



GLOBAL
DIASPORA

VIRTUAL EXCHANGES

on Powerful Transnational Partnerships

Public Sector Synergies, Private Sector Alliances and Diaspora to Diaspora Collaboration

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The publication was made possible through support provided by the IOM Development Fund. The co-organizers would like to thank the following for their commitment in the preparation, undertaking and reporting of the 2024 GDVE. These include Larisa Lara-Guerrero (IOM), Roberto Cancel (IOM), Annie Yunxian Jiang (IOM), Paddy Siyanga Knudsen (GRFDT), Iman Ahmed (GRFDT), Kirstie Kwarteng (Independent Researcher), Peter Kwok (GDC) and Josefina Etchenique (MYCP).

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This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM.

Required citation: iDIASPORA, GRFDT, GDC and MYCP (2024). *Public Sector Synergies, Private Sector Alliances and Diaspora to Diaspora Collaboration*. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva.

ISBN 978-92-9268-884-4 (PDF)

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PUB2024/040/R

Public Sector Synergies, Private Sector Alliances and Diaspora to Diaspora Collaboration

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INSIGHTS AND REFLECTION PAPER

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Context

Between May and June 2024, the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#), [iDiaspora](#), the [Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism \(GRFDT\)](#), the [Global Diaspora Confederation \(GDC\)](#) and the [Migration Youth and Children Platform \(MYCP\)](#), partnered to organize three sessions for the 2024 Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange (GDVE) on powerful transnational partnerships. This was the fourth edition of these annual exchanges with remarkable results achieved in the past, including the publication of the report [Global diaspora reacting to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020](#); providing concrete advice on [Building trust, mobilizing resources, and ensuring sustainability](#) in 2021; and discussing strategies to [Enhance communication skills in project management](#) in 2023.

These dialogues have engaged diaspora leaders, policymakers, academics and youth who are instrumental in establishing an ecosystem aimed at maximizing diaspora engagement. Over the years, partnerships forged during these exchanges have facilitated the sharing of best practices, the provision of specific guidance, the expansion of impact through connections and the amplification of voices for diaspora initiatives, including the founding of the [Global Diaspora Confederation \(GDC\)](#). The 2024 GDVE further strengthened and deepened connections between diasporas and other key actors engaged in diaspora engagement globally.

The fostering of multi-stakeholder dialogue platform on diaspora partnerships aligns closely with the foundational principles outlined in the Dublin Declaration, the outcome document of the Global Diaspora Summit, as well as the insights gathered from the discussions during the Global Diaspora Week 2023, organized by the GDC. Building on these conversations and conclusions, the Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges dive deeper into effective partnership strategies and critical elements between diaspora leaders and various key stakeholder groups. These groups include the public sector, both at national and local levels, the private sector and collaborations among diaspora organizations. Each session of the 2024 GDVE was designed to explore effective and ineffective aspects of collaboration within each type, aiming to unlock the full potential of diaspora contributions to development and humanitarian efforts.

The 2024 Global Exchanges aim to foster the self-mobilization and empowerment of diasporas, articulate the value added through collaboration between diasporas and other stakeholder groups, identify effective modalities of partnership and collaboration, and inform strategies for engaging diaspora organizations within the frameworks of the upcoming Global Diaspora Policy Alliance. The objective is to align seamlessly with the vision outlined in the Dublin Declaration, striving for impactful and sustainable outcomes. This alignment is achieved through the strategic harnessing of collective diaspora strength and expertise.

General Objectives of the Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges:

- Continue fostering the self-mobilization and empowerment of diasporas by providing a dedicated space for the exchange, coordination and collaboration among diverse diaspora communities worldwide.
- Articulate the value added of collaboration between diasporas and the other stakeholder groups.
- Identify effective modalities of partnership and collaboration, as well as valuable insights gained from various contexts, through the sharing of best practices.
- Inform the strategies for engaging diaspora organizations within the frameworks of the upcoming Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.



Diaspora collaboration with public entities goes from very practical measures that we can see to many other types of cooperation. These programmes may be funded by range of actors but the critical input is diaspora members contributing their time, sometimes going home, volunteering their support to deliver public sector related outputs in education, health and other sectors.



Paddy Siyanga Knudsen, GRFDT Forum



Theme 1: Public Sector Synergies

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Diaspora leaders and organizations are playing an increasingly pivotal role in development and humanitarian efforts. To unlock the full potential of diaspora actors, effective engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders is essential. The public sector, in particular, plays a crucial role in institutionalizing and sustaining meaningful engagement. Public sector actors operate at local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, offering various entry points, possibilities, opportunities and partnerships across multiple spaces.

During this process, it is vital for public sector actors to ensure inclusivity and representativeness throughout the collaboration. By fostering mutual respect, it is possible to achieve optimal public support for diaspora organizations and develop mutually agreeable strategies to cultivate a neutral and collaborative environment.

1.1 Applying inclusive forms of governance

- Diasporas are key partners across the Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus (HDPN). Diaspora engagement has the potential to be mainstreamed across a wide range of sectors, significantly contributing to economic development, education, tourism, health care, technology and cultural exchange. By leveraging the unique skills, knowledge and networks of diaspora communities, stakeholders can foster innovation, enhance cross-border collaboration and drive sustainable development and humanitarian efforts while significantly contributing to peace initiatives. This comprehensive approach benefits both host and home countries, strengthens global interconnectedness, and promotes inclusive growth.
- Diaspora organizations possess in-depth knowledge about the prevailing challenges, emerging realities and strengths of local communities in their home countries. They consistently stay updated on new policies and regulations governing programme implementation in their home countries. This knowledge, access and expertise are crucial for success, ensuring the effective use of time, human and financial resources. These elements position diaspora organizations as ideal partners for successful humanitarian, development and peace interventions.

- Diaspora organizations and actors, in their variety of forms, possess a diverse array of capacities and operational capabilities, enabling them to address the varied needs and challenges within their communities effectively. From grass-roots initiatives to large-scale projects, these organizations can adapt to different contexts and leverage their unique strengths to implement programmes that support economic development, education, health care, cultural preservation and more. Their varied expertise and approaches allow them to create tailored solutions that resonate with both local and global stakeholders, fostering resilience and promoting sustainable development across multiple sectors. However, smaller and grass-roots organizations often face challenges related to (financial and non-financial) resources which impact on their sustainability. To address this, it is essential to establish mechanisms and horizontal platforms that reflect the needs and aspirations of diaspora organizations, providing a framework for effective engagement with home and host governments. Such platforms should be flexible and adaptable to the evolving landscape of diaspora engagement, creating clusters for specialization and fostering comprehensive collaboration.
- It is essential to adopt a results-oriented approach in diaspora engagement initiatives to ensure measurable outcomes and tangible impact. This includes setting clear objectives and key performance indicators for diaspora projects and programmes, promoting accountability and transparency in diaspora engagement activities to build trust and credibility. In turn, this approach will encourage diaspora organizations to focus on impact and sustainability in their development efforts.
- Grass-roots organizations, within diaspora ecosystem, could benefit tremendously from strengthening their relationship with the public sector. Beyond recognition, platforms for dialogue between governments and diaspora organizations are essential to ensure bottom-up participation. Additionally, supporting capacity-building initiatives for grass-roots diaspora organizations can enhance their advocacy, engagement capabilities and institutionalization. While the flexibility and agility of grass-roots organizations are unique and beneficial, establishing structural connections with partners might create positive spillover effects, such as access to funding, alliances and sustainability. Furthermore, encouraging partnerships between grass-roots organizations and established diaspora entities can strengthen community representation. Examples of effective partnerships included cooperation with embassies, universities and other public sector entities.

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For us, the structure works because we need to channel in all these people interested in joining. So the best way it will be through a structure. We have autonomy to manage because the diaspora changes from country to country.



Laura Aide De La Fuente, Red Global MX
Capitulo Irlanda

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- A key challenge is to work with the diverse diaspora actors, moving away from only engaging with well-established organizations. This approach requires not just recognizing diaspora presence and voice but actively supporting diaspora activities.

1.2 Fostering agile ecosystems of collaboration

- Diasporas are not homogeneous groups. It is essential to promote adaptable and dynamic forms of collaboration that can accommodate the diverse needs, talents, skills, expectations and circumstances of diaspora communities. This tailored and inclusive approach not only strengthens the bonds within diaspora communities but also enhances their ability to contribute meaningfully to their countries of origin and residence.
- Facilitating the exchange of ideas, resources and best practices between diaspora communities and government entities is an effective approach for cross-fertilization across governments and initiatives. This requires the public sector to support initiatives that bring together diaspora groups and local governments to address common challenges and opportunities. Additionally, amplifying the voices and positive impacts of these collaborations is crucial.
- Agile mechanisms should be established to consult and integrate diaspora communities into policy development and implementation in their countries of origin when relevant. This would help to address the questions around the definitions and scope of public sector interventions which vary with diaspora sectors of interest. This approach ensures that their transnational views and unique perspectives are effectively incorporated.
- Critical addition is involving youth in the development of new initiatives, which has an impact on enhancing inclusion, innovation and digitalization efforts. It is particularly essential to engage youth-led diaspora groups and organizations.
- The impact of diaspora engagement can be maximized by fostering autonomy within these communities, promoting ownership and flexibility. Supporting their self-organization and self-representation ensures their voices are heard and needs are met. By providing diaspora communities with the tools and resources they need to independently drive their own development agendas, they are empowered to contribute effectively to socioeconomic growth. These tools should be relevant and addressed at local, national, regional and global levels.

1.3 Building trust and empowering partners

- Recognizing the unique expertise of diaspora communities involves valuing the diverse skill sets and experiences they bring to various sectors. It is about appreciating the depth of expertise, perspectives, networks and resources that diaspora members can contribute to initiatives related to health, climate change, youth, gender and more.

- Transitioning to true partnerships with diaspora communities means moving beyond passive recognition and towards active collaboration. It is about creating spaces where diaspora members are not just participants but are co-creators and leaders in projects and initiatives. This shift requires providing resources, support and opportunities for diasporas to engage in meaningful ways, such as moderating or speaking at high-level events, which not only empowers them but also enriches the initiatives with their unique insights.
- For diaspora organizations, creating synergies at local, national, subregional, regional and international levels can help build a unique brand and showcase their expertise. Such advocacy efforts require patience, resilience and consistent outreach to stakeholders. Branding and packaging are crucial for positioning their work, as diasporas offer a unique value proposition. Their brand should reflect their results, consistency and experience. Diasporas can leverage existing platforms created by public actors to engage at various levels, mobilize their networks for targeted outreach and capitalize on their connections.
- Reflecting diaspora interests in engagement strategies ensures that policies and programmes are aligned with the actual needs, aspirations and conditions of diaspora communities. This involves incorporating their feedback into public processes through consultations and surveys, as well as developing diaspora advisory boards to ensure their vision and perspectives are considered. Organizations like IOM are increasingly institutionalizing these practices.

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Vulnerable groups from marginalized community, youth and children are really at the forefront of building tomorrow. How can we empower them? These groups are key to innovative solutions.

Ambi, Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS)



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Conclusion

- Integrating diaspora perspectives within the public sector, in countries of origin and destination, enhances the positive narrative of migration by demonstrating that diaspora bring unique value to societies. Inclusive governance that fosters interministerial and cross-sectoral collaboration ensures that the multifaceted roles of diasporas, along with their unique transnational identity, expertise and connectivity, go beyond recognition of their contributions. Flexible guidelines reflecting the diverse abilities of diaspora organizations, particularly small and grass-roots entities, provide a robust framework for effective engagement with both home and host governments.



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It's good to have allies within the public sector that helps. When I say allies, it's not just people from a minority background, but also people within the public sector that are willing to take a risk, to take a step out of their comfort zone.



Maureen Duru, The Food Bridge vzw

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- Horizontal and flexible spaces of collaboration are key to maximizing diaspora engagement with the public sector. Diasporas can contribute to the conceptualization, development, implementation, reporting, liaison, advocacy and outreach of programmes, projects and initiatives. However, it is also important to ensure that the expectations of diaspora individuals and organizations are met. Institutionalized organizations might have quicker access to funds and sustainable support due to their structured approach, which is inherently connected to project management, implementation and accountability. However, there is a missed opportunity in not providing more flexible mechanisms for other forms of diaspora groups and actors.
- Promoting adaptable collaboration accommodates the diverse needs of diaspora communities, fostering innovation and cross-fertilization of initiatives. Building trust by recognizing the unique expertise of diaspora communities and transitioning to true partnerships empowers them as co-creators and leaders in initiatives. Reflecting diaspora interests and capacities in engagement strategies aligns policies with their needs, enabling diaspora communities to drive their own development agendas and significantly contribute to socioeconomic growth.

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If you want to go far, go as a team. You learn to build on your strengths and weaknesses and that is very important. That's issue of resilience.



Dr Charles Senessie, Ministry of Health Sierra Leone and former diaspora leader

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Theme 2: Private Sector Alliances

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The interlinkages between diaspora communities and the private sector represent a growing opportunity to fund, expand and scale diaspora-led initiatives in sustainable development, humanitarianism and peacebuilding. Diaspora engagement harnesses the vast potential of a globally dispersed population, leveraging their unique insights, skills and connections to foster innovation and growth. Meanwhile, private sector alliances bring together the expertise and resources of businesses to address pressing challenges and unlock new opportunities. Understanding the synergies between these dynamic forces is essential, as their combined efforts can lead to transformative outcomes for countries of origin, host nations and the global community at large.

When envisioning partnerships in the private sector connected to diaspora engagement, it is important to distinguish between two perspectives: members of the diaspora actively engaging in the private sector and private sector stakeholders interested in supporting diaspora initiatives. By clarifying these roles, stakeholders can better coordinate their efforts to achieve meaningful and sustainable impacts.

2.1 Embracing economic development and market expansion

- The private sector plays a pivotal role in diaspora engagement by expanding markets, fostering innovation, and providing essential goods and services. It generates significant impact, income, and opportunities for innovation through strategic partnerships and policies. The greatest impact within the business community is achieved by transforming and aligning corporate policies, practices, and values with human rights, labour standards, and sustainable development goals, which are also pursued by diaspora communities in their countries of origin and destination.
- The private sector, encompassing both diaspora members with private interests and private companies, plays a critical role in establishing, supporting and sustaining diaspora initiatives. By providing financial resources, expertise and strategic partnerships, the private sector helps create a robust foundation for these initiatives to thrive. This involvement not only strengthens the capacity of diaspora communities to implement effective projects but also fosters innovation and collaborative solutions to address complex challenges.
- Diasporas serve as a bridge to the world, driving the expansion of global markets and niche development. Their transnational networks and cultural fluency catalyse innovation, particularly through private sector partnerships that blend traditional knowledge with cutting-edge technology. These collaborations often result in groundbreaking products and services tailored to the unique needs of diverse communities, thereby fostering a more inclusive global market.
- The influence of diasporas extends to specific economic sectors, such as technology, health, tourism, agriculture and food. They play a crucial role in catalysing business opportunities that directly link the needs of diaspora communities with the economic offerings in both their home and host countries. These industries cater to the needs of diaspora communities and open new avenues for economic engagement.



- Diaspora trade plays a crucial role in the private sector. Banks and corporations in countries of residence are actively exploring ways to integrate diaspora communities to expand their markets and enhance the reach of their products. By doing so, diasporas contribute to a more robust and resilient trade environment, where the flow of goods, services and ideas is enriched by the diverse perspectives and experiences they bring. Countries of origin play a pivotal role in this dynamic by fostering an environment that leverages the diaspora's unique insights and connections. Diaspora entrepreneurs, with their deep understanding of the political and economic landscapes, act as catalysts for investments and bridge-builders for trade and academic collaborations, enhancing the development potential of their countries of origin.

2.2 Leveraging the connections between social integration and corporate responsibility

- Diasporas are instrumental in helping corporations achieve their social responsibility objectives by promoting diversity and inclusion. Their multifaceted experiences and perspectives are invaluable in creating a workforce that reflects the global marketplace. By fostering an inclusive culture, businesses not only enhance their reputation but also benefit from a broader range of ideas and solutions, driving innovation and competitiveness.

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Each migrant represents an opportunity for development. This population can become a crucial assets for destination countries by bridging skill gaps, promoting innovation, strengthening dynamic industries, and catalysing the entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Salomon Raydan, Venezuela migrant,
Catalyst 2030 LATAM

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- Through the celebration of diverse cultural backgrounds, diasporas enrich local communities and advocate for inclusive societal norms. They bring a wealth of cultural capital that contributes to the social fabric, promoting understanding and collaboration across different groups. This cultural wealth is a cornerstone for building vibrant, cohesive communities that are open to learning from one another and growing together. The involvement of diaspora youth is particularly significant as they often embody a blend of cultures and identities, offering fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to cultural exchange. Their remarkable capacity for adaptation and resilience positions them as leaders in nurturing a more collaborative and supportive diaspora community.

- Diasporas track and share successful business stories to change the narrative around migration and demonstrate that migrant populations and diasporas are active economic contributors. These success stories also serve to inspire other diaspora members, further promoting entrepreneurial initiatives within these communities.
- Diaspora leaders and entrepreneurs act as entry points or bridges between diaspora communities and corporations. Diasporas can leverage their professional networks to encourage potential employers to support new labour pathways by sharing information about the skills and education levels of their compatriots back home. They can also assist governments in their countries of origin to better understand the labour needs of their destination countries, thereby facilitating more effective negotiations for new regular labour pathways between the two.
- Diasporas play a key role in shaping policies that provide migrants with necessary documentation, training and financial inclusion. Their advocacy efforts are crucial in establishing collaborative frameworks among governments, NGOs and the private sector. These partnerships are essential for creating supportive environments that enable migrants to thrive and contribute fully to their host societies.
- National private sector entities in both host and home countries have the potential to accelerate the integration of pioneering migrants and diaspora members at the local level by setting up more flexible and agile systems. These systems can provide easier access to banking, social protection, housing and employment. In host countries, diaspora members can leverage their understanding of the local context to navigate and bridge cultural and economic gaps, while in home countries, they can contribute to economic development by investing in local businesses, transferring knowledge and fostering bilateral trade relations. This dual engagement enriches both the host societies by introducing innovative practices and the home countries by strengthening ties and promoting sustainable development.

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[Engaging diasporas] enables services and products reaching the community, also enhancing diversity, making sure that all different minority communities are represented in these organizations.

Dr Mollynn Mugisha-Otim, Africa Cultural Promotion Center



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2.3 Empowering individuals and communities through networks building

- Diasporas are renowned for establishing robust networks that serve as a lifeline for new ventures. These networks provide critical resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities that are essential for fostering entrepreneurship and nurturing business startups. By connecting emerging entrepreneurs with seasoned professionals and investors, diaspora networks empower individuals with the tools and support necessary to turn innovative ideas into successful enterprises.
- Diaspora networks and organizations are pivotal in spotlighting and nurturing diverse talent. Benefitted from their transactional nature, diasporas support migrants and diaspora members in both countries of origin and destination. This is often realized through support to navigate and understand local systems in through every phase of the business set-up or employment; advocate and lobby local authorities to create unique opportunities and programmes that offer flexible funding mechanisms, enabling migrant communities to launch their own businesses. These entities act as a crucial support system, ensuring diaspora members not only find employment but also establish significant professional connections.
- Diasporas can contribute significantly to job creation, facilitating job market integration for migrants and supporting economic empowerment. For example, diaspora entrepreneurs can create jobs for populations in the community of both origin and destination. By doing so, they play a vital role in reducing inequality and promoting social cohesion. These efforts not only help individuals build a better life for themselves and their families but also contribute to the overall economic development of their communities.
- Diasporas not only generate entrepreneurial activities and create jobs, but also boost income and foster integration in their new host countries. Together with their partners, diasporas establish robust networks that accelerate the growth of specialized industries, such as tech companies, social enterprises and social businesses.
- Diasporas also provide mentorship to fellow members through specific leadership and impact programmes, offering tools for both professional and personal growth. Diasporas play a crucial role in providing essential support systems for entry and integration of newcomers in their host society, regarding accessing education, health care, housing, language training and other services. They also help navigate complex bureaucratic procedures to facilitate a smooth integration into their new home. Furthermore, diaspora entrepreneurs, academics and leaders play an active role in opening doors and creating new opportunities for their community members through training, hiring, coaching and unwavering belief in their potential.
- The global potential of diasporas is massive. Diaspora networks extend globally without boundaries, providing cross-fertilization advice to advance entrepreneurship initiatives in new lands. Diaspora networks also assist in the registration of diaspora businesses and inspire new generations within the youth diaspora.
- Through strategic partnerships with microfinance institutions and other financial bodies, diasporas enhance financial inclusion and promoting economic empowerment. These investments have been

pivotal in delivering development solutions on the ground, such as improving agricultural practices, increasing prosperity, and fostering sustainable development in rural areas.

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We are not public sector funded; we are private sector. So we have to be very focused on delivering valuable features, valuable support to individuals and businesses who pay us a membership fee. And without their membership fees we wouldn't exist.



Walter May, Global Welsh

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Conclusion

Diaspora and private sector alliances are pivotal in catalysing economic development, market expansion and fostering innovation. These partnerships facilitate access to global markets, drive sector-specific growth, and enhance trade dynamics, contributing to a robust economic landscape. The cultural diversity and transnational connections of diaspora communities enrich local societies, promoting social integration and advancing corporate responsibility through diversity and inclusion initiatives; diaspora networks and organizations also facilitate the establishment of trust between local authorities, actors and migrant populations.

Enterprises, corporations and foundations play a crucial role in this ecosystem. They not only provide private sector funding for projects that drive economic growth but also engage diaspora actors, such as entrepreneurs or philanthropists, as direct investors and allies across various industries. This engagement leads to the creation of jobs both in the communities of origin and destination, fostering economic empowerment and social cohesion. The symbiotic relationship between diasporas and the private sector not only fuels strategic work around industry-wide collaboration and knowledge exchange but also ensures sustainable and flexible income generation for impactful global development.

Furthermore, these networks collaborate with financial institutions to enhance access to capital, support agricultural improvements and promote sustainable development, laying the groundwork for innovation and prosperity. The collective efforts of diaspora engagement and private sector alliances exemplify a powerful model for achieving economic and social advancement on a global scale. As such, it is critical to ensure that governments, private sector and other stakeholders tackle the root issues and hurdles of diaspora participation in private sector in countries of origin and countries of destination. Indeed, addressing these challenges (such as setting up a business, financing, etc.) should be done working with the diversity of diaspora to ensure the solutions are fit for purpose.



Theme 3: Diaspora to Diaspora Collaboration

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Diaspora to diaspora collaboration represents a unique force capable of accelerating development. Such collaboration encapsulates connections, experiences, resources and networks that can further catalyse progress. This form of collaboration transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, enabling diasporas to unite in their efforts to address common challenges in their countries of residence.

3.1 Strengthening diaspora networks and collaborations

- Diaspora networks and collaborations are pivotal in enabling immediate response and coordination across the globe. Their extensive reach and connectivity allow for swift mobilization of resources and expertise, facilitating timely interventions in response to various challenges faced by their communities.
- The unique capacity of diaspora networks to grow organically across the globe is a testament to their adaptability and resilience. These networks thrive on the shared experiences and common heritage of their members, fostering a sense of unity and purpose that transcends geographical boundaries.
- At the regional level, diaspora networks provide a sense of belonging, particularly for national diasporas with small numbers in a specific country of residence. The ability to connect based on regional ties and a shared sense of belonging is crucial for maintaining cultural bonds, supporting common causes, and developing joint strategies for development and humanitarian efforts.
- Diaspora platforms serve not only as facilitators of connections and networks but also as representatives and shapers of the image and perception of their country of origin. By acting as ambassadors of their culture and country, diasporas provide a more nuanced and accurate vision of their homelands to the host society. They also have the power to demonstrate how their background and actions contribute to their residence societies.
- The efforts among diaspora organizations are maximized and scaled up to enhance access to advice, transnational networks, resources and partnerships. This strategic approach allows for a greater impact and reach, benefiting both the diaspora communities and their countries of origin. In destination countries, these organizations can serve as crucial platforms for diaspora members to connect, share resources, and collaborate on initiatives that drive development in their homelands, while also contributing to the cultural and economic fabric of their new communities.
- With their diplomatic capital and presence, diasporas can forge strong connections between their countries of origin and residence. These connections are crucial for fostering mutual understanding and cooperation, which are essential for the well-being of diaspora communities. Recognizing diasporas as genuine partners and valuing their diplomatic capacity is essential. This approach empowers diasporas to effectively negotiate, inform, represent, advocate and deliver concrete solutions for their communities.

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Migrants and diasporas are not homogenous categories. We need to address that diaspora collaboration is actually not self-serving. It is for the whole of migrants.



Prof. Binod Khadria, GRFDT

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- Diaspora to diaspora collaboration harnesses the strengths of diverse, transnational communities to address development and humanitarian challenges effectively. Their unique ability to bridge cultural divides, mobilize resources, transfer knowledge, and advocate for change makes them invaluable partners in achieving sustainable development and humanitarian goals.
- Diaspora organizations are uniquely positioned to respond directly to the needs of their diaspora populations and address the common challenges they face. Their intimate understanding of these challenges enables them to provide targeted and effective support.

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Youth bring innovative ideas and fresh perspectives to the development of diaspora organizations and their mission. Their inclusion is essential for making sure these organizations remain dynamic and responsive to evolving community needs.



Aitolgon Boronbaeva, Danaker

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3.2 Synergizing for growth through capacity-building and resource sharing

- The collaboration between diaspora organizations facilitates the pooling of resources and expertise, allowing each entity to bring its unique strengths, cultural insights and specialized knowledge to the table. This collective approach effectively addresses shared challenges such as integration, discrimination and economic empowerment in their respective host countries.
- A key aspect of diaspora to diaspora collaboration is its role in addressing generational gaps among diaspora and migrant populations. Experienced organizations can nurture and foster the next generation of leaders, ensuring the sustainability and evolution of diaspora initiatives. These exchanges are vital for communities to learn about specific topics, share specialized technical expertise, and create a true peer-to-peer learning experience.
- Diaspora collaboration involves cascading and integrating knowledge from other grass-roots organizations and exchanging skills, which enriches the collective capability of the networks.
- Diaspora to diaspora collaboration is essential for sharing best practices, tips and tricks that further access to funding, improve activity implementation and accelerate impact. These collaborations should include young diaspora members from various countries, regions and age groups, ensuring a diverse and inclusive approach.
- Diaspora empowerment also stems from peer-to-peer learning, having voices heard, and organizing and driving processes. Diaspora organizations possess valuable expertise in structuring, governing, organizing, funding, connecting and implementing strategies effectively, thereby becoming sustainable entities. By actively engaging in training, sponsoring, mentoring and partnering with other organizations, diaspora organizations enhance their capacity, extending their reach and influence.

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We need to put the cultural initiative in a most valued place because those are very often initiatives for peacebuilding, for achieving interdiaspora collaboration, for also address critical issues as mental health. Cultural approaches are very often underestimated and also underfunded.



Ana María Díez, Coalición por Venezuela

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3.3 Uniting for strategic collaboration and advocacy

- When developing programmes and policies, it is crucial to acknowledge the diversity among diasporas, including varied experiences, religious and ethnic backgrounds. This recognition allows for more tailored and effective collaborations.
- Collaborations should focus on the specific interests of diaspora members, leveraging their skills and personal interests to ensure engagement and meaningful participation. Reflecting on both long-term and short-term collaborations is important, as well as those that consider specific sectors, to create sustained and impactful alliances.
- Diaspora organizations often collaborate on common interests to improve their capacity, outreach and networks, seeking mentorship and guidance on building effective systems within their organizations. Diaspora networks and expressions can enhance and diversify host communities, bringing new perspectives and contributions to the social and economic fabric. They have the capacity to create alliances that demonstrate their contributions at regional and global levels and combat xenophobia.
- Diaspora collaboration extends from individual efforts to more organized levels, acting as connectors, mobilizers and support networks for diaspora members seeking job opportunities or relevant information in their new homelands. Collaboration is an effective strategy to counteract competition among diaspora groups, fostering a more cooperative and united approach.
- The unique capacities of diaspora youth organizations are essential for ensuring dynamic and responsive community needs, making their inclusion in collaborations vital. Through solid knowledge and access to new technologies, understanding of new way of diaspora engagement for second and third generations, these organizations are instrumental in mobilizing youth, promoting leadership and driving social change through various initiatives. Incorporating the role of diaspora youth into collaborations not only enriches the initiatives but also ensures that the programmes are attuned to the aspirations and challenges of younger generations, thereby fostering sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Diaspora to diaspora collaboration opens new doors to advocacy, mobilizing key networks, creating best practices, fostering mentorship and serving as a source of inspiration for all involved.
- Governments are encouraged to recognize the potential in the size, quality and networks of their diasporas, which can significantly contribute to national development.
- With their diplomatic capital and presence, diasporas can forge strong connections between their countries of origin and residence. These connections are crucial for fostering mutual understanding and cooperation, which are essential for the well-being of diaspora communities. Recognizing diasporas as genuine partners and valuing their diplomatic capacity is essential. This approach empowers diasporas to effectively negotiate, inform, represent, advocate and deliver concrete solutions for their communities.



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How we can bring that for the diaspora organization experience sharing then networking opportunities. That for me is crucial because events in different regions can make sure the diaspora come together to network and share practices.



David Kpondhou, Africa Diaspora Network Japan (ADNJ)

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- Diaspora to diaspora collaboration harnesses the strengths of diverse, transnational communities to address development and humanitarian challenges effectively. Their unique ability to bridge cultural divides, mobilize resources, transfer knowledge, and advocate for change makes them invaluable partners in achieving sustainable development and humanitarian goals.
- Diaspora organizations are uniquely positioned to respond directly to the needs of their diaspora populations and address the common challenges they face. Their intimate understanding of these challenges enables them to provide targeted and effective support.

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Young people embody the hope for better, more innovative, and effective solutions to the world's challenges. By fostering the development of diaspora organizations for youth around the world and creating spaces for dialogue between these young leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders, we empower these solutions to gain strength and drive real and impactful change.



Josefina Etchenique, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)

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With their unique cultural capital and community-based skills, diaspora serve as excellent allies and bridges. And lastly, diaspora are natural networkers who create jobs, support capacity-building and develop infrastructure for innovation.

Ugochi Daniels, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



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Conclusion

Diaspora to diaspora collaboration represents a transformative approach in transnational engagement, leveraging shared experiences, resources and networks to drive development and innovation. This approach transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, uniting diasporas to address common challenges and seize growth opportunities. By transcending geographical and cultural boundaries, diasporas can unite to address common challenges and seize growth opportunities. Strengthening these networks facilitates immediate response and coordination, enhances access to resources and fosters a sense of belonging and cultural identity among diaspora communities. Diaspora platforms not only connect members but also serve as ambassadors, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between countries of origin and residence.

The collaborative efforts among diaspora organizations, through capacity-building and resource sharing, effectively address shared challenges such as integration, discrimination, economic empowerment, development and humanitarianism. This synergy allows for peer-to-peer learning, mentoring and sharing best practices, ensuring the sustainability and evolution of diaspora initiatives. Recognizing the diversity within diaspora communities and focusing on specific interests and skills enhances engagement and meaningful participation. By creating strategic alliances and advocacy networks, diaspora organizations can combat xenophobia, enrich host communities and significantly contribute to development.



Engaging the Next Generation: Reflections on 2nd and 3rd Generation Diaspora

- Collaboration and partnerships across the different generations of diasporas are crucial. They support social cohesion, peer-to-peer learning, and raise awareness about the diverse groups within the diaspora committed to supporting their societies.
- Diaspora youth leaders create new content and innovative ways of engaging. Technology has opened a wide array of possibilities for reconnecting with their heritage. Young people engage with their homelands differently, using technology for rapid communication and constant interaction. Recognizing these unique engagement methods is important.
- Diaspora youth, especially the second and third generations, develop their sense of belonging to their country of heritage differently than the first generation. It is important to acknowledge that this sense of belonging may vary at different ages and throughout their lives. Their engagement with their homeland may be intermittent and, in some cases, related only to specific aspects. In addition, the form and intensity of engagement will be determined by their own experience in their country of residence.
- Youth members of the diaspora may engage in various ways, including creating new local platforms, participating in community service, civic programmes, volunteering for campaigns and leveraging their cultural capital. It is important to acknowledge these new ways of engagement and understand the dynamics that trigger and sustain attachment to their homeland.
- Youth diaspora members might distance themselves from traditional institutions and engage with their homeland through original initiatives, valuing horizontality, friendship and trust.
- Through self-reflective processes on their experiences, youth members of the diaspora define their own sense of belonging, attachment and engagement. These individual processes of self-reflection are influenced by actors and dynamics embedded in multiple social spaces which include their home countries, host countries, and individual and intra-diaspora dynamics.
- The younger generation of the diaspora creates their own spaces for experience and engagement, where they can share their experiences, establish social links and experiment with alternative practices of transnational engagement.
- Intergenerational partnerships can provide access to new engagement techniques, diverse perspectives and new partners. Both the public and private sectors recognize youth as key elements in policymaking and development. There are opportunities exclusive to young members of the diaspora, such as grants, scholarships and specialized programmes, that can be particularly beneficial for the diaspora community.

Recommendations

It is evident that diaspora engagement can be significantly enhanced through strategic partnerships and targeted initiatives. Strategies, alliances and connections with diaspora communities must involve them at all stages – an inclusive approach is a prerequisite. The following recommendations are designed to go beyond dialogue by harnessing the unique strengths of diaspora communities, fostering inclusive governance, empowering grass-roots organizations, leveraging private sector partnerships and promoting robust networks for peer-to-peer learning. The aim is to create a more cohesive and impactful approach to diaspora engagement, driving sustainable development and socioeconomic growth across borders.

Develop inclusive governance frameworks

- Developing inclusive governance frameworks requires fostering interministerial collaboration to integrate diaspora perspectives into a wide range of policy areas, beyond just migration and development. This approach ensures that development policies are more responsive and inclusive of diaspora interests and contributions.
- It is essential to develop cross-sectoral strategies that encompass multiple sectors, recognizing the intersectional roles diasporas play in society. This fosters a more comprehensive and people-centred approach to policymaking and implementation.
- Recognizing and harnessing the unique knowledge, positioning and networks of diasporas can significantly enhance the effectiveness and innovation of programmes and policies targeting migrant and diaspora communities. This approach ensures that these policies are inclusive, adaptive and better suited to address contemporary challenges.

Institutionalize engagement with diaspora organizations

- Institutionalizing diaspora engagement within the governance structure enhances the role of diaspora organizations. While formalized organizations are easier to engage with administratively for governments and partners, less formalized groups also play a significant role in mobilizing resources, advocating and supporting initiatives both in countries of origin and destination. Diaspora organizations have the potential to be trustworthy and reliable partners for governments, international organizations and other stakeholders.
- Creating more flexible options for grass-roots and less formalized diaspora organizations can better position them to access funding and resources from donors, governments, and private sector partners. These diaspora actors can be supported with clear governance structures and transparent operations, which build confidence among funders and attract investment.
- Formal governance frameworks promote accountability and transparency in diaspora organizations' operations. Implementing policies and procedures ensures that activities are conducted ethically, funds are managed responsibly and stakeholders are kept informed. This can impact the effectiveness of diaspora communities' advocacy and interests as well as influence policy decisions.

Support and empower diaspora grass-roots organizations

- Creating dedicated platforms for meaningful dialogue between governments and grass-roots diaspora organizations is crucial to ensure their voices are heard in policy discussions. This fosters a bottom-up approach to policymaking and ensures an inclusive approach in implementation.
- Publicly acknowledging the contributions of grass-roots organizations enhances their visibility and credibility. Elevating the diaspora actors' profile within public sector encourages greater participation and engagement from these organizations and fosters their commitment in development efforts.
- Exploring flexible ways of supporting and funding grass-roots organizations catering to their capacity is critical to sustaining their commitment and interest in development strategies.
- Investing in training and capacity-building initiatives for grass-roots organizations is vital to improve their advocacy, organizational and engagement skills. This empowers them to effectively deliver on their results, represent and support their communities. Where feasible, grass-roots organizations could opt to formalize their structure and/or partner with other recognized and registered organizations to increase visibility of diaspora actors in development.

Promote results-oriented approaches in diaspora engagement

- Establishing clear goals and key performance indicators for diaspora projects is essential to track progress and impact of diaspora interventions. This promotes a results-oriented approach to diaspora engagement.
- Promote accountability, reporting and transparency in diaspora engagement activities to build trust and ensure the credibility of initiatives and sustainability of engagement results. This approach will encourage greater participation and commitment from diaspora communities, fostering more effective and sustainable collaboration.
- Develop mechanisms that enable diaspora communities to actively participate in the conceptualization, programming, implementation, and feedback of development programmes and policies. This will foster a truly multi-stakeholder and all-of-government approach, ensuring more comprehensive and effective outcomes.

Leverage private sector partnerships for market expansion and entrepreneurship

- Recognize the unique role that diasporas play in relation to the private sector. Diasporas can act as allies to corporations, helping to accelerate and achieve sustainable goals in multiple areas. As private actors themselves, diasporas finance and create opportunities for employment, investment and specific economic development programmes.

- Strengthening diaspora networks to provide essential resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities for entrepreneurs and business start-ups promotes economic empowerment and job creation. This supports the entrepreneurial spirit within diaspora communities.
- Work with the diversity of diaspora to tackle the root issues and hurdles of diaspora participation in private sector in countries of origin and countries of destination.
- Promoting initiatives that enhance economic empowerment and job creation within diaspora communities leverages their entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen. This fosters a more inclusive and vibrant economy that recognizes the diaspora as essential actors.

Foster robust diaspora networks and peer-to-peer learning

- Enhancing the capacity of diaspora platforms and networks to respond swiftly and coordinate effectively at various levels leverages their adaptability and resilience. This ensures agile, timely and effective response to various challenges.
- Encourage strategic alliances and advocacy networks among diaspora organizations to address persistent challenges on narratives related to race and migration, which impact significantly on diaspora well-being and development of host and home countries.
- Supporting collaboration between diaspora organizations across different generations fosters intergenerational cohesion and community spirit, which positively impacts the sustainability of initiatives and engagement results. This approach promotes the continuous growth and development of diaspora organizations, leaders and actors.
- Facilitating the exchange of best practices, mentorship and technical expertise among diaspora organizations strengthens their collective capabilities and impact. This fosters a more collaborative and supportive diaspora community. Incorporating governance and structure into these exchanges ensures that diaspora organizations can institutionalize their efforts, creating sustainable and effective operations.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of organizations and partners who participated in the 2024 Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges

Partner organizations	Name
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Ugochi Daniels Monica Goracci Stephanie Dei Larisa Lara-Guerrero Roberto Cancel Annie Yunxian Jiang
Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT)	Prof. Binod Khadria Paddy Siyanga Knudsen Iman Ahmed Kirstie Kwarteng
Global Diaspora Confederation (GDC)	Peter Kwok Elnura Omurkulova-Ozierska
Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)	Josefina Etchenique Hector Poveda
Participating organizations	
Africa Cultural Promotion Center	Dr Mollynn Mugisha-Otim
Africa Diaspora Network Japan	David Kpondehou
Catalyst 2030 LATAM	Salomon Raydan
Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS)	Ambi
Danaker	Aitolgon Boronbaeva
Entrepreneurship Association of Afghan Women	Mawloda Hassas
Global Welsh	Walter May
Ministry of Health, Sierra Leone and former diaspora member	Dr Charles Senessie
Red Global MX Capitulo Irlanda	Laura Aide De La Fuente
The FoodBridge vzw	Dr Maureen Duru



Annex 2: Banners Virtual Exchanges

Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange Session 1



Public Sector Synergies

April 24, 2024 - 15:00 - 17:00 CET | Language: English

Opening and Closing Remarks

Monica Goracci
Director a.i.,
Department of Mobility
Pathways and Inclusion
IOM



Dr. Charles Senesie
Deputy Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Sierra Leone



Peter Kwok
Founding Chair of Global
Diaspora Confederation
(GDC)



Moderator



Paddy Siyanga Knudsen
Co-Vicepresident
GRFDT Forum

Speakers



Ambi
Research Associate
Centre for Migration,
Mobility and Diaspora
Studies (CMMDS)



Dr. Maureen Duru
Founder and Director
The Food Bridge vzw



Laura Aide De La Fuente
Sociologist, Senior
Project Manager &
Former President of
RGMX Ireland

Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange Session 2



Private Sector Alliances

May 22, 2024 | 15:00 to 17:00 CET | Language: English

Speakers



Salomon Raydan
Venezuela Migrant
Ashoka Fellow, Catalyst
2030 LATAM Coordinator



Dr. Mollynn Mugisha-Otim
Managing Director
Africa Cultural
Promotion Center



Walter May
Founder & CEO
Global Welsh

Opening and Closing Remarks



Stephanie Dei
Head of the Private Sector
Partnerships Division, IOM



Hector Poveda
Climate Mobility Lead
MYCP

Moderator



Mawloda Hassas
Co-founder
Entrepreneurship Association
of Afghan Women

Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange Session 3

GLOBAL DIASPORA | VIRTUAL EXCHANGES
on Powerful Transnational Partnerships

iDIASPORA
CONNECT LEARN CONTRIBUTE

MYCP

GLOBAL DIASPORA CONFEDERATION

GRFDT

IOM
UN MIGRATION

Diaspora to Diaspora Collaboration

June 19, 2024 | 15:00 to 17:00 CET | Language: English

Speakers



Ana Maria Diez
Co-founder and President
Coalicion por Venezuela



David Kpondehou
President and Founder
Africa Diaspora
Network Japan



Aitolgon Boronbaeva
Founder
Danaker

Opening and Closing Remarks



Binod Khadria
President
GRFDT



Ugochi Daniels
Deputy Director General
IOM

Moderator



Elnura Omurkulova-Ozierska
Global Secretariat team member
GDC

Annex 3: Guiding questions for each session

Public Sector Synergies – 24 April 2024

- How do public sector actors identify/select which diaspora organizations/leaders to listen to and cooperate with?
- How can inclusivity and representativeness be ensured and maximized in the selection process?
- What level of public support is considered ideal for diaspora organizations – ranging from direct establishment to passive recognition?
- How is the politicization of diaspora communities avoided to ensure a neutral and collaborative environment?

Private Sector Alliances – 22 May 2024

- How can engaging with diaspora communities assist the private sector in achieving its objectives and fulfilling commitments?
- What private sector practices are already contributing to enabling, engaging and empowering diaspora engagement?
- Are there examples of the private sector successfully fostering horizontal partnerships with diaspora or migration origin organizations that can be scaled or replicated?
- How can the public sector facilitate inclusive partnerships with the private sector and civil society to empower diasporas as active contributors to development?

Diaspora to Diaspora Collaboration – 19 June 2024

- What benefits arise from collaboration among diaspora organizations, particularly those representing diverse diaspora communities?
- Can you provide specific examples of successful collaborative projects that have yielded tangible benefits for diverse diaspora communities?
- What have been the main challenges in establishing and maintaining such partnerships?
- What tools could enhance the strengthening of collaboration and cooperation among diaspora organizations?



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