

# 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, resources and relevant activities to diasporas themselves and their supporters. If you would like to submit to the newsletter, or have any questions, please email [idiaspورا@iom.int](mailto:idiaspورا@iom.int).

### FEATURED STORY

In this ninth edition of the newsletter, we spotlight the First GDPA Institutional Steering Committee Meeting, The 4th Global Diaspora Week, the Young Diaspora Leaders Initiative 2025, and relevant event updates from the Asia-Pacific, Italy, Montenegro, Belgium and Luxembourg, as well as Washington DC.

### ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

In this edition of the newsletter, we are introducing the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council (GJDYC). GJDYC is a youth-led initiative established in 2020 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) to empower Jamaican youth across the diaspora—from first to fourth generation—and strengthen their connection to Jamaica.

### ONGOING EVENTS



The Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange (GDVE) 2025 features three sessions from February to April, closely aligned with the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance's (GDPA) objective of building a cohesive global framework for co-creation with diaspora actors. Reflecting the themes of the GDPA Technical Working Groups—Health and Wellbeing, Climate Action, and Gender and Youth Empowerment—GDVE 2025 aims to strengthen the global ecosystem by engaging key actors who support, enable, and co-create tangible solutions with diaspora communities.

As part of this effort, the 2025 iDiaspora Photo Contest has been launched. Submit your entry by 8 May for a chance to win up to \$1,000 by capturing and celebrating diaspora contributions to health, climate action, and gender and youth empowerment.

To develop IOM's first institutional Diaspora Strategy, IOM is launching a [survey](#) to gather insights from relevant stakeholders to ensure an inclusive process. The survey is in English, French and Spanish, and open until 31 May.



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PAGE 1 of 6

## GLOBAL UPDATES

### First GDPA Institutional Steering Committee Meeting



Source: IOM / 2025

The launch of the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (GDPA) in 2024 has shaped diaspora engagement through an inclusive, consultative process, strengthening diaspora engagement with a focus on Gender and Youth, Climate Action, and Health and Well-being. To operationalize GDPA, IOM co-organized the first GDPA Institutional Steering Committee (ISC) meeting on 30 January, in close coordination with GDPA ISC co-chairs – the Government of Ireland and the Government of Georgia, and GDPA TWG co-chairs – the Government of Cabo Verde, Georgia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Somalia.

During the meeting, GDPA Technical Working Group (TWG) co-chairs presented on the agreed workplans for respective TWG, informing the implementation of key activities for the year ahead. DDG Daniels represented IOM and reinforced the commitment to continue the fruitful collaborations with stakeholders.

### The 4th Global Diaspora Week

Since 2021, the Global Diaspora Confederation (GDC) has organized the “Global Diaspora Week” for Diaspora Organizations across six continents. From 21–27 January 2025, the 4th Global Diaspora Week featured a weeklong series of activities, culminating in the Global Diaspora Assembly on the 27th. Through the sharing of best practices and recognition of diaspora contributions to humanitarian and sustainable development efforts, the GDWeek sessions highlighted some of the most effective diaspora coordination practices, showcased in panels of leading diaspora organizations at the Annual Humanitarian Meeting and the Global Diaspora Assembly.

This year’s GDWeek went beyond being event-oriented, welcoming a wide range of Side Activities that support diasporas — including three major capacity-building initiatives led by key partners as part of the Global Diaspora Academy (GDAcademy). A major highlight was the launch of the “GDTree,” a symbol of hope and collaboration unveiled at the GDAssembly. This tree will be nurtured and grown collectively by the global diaspora community, with its roots grounded in shared values of unity, resilience, and compassion, and its growth sustained by innovation, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas.



Source: GDC / 2025



## GLOBAL UPDATES

### Young Diaspora Leaders Initiative 2025

Following the success of the first Young Diaspora Leaders Initiative in 2022, iDiaspora and IOM are proud to launch the second edition this year. Aligned with the GDPA’s youth-focused priorities, this initiative seeks to elevate the voices of young diaspora leaders and amplify their impact. By sharing their stories, we hope to inspire other young members of transnational communities to step into leadership roles and contribute to sustainable development worldwide. This year’s young diaspora leaders, nominated by key members/co-chairs of the GDPA, reflect diverse backgrounds, experiences, and contributions—showcasing the power of diaspora youth in driving positive change worldwide.

Join us in celebrating their inspiring leadership journeys—read their stories, gain insights, and be part of the movement to empower young diaspora communities in building a better world together!



Source: IOM / 2025

IOM in partnership with IberRutas, has launched the 2025 iDiaspora Photo Contest to celebrate the creativity of diaspora communities. Submit your photo by 8 May for a chance to win up to \$1,000, showcasing themes of health, climate change, and gender and youth. Learn more here. Implemented under the GDPA.

**Second iDiaspora Photo Contest 2025**

Click for Change: Diaspora Innovations in Health, Climate, Gender & Youth

## ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council (GJDYC) is a youth-led initiative established in 2020 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) to empower Jamaican youth across the diaspora—from first to fourth generation—and to strengthen their connection to Jamaica. With a growing network of over 300 Jamaican youth worldwide, the GJDYC creates spaces for engagement, collaboration, and advocacy on issues impacting Jamaican communities globally.



Source: GJDYC / 2025

Rooted in Jamaica’s National Diaspora Policy, the council prioritizes cultural connectivity, identity, and youth-led approaches to sustainable development. Its mission is to unite and uplift Jamaican diaspora youth by fostering community, supporting diaspora-led initiatives, and advising on strategic government engagement. A core focus of the GJDYC is connecting diaspora youth with peers in Jamaica through dialogue, learning, and joint action to build a more inclusive future. While engaging with the government, it operates independently and amplifies young Jamaican voices worldwide. The council envisions empowered diaspora youth—rooted in their heritage and actively shaping Jamaica’s development.



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**OTHER UPDATES**

## Harnessing Diasporas for SDGs and GCM: Policies and Practices

IOM, GiZ and the Government of Nepal convened diaspora organizations, government officials and partners to explore the significant role of diaspora communities in advancing sustainable development and implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), during the Side Event “Harnessing Diaspora for SDGs and GCM: Policies and Practices” which took place on 4 February 2025 at UN ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand, during the Second Asia Pacific Regional Review of the implementation of the GCM.

The panel discussion featured esteemed panelists from various countries, who shared good practices for engaging diaspora, attracting diaspora investments, and strengthening legal frameworks, with specific examples from the Federal States of Micronesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Vietnam. Their insights showcase how diaspora engagement policies can unlock their potential and accelerate sustainable development.

Mr. Kato, IOM Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, closed the event with a call for action to move from recognition to implementation, strengthen legal and institutional frameworks, foster partnerships, and ensure that diaspora voices shape policy making to make migration governance genuinely inclusive.



Source: IOM ROAP / 2025

## IOM COMED Hosts Conference “Building Bridges: Diaspora Engagement in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus”

On February 21st, IOM COMED’s Migration and Sustainable Development Unit hosted a conference in Rome focused on Diaspora Engagement across the Humanitarian – Development – Peace Nexus (HDPN). The event brought together technical experts, diaspora members, and institutional partners to explore the potential and challenges of diaspora engagement, highlighting the importance of supporting diaspora initiatives in development, humanitarian action, and peacebuilding. The discussions centered on how diaspora engagement can be enhanced and operationalized across the HDPN, emphasizing the need to move beyond siloed approaches to leverage diaspora contributions in current policies and programmes.

The conference focused on four key themes: localization, transferring knowledge, advocating, and partnering. Practical recommendations emphasized institutionalizing diaspora engagement, providing necessary tools and conducive environments, fostering trust, leveraging local knowledge, and implementing best practices such as sub-granting and mentorship-based programs to support their active role in development and humanitarian efforts.

These outcomes and recommendations were subsequently presented at Italy’s 2025 National Diaspora Summit on February 22nd. Insights from the discussions will be further consolidated in an upcoming proceedings document.



Source: IOM Italy / 2025



NEWS



**IOM and Montenegro strengthen diaspora ties through the Workshop on Local Development and Business Plan Development**

IOM Montenegro successfully hosted the Workshop on Local Development and Business Plan Development on February 18-19, 2025, in Budva, highlighting the crucial role of the diaspora in Montenegro’s economic and sustainable development. The event brought together representatives from municipalities with a significant diaspora presence, fostering discussions on Montenegro’s diaspora engagement initiatives, international best practices, and innovative ways to align diaspora resources with local business development. This workshop marks another significant step toward institutionalizing diaspora engagement in Montenegro by ensuring that local governments are equipped with the tools and knowledge necessary to attract and retain diaspora investments.



**IOM COMED and Associazione Le Réseau organized the sixth National Diasporas’ Summit**

In the framework of the project “Draft the Future! Towards a Diaspora Forum in Italy”, IOM COMED and its partner Associazione Le Réseau organized the sixth National Diasporas’ Summit in Rome on February 22nd, 2025. The event was attended by 250 participants, among which were representatives of diasporas from all over the world, representatives of Italian Institutions and agencies, as well as officials of embassies based in Rome. This project is financed by the Italian Development Cooperation and implemented by IOM in partnership with Associazione Le Réseau.



**Diaspora New Year's Reception took place in Brussels**

On January 31st, IOM Office for Belgium and Luxembourg celebrated key diaspora's contributions at the Diaspora New Year's Reception. Highlights of the 2024 achievements included events organized by the Diaspora Advisory Board (DAB), the Diversity and Inclusion Summer School, the Agrofood Forum, and the International Conference on Global Diaspora Engagement. IOM and partners also selected the 2024-2025 DAB cohort, formed thematic working groups, issued 24 Flash Updates, 2 Newsletters, and 6 Podcast episodes, hosted the National Remittance Summit, and supported 5 diaspora-led organizations with our Incentive Fund. Looking ahead to 2025, IOM Office for Belgium and Luxembourg announced new opportunities including the Incentive Fund, trainings for diaspora leaders, a call for new DAB Members, and collaboration for International Migrant’s Day with Manneken Pis.



**O-REMIT project wrap up**

Since the beginning of the year, IOM Office for Belgium and Luxembourg has been implementing a series of "Train the Trainer" workshops, equipping diaspora members with the tools and data developed under the O-REMIT project, in collaboration with diaspora organizations such as infoDev ASBL and Oasis Belgium. These sessions have been instrumental in fostering diaspora ownership and strengthening their role in maximizing the impact of remittances. As a final highlight, the project team hosted an engaging panel discussion with Salon des Diasporas Noires on diaspora investments in countries of origin and the key role of remittances in sustainable development. This marks the conclusion of the journey with O-REMIT, but the impact and insights gained will continue to inspire action.



### Market Dialogue Demonstrates Efficacy of Alternative Funding

In January, a Market Dialogue took place in the Philippines to bring stakeholders together to promote and seeks ways to jointly improve the diaspora-guaranteed microfinance model for safe shelters. The project, Bahay Matibay, provides microfinance loans, backed by a diaspora guarantee, to select households in the Philippines for retrofitting and rebuilding homes impacted by natural disasters, as well as disaster risk reduction and other safe shelters trainings by IOM experts. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about Bahay Matibay. The project is funded by Innovation Norway. A full report on the Market Dialogue and Needs Assessment is forthcoming.

### HNPW session highlights innovative diaspora financing

On 27 March, IOM with Innovation Norway held a hybrid session, “Leveraging Diaspora Engagement & Innovation for Alternative Humanitarian Financing.” The session outlined ways that diaspora funding modalities can be used to cover the ever-increasing gaps in the humanitarian sector. [A recording of the session](#) is available.

**LEVERAGING DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION**  
for alternative humanitarian financing



### Regional Consultation Workshop for Engaging the Filipino diaspora

From March 5-7, IOM Philippines hosted a workshop in Legazpi City to engage the Filipino diaspora and return migrants in building resilient communities through donations, investments, entrepreneurship, and skills transfer. Funded by the IOMDF, the workshop brought together numerous stakeholders at the national and local levels as well as a peer exchange for stakeholders from Viet Nam. A report and summary video are forthcoming.

Engaging with diaspora communities presents an opportunity to leverage their innovative solutions and local expertise for more sustainable and comprehensive humanitarian efforts. The private sector has been a key stakeholder in engaging with diaspora to finance different thematic sectors while maximizing diasporas' existing financial contributions.

March 27, 2025 | 2:00-3:30PM GMT+1 | CICC, Salle 12, Zoom | dias

## RESOURCES AND EVENTS



A joint paper by IOM Diaspora Team and MHU on [Transnational Talent in Science: Diaspora Engagement and Global Health](#) was published in the Special Issue of Science Diplomacy Digest, focusing on the Science Diaspora.

Health Innovation through Diaspora Engagement: Talent, Partners and Allies

A new paper titled [Health Innovation through Diaspora Engagement: Talent, Partners, and Allies](#) has been developed under the overall framework of the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (GDPA).

Learning Mobility Scheme Tunisia-Belgium

IOM is implementing a Learning Mobility Scheme (LMS) between Tunisia-Belgium. It connects recent Tunisian graduates with employers in Belgium, through an ethical learning mobility scheme that is led by sectoral skills shortages, and driven by employers' needs.

Multi-country Case Study on the Opportunities and Challenges of Engaging Diasporas in Climate Action

New study [Multi-country Case Study on the Opportunities and Challenges of Engaging Diasporas in Climate Action](#) assessed the opportunities for and challenges in engaging UK-based Bangladeshi, Ghanaian and Jamaican diaspora communities in climate action in their home countries.

Migrants' contribution to climate action: mapping green skills and initiatives among Italy-based diasporas

Between 2023 and 2024, IOM's COMED conducted a [mapping](#) of climate action initiatives and green skills among diaspora organizations based in Italy, with the objective of gathering evidence to inform future initiatives supporting diasporas as key promoters of climate solutions.

GLOBAL DIASPORA VIRTUAL EXCHANGES on Concrete Solutions on the Ground

**SAVE THE DATE**  
08:00 - 10:00 / 15:00 - 17:00 CET

Good Wellbeing	February 18, 2025
Action	March 13, 2025
Gender and Youth	April 08, 2025

The Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange (GDVE) 2025 features three sessions from February to April, aligned with GDPA TWG themes: Health, Climate Action, and Gender & Youth Empowerment.

To find more latest news and resources, visit [www.idiaspora.org](http://www.idiaspora.org).



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