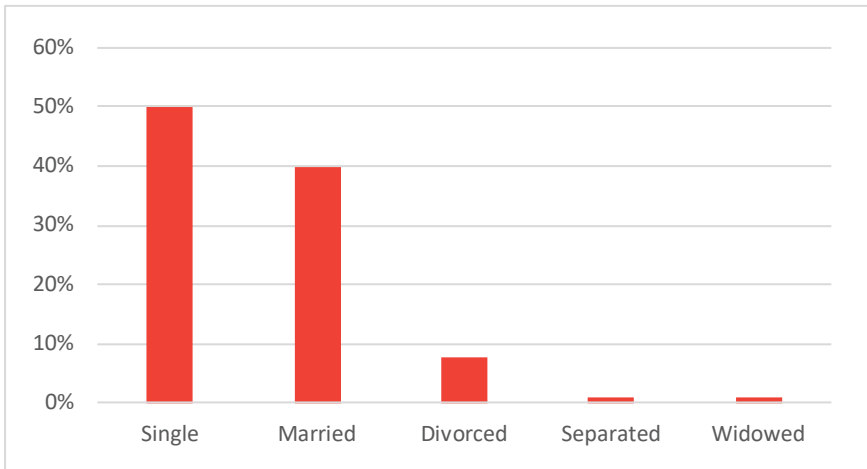
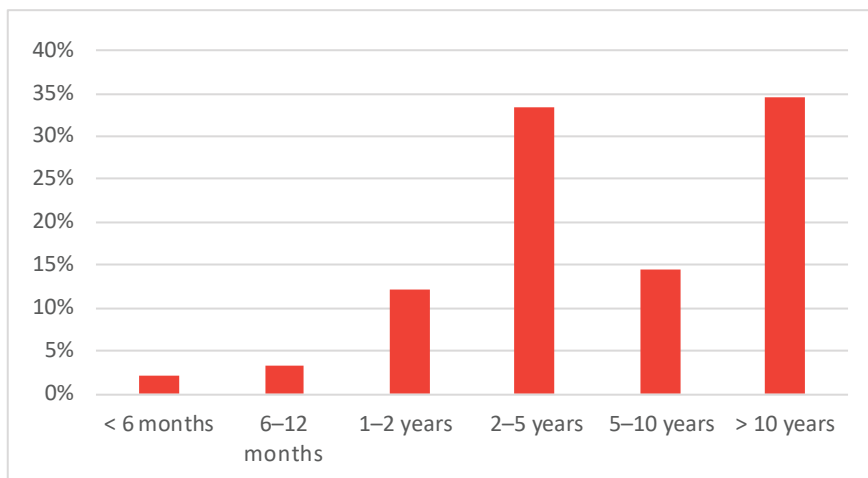
Figure 3. Survey respondents by family status



Figure 4. Survey respondents by time spent in Germany



With regards to family status, most respondents were single or married; only a small share was divorced or separated (Figure 3), and most persons who completed the online survey had been living in Germany for over 10 years (long term) or 2 to 5 years (Figure 4).

1.3. DEFINITIONS

There is no general agreement as to the meaning and definition of the term “diaspora”.

While the definition in the first edition of the *IOM Glossary on Migration* carried a stronger ethnic connotation – diaspora “[r]efers to any people or ethnic population that leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout other parts of the world”¹⁰ – the second edition of the *IOM Glossary on Migration* used a broader definition:

Diasporas are broadly defined as individuals and members or networks, associations and communities, who have left their country of origin, but maintain links with their homelands. This concept covers more settled expatriate communities, migrant workers based abroad temporarily, expatriates with the nationality of the host country, dual nationals, and second-/third-generation migrants.¹¹

¹⁰ IOM, 2004:19.

¹¹ IOM, 2011:28.



The third edition of the *Asylum and Migration Glossary* of the European Migration Network builds on this definition and adds: “It is a general term, with no legal definition, which can also cover Member State nationals (and immigrants) who feel strong connections to their origins.”¹²

The definition provided in the instance of the Rwandan diaspora specifically can be found in the Rwanda Diaspora Policy of 2009. This document also provides a distinction between temporary and permanent diaspora members. Following the general methodology for this report, for purposes of the mapping exercise, the working definition from the diaspora policy was used:

Individuals originating from one country, living outside that country, irrespective of their citizenship or nationality, who, individually or collectively, are or could be willing to contribute to the development of their country. Descendants of these individuals are also included in this definition. In the Rwandan context, Rwandan diaspora refers in general to all Rwandans who left their country voluntarily or were forced to live in other countries of the world and are willing to contribute to the development of Rwanda.¹³

During the data collection, it became apparent that in Germany, there were also Rwandan nationals or former Rwandan nationals who were not willing to contribute to the development of Rwanda. In addition, there were individuals who did not consider themselves part of the diaspora. Consequently, all those who are or were Rwandans living in Germany – irrespective of their development activities – were analysed in this mapping exercise as they fell under the term “diaspora”.

¹² European Migration Network, 2014:85.

¹³ Rwanda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, 2009:6.





2. OVERVIEW OF THE RWANDAN DIASPORA IN GERMANY

2.1. HISTORICAL MIGRATION MOVEMENTS AND GROUPS

Germany and Rwanda's long bilateral relationship dates back to the 1960s, and migration movements to Germany included different groups with various backgrounds. When looking at the stock of Rwandan nationals in Germany in the last fifty years, it becomes obvious that in the period from the 1960s to the 1980s, small numbers – around 70 to 150 people – came to Germany and these were mainly international students. No visa was required and people could stay in Germany for six months.

More Rwandans came to Germany in the 1990s during and after the genocide in Rwanda. There was a steep increase in this migration but after a peak in 1996/1997, the stock decreased again – most likely some of the Rwandans who had fled returned to Rwanda or went to another country. However, the key informants claimed that most of the people who had fled from Rwanda because of the genocide had remained long term in Germany, as was confirmed in the online survey (see Figure 4).

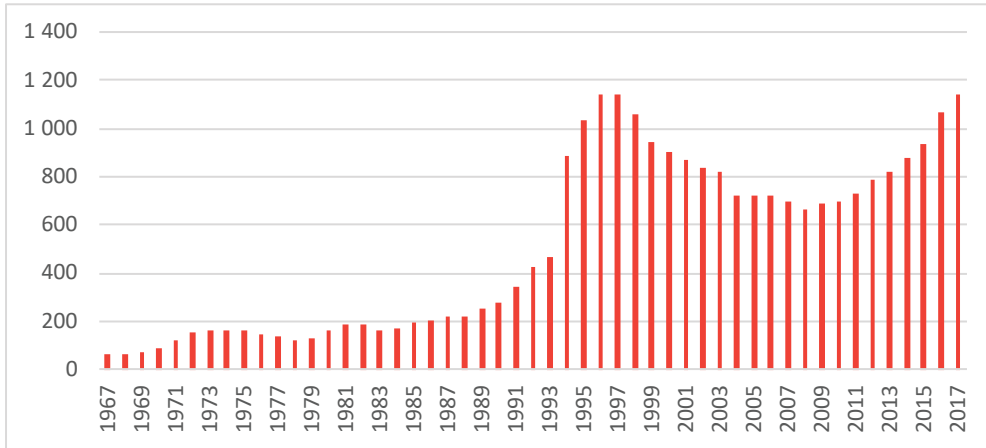
The stock increased again after 2008, but this time most likely due to births of the second-generation Rwandans in Germany, as well as international students on special exchange programmes who continued coming to Germany (Figure 5).

Furthermore, the key informants reported that Rwandans applying for international protection were included in the stock data for the last three to four years.¹⁴

¹⁴ As the aim of the mapping exercise was not to elaborate on the status in Germany of this group of Rwandans, the group will not be considered further.



Figure 5. Stock of Rwandan nationals in Germany, 1967–2017



Source: Author's elaboration based on German Statistical Office.

2.2. FLOWS AND STOCK IN 2017¹⁵

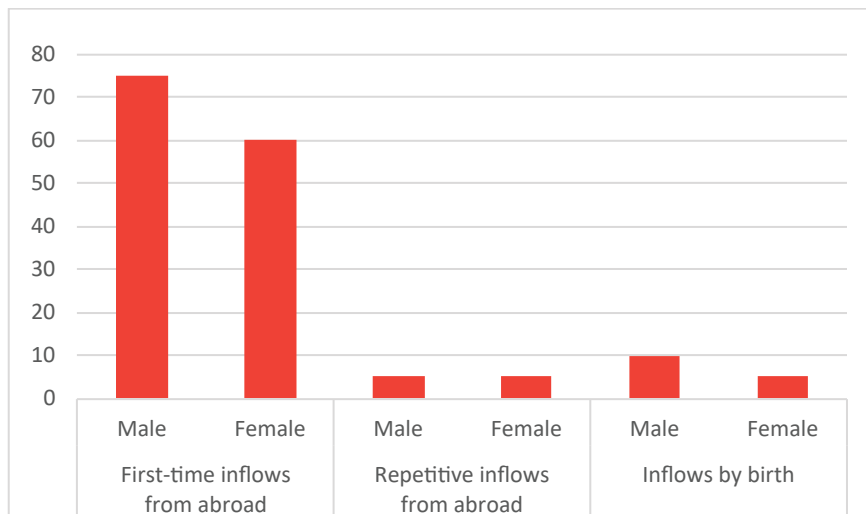
At the beginning of 2017, there was a total of 1,065 Rwandan nationals registered in Germany, out of which 555 were males and 510 were females.

In 2017, 160 people moved to or were born in Germany: 90 were males (75 who moved to Germany from abroad for the first time, 5 who moved from abroad for the second or third time and 10 by birth) and 70 were females (60 first-timers from abroad, 5 who moved repetitively from abroad and 5 by birth) (Figure 6).

¹⁵ All statistical data presented in this section are from the German Statistical Office. Available at www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis/online/data;jsessionid=F93C0678708806E1388A2197138B8581.tomcat_GO_2_1?operation=abrufabelleAbrufen&selectionname=12521-0002&levelindex=1&levelid=1523794405208&index=15.



Figure 6. Rwandan nationals' immigration to Germany in 2017



Source: Author's elaboration based on German Statistical Office.

In the same year, 85 Rwandan nationals left the country or were removed from the statistics: 50 were male (10 moved abroad, 20 gave notice of departure and 20 were cleared from the population register) and 35 were female (15 moved abroad, 10 gave notice of departure and 10 were cleared from the population register) (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Rwandan nationals emigrating from Germany in 2017

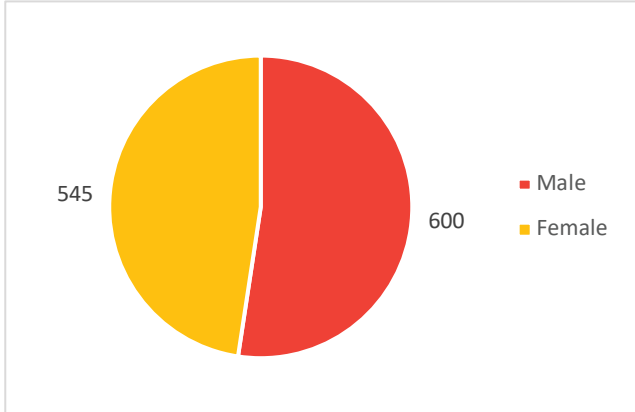


Source: Author's elaboration based on German Statistical Office.



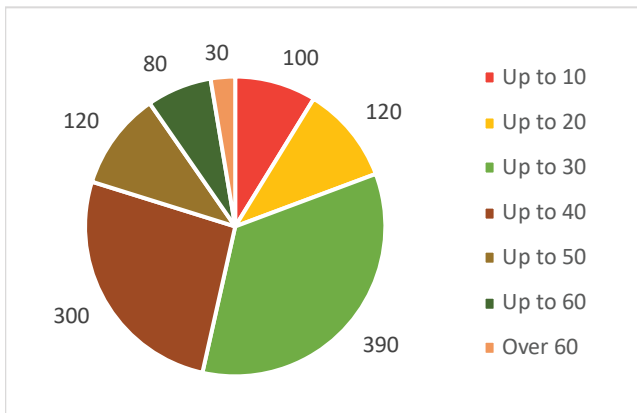
At the end of 2017, a total of 1,145 Rwandan nationals lived in Germany, of whom 600 were males and 545 were females (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Stock of Rwandan nationals in Germany by sex, as at 31 December 2017



Source: Author's elaboration based on German Statistical Office.

Figure 9. Stock of Rwandan nationals in Germany by age, as at 31 December 2017



Source: Author's elaboration based on German Statistical Office.

Of the 1,145 Rwandan nationals living in Germany as at 31 December 2017,¹⁶ the 20 to 40 age group dominated the picture, as was also reflected in the online survey (see Figure 2). Out of that number, 100 were children under 10 years of age, 120 persons were in the 11 to 20 age bracket, 390 in the 21 to 30 age bracket, 300 in the 31 to 40 age bracket, 120 persons were aged between 41 and 50, 80 were aged between

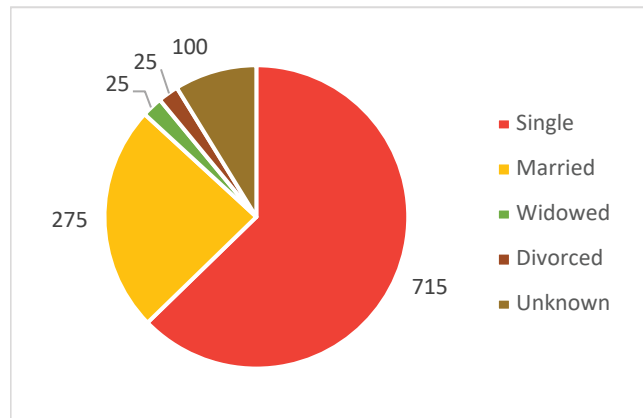
¹⁶ The German Statistisches Bundesamt data gives a total of 1,140 Rwandan nationals – not 1,145, probably because 5 women changed their nationality and were therefore not included in the data.



51 and 60, and 30 persons were over 60 years of age. Altogether, 170 were children under the age of 18 (Figure 9).¹⁷

Majority of the Rwandan nationals living in Germany as at 31 December 2017 were single – 63 per cent; 24 per cent were married and 2 per cent were divorced or widowed. Again, these profiles are mirrored in the online survey (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Stock of Rwandan nationals in Germany by marital status, as at 31 December 2017



Source: Author's elaboration based on German Statistical Office.

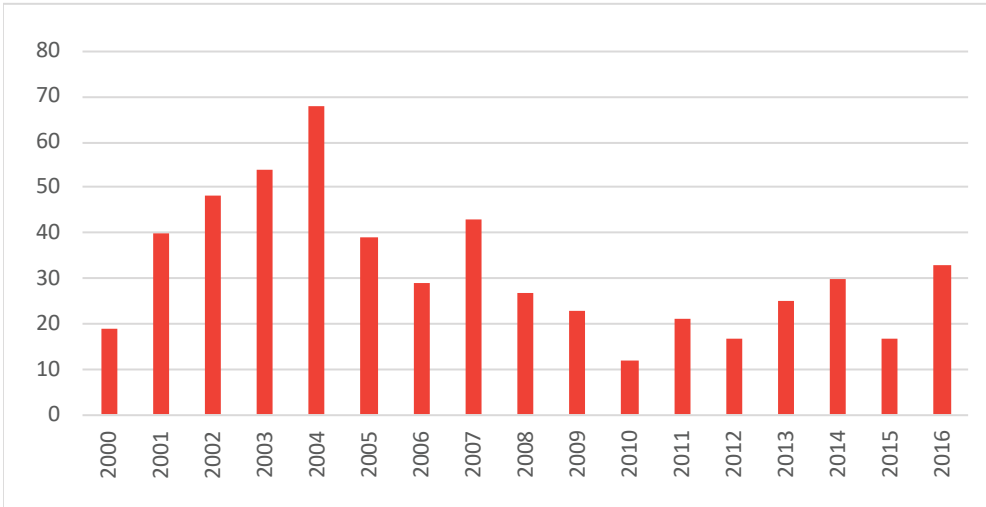
2.3. NATURALIZATION

In general, naturalization numbers are quite low. About 3 per cent of Rwandan nationals residing in Germany are naturalized. The numbers of Rwandans who had become German nationals had risen steadily between 2000 and 2004, and had reached a peak in 2004 (68), which was about 8 to 10 years after the higher inflow following the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. That period also marked the time for eligibility for naturalization in Germany. After 2004, numbers dropped and remained stable between about 20 to 30 Rwandan nationals naturalized each year (Figure 11).

¹⁷ Therefore, the online survey could be disseminated only to 975 persons.



Figure 11. Naturalization of Rwandan nationals in Germany, 2000–2016



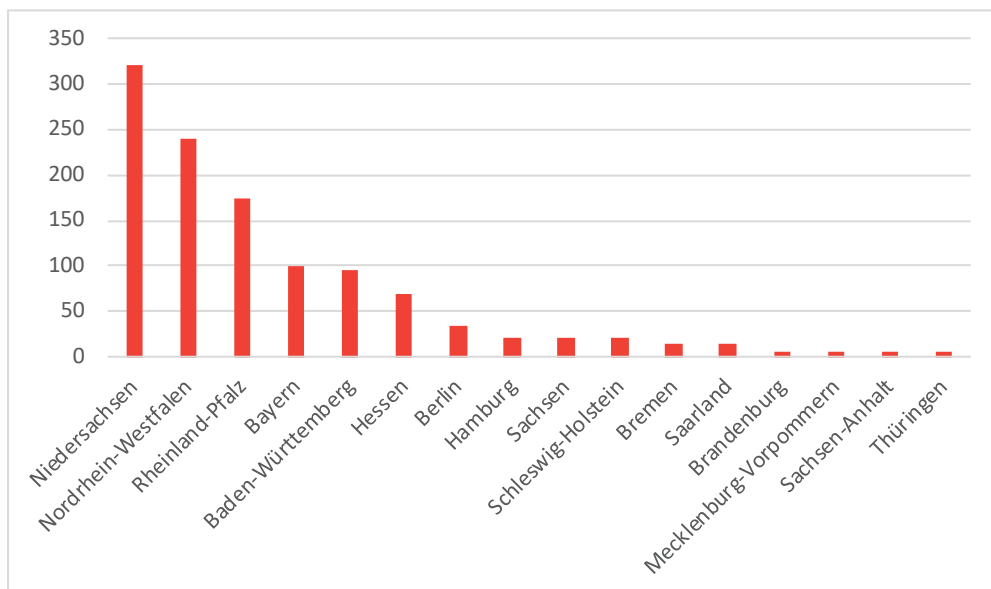
Source: Author's elaboration based on German Statistical Office.

2.4. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

As shown on Figure 12, Rwandan nationals are distributed throughout Germany with the main counties of residence being Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Bavaria, Baden-Wuerttemberg and Hesse.

The share of Rwandan nationals in Eastern Germany – including Berlin – is rather small, because at the time when an increased number of Rwandans entered Germany, the country was still divided in two, and Rwandans who fled the genocide in Rwanda went to former West Germany.

With time, this changed only slightly, as the Rwandan descendants stayed in that part of Germany their parents had migrated to. Also, migration to former East Germany for reasons of work was unlikely for a long time, as it took that region of Germany some time to achieve the same economic growth and power as the western part of the country.

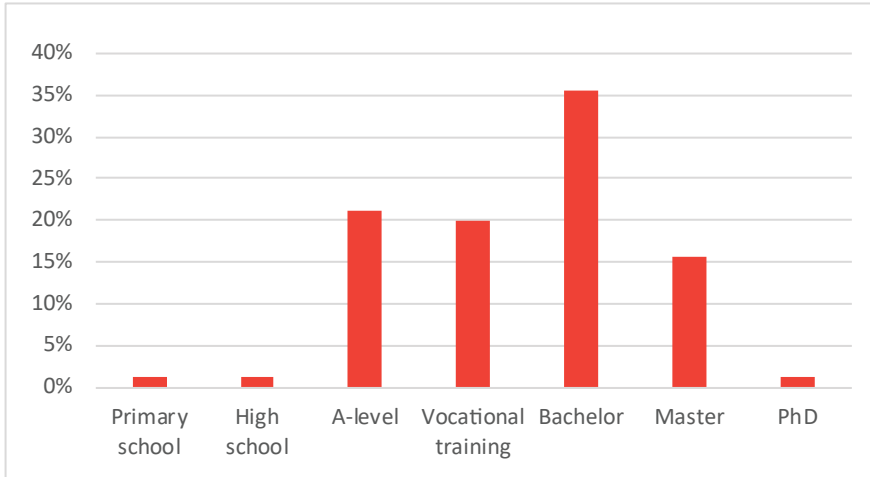
**Figure 12. Geographical distribution of Rwandan nationals in Germany, 2017**

Source: Author's elaboration based on German Statistical Office.

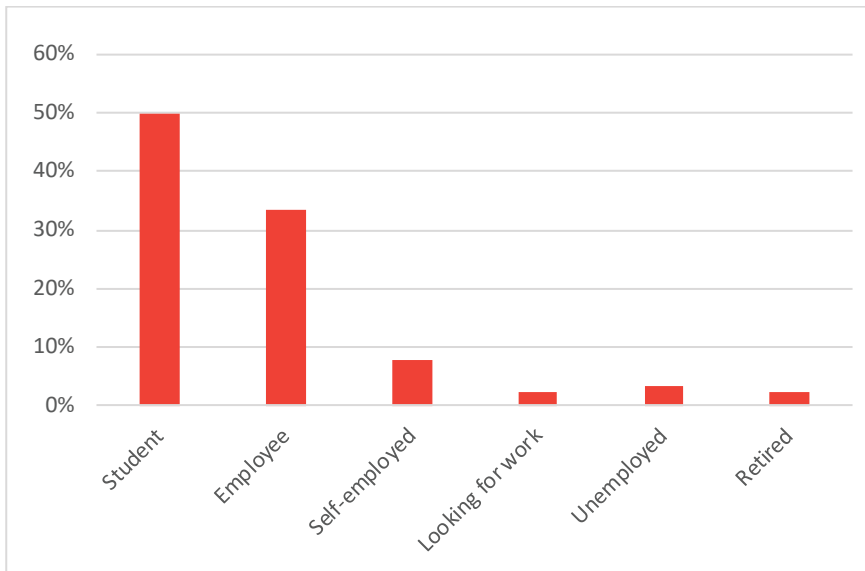
2.5. EDUCATIONAL AND WORK BACKGROUND

In Germany, no official data is available on the educational and work background of Rwandan nationals living in the country. From the interviews with the key informants, it can be assumed that the Rwandan diaspora is very heterogenic with a variety of backgrounds: from pupils and students, to business owners and employees and pensioners. Engineering sciences are somewhat focused on thanks to an academic exchange programme in Kaiserslautern that guides students to study in this field.

The online survey results showed that the Rwandan community in Germany had a variety of educational and work backgrounds. In terms of highest education degrees, most survey respondents stated they had a bachelor's or a master's degree or an A-level or vocational training degree as their highest degree. Regarding lower education, high school and primary school certificates as highest degrees were rarely mentioned (Figure 13).

**Figure 13. Survey results on highest education degrees**

Regarding work status, most respondents said they were either students or employees. Only a few respondents were self-employed, looking for work or were unemployed or retired (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Survey results on work status



More detailed knowledge about the educational and skills background of Rwandan nationals in Germany was not available at the time of writing the present report. The outcomes of this mapping exercise can serve as a basis – and efforts must be increased in the future – to develop a mechanism and a more systematic approach towards investigating the work and educational background of Rwandans in Germany. Their ability to engage in development activities must also be considered.





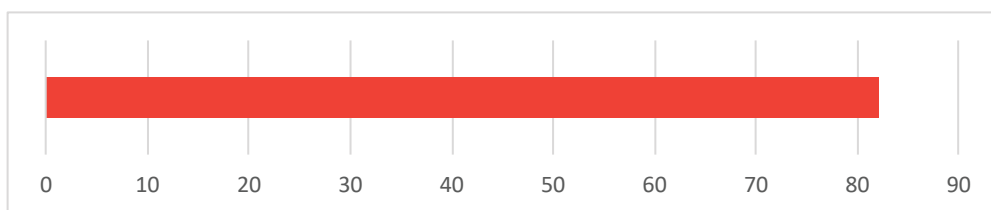
3. THE DIASPORA'S RELATIONSHIP TO RWANDA

3.1. AFFILIATION TO RWANDA

The key informants reported that the affiliation of Rwandans living in Germany to their country of origin was in general quite strong. There were Rwandan nationals who did not engage in diaspora activities and were not part of any networks but nevertheless, they could still have a close relationship to their country of origin. Most Rwandans were aware of what was going on in the country, followed the news and were especially interested if they planned to go back (such as after their studies) and/or engage in development activities, or follow a proactive approach in their diaspora engagement.

This assumption was confirmed in the online survey, where the question “How closely do you feel affiliated to Rwanda?” was generally answered with 82 (out of 100) points (Figure 15). When looking into the individual answers, the picture became slightly more heterogenic, as answers varied from 0 (1 answer), 25 (1 answer) and over 50 (5 answers) to answers reaching such high points as 99/100. The analysis shows that low affiliation was mentioned – but by very few – while the higher the affiliation level, the more of the answers received fell within these high levels of affiliation.

Figure 15. Survey results on question: “How closely do you feel affiliated to Rwanda?”



The key informants highlighted that some Rwandans identified more with Rwanda than with Germany: “The herd is in Rwanda”, as one interviewee put it. Germany is often seen as a host country, but not necessarily a home country. Depending on the time spent in Germany, some Rwandans said that they were at home in both countries or felt closer to Germany if they had already been living in Germany for a long time (over 20 years). In addition, people who oppose the current government in Rwanda might identify more with Germany than with Rwanda for political reasons.



Rwandans engaged in development activities consider regular travel (at least once a year) to Rwanda as part of their affiliation. Some Rwandans travel back to see their families, but this depends on financial resources as flights are expensive and travelling with a family is costly. People who do not identify with Rwanda, for the most part, do not travel back to their country of origin. For others, returning to Rwanda is part and parcel of their plan and stay in Germany – for example, for students from Rwanda in academic exchange programmes.

3.2. DIASPORA AWARENESS ON RWANDA'S SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION

According to the key informants, the Rwandan community in Germany is very well aware of the social, political and economic situation in Rwanda. The Embassy gives out information, and members of the diaspora follow the news on TV, radio or the Internet. When people travel to Rwanda, they obtain first-hand information, and some join WhatsApp groups where information about the situation in Rwanda is circulated, so that general knowledge on the country of origin is quite high.

Information on Rwanda's socioeconomic situation is also spread within the community by Rwandan politicians and business people who come to Germany and get in touch with the Rwandan diaspora usually with their Embassy's support. Meetings are organized to create awareness, for example, on work and investment possibilities, and to increase the bond between Rwanda and the diaspora in Germany.¹⁸

When asked to give their perspective on how Rwanda had developed in the last ten years, several interviewees highlighted the very positive recent developments: "Every time I go to Rwanda, everything is new. Everything is clean. Poverty is still present, but much less compared to ten years ago." Some interviewees mentioned no plastic usage in Rwanda as a very positive development, and the general impression was that Rwanda was "on the right path to get a new image of a peaceful and secure nation". Some informants also said that they knew more about their family's situation in Rwanda, but not necessarily about the political and policy developments. Furthermore, it was argued that the Government of Rwanda supported the return of their own nationals, and the general feeling was that returnees were welcome.

The Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) 2013–2018 for Rwanda and Vision 2020 were also known to the diaspora members. In the online survey, 86 per cent of the respondents said they knew about the EDPRS, while 14 per cent stated they were not aware of it. Vision 2020 was known to a few more respondents, with 93 per cent being aware of it while 7 per cent did not know about

¹⁸ For events in Germany, see www.rwanda-botschaft.de/news-events/.



it. In this context, the key informants highlighted that community members were generally not familiar with the details of different policy papers and policies but would be familiar with the general approach.

Persons who were more closely engaged in development activities and very active in the community and in Rwanda were knowledgeable about these policy papers. It can be concluded that knowledge also depended on the level of an individual's activity: those working on bigger development projects usually also had an understanding of EDPRS and Vision 2020, while those working on smaller initiatives had less detailed knowledge about these policy papers.

Overall, the diaspora is very well informed and some members even have detailed information. Consequently, no major gaps in the diaspora's awareness and knowledge concerning Rwanda's socioeconomic situation could be found during the data collection for this report.

3.3. KNOWLEDGE ON GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AID IN RWANDA

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)¹⁹ is responsible for German development cooperation with Rwanda. BMZ follows the priorities of the Government of Rwanda described in Vision 2020. Support from the federal government concentrates on good governance (decentralization, public financial services, support to civil society) and sustainable economic development with a focus on the private sector, vocational training and employment promotion.²⁰

During government negotiations in May 2017 in Kigali, the Government of Germany granted Rwanda 71 million euros (EUR) for a three-year period. Out of this sum, EUR 42 million were intended as financial support and EUR 29 million as technical support. In addition, commitments for regional energy initiatives (EUR 22 million for financial cooperation) and the promotion of information and communications technology (ICT) (EUR 10 million for technical assistance) were made in 2017.

In 2018, Germany initiated the project Moving Rwanda²¹ involving BMZ, Volkswagen, Siemens and SAP that focused on merging the Volkswagen car production in Kigali with car sharing and on an education initiative for modern professions. Among others, the aim was to introduce environmentally friendly car-sharing models. BMZ is supporting the initiative and is building an IT centre in Kigali for specialist staff and know-how transfer.

¹⁹ See www.bmz.de/en/index.html.

²⁰ See www.bmz.de/de/laender_regionen/subsahara/ruanda/index.jsp?follow=adword.

²¹ Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, 2018.



The key informants reported that some of the German Rwandan diaspora activities in Rwanda were also supported by BMZ. As these are highly professionalized projects with conditions such as financial and narrative reporting, only a limited number of people are able to engage in such activities, especially since these involve voluntary and unpaid work.

The responses to the online survey question on awareness of development initiatives in Rwanda that are supported by Germany showed that respondents did know about the initiatives (61% yes; 39% no), but also that they were not necessarily aware of concrete projects by, for example, BMZ, the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ, German Society for International Cooperation), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or the diaspora. Consequently, some awareness-raising on these topics could be offered to the Rwandan diaspora in Germany in the future. Most survey respondents mentioned areas of development (education, infrastructure, the construction of streets, energy and water supply systems, health, economic development, tourism) rather than specific projects. Some specific projects were however mentioned, such as those of the association for partnership Partnerschaftsverein Rheinland-Pfalz/Ruanda e.V., the Association des Etudiants Rwandais de Kaiserslautern, the Rwanda Media Project²² or the projects of a cooperation of partners like the dental clinic in Nyanza.²³

3.4. DIASPORA EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA

Concerning expectations from the Government of Rwanda, the key informants had a twofold response. On the one hand, it was said that no further assistance was expected as support was sufficient: “We do this because we want to help, and we do not need any further support. Only moral and ideological support, which we feel we have already.” The general feeling was that the Government was encouraging the diaspora to engage and that contributions were being made – for example, in the form of projects from Germany to Rwanda. On the other hand, it was said that the Government could provide further support to Rwandans and former Rwandans in Germany by lowering practical and administrative obstacles in Rwanda when engaging in development activities.

Regarding the obstacles in Rwanda, the Government could help with administrative obstacles, such as when a container is shipped to Rwanda for which an approval is needed, or for building and construction work permits. In both cases, procedures could be very lengthy and involve different governmental and non-governmental bodies; for example, the Government could urge customs to speed up its processing procedures. Also, there was a proposal to provide special support for young entrepreneurs in

²² Deutsche Welle Akademie, 2014.

²³ DIE32, n.d.



Rwanda who sometimes had to close down their newly established businesses after a couple of years because they could not pay their taxes. Tax reduction or better credit options for entrepreneurs could be put in place as support.

Another proposal for government support was to appoint a person exclusively responsible for supporting the diaspora in their development activities. Such a person could be either with the relevant department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Rwanda or with the Rwandan Embassies in the host countries. For example, in case of administrative or bureaucratic issues, one could contact this person who would then deal with the issue, do the paperwork and contact the other relevant persons.

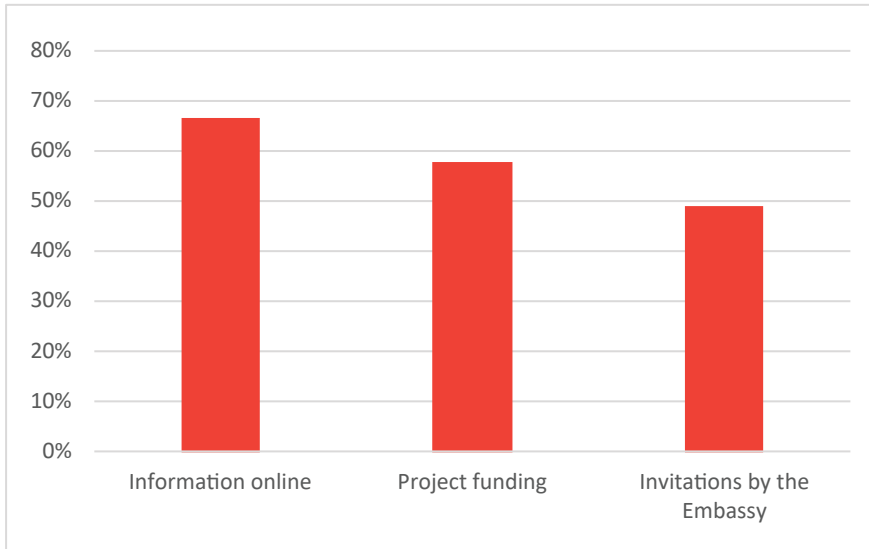
In Germany, the respondents expressed their wish to have the Government of Rwanda facilitate the exchange with GIZ.²⁴ According to the key informants, some migrants perceived the development cooperation sector as being too bureaucratic and complicated. Consequently, it was recommended that the Rwandan Embassy in Berlin initiate networking and partnership opportunities. In this context, it was also mentioned that some initiatives of the diaspora did not work as they should because they followed an alternative development approach. For example, some diaspora members wanted to offer courses in Rwanda. Basing themselves on the “ownership” approach, they envisaged that participants pay for the courses. However, when similar courses were offered by more established players, these courses were free of charge and, in some cases, participants even got paid to attend. As a result, participants would go for the free-of-charge courses, thus jeopardizing the courses offered by the diaspora. It would be productive to have an exchange between the diaspora and GIZ and other development actors and discuss these approaches to reduce overlaps and/or trade-offs.

Asked about their expectations from the Government of Rwanda, more respondents replied that they would like to have online information (67%), financial support for projects (58%) or invitations from the Embassy (49%). These were predefined multiple-choice options, making the quantity of answers relevant. The result also shows that most respondents would like all kinds of support from the Government of Rwanda: online information, financial support and personal invitations.

²⁴ See www.giz.de/en/html/about_giz.html.



Figure 16. Survey results on question: “What are your expectations from the Government of Rwanda when it comes to supporting you in your efforts to engage in development?”



In addition, there was an open-ended question on advice one would give the Government of Rwanda to increase the engagement of the diaspora in development activities. The following are the responses:

- “They should continue doing as they are now.”
- “We want to plan Vision 2040.”
- “Offer information and give opportunities for investment in Rwanda.”
- “Facilitate investments.”
- “Appreciate the diaspora and belief in Rwandans. Prefer Rwandans in the job market.”
- “Take more care of Rwandans who are studying in Germany.”
- “Some Rwandans don’t know what they can do to support development, so the Government should give information on what can be done.”
- “Encourage the diaspora to invest in agriculture.”
- “Ask the diaspora to get together in groups and invest instead of getting foreign companies in the country.”
- “Provide regular information about diaspora activities, as well as new possibilities for investment.”



- “See the diaspora as a chance and potential in development cooperation. See first if there are experts in the community rather than getting foreign experts in.”

Interestingly so, there were three recurring motives: (a) the wish to have investment opportunities; (b) a protective approach towards Rwandans (rather than foreigners); and (c) the need for information.





4. DIASPORA NETWORKS IN GERMANY

4.1. NETWORKS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Rwandan diaspora in Germany is heterogeneous and so is its participation in network activities. Given the small size of the diaspora and the fact that it cannot be assumed that all members of the diaspora know each other or are in contact with each other, there is anecdotal evidence that the community includes both persons who are active in networks and community organizations, as well as those who are not.

There are institutions and organizations that play a major role in community engagement. Some are not necessarily migrant organizations but NGOs that are mainly run by Germans (or other nationals) and support development in Rwanda. Some of the main institutions and organizations that work with the Rwandan diaspora and/or are engaged in development activities in Germany are listed below.

The Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Berlin:²⁵ Since 1962, Rwanda has been fostering diplomatic relationships with Germany that have traditionally been close and good. There are diplomatic representative offices of the two countries in Berlin and Kigali respectively. The Rwandan Embassy in Berlin takes care of all diplomatic issues related to Germany, as well as investments and the promotion of tourism. The Embassy also offers consular services and functions as a contact focal point for all persons from Rwanda living in Germany. The Ambassador actively seeks contact with the diaspora, and there is a contact person for diaspora meetings in Germany as well as for a women's network.

The Rwandan Diaspora in Germany e.V.²⁶ (RDD): The association, established in Germany in 2002, was in Munich and was a non-profit independent and multi-confessional community. RDD was the German offshoot of the Rwanda Diaspora Global Network (RDGN)²⁷ and represented the Rwandan diaspora in Germany. The aim of the association was to connect all Rwandans in Germany, to function as a platform for exchange and to engage in development activities in Rwanda. The projects of the association offered the participants and their families' long-term durable solutions and a sustainable existence.

²⁵ See www.rwanda-botschaft.de/home/?no_cache=1.

²⁶ See www.diasporaengager.com/dir/14616.

²⁷ See <https://diaspora.globalinnovationexchange.org/organizations/rwanda-diaspora-global-network>.



The Partnerschaftsverein Rhineland-Pfalz/Ruanda e.V.:²⁸ For 35 years now, people from Rwanda and Germany have been connected through a special partnership. Established in 1982 as an unusual attempt by both countries to create a new model of development policy, this partnership association in Mainz represents today an internationally recognized model of decentralized and efficient development activity. Some 49 communities are in contact through the association, and 250 schools in Rhineland-Palatinate visit Rwanda regularly.

The Association des Etudiants Rwandais de Kaiserslautern (AERK):²⁹ This academic partnership programme that has been running since 2004 was initiated by Jürgen Nehmer, vice president of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft,³⁰ and Romain Murenzi, former Rwandan Minister of Education. Based on a memorandum of understanding, the programme, which focuses on technical and engineering studies, began in 2005 with a group of 13 students, was quickly followed by a second group of 21 students in 2006. In the period 2005 to 2016, a total of 121 students had joined the programme.

Ruandahilfe Hachenburg e.V.:³¹ Located between Frankfurt and Cologne, this is a non-profit, politically and confessionally independent association with 170 members. Since 2005, the association has had aid projects in the partner district Gisagara in the south of Rwanda, a poor region of the country. The association aims to reduce poverty, increase school attendance and educational possibilities, as well as better health care. It also promotes the social development of especially vulnerable population groups, such as children and youth, the old and sick and disabled persons.

The Association for Sustainable Development in Rwanda e.V.:³² The goals of the association are to protect natural resources and the sustainable development of the farm and forestry industry in Rwanda. It was founded by persons who have been engaged in a partnership with Rhineland-Pfalz/Ruanda e.V. for a long time. The association provides support to the Rwandan population through research and projects in the field of nature and environment protection, especially in forestry, biodiversity and soil protection, and renewable energy sources.

Friends of Ruanda e.V.:³³ This association was established by a circle of friends in Adelberg, Germany, in 2006. Its aim is to improve the living conditions of people in Rwanda to increase employability in other sectors apart from agriculture by focusing on vocational training and fighting poverty. The association was founded to raise awareness and open up funding possibilities, and it is currently carrying out a number of projects.

²⁸ See <http://rwa.rlp-ruanda.de/de/home/>.

²⁹ See <https://aerk-kl.de/tl/Home.htm>.

³⁰ See www.dfg.de/.

³¹ See www.ruandahilfe-hachenburg.de/.

³² See www.sustain-rwanda.org/.

³³ See <http://friends-of-ruanda.org/wir-ueber-uns/>.



Ruanda-Freunde VG/Jockgrim e.V.³⁴ is another association that works on and implements development projects in Ruanda. It sometimes cooperates with RDD. They organize meetings in Germany (for example on International Women's Day) and fuel mutual understanding between the German society and Rwandans.

Gira Impuhwe³⁵ This association was founded in 1990 by a woman who originated from Rwanda. Its initial aim of helping widows and orphans who were indirect victims of AIDS gained importance during the 1994 genocide. Today, the association offers support in a variety of fields but continues targeting persons with AIDS and war victims.

Iriba Shalom International e.V.³⁶ This association was founded in 2015 in Kassel. It works with the survivors of the Rwandan genocide and the young generation to help them regain their dignity. It also works on issues of reconciliation.

4.2. DIASPORA REPRESENTATION

The Rwandan diaspora in Germany, as well as their engagement in development activities, is mainly organized through the above-mentioned associations. These organizations have very different organizational settings. For example, some include Germans and Rwandans, while others do not; some concentrate on a specific group like students or women, while others address a wider target group; and some are diplomatic bodies such as the Embassy, while others are long-term partners in development activities. As a result, they include, on very different levels, different groups of Rwandans or former Rwandans living in Germany.

The one association that used to officially represent the Rwandan diaspora in Germany is RDD. It was located in Munich but operated in the whole country. It is described in greater detail here as it played a vital role in network involvement, as well as in development engagement. While Rwandans can initiate their own associations in Germany without involving RDD, if (development) work on a project basis is implemented, it used to be discussed with RDD in terms of how the project could be implemented and if support was needed. Also, Rwandans got in touch with the association for support if they came across problems either in Germany with documents or with a project-based initiative in Rwanda.

The RDD association was locally structured, which means that there was a responsible person – a focal point – in some of the German cities (such as Hamburg, Mainz, Mannheim and Stuttgart) where Rwandans lived so that they could organize locally. The focal point stayed in touch via email, phone and occasional meetings, which

³⁴ See <https://de-de.facebook.com/Ruanda-Freunde-VG-Jockgrim-eV-304884176208674/>.

³⁵ See www.gira-impuhwe.com.

³⁶ See www.iriba-shalom-international.org/cms/front_content.php.



usually took place twice a year: once as a town hall meeting and once at the annual Commemoration of Genocide against the Tutsi organized by the Embassy in Berlin. The Executive Committee of Rwandan women living in Germany organized an additional meeting each year for Rwandan women. Representatives of the Rwandan Embassy attended some of the meetings.

The diaspora network was a contact point for all Rwandan nationals and their descendants in Germany, and it comprised about 2,000 people, including those who became or were born as German nationals. The network had an email list with about 500 names on it, out of which about 100 are very active members of the association. Contact with the association's members was maintained through the positing of information on RDD's web page or circulation through the mailing list.

According to one key stakeholder, very actively involved diaspora members connected through a shared vision, which is that they were part of Rwanda as a nation:

The “we” feeling is very important for us, because it fuels our motivation to do something for our country. We feel we belong to the Rwandan nation, no matter where we live in Germany. And this feeling is keeping us together and motivates people to take part in the common goal to engage in development and change the situation in Rwanda for the better.

The feeling of solidarity is not shared by all Rwandans living in Germany but is a strong vision of the RDD and most members of its community.

4.3. PARTICIPATION IN NETWORKS

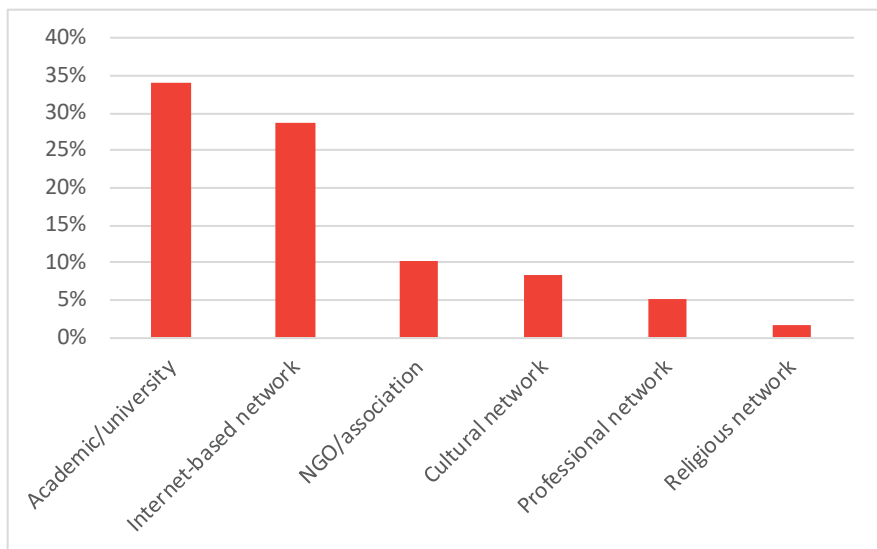
The key informants commented that Germany was a big country, and that not all Rwandans had contact with each other or knew each other in person. Some lived very reclusively, while others engaged very actively in diaspora activities and participated in networks. The community was described as shy and cautious: “Even though some people engage, they do it in a more private way – not in public. Most are hard to reach. They like to do things discretely and in general do not want to share their data. Maybe this is because of the historical background.” It was also mentioned that some Rwandans in Germany had stayed “rather quite” in the 1990s when, because of political concerns, there was no lively network. However, networks and engagement have been growing since roughly 10 years ago.

A number of Rwandan women living in Germany are organized in a network only, meaning that they are not affiliated to an association. They built their own circle and social community that communicates over WhatsApp and meets once a year to debate relevant topics.



In the online survey, 88 per cent of the respondents said that they were members of a Rwandan network (formal or informal). It is to be noted that the survey had been circulated through networks. Respondents indicated the types of networks they participated in: academic/university (34%), Internet-based social networks (29%), NGO/association networks (10%), cultural (8%) and religious networks (2%). As the question on networks was open-ended (no multiple choice), based on the responses, it can be concluded that there exist multiple – not necessarily linked – networks within the Rwandan diaspora in Germany.

**Figure 17. Survey results on question:
“Which kind of network do you participate in?”**

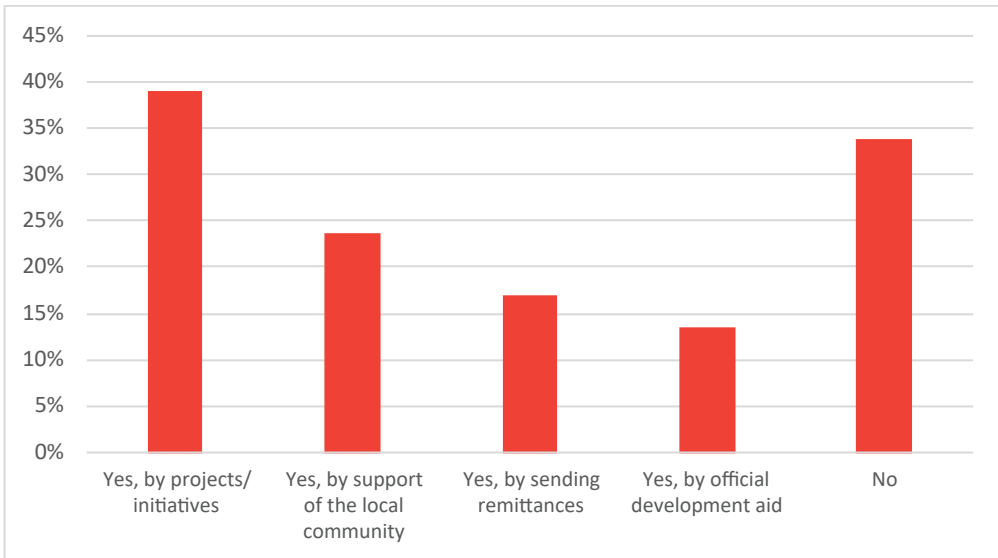


When asked if the respective network was linked to Rwanda, the answers showed that friends and family were the main correspondents, followed by universities, the Government, as well as local organizations and work. A small minority also said that their network was not linked to Rwanda at all, which indicated that not all networks are necessarily linked to the country of origin.

The result of the responses to the question if a respective network is engaged in development activities in Rwanda are presented in Figure 18. The highest participation is in networks involved in projects, and there are many networks that do not engage in development at all but focus on social networking and other activities in Germany.



**Figure 18. Survey results on question:
“Does your network engage in development in Rwanda?”**



Respondents who said that their network actually engaged in development in Rwanda stated that the main areas of engagement were as follows:

- Education/school 54%
- Health 29%
- Vocational training 24%
- Knowledge transfer 24%
- Construction 24%
- Remittances 12%
- Agriculture 12%
- Tourism 10%
- IT/Technology 7%
- Finances 7%
- Enterprises 7%
- Real estate 7%

As this was a multiple-choice option, respondents might have chosen more than one category. Nevertheless, the analysis clearly shows that education/school are by far the main areas of engagement, followed by health and vocational training, as well as knowledge transfer and construction.



4.4. COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE NETWORKS

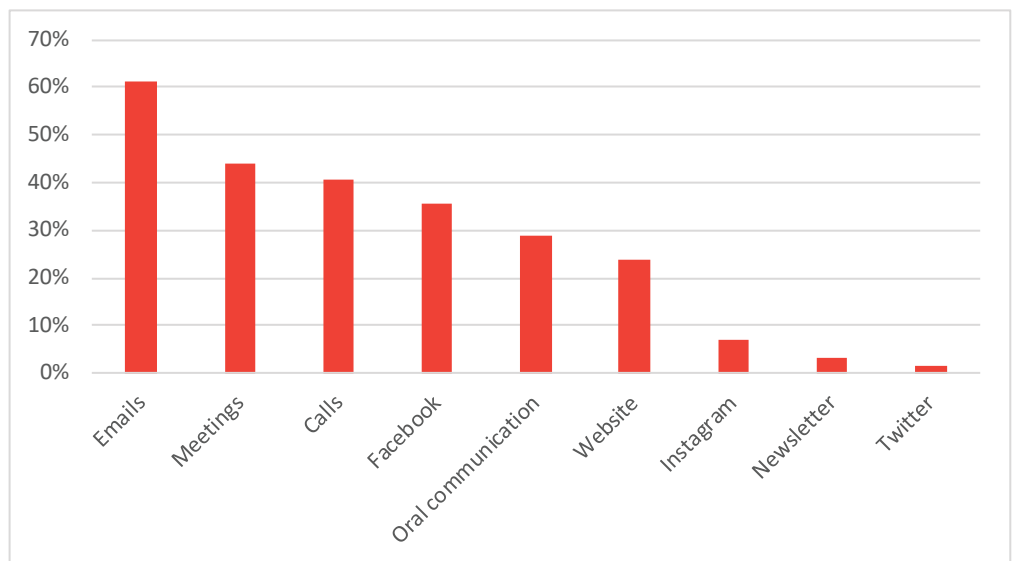
Communication within the diaspora networks goes through a number of channels. All associations previously mentioned have email mailing lists to inform the diaspora or a certain group in the community. However, as some Rwandans in Germany do not have an email, according to some key informants, the communication is often a “one-way communication”. One main communication tool is the Embassy and RDD’s web pages, which have information about upcoming events and visits in the mother tongue, making it thus much more likely to be processed.

Annual regional meetings and events are the main tools to bring together those Rwandans and former Rwandans in Germany who are interested in playing an active role in the community. The annual Commemoration of Genocide against the Tutsi was mentioned several times in the survey as an important event where the diaspora meets and communicates.

There also exists a number of WhatsApp groups that are used to distribute information and keep people loosely in touch and informed about events and new developments in Rwanda and Germany.

In the online survey, the respondents clearly indicated that other channels of communication were also used. As seen on Figure 19, the main tools of communication were as follows: emails (61%), meetings (44%) and telephone calls (41%). These are followed by Facebook (36%) and oral communication (29%). Websites (24%) play a less important role than anticipated; WhatsApp was mentioned quite often under a separate category (“Other”, 19%); and other tools, such as Instagram, newsletters and Twitter play a minor role in communication through networks.

Figure 19. Survey results on question: “How is information shared in your network?”







5. DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT

5.1. DIASPORA AWARENESS AND INTEREST TO CONTRIBUTE

The key informants highlighted that engagement in development activities by the Rwandan diaspora was possible and attractive only for those members of the community who had extra resources and time and who shared a vision to do something for their home country:

There are many Rwandans who are busy with their lives here in Germany. They look after kids and work and do not have any extra time for diaspora activities. And there are always people who are sceptical towards the current government in Rwanda and therefore do not wish to engage, especially those who had fled Rwanda and came to Germany in the context of the genocide. But there are less and less of them as they see that what they are criticizing does not exist anymore. So, interest is also growing within this group.

The analysis of the key informant interviews showed that people who engaged in development activities had some characteristics in common: most have been living for a long time in Germany (over 15 to 20 years) and are well established and integrated in Germany (have a fixed job and speak German). They also share a sense of belonging to Rwanda and want to help their Rwandan fellow nationals (altruistic motive). Moreover, they are willing to work voluntarily and overtime.

Therefore, awareness and interest to contribute depends on the specific individual social situation. The key informants also argued that in order to engage in development, a number of circumstances were needed, and that only a small group of Rwandans or former Rwandans in Germany – approximately 100 persons in the German context – lived such circumstances.

Also, the question of engaging in development is not quite the right question for some groups of Rwandans in Germany because of their specific circumstances. Academic students, for example, who are enrolled in German universities, sometimes do not see themselves as actors in development because they plan to go back to Rwanda and work there anyway. For them, it is often not an opportunity limited in time; they have long-term plans for their future life in Rwanda.

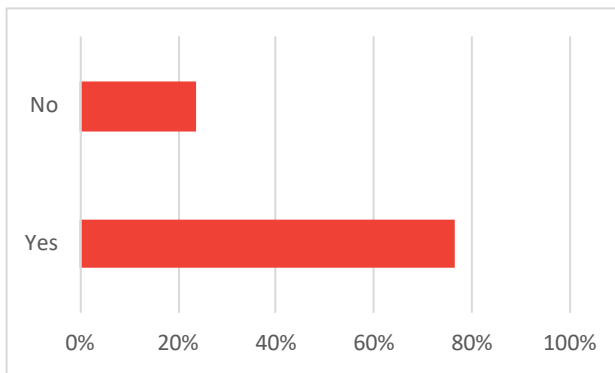


According to the key informants, awareness of the opportunities and facilities available in Rwanda is very high among the 100 very active diaspora members who have the extra time and resources for it. They follow the situation in Rwanda, have ideas on how to engage and regularly discuss and develop possible projects: “Yes, everyone tries to do what they can. They help a lot, and there are also activities that do not go through an association.”

It was also evident from the interviews that most development engagement started with a personal connection. For example, when a need arose in the area where the diaspora member was born and/or went to school and/or the family lived and the family and community were still in touch with the person living in Germany, an activity would usually be initiated to meet the identified need.

When asked in the online survey, if they were currently engaged in development in Rwanda, 76 per cent of the respondents replied affirmatively and 24 per cent replied negatively.

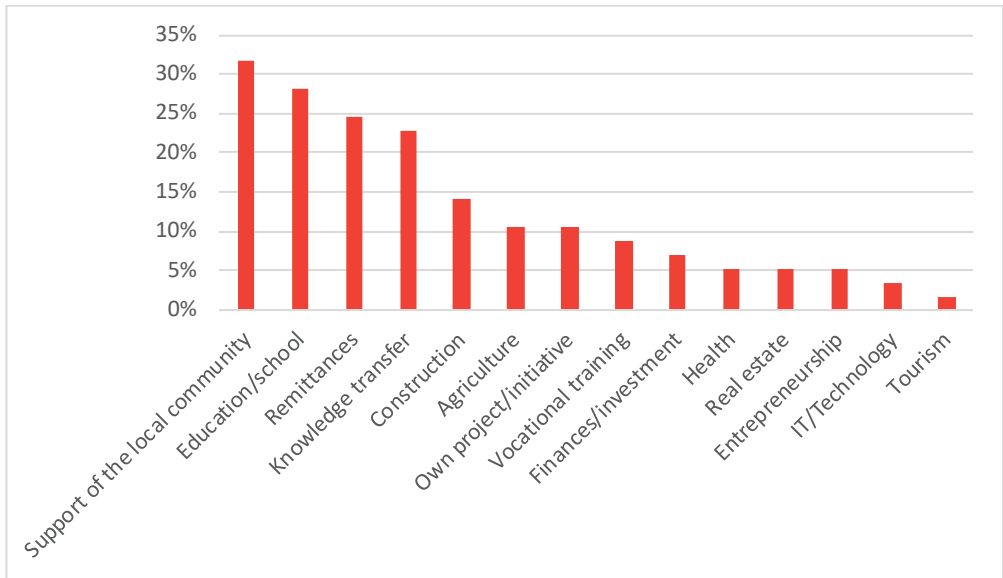
Figure 20. Survey responses to the question: “Do you currently engage in development?”



When asked in which areas Rwandan diaspora members engaged, respondents referred mainly to support of the local community, education/schools and sending remittances, followed by knowledge transfer and construction. Interestingly, these areas were similar to those supported by networks, with the exception of remittances that were referred to more frequently as part of private engagement in development rather than network engagement. This outcome suggests that sending remittances is seen as a private activity rather than an organized form of engaging into development activities.



Figure 21. Survey results on question: “In which areas do you engage?”



When compared with the network activities, it can be seen that, for example, health plays a more important role in organized networks than individual support; while support of the local community is important for both: individual support and organized networks.

One question in the online survey focused on the reasons for not engaging in development activities. Only a few respondents answered this question and, based on these few answers, it can be concluded that the main reason for not engaging was lack of time.

5.2. PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN RWANDA

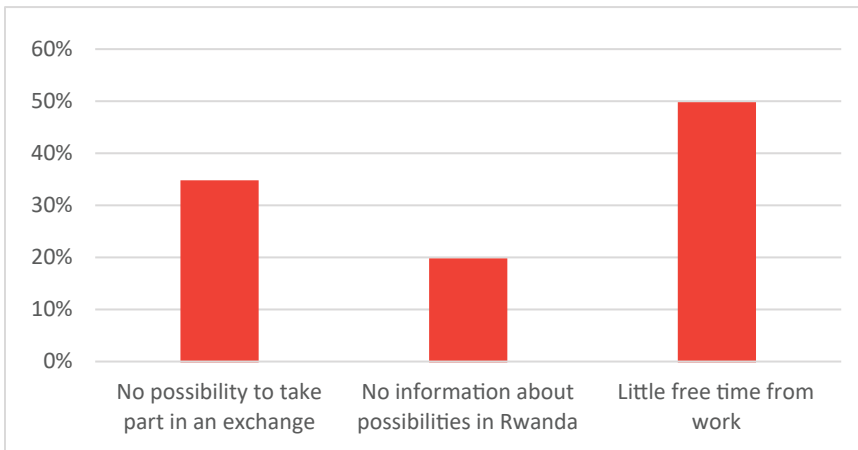
The aim of the mapping exercise was also to find out if and in what areas the Rwandan diaspora living in Germany participated or were interested in participating in vocational training in Rwanda. In response to the online survey question on whether respondents had ever taken part in vocational training as a teacher, 10 per cent replied affirmatively, and 90 per cent replied negatively, which meant that a huge majority of respondents had never taught in a vocational training programme in Rwanda.

The main areas of vocational training in which the 10 per cent of respondents engaged were agriculture, health and teaching (maths). When asked what were the main reasons for not participating in vocational training, the main answer was that there was too



little free time for such activities due to daily work. Other answers included that people did not have the opportunity to participate in an exchange, and that there was no information available about such opportunities in Rwanda. Also, some respondents who were still studying checked the box “other” under “reasons”, which suggests that some Rwandans thought that one could participate in vocational training only when their own vocational training or academic study (in Germany) was completed.

Figure 22. Survey results on question: “If you did not participate in a vocational training programme, what was the reason for that?”



The survey also asked if the respondent would take part in a short-term vocational training programme in Rwanda if asked to do so. Almost 50 per cent of the respondents replied affirmatively to this question but, as 25 per cent of the respondents skipped this question, it can be assumed that the interest and willingness to take part in vocational training in Rwanda, in general, lies below 40 per cent. The follow-up question was: When would you be able to participate in vocational training? The answers to this question varied widely from one week to six months. Some stated that they would prefer the summer, others the winter, so no consistent picture can be drawn from these responses. Another follow-up question was: How could you contribute to vocational training? Here, 67 per cent (36 answers) said they could teach competences/specialist knowledge and 50 per cent (27 answers) said they could work as a consultant. In conclusion, it would appear that it is only exceptionally that the Rwandan diaspora would take part in vocational training and that when it could, there remained the question in which areas. Nevertheless, a significant number of respondents stated that they could potentially contribute to vocational training in Rwanda. Activating this potential is, therefore, a task for the future.



5.3. CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES TO CONTRIBUTIONS

The key informants' responses during the interviews to the question on obstacles that contribute to development varied significantly. Some said there were no obstacles at all, while others mentioned the challenges on the different levels in Germany and Rwanda.

After analysing the answers in relation to other information given during the interviews, it can be assumed that the formulation of obstacles is directly connected to the level of development activities. These activities are carried out on very different levels:

- On a very organized level with support of BMZ and/or GIZ;
- On a professional civil society level;
- On a small-scale civil society level; and
- Exclusively on a private level.

Challenges were mentioned proportionally to the size/organizational level of the respective activity: the bigger the activities, the more challenges were formulated, while in small-scale initiatives and on a private level, almost no challenges were indicated.

Some of the challenges to engage in development activities in Rwanda mentioned during the course of the interviews included the following.

For one, it was mentioned that the working systems and the attitude towards work might be different in Rwanda and in Germany, which can constitute a challenge and/or lead to tensions. For example, if a person living in Germany comes to Rwanda and wants to have everything done his/her way, it will not work very well as Rwandans (in Rwanda) might feel disabused or put under pressure. Change processes have to be accompanied as Rwandans might not be familiar with the concepts and system regularly used in the German work context – such as time monitoring, controls and project management – that might also constitute an obstacle.

Informants stated that a middle way should be found. This also applied to the “working culture”: persons with German background might want to see productivity and (measurable) outcomes that might be interpreted as being strict or pushy; and/or Rwandans might be expected to work independently that can come across as leaving a person on his/her own. These are some of the many factors to be taken into account when it comes to working methods and culture in the two countries.

Other challenges in Rwanda included the general framework and situation: Rwanda has a high population density and subsistence farming dominates the working sector, which fuels country shortages and strains natural resources. Development activities in agriculture have to keep this context in mind. Furthermore, the service and industrial



sectors are rather weak, and the market is small, fragmented and highly regulated. These circumstances make it difficult to get involved in the service sector and the markets, as well as initiatives from Germany. Also, some regional conflicts might occur and the country is far from the world market, which makes access to the latter costly and consequently limits trade activities.

One other obstacle that was highlighted was the financial sector and the high interest rates in Rwanda. A credit might come with a 20 to 25 per cent interest rate, which is quite high and cannot be compensated by a small development project. The bank system is apparently still under development so in some parts of the country, only limited amounts of cash are available; this too can constitute a challenge for development activities.

In addition, some administrative and bureaucratic issues might hinder the diaspora's contribution to development. The citizen service of Rwanda was praised as being very convenient and customer friendly, but other administrative services such as getting a building permit could take very long and be costly. Also, practical issues such as getting a container through customs could take long. The diaspora would welcome the support of the Government of Rwanda in these areas.

A very positive factor in Rwanda mentioned in this context was that corruption in the country was quite low. In general, no bribes had to be paid for any activities. Also, the inappropriate use of power was not very common.

In Germany, there are other challenges. For example, diaspora network involvement and development activities are usually unpaid work that takes place after work and/or at the weekend. In addition, if one decides, for example, to travel to Rwanda to engage in development activities, usually annual leave from work has to be taken (days get deducted for the time spent in Rwanda) and travel costs have to be paid by the volunteer. Some travel costs might be covered by projects, but there remain travel costs that have to be covered on an individual basis.

In addition, project development and implementation often come with reporting obligations to the donor in Germany that require a certain capacity and knowledge and might be a challenge: "You have to be able to speak in a bureaucratic way and meet the conditions and terms of the donor. Plus, certain NGOs might see our projects as competition because we follow a different approach, so the competition is high."

The key informants said that a lot of effort went into "making things work" on a political level as well. For example, a project was planned to enable young professionals from Rwanda to take up internships in German companies so that, once back in Rwanda, they could work on a higher level. To achieve this, a letter was written to the Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller and even to German Chancellor Angela Merkel to push for this idea and put it into practice. At



the time of writing of this report, the first group of selected candidates had taken up their internships.

Apart from the political level, there were some lobbying challenges when it came to funding certain activities. Some Rwandans approach people on a private level; for example, one member of the diaspora told his supervisor about the needs in Rwanda and the latter donated a lump sum. Others would asked for private monthly donations for scholarship or the like.





6. SECTORS OF DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT³⁷

The Rwandan diaspora in Germany is engaged in a huge variety of projects and initiatives in different areas. The examples outlined in this section refer to projects and initiatives identified during the course of the present research and are therefore not exhaustive. Various forms of support such as remittances are described below.

6.1. SUPPORTING SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

The Rwandan diaspora in Germany contributes mainly to basic education and schools. One project, for example, supported a primary school in Nyarubara in the Musanze District (Northern Province) to improve primary education.³⁸ This public school had 1,000 children and 15 classrooms but because of cramped classroom conditions, the children had little motivation to learn. According to RDD's 2016 annual report, the Rwandan diaspora in Germany changed these circumstances for the better by contributing EUR 180,000 for the construction of new facilities. "Among the facilities are classrooms and other commercial structures. Five (5) classrooms, 12 latrines and one staff room were constructed at Ruhehe Primary School in Gatagara sector, and one house was constructed for Byangabo market-based tailors."³⁹ Furthermore, office rooms for the headmaster and teachers were built, as well as a computer room, a library and two additional girls' rooms with showers and hygiene.

The RDD web page reported the vice-head teacher in charge of academics at Ruhehe Primary School as saying that the new classrooms would help reduce congestion: "We are thankful for the Rwandan diaspora in Germany for such invaluable contribution to our school. These classrooms will help us reduce congestion. We used to have 60 students in one classroom, but they will not exceed 45," and he added that staff room will help teachers work in comfortable environments.⁴⁰

During a visit from the author, the coordinator of the RDD said that it was their target to back the Government's development programmes by creating a good learning environment for Rwandan children and contributing to changing communities' lives. A new primary school was opened in October 2016, and the project was financially supported by BMZ.

³⁷ This section deals with the development engagement of the Rwandan diaspora. Development initiatives by the Government of Germany, GIZ and NGOs working in the field of development cooperation are not covered.

³⁸ See www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=8VXIcZ3IIE.

³⁹ See https://en.igihe.com/spip.php?page=mv2_article&id_article=36382.

⁴⁰ Ibid.



The association Gira Impuhwe,⁴¹ which supports children and adults with AIDS and/or who had experienced the war in Rwanda, also offers help in schools and with education by providing chances and prospects for a better future. Their aim is to improve the living conditions of young people in Rwanda by increasing their participation in education. Activities include the following: (a) setting up a preschool and a primary school; (b) encouraging children at all levels of school up until university; (c) identifying appropriate schools for children and adolescents; (d) supporting the acquisition of school materials, uniforms and the financing of school fees; and (e) offering supervision services.⁴²

Gira Impuhwe provides support to children and youth in the Nyanza district throughout the year. The association is financed through private donations, so there is a constant challenge to regularly maintain the services that are in place.

6.2. VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Among its main activities, the diaspora also focuses on vocational training to raise the employability of people in Rwanda. Most activities in this area focus on empowering the people in Rwanda instead of “sending” professionals or members of the Rwandan community back to Rwanda to give trainings. In general, the projects are run by the people in Rwanda – sometimes the church – who act as partners of the respective association in Germany. This might also be an explanation why participation in vocational training was rather low within the Rwandan diaspora in Germany. The idea behind this approach is that empowerment of the Rwandans in the country will be more sustainable than sending trainers there for a limited time. Also, all financial resources go to Rwanda but are not absorbed by the employees of the associations.

Some associations in Germany support their projects through fundraising, offering expertise in project management and technical knowledge or linking projects to share experiences.

A number of vocational training projects target the Rwandan countryside since vocational training possibilities already exist in cities. People in the countryside might have less financial resources to take part in vocational training programmes and therefore need more support to be able to apply for professional jobs.

⁴¹ See www.gira-impuhwe.com.

⁴² See www.gira-impuhwe.com/startseite/formation-de-la-jeunesse/.



Building a modern education centre for seamstresses

The aim of this RDD project is to improve the quality of education for seamstresses and raise their professional ability to act. The project offers learning possibilities for boys and girls and provides them with a qualification that makes them employable and able to earn a living to improve their living conditions.

Without such practical vocational training, the chances of these boys and girls on the local labour market would be quite low. Currently, the programme offers a vocational training course to 15 pupils every six months. The plan is to increase the capacity to 30 pupils by building an education centre with new rooms and store and office rooms.

In 2008, RDD – with the support of GIZ – financed the acquisition of the sewing machines. Since then, the sewing cooperative educated more than 500 young girls and boys. In addition, a sewing machine microcredit was established and implemented. This credit is essential for the sustainability of the education concept as it gives all graduates the possibility to buy their own sewing machine. Sewing machines are paid out in instalments over two years.

Training young women to become ICT specialists

This six-month long programme trains young women to become ICT specialists in application software and offers additional qualification in English and French. It targets girls and young women in the countryside with primary education who did not have the chance to pursue a higher education and secondary school graduates who have insufficient computer skills.

The aim of the project is to raise the possibilities for women to obtain employment in the ICT sector and meet the strategic aim of Vision 2020 where ICT is seen as one of the engines of development. The project is implemented in Rwanda with a partner in Byangabo, and the training cost is approximately EUR 120 for six months per person. Although this is less than EUR 1 a day, participants often cannot pay this amount, which is why RDD gives its support. With the support of the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM),⁴³ 15 young women were able to participate in the training, completed an internship afterwards and found long-term employment.

⁴³ Centrum für internationale Migration und Entwicklung, available at www.cimonline.de/de/html/index.html.



Hotel and catering industry college

The Rwandan diaspora in Germany carries out other projects and initiatives in the field of vocational training through Friends of Ruanda e.V. One of their biggest projects was the construction of a school for vocational training for the hotel and catering industry close to the Kiwu sea area in Rwanda. Training started in 2014 with approximately 430 pupils. The school was the only one of its kind in Rwanda. About 300 pupils lived on campus in boarding-school-like conditions, while the others attended school regularly and returned home after classes.

Today, the college provides training to young men and women in all aspects of the hotel and catering industry in Rwanda – from the reception desk to cooking, knowledge about the tourist industry and computer skills.

The vocational training school includes a garage for the training of mechanics and offers mechatronics training. There are many possibilities in this professional field; pupils study mechanics, mechanical engineering, computer engineering, as well as telecommunication systems and technologies.

Vocational training in crafts

The main goal of this initiative, borne by the association Friends of Ruanda e.V., is to fight unemployment in Rwanda by training and providing young people with qualifications enabling them to get jobs in the crafts sector thus enhancing their future prospects. Currently, there is no system in Rwanda like the German dual system of theoretical and practical learning; also, often parents cannot pay for the education of their children, tools are not always available, and technical knowledge might be limited. To fill this gap, the project helps in the qualification of the instructors by providing tools and a structure where craftsmen can network with each other.

The project's main focus is on the continued training of instructors as Friends of Ruanda e.V. believe that it is not enough to have a teaching certificate. The project targets persons with a minimum professional experience of three years, with social skills and educational competencies, a minimum age of 21 years and no police record. They are taught several skills, such as basics of vocational training, planning and implementation of manuals and curricula, security at the workplace, knowledge about legal frameworks and the situation in Rwanda and introduction to new media. The project is planned for three years, and those companies and/or businesses what are willing to take a teenager on board are supported by the association. They sign a contract with the project partner on site and receive all the tools needed for the vocational training and can thus increase the quality of their production and goods.



Adult education

Since 1995, Gira Impuhwe has been providing income-generating activities for sustainable employment, the improvement of professional qualifications, strengthening the private economy and targeted labour market interventions.⁴⁴ It aims to provide education for adults so that they can pick up an income-generating activity such as employment. It targets the socioeconomically weak local population and especially persons who have AIDS or have experienced war. Activities include literacy programmes, the construction of a sewing school, promotion of agricultural activities and traditional crafts.

6.3. INVESTMENT

Interviews showed that it was commonly known to the Rwanda diaspora in Germany that the Government of Rwanda supports investment from abroad and there was much interest in this subject. According to the key informants, some Rwandans take this opportunity to open beauty salons in Rwanda, start a real estate business or some other kind of start-up. One interviewee operated a coffee plantation close to his former home in Rwanda. In general, these activities are seen as business activities rather than development initiatives. The set-up is very different to that of development projects as an investment and/or business idea has to be profit-oriented because bills and possibly employees' wages have to be paid. Therefore, different structures are needed and the key informants reported that management challenges occurred in some of those enterprises, for example because the person who ran the enterprise would be absent and lacked control.

In the online survey, respondents were asked if they had ever invested in Rwanda; 25 per cent of the respondents answered affirmatively, while 75 per cent answered negatively. They were then asked in which areas they invested. The responses varied, but most investments went into buying property and agriculture as follows:

- “Bought a property”;
- “Agriculture, testing milk quality”;
- “Building, bank, support for local association”;
- “Agriculture”;
- “Education”;
- “IT and construction work”;
- “Bought a flat”;
- “Finances”; and
- “Women’s cooperative”.

⁴⁴ See www.gira-impuhwe.com/startseite/erwachsenenbildung.



There were hardly any challenges regarding investment, except for two respondents who highlighted the fact that investors had to pay more tax in Rwanda, which was a challenge for them.

Apart from private investments, here are two examples of initiatives of the Rwandan Diaspora in Germany e.V. that focus on businesses and their interlink to development.

Competence centre for small- and middle-sized companies

The competence centre of the association Friends of Ruanda e.V.⁴⁵ functions as a focal point for entrepreneurs. It provides information about administrative processes such as registration of companies with the responsible authority, basics of operational and quality management, national product standards, marketing, security at the workplace and employees rights as in the labour law, and protection of workers. It also offers assistance to small and middle-sized companies to set up cooperatives or associations in the districts of Nyabihu, Rubavu and Rutsiro.

The centre's target groups are small- and middle-sized companies in these districts, such as hairdressers, tailors, restaurants, dealers, masons, metal workers and carpenters, which are mainly founded by women and are based on an existing enterprise or business idea. These companies help reduce poverty reduction and help women become independent, which is why they are supported by Friends of Ruanda e.V.

Microcredits

The Isuka Yacu-Cooperative in Rwanda introduced microcredits for small businesses headed by women who were not getting any credit since 2004.⁴⁶ Everyone with a good idea to improve their economic situation is creditworthy. Creativity is a requirement since the areas for agriculture are shrinking and alternatives have to be found to secure livelihoods. Ideas are discussed in a forum and valued on the basis of their projected economic results.

At the time of writing the report, the interest rate was at approximately 10 per cent – a rate only a few women can cover. The aim of microcredits is to lower the interest rate to 2.5 per cent so that more women can be active in business and bring their ideas into fruition. Experience has shown that the payback rate lies at 98 per cent.

Agriculture

Support for agriculture usually went into cattle breeding. An initiative for support to women in Rwanda in pig breeding raised EUR 4,500 of donations in Germany. Every woman got a pig, a vegetable garden and a small field to cultivate manioc and attended

⁴⁵ See <https://lemonaid-charitea-ev.org/bildungsprogramme-ruanda/>.

⁴⁶ See www.friends-of-ruanda.org/mikrokredite.html.



courses on pig breeding and accounting. The idea was that once the sow had its piglets, they were given to other women to raise and so they are able to support themselves. The pigs would be bred, sold or consumed.

The association Iriba Shalom International e.V.⁴⁷ followed a similar approach when collecting donations for cows and sheep to be distributed to women: “A cow is a sign for friendship in Rwandan culture, gives value to society, fights poverty, gives health and is a dowry.”⁴⁸ Once a cow had its calf, it would be given to a woman from another (former enemy) group of the population, the intention being to strengthen reconciliation. In addition, animals give milk, wool and others, which contribute to women’s livelihoods.

Infrastructure

Supporting schools and education also falls under “infrastructure” as schools have to be built. Other projects include the building of streets, wells and houses, such as those initiated by Gira Impuhwe⁴⁹ and Iriba Shalom International.⁵⁰ The latter built houses especially for widows and seniors as these are often too old to build a house themselves or might not have any relatives any more to support them.

6.4. HEALTH, CIVIL SOCIETY AND CULTURE

The Rwandan diaspora in Germany engages in small-scale health initiatives and civil society projects. As there are many small initiatives, only a few are mentioned.

Health

One health initiative came from a blind physiotherapist who regularly travelled back to her country of origin to support her blind compatriots by giving out blind stocks. This action was taken on a personal level driven by the medical condition of the individual and the needs of the people in Rwanda, and it illustrates very well what the key informants argued throughout the course of the interviews: that everyone tries to do whatever they could to support and help within their own sphere of activity.

Another example is that of Iriba Shalom International, which offers support for families by taking out health insurance for them. The association explains on its web page that in Rwanda, people buy coupons from the health insurance office and go to the doctor’s with these for treatment. Health insurance costs EUR 4 a year, so the association tries to support as many families as it can.

⁴⁷ See www.iriba-shalom-international.org/cms/front_content.php.

⁴⁸ See Iriba Shalom International e.V., n.d.

⁴⁹ See www.gira-impuhwe.com/startseite/infrastruktur/.

⁵⁰ See www.iriba-shalom-international.org/cms/front_content.php?idcat=44&lang=1.



Gira Impuhwe offers psychosocial counselling to stabilize persons in need, as well as basic medical care including homeopathic treatment by therapeutic plants. They support the cultivation of these plants, the processing of tea and other forms of alternative medicine and the strengthening of the immune system by local plants.⁵¹

Civil society and culture

In 2018, Iriba Shalom International⁵² built a multifunction centre in the south-west of Rwanda. The centre functions as a meeting point in the region. Prior to this, people got together under a plastic canvas to talk, play and work together. As an “oasis for freedom”, the centre is expected to fuel healing, encouragement and reconciliation by offering self-help projects and training.

According to Gira Impuhwe,⁵³ culture plays an important role in the well-being of a traumatized society. Music, dance, singing and play can increase the enjoyment of life and contribute to the state of a community. Hence, cultural events, such as traditional dance, creative learning and a music theatre project, are offered in the rural areas of Rwanda, where such initiatives are rather rare. The long-term aim is also to keep youth away from criminality and promote personal development through workshops, intercultural exchange and cultivation of the Rwandan culture.

6.5. REMITTANCES

During the mapping exercise research, it became evident that many members of the Rwandan diaspora in Germany support their families in the country of origin in one way or another, but mainly by sending remittances. Even if individuals were not involved in any specific development activity in Rwanda, the financial support of relatives at home was vital.

In the course of the interviews, the key informants highlighted that, in some cases, less and less remittances were sent to Rwanda from Germany as the need for support from abroad in Rwanda was decreasing. The country is much better off economically, and some families are no longer in need of the diaspora’s financial support: “I do not send money home any more. I used to for a long time, but since five years ago or so ago the situation in Rwanda has improved, so my family does not need me to send remittances anymore.” However, this concerned only a minority of families.

⁵¹ See www.gira-impuhwe.com/startseite/gesundheit/.

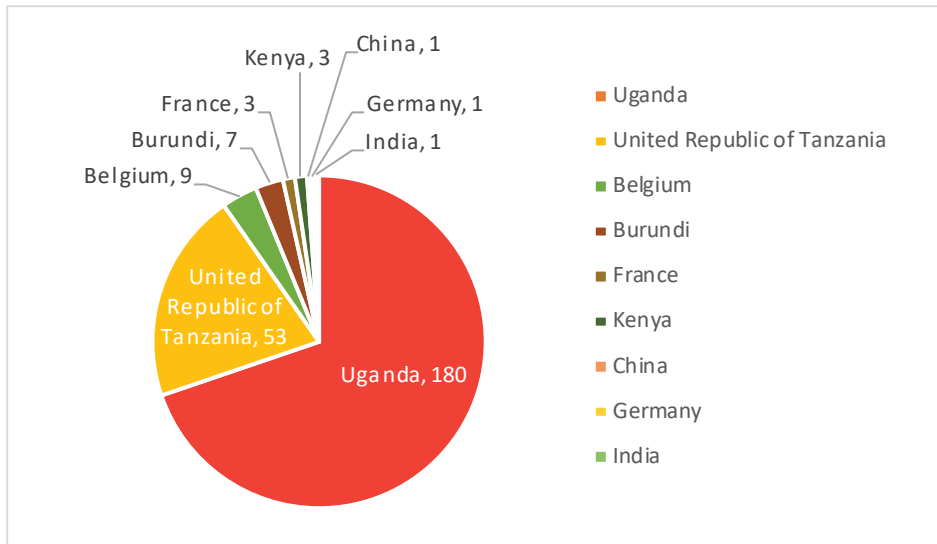
⁵² See www.iriba-shalom-international.org/cms/front_content.php?idcat=72&lang=1.

⁵³ See www.gira-impuhwe.com/startseite/kunst-und-kultur/.



A survey by the National Bank of Rwanda⁵⁴ showed that remittances from the Rwandan diaspora increased over the years from USD 8.22 million in 2006, USD 31.07 million in 2008 and USD 65.07 million in 2010. In 2017, Rwanda received remittances of USD 258 million mainly from Belgium, Burundi, China, France, Germany, India, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda (Figure 23).

Figure 23. Remittances sent to Rwanda in 2017 (in USD millions)



Source: World Bank, Bilateral Remittances Matrix (author's graph).

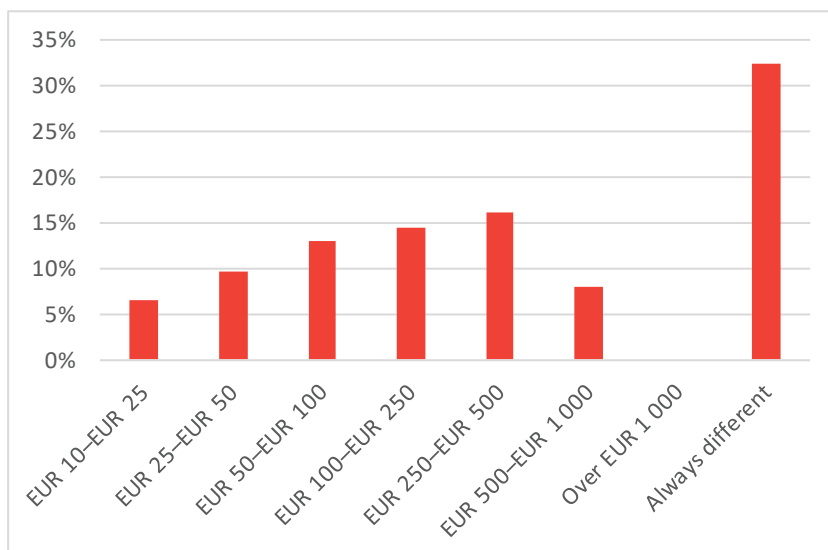
The online survey showed that an overwhelming majority (90%) of the Rwandan diaspora members in Germany sent money home; only 10 per cent said they did not send any money.

The survey also showed that the amount of remittances sent and the time intervals when the money was sent to the country of origin varied: some people sent money home on a monthly basis, some on a quarterly basis and some annually. No time interval was dominant. The amount per month varied between EUR 10 and EUR 25 and EUR 250 and EUR 500 and EUR 1,000. Most respondents stated that they would transfer different amounts or between EUR 250 and EUR 500 a month (Figure 24).

⁵⁴ National Bank of Rwanda, n.d.



**Figure 24. Survey results on question:
“How much money do you send to Rwanda?”**



When these responses were cross-checked against the current employment status, it became evident that the amount of money sent was linked to the employment status: to generalize, students sent lower amounts as their income is probably low; remittances of employees are in the middle range; and remittances of the self-employed – given that their income is most likely higher than that of the other categories – are in the higher range and tend to increase.

Asked who they sent money to, most respondents said to the “family” (89%), followed by to “friends” (32%) and to “finance person” (11%).⁵⁵ This confirms what is commonly known: that remittances are “largely personal transactions from migrants to their friends and families. They tend to be well targeted to the needs of their recipients.”⁵⁶

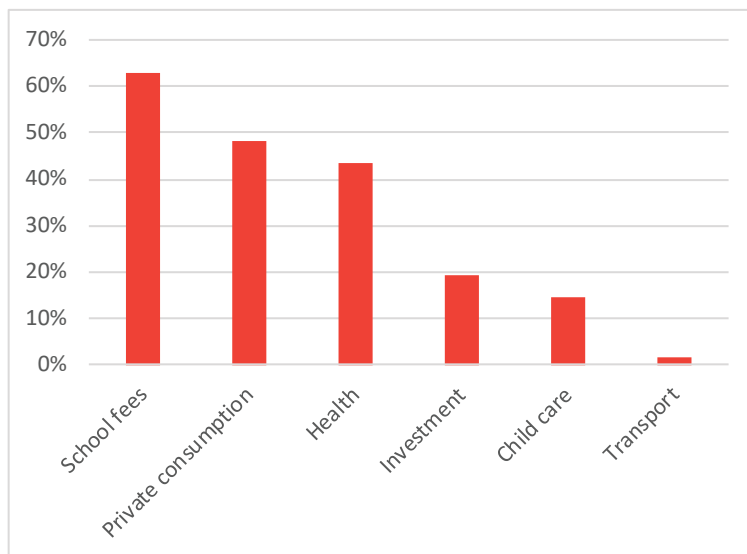
Responses to the question on why/for what purposes money is sent clearly showed that remittances were mainly used for school fees, private household consumption and health services in Rwanda (Figure 25). However, some informants highlighted it was up to the family in Rwanda – not the sender – to decide how to spend the money in accordance with their needs.

⁵⁵ A *finance person* is someone (who is not family or a friend) who takes care of the financial issues. Often, they get money for their services, such as arranging school fees and giving wages of employees. The total adds up to more than 100 per cent because it was a multiple-choice question.

⁵⁶ UNDP, 2011:2.



**Figure 25. Survey results on question:
“Why do you send remittances?”**



The online survey also included a question on how money was sent to Rwanda. The respondents stated that they used an international money transfer service (87%), gave money to friends and family travelling to Rwanda (40%) or took the money themselves when travelling to Rwanda (31%). These were the main options.

In general, remittance transfer costs vary between 3 and 10 per cent. The different service providers used to send remittances from Germany to Rwanda are, among others: (a) Western Union which, although very expensive as indicated by some key informants, was nevertheless regularly used for sending remittances; (b) WorldRemit;⁵⁷ (c) RIA money transfer;⁵⁸ (d) MoneyGram;⁵⁹ and (e) Mergims,⁶⁰ were also regularly used. Seventy-five (75) per cent of the respondents mentioned that transfer costs were high and were a challenge.

Interestingly, more than half of the respondents (55%) claimed they never sent money to Rwanda for specifically development purposes. If they do, 42 per cent stated they sent this money for education, 16 per cent for health, 11 per cent for agriculture and 8 per cent for the financial sector (mainly once a year).

It can be concluded that remittances are largely seen as personal/private money used for individual purposes rather than as financial resources that could/should be used to advance development.

⁵⁷ See www.worldremit.com/.

⁵⁸ See www.riamoneytransfer.com/us/en.

⁵⁹ See <https://secure.moneygram.com/mgo/de/def>.

⁶⁰ Kabeja, 2015.



6.6. FUTURE INITIATIVES

The key informants mentioned some few plans and possible future initiatives. Also, one of the questions of the online survey was how development could be supported in the future.

The key informants argued for a variety of projects, as did the online survey respondents. Therefore, only a summary of fields of activities, not individual responses, identified by the Rwandan diaspora as being important for Rwanda's future development are outlined in this section.

For one, it was pointed out that a comprehensive overview of the qualifications, skills and possibilities to contribute of the Rwandan diaspora in Germany should be carried out on a voluntary basis. Several interviewees assumed there was more potential for contributions than was actually being tapped into at present. Furthermore, the Rwandan diaspora should continue being in contact – as was already the case – and informed about future initiatives and projects. As some groups – such as the women's group – were still getting organized, they could be supported to put their ideas into practice.

A clear focus should be on education and youth, which was mentioned in many different ways. Interviewees said that support should go directly to Rwanda and not be absorbed by institutions, and that education should be one of the main fields to decrease youth unemployment in Rwanda. Existing initiatives, such as school exchanges/partnerships and vocational training (in technical professions and crafts), were highlighted as being very productive. There were also important new ideas, such as granting of scholarships and having exchange programmes with Germany (for example, to be given the opportunity to work in a German company for a limited period and then to return to Rwanda to implement the acquired knowledge in the Rwandan context).

Other ideas that came up when discussing the future development of Rwanda were the need for more investment, support to the industry and better marketing. Some informants were concerned that the “picture of Rwanda” abroad – and especially in Europe – might still be that of the 1990s, and they thought Rwanda should increase its visibility as a well-managed and economically growing country in the world. The discussions also covered ideas on the energy sector, as one of the future sectors in general, and the increased sustainability of certain initiatives.



It became evident that there was a multidimensional shift in the diaspora's understanding of migration and development issues. The more traditional approach where an individual, who has been residing in Germany for a long time, goes back to the country of origin to engage in development activities persists, but is being increasingly eroded with a new approach where people on site are empowered and work on the same Augenhöhe (equal level), train in Germany and work in Rwanda long-term, and where there is more cooperation with bigger companies (for example, in corporate social responsibility). The approaches coexist: traditional development aid concepts are put into practice as is the newly emerging approach. Both should have their place in the future.



ANNEX: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MAPPING RWANDAN DIASPORA IN GERMANY

1. Gender
 - Male
 - Female

2. Please select your age range
 - 18
 - 19–29
 - 29–39
 - 40–49
 - 50–59
 - >60

3. Marital status
 - Single
 - Married
 - Separated or divorced
 - Divorced
 - Widowed

4. Nationality
 - (scroll down menu)

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 - Primary school
 - High school
 - A-level
 - Vocational degree
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Master's degree
 - PhD degree
 - Other



6. What is your employment status?
 - Employed with wages
 - Self-employed
 - Student
 - Out of work and looking for work
 - Out of work but not looking for work
 - Retired
 - Other

7. What professional sector do you work in?
 - ICT
 - Agribusiness
 - Health
 - Education
 - Financial services and financial inclusion
 - Energy and renewable energy
 - Construction
 - Hospitality
 - Other

8. Are you aware of the Rwandan Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy?
 - Yes/No

9. Do you know the Vision 2020?
 - Yes/No

10. What do you expect from the Government of Rwanda to support individuals in their efforts to engage in development activities in Rwanda?
 - (Text field)

11. Are you aware of any development activities/projects in Rwanda supported by the State you live in?
 - Yes/No
 - If yes, which one(s)?



12. How tight are you currently related/connected to Rwanda?
(bar from 1 to 100)
13. Do you belong to a diaspora network (formal or informal)?
Yes/No
If no, please explain.
If yes, which type of diaspora network do you belong to?
NGO/association
Professional/Career-based
Academic
Government
Social/Cultural
Religious based
Internet-based social networking groups
Other
14. Is your organization connected to Rwanda?
Yes/No
If yes, through:
The embassy
Friends in Rwanda
A local organization
Other
15. Is your organization connected to development aid in Rwanda through the national government?
Yes/No
16. How is information shared among members of the diaspora network?
Meetings
Emails
Websites
Facebook
Twitter
Newsletter
Word of mouth
Other



17. Did you contribute as a collective or as a cooperative to the development of Rwanda?
Yes/No
18. As an individual, are you currently contributing/investing in the development of Rwanda?
Yes/No
If no, why?
If yes, please select the sector you are contributing to:
ICT
Education
Health
Financial services and financial inclusion
Agribusiness
Construction
Hospitality
Other
19. If you are currently not contributing/investing in the development of Rwanda, would you be interested to do so?
Yes/No
Why? (text field)
20. Would you be interested in contributing to vocational education in Rwanda?
(Vocational education is a type of education that prepares people to work in various jobs, such as in a trade, a craft or as a technician. Vocational education is sometimes referred to as career education or technical education).
Yes/No
21. If you were asked to contribute to the vocational education of Rwanda, how likely are you to go back for a limited period of time?
To a great extent
Somewhat
Very little
Not at all
(If not at all, why not?)



22. In what ways would you be interested in contributing to vocational education training?
- Engaging in a skills transfer initiative
 - Through providing online training courses related to your sector
 - Through mentoring or consulting
 - Investing financially
 - Other
23. How often do you usually send money home?
- Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Quarterly
 - Annually
24. What amount do you usually send?
- EUR 10–EUR 50
 - EUR 50–EUR 100
 - EUR 100–EUR 500
 - EUR 500–EUR 1,000
 - EUR 1,000–EUR 2,000
 - More than EUR 2,000
25. What percentage of your income do you send roughly?
- Less than 5%
 - 6%–25%
 - 26%–50%
 - 51%–75%
 - More than 75%
26. Who do you send money to?
- Family
 - Friends
 - Investment manager
 - Other



27. Why do you send money back home?

Consumption

Investment

Other

28. How do you send money back home?

International money transfer operator

Local money transfer operator

Via friends/relatives travelling to Rwanda

Bring money back to family and friends yourself when you visit

Other

29. Have you ever sent remittances to Rwanda specifically for development purposes?

Yes/No

If no, please elaborate

30. If yes, how often have you sent remittances for development?

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Annually

Other

31. In what areas do you believe your remittances contribute to the development of Rwanda?

ICT

Education

Agribusiness

Financial services and financial inclusion

Health

Energy and renewable energy

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing

Other



32. In what ways do you think the development of Rwanda can be supported by individuals in the future?

Text field

33. Do you think that returnees can contribute to the development of Rwanda?

If yes, in which way?



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