

iDIASPORA

NEWSLETTER

For diaspora leaders, organizations and supporters

WELCOME

Diasporas bring invaluable economic, cultural, human, and social capital to societies. Governments, organizations and partners worldwide have recognized their potential as development actors in multiple initiatives. This newsletter seeks to highlight key diaspora stories, successes, events, resources and relevant activities to both diasporas themselves and their supporters. If you would like to submit to the newsletter, or have any questions, please email idiaspورا@iom.int.

FEATURED STORY

The third edition of the Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges is back!

During the [Global Diaspora Week](#) organised by the Global Diaspora Confederation, diaspora organizations requested to keep supporting diaspora communities to boost their capacities for development. As a result, the 2023 Global Exchanges have focused on enhancing communication techniques, strategies, and tools across the different phases of project management. [Join us](#) for the third and last session on May 3rd: Innovative Tools.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

Each iteration of the Newsletter will feature a different diaspora organization that is active in the humanitarian-development space or other relevant sector. The third organization to be featured is Genesis Entrepreneurship Trust - GET, a diaspora organization founded in 2016 to equip youth with entrepreneurial skills.

The founder, Dr. Jessica Hamadziripi, was moved by the plight of vulnerable youth who had no source of income and were spending time on the streets of Harare, Zimbabwe. GET was born out of her commitment to empowering underserved communities.

REGIONAL FOCUS: SOUTHERN AFRICA

In this issue, our Regional Focus takes us to Southern Africa. IOM Pretoria shared how the 2017 Ministerial meeting at the Migration Dialogue in Southern Africa (MIDSA) recommended the development of programmes and innovative activities for the active engagement of Youth and Diaspora to make a meaningful contribution to their countries and to the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a Regional Economic Community comprising 16 Member States that have increasingly recognised the developmental potential of well-managed migration.

GLOBAL NEWS AND RESOURCES

On the final page is a list of the latest news, events and resources from diaspora organizations and supporters from around the globe. In this issue, find additional resources including a new paper on Diasporas and Transnational identities, an article on Tunisia's Sub Granting Project, the successful campaign on [#UruguayConecta](#), new iDiaspora Stories featuring diaspora leaders, and other innovative diaspora successes.



JOIN US TODAY! [HERE](#)

PAGE 1 of 4

FEATURED STORY



GLOBAL DIASPORA

VIRTUAL EXCHANGES

on Communication to boost development

The 2023 Global Exchanges focused on enhancing communication techniques, strategies and tools across the different phases of project management. By providing concrete strategies on how to enhance their communication skills, consider strategic techniques and implement new tools, stakeholders will be able to maximise the impact of their transnational initiatives.

General Objectives of the 2023 Global Exchanges:

- Continue contributing to the self-mobilization and empowerment of diasporas.
- Boost diaspora engagement for development by providing concrete advice and insights on enhancing their diaspora communications skills.
- Foster peer-learning among members of the diaspora from different generations through short workshops.
- Identify key lessons and best practices on the key topics self-identified by diasporas that will enable them to enhance their skills in strategic communication.



Impactful Skills



Effective Strategies



Innovative Tools

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



Dakwanye Group sponsored by IOM Washington DC completed November 2022

According to the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises in Zimbabwe, some 5.7 million people in Zimbabwe are engaged in the small and medium enterprises sector. Schools, colleges and university graduates yearly add to this statistic.

Genesis Entrepreneurship Trust (GET) was created to address the challenges of unemployment and economic vulnerability. They equip youth with entrepreneurial skills by providing them with an opportunity to earn income from running sustainable business ventures.

Through community-based youth projects, GET trains individuals between 18 and 35 years old who have vocational skills or talents, so they turn their skills and talents into viable businesses. The training approach includes classroom-based sessions as well as varied coaching methods. GET pays particular attention to gender equality in the composition of each group that they train.



JOIN US TODAY! [HERE](#)

REGIONAL FOCUS

Southern Africa Regional Diaspora Engagement

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), a Regional Economic Community comprising 16 Member States, has increasingly recognised the developmental potential of a well-managed migration. This commitment has the political will and policy backing in the SADC Regional Migration Policy Framework and Action Plan (2022 to 2030), under which the strategic objectives aim to define SADC's diaspora and develop a regional diaspora policy and programme; map the socio-economic profile and interests of the diaspora in contributing to their Countries of origin; identify the needs of the diaspora, including different socio-economic groups within the diaspora, and how their government can be of service to them, to develop a relationship of mutual trust and benefit. In 2017, the Ministerial meeting at the Migration Dialogue in Southern Africa (MIDSA) recommended the development of programmes and innovative activities for the active engagement of Youth and the Diaspora to make a meaningful contribution to the social and economic development of their home countries as well as the SADC Community.



Source: IOM RO Pretoria
Event: Regional Diaspora Engagement and Investment Forum in Mauritius

During the Ministerial meeting at the 2021 MIDSA, Member States endorsed the Maputo Diaspora Declaration, which aimed to promote regional integration and South-South Cooperation amongst SADC Member states through diaspora engagement. The Maputo Declaration emphasized (2) key recommendations, which were reiterated in three (3) key recommendations during the 2022 MIDSA by recognizing the steps being taken by Member States to operationalize the Maputo Diaspora Declaration, noting the steps taken towards institutionalization of diaspora engagement through multi-stakeholder approaches and systematic spaces of horizontal collaboration that foster trust and cooperation. The 2022 MIDSA also recommended the need to empower the diasporas by recognizing them as development actors, integrating them in development initiatives and including them in international fora and consultations; ensure capacity building on diaspora engagement for policymakers, focal points, diaspora associations, the SADC secretariat including its operationalization and mainstreaming in specific sectors and across different government levels.

In 2022, IOM established the Southern Africa Diaspora Page on the Global iDiaspora platform as a tool to effectively map, register, and profile the diaspora. In addition, the IOM regional office organized a maiden regional diaspora engagement and investment forum in Mauritius. With the support of country offices, headquarters, and the government of Mauritius, the forum served as a meeting point to build a common understanding of the state of play on partners' understanding of the diaspora and initiatives for effective engagement of the diaspora, member states, and key actors and partners in Southern Africa.

In 2023, IOM and UNDP are jointly implementing strategies that can facilitate enhanced and expanded diaspora financial transfer, in particular investment to countries of origin. The region is also part of a continental project funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) with the political will and vision of the African Union (AU) that aims to catalyze private investments, including from the diaspora, and supporting private sector development through the promotion of entrepreneurship, innovation, and business linkages, targeting, internal forcibly displaced populations and host communities.



GLOBAL NEWS AND RESOURCES



Connecting Diaspora for Development - CD4D2 conference

On 30 March, IOM The Netherlands celebrated the achievements of the second phase of the Project Connecting Diaspora for Development. Since 2019, diaspora experts completed 212 assignments in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, and Somalia. Besides, internships by local students led to jobs at host institutions, organizations developed cross-continental partnerships, and the diaspora impact became more and more visible. During the conference participants came together to celebrate project achievements and discuss the future of diaspora engagement. [Learn more](#)



UPCOMING!

New paper: Diaspora and Transnational Identities - An Analysis of Legal Frameworks and Policies. This publication aims to stimulate further discussion on engagement with diasporas from a legal perspective.



Uruguay Conecta: La Diáspora Uruguayana como factor de desarrollo sostenible. Esta es una iniciativa busca contribuir a involucrar, habilitar y empoderar a la diáspora uruguaya como actores para el desarrollo sostenible del país. [Learn more](#)



Meet Dr. Rana Dajani, a professor of molecular biology at MIT. She is originally from Jordan. Besides being a scientist, she is a social entrepreneur and the founder and director of the program We Love Reading. [Watch the video](#)



White Paper On Diaspora Engagement In Humanitarian Context. IOM for the Mediterranean has been supporting Ukrainian diaspora organizations in the response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine assisting Ukrainians in Italy.



Diaspora Insights Podcast Series: Kristics Mwansa: IOM Belgium & Luxembourg. In this episode, Kristics Mwansa: artist, activist and founder of The Bookclub discusses his inspiring work, different forms of protesting and the importance of healing. [Learn more](#)



Two Filipino Diaspora Organizations in the U.S. (PUSO And PSRC) received Roofus Awards From The Global Shelter Cluster. [Learn more](#)



Southern Africa Regional Diaspora Engagement and Investment Forum 2022. the Forum provided the opportunity for governments in the region to share experiences and lessons learned on diaspora-related interventions. [Learn more](#)



'NOU RASINN' (Our Roots) Youth Diaspora Volunteering Project in Mauritius. This pilot project endeavors to better support Mauritius in engaging with its diaspora, thus harnessing its valuable potential. [Learn more](#)

To find more latest news and resources, visit www.idiaspora.org.

