

A Quick Introduction to our diaspora newsletter



At the International Organization for Migration, we aim to contribute to a better understanding of the links between migration and development and to build bridges between host and home societies. Based on decades of experience in this area, IOM is aware of the potential of diaspora communities for what concerns their expertise, commitment and cultural affinity with their country of origin.

IOM Belgium and Luxembourg fully supports the global 3E strategic approach of enabling, engaging, empowering diaspora communities who want to maintain and improve a dialogue across borders. In this framework, we are reinforcing diaspora related activities in Belgium and Luxembourg. To expand our network and to strengthen transnational communities, we initiate and support several projects mainly targeting African countries*. The focus of these projects is on the mobilization of skills, remittances, resources and knowledge in order to boost sustainable socio-economic development.

With this newsletter, we want to get involved more closely, by setting up a dialogue with you and creating a platform for debate that will benefit all. We hope to increase awareness and opportunities by bringing together different actors interested in diaspora engagement. Additionally, IOM Belgium and Luxembourg would also use this opportunity to share its experience and knowledge gained through the projects that we implement. At the same time, especially for those projects that are still running or will start soon, we will use this platform to launch calls for cooperation for those who are interested in participating in one of our projects and want to have a cross-border impact.

**These include Morocco, Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and the Palestinian Territory).*

WE NEED YOUR ADVICE!

As a new initiative, we would like to hear from you how we could best serve the interests of the diaspora community. We kindly ask you to fill in [this two-minute survey](#) for our orientation.
Thank you!

DIASPORA EVENTS & CALLS

II.II.II and De 4e Pijler organise a networking night for **women's projects** on the 6th of November, with Congolese feminist-activist Passy Mubalama as special guest. Register [here](#) if you want to join!

Have you started a **business in Africa** or are you thinking of doing so? Artevelde University would like to talk to you. Send them an email [here](#)!

The Crans Montana Forum organizes an exceptional session of the **African Women's Forum** from November 14 to 16 in Brussels. Register [here](#)!

On November 29, Ondernemers for Ondernemers organizes a congress on **Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Africa** in Brussels. There is a discount for diaspora members, but first come, first served! Register [here](#)!

Are you organizing an event in the upcoming months on diaspora engagement? Feel free to send it to [IOM Belgium](#) and we will make sure to feature it in our next newsletter!

iDIASPORA
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GLOBAL DIASPORA INITIATIVE

To follow up on and get involved in other diaspora projects ran by IOM outside Belgium, you can visit the global iDIASPORA platform. After becoming a member for free, you can benefit from a growing network, read the latest news articles, and expand your knowledge with learning materials and best practices. Additionally, you can share your questions, opinions and recommendations online, stay informed about upcoming events and explore new partnerships and opportunities.

WOMEN DIASPORA 4DEV ACADEMY



In the spirit of IOM's 3E Strategy for Diaspora and with the financial support of the Belgian Development Cooperation, IOM Belgium contributed in a project on [Empowering Female Diaspora Associations to Strengthen their Role in the Development of Countries of Origin](#).

Although IOM Belgium has been involved in other diaspora projects, a gender-specific approach towards women diaspora was a first. Since the role of women has been acknowledged as one of the keys for inclusive growth and sustainable development, we went beyond the traditional stakeholders and created an initiative to enhance the competences of this target group. Read [here](#) about the 11 African diaspora women's associations residing in Belgium that were selected to participate and how IOM supported them in strengthening their role, visibility and capacities as effective agents in projects aiming for development of their countries of origin. In [this](#) short video, the participants explain themselves what they have been doing and you can also take a look at [this](#) short video to see the final celebrations in May of what has been a successful project!

IOM Belgium and Niger

At IOM Belgium, we are increasingly engaging in activities concerning Niger.

In March 2019, IOM Belgium sent a mission to Niger to gain a better insight in several collective and community-based projects, such as an irrigation project in Toro. During this week, we also attended a [Job Fair](#) in Tahoua organized by IOM Niger, the local incubator CIPMEN and the University of Tahoua, which united thousands of visitors including diaspora members.

More recently, on the 5th of October one of our IOM colleagues attended and spoke on the [Rencontre des Nigériens d'Europe](#) to explain IOM's involvement in Niger, and the relation between migration and development. We will keep you up to date on our Niger projects in the coming newsletter!

Do you want to subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please send an email to [IOM Belgium](#).

Diaspora in Belgium and Germany to support health and education sector in Rwanda

Like many countries in Africa, Rwanda has many of its nationals living abroad and playing an important role in the country's socioeconomic development. Together with IOM Rwanda and IOM Germany, IOM Belgium is coordinating various activities in a project linking Rwandan diaspora members in Belgium and Germany to their home country. By temporarily relocating 30 skilled diaspora members who can transfer their skills during their stay, we aim to strengthen the Rwandese education and health sector. Ideally, this synergy will afterwards lead to ten innovative pilot projects. Click [here](#) to learn more about those activities!

Interested Rwandan diaspora members are encouraged to [register](#) for the upcoming info session on Friday evening the 22nd of November in Brussels!

Interested in investing in one of the pilot projects? Contact [IOM Belgium](#).



Diaspora Engagement to support public sector in Mauritania

In June 2019, IOM Belgium organized a meeting in Brussels for the members of the Mauritanian diaspora residing in the Benelux in the framework of "Support to Circular and Temporary Migration of the Mauritanian Diaspora". As was the case for two similar meetings in Frankfurt and Paris, IOM presented and promoted the initiative for a temporary return of 20 qualified diaspora members in support of capacity-building and development of public institutions in their country of origin. After the event, 37 diaspora experts coming from Belgium, Germany and France expressed their interest as potential candidates. In the coming months we will follow up on the activities of the Belgian Mauritanian diaspora members temporarily relocating to Mauritania!