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# MAPPING THE MAURITANIAN DIASPORA

In recent years, the role of the Mauritanian diaspora abroad has been widely recognized. Indeed, members of the diaspora are not only providers of remittances but they are also investors, innovators and contributors to growth in important sectors such as agriculture and cattle farming.

Highly skilled migrants, who make up 11.8% of the Mauritanian migrant population worldwide, as well as regular migrants could contribute to the development of the country both with their own skills and also by funding development programs. Mauritania is ranked 161st in the Human Development Index in 2014 with a gross national product (GNP) of less than US \$ 3,000 per capita. It is thus in the country's best interest to mobilize its diaspora towards its development.

Because there is no reliable data available to assess the influence of the Mauritanian diaspora, the Mauritanian government has requested the expertise of IOM in gathering detailed and reliable data on the Mauritanian diaspora in order to better understand its demographic profile and its willingness to invest capacities in Mauritania. This project will initially be funded by the IOM Development Fund.



As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants, to encourage social and economic development through migration and to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management. Areas of work in Mauritania include border management, conflict prevention, community stabilization, migration and development and counter trafficking. These activities take the form of direct assistance, capacity building and information sharing as well as awareness-raising. IOM's central objective is to improve and develop global, regional and country level responses to protect and assist migrants in need and to support governments to reinforce their migration management capacities.

# Collecting detailed data on the Mauritanian diaspora and creating a unified mapping tool to better identify Mauritians abroad.

This project should be seen as an initial step towards the creation of a detailed and reliable mapping tool of the Mauritanian diaspora. Indeed, the creation of the Diaspora registration tool will be the focus of this project and a future project will focus on supplying the database through a massive appeal to the Diaspora to register.

The project consists of two phases:

1. The First phase which shall last 4 months will be a preparatory phase aimed at setting clear objectives for and the different stages of the project, the data to be gathered, the role of each partner, the implementation strategy as well as its consolidation. The results of these discussions will be presented in a report and will constitute the basis for the launching workshop.
2. The Second phase (12 months) will be the execution phase of the project. During this phase, a simple and reliable data collection tool will be set up. This tool shall be supplied beyond the project by people trained within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in collaboration with embassies and consulates in the various host countries in order to achieve a detailed, complete and reliable mapping of the Mauritanian diaspora.

**Implementation Period:** 16 months

- 1 November 2015 – 28 February 2016 (Preparation phase)
- 1 March 2016 - 28 February 2017 (Execution phase)

**Funding:** 100.000 USD

This project is funded by



**IOM Development Fund**  
DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

## OBJECTIVES

Provide the Mauritanian government with a simple digital tool for recording and registering the Mauritanian Diaspora and making sure that they know how to use it:

1. Create a detailed and reliable database and map of the Mauritanian diaspora;
2. Supply this database through an appeal to the Diaspora to register;
3. Map the contribution of the diaspora to the country's national development.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The government demonstrates a greater capacity for coordination and harmonization between the parties concerned by the question of the Mauritanian diaspora;
- A harmonized and reliable method for data collection is offered;
- The government has a tool for registering members of the Mauritanian of the diaspora;
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC) knows how to use the diaspora registering tool and is able to update the mapping tool;
- The government presents to the public the data on the Diaspora and its mapping tool;
- The information on the Mauritanian diaspora and the mapping tool are presented to the government, donors, stakeholders and the media.

## ACTIVITIES

- Establish a steering committee (IOM, MAEC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation), National Management Committee for Migration and ANESP) and organize an inaugural workshop;
- Analyze the various existing data on the Diaspora and the institutions in charge;
- Develop an online mapping tool;
- Train at least 4 MAEC officials in online database management;
- Publish the results in a report with graphic illustrations.
- Organize a dissemination workshop with the Government of Mauritania, the donors, stakeholders and the press.