

iDIASPORA

NEWSLETTER

For diaspora leaders, organizations and supporters

WELCOME

Diasporas have invaluable economic, cultural, human, and social capital for societies. Governments, organizations and partners across the world have recognized their potential as development actors in multiple initiatives. This newsletter seeks to highlight major diaspora stories, successes, events, resources and more that are relevant 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

Government officials and leaders of diaspora organizations participated in the virtual Side Event “[Diaspora as Key Partner Across the Humanitarian-Development Peace-Nexus](#)” (HDPN) on September 23 during the high-level week of the 77 United Nations General Assembly.

The IOM organized the side event to highlight the diaspora’s contributions to humanitarianism, development, and peace and recognize their value as allied partners during critical times. More than 200 participants registered to attend the virtual event.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

Each iteration of the Newsletter will spotlight a different diaspora organization that is active in the humanitarian-development space or other relevant sector. The second organization to be featured is [Diáspora2030mx](#), a diaspora organization with an online platform that serves Mexican diaspora globally.

Through virtual conversations and simultaneous graphic recording, [Diáspora2030mx](#) aims to engage the human capital that Mexico has spread across the globe to inspire, build collective knowledge, and enhance partnerships for sustainable development

REGIONAL FOCUS: NORTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

In this issue, our Regional Focus takes us to the North and Central America. The Western Hemisphere Program shared with the global community their work and impacts in the region through the Regional Conference on Migration which developed the “Forum for the promotion, development, engagement, and capitalization of the contributions of diasporas” on May 23 and 24 in San Salvador, El Salvador.

GLOBAL NEWS AND RESOURCES

On the fourth and 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 the First International Photo Contest, the recently launched initiative on Young Diaspora Leaders, the Diaspora Mapping Toolkit Online Course; podcast and video stories; and other innovative diaspora successes.



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FEATURED STORY:

UNGA77

DIASPORAS AS KEY PARTNERS ACROSS THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS (HDPN)

Government officials and leaders of diaspora organizations participated in the virtual Side Event “Diaspora as Key Partner Across the Humanitarian-Development Peace-Nexus” (HDPN) on September 23 during the high-level week of the 77 United Nations General Assembly.

The side event evidenced that many governments are committed to continuing working to give a voice, protection, and space for diasporas to thrive. The statements made by diaspora leaders and government officials demonstrated that a lot is being done but more support is needed to unleash the full potential of diasporas. Great steps are being carried out to make the Dublin Declaration a roadmap for diaspora engagement, but as Minister Colm Brophy urged, it is time for more member states to uphold the declaration and allow diasporas to become more empowered so their contributions can have far-reaching impacts.



Image 1. Panelist during the side event from top left to bottom: Antonio Vitorino, Ugochi Daniels, H.E. Georges Roblo Pinto Chikoti, Fridah Ntarangwi, Hazem Rihawi, Alvaro Calderon and Sarah Charles.



Diasporas are increasingly recognized for their invaluable role in society due to their rich cultural contributions, diverse voices, and economic participation in the countries they live in and come from and that is the significance of creating policy to engage them in sustainable development and that’s why the support of States is crucial.”



Ugochi Daniels
IOM Deputy Director General

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



Image 2. Diaspora Mexicana Conversatorio

With 12 million people away from their homeland, Mexico has the second largest diaspora in the world. Diáspora2030mx is an online platform that brings to light how some individuals from the Mexican diaspora contribute to advance sustainable development, and the potential they have to do it for their country of origin. Through virtual conversations and simultaneous graphic recording, Diáspora2030mx aims to engage the human capital Mexico has spread across the globe to inspire, build collective knowledge, and enhance partnerships for sustainable development. Since its launch in February 2021 until December 2022, Diáspora2030mx has already hosted six discussion groups that connected 327 participants joining from 35 different countries and territories.



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REGIONAL FOCUS

Diaspora Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) 2022

The interest of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) on the topic of diaspora increased, thus creating an opportunity to improve engagement. In 2020, IOM mapped Mesoamerican diaspora organizations, from which the study "The involvement of the diaspora of Central America and Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges" was published, which presents a series of recommendations and guidelines for governments to Enable, Engage and Empower Diasporas. This study managed to map at least 1,014 diaspora organizations. IOM built an interactive map with the directory of diaspora organizations.

The forum led by the Pro Tempore Presidency of the RCM in charge of the government of El Salvador, allowed the exchange of experiences and reflections among the delegations of the other countries of the region, which emphasized the need to generate increased relationships of trust between governments and diasporas, and the different organizational expressions.

One of the most reiterated reflections in this space was that generating relationships of trust is a long-term process; it involves recognizing the heterogeneity of diasporas, incorporating a protection and human rights-based approach. In building trust, there are fundamental pillars such as transparency and the adequate access to quality services for diasporas through digitizing services and access to legal identity documents. ●



Image 3. The RCM delegation traveled to La Union to learn about the development projects

The technical discussions during the forum allowed us to brainstorm actions or lines of work to build a regional strategy for the involvement of diasporas with the countries of origin:

1. Review and updating of the regulatory and institutional framework
2. Generation of data and information on diaspora profiles and diaspora organizational expressions, which serve as evidence for policy design – programs based
3. Promote the improvement of services to diasporas (digitalization) – linked to development processes – returns-protection-regularization-health. Strengthening the consular protection network through the strengthening and improvement of the digitalization of government services and diaspora organizations.
4. Actions should consider a rights-based approach, taking as a reference the international normative framework, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families - Participation (art. 41).
5. The involvement actions must address specific groups such as children and youth, emphasizing the second and third generations.
6. Establish international and regional cooperation alliances, including an exchange between CRM and CMS.
7. Integration and social cohesion of diasporas in the countries of destination and return to the countries of origin.

The delegations could also approach the experience and work of diaspora organizations, such as the Salvadoran Committee "El Piche." The RCM delegation traveled to La Union to learn about the development projects that this Committee, in collaboration with the local authorities and community, has conducted: the improvement of the streets, creating a football field, a health post, or the facilities of an Educational Center. The Dominican Republic delegation shared innovative actions to maintain links with the diaspora, such as the Short Film Contest "Huellas de mi Quisqueya."



GLOBAL NEWS AND RESOURCES



The Key to Connecting the Ukrainian Diaspora in Czechia

IOM recently organized a networking and training event for 40 representatives part of the Ukrainian diaspora in Czechia. The training touched upon topics such as management, fundraising and further effective cooperation.

What are the strengths and challenges of diaspora initiatives? What is important to keep in mind when building the diaspora's capacities? And what help can diasporas receive from IOM? These and more questions are answered by Dr. Larisa Lara, Transnational Communities and Digital Communications Officer, who led the one-day training in Prague. [Learn more](#)



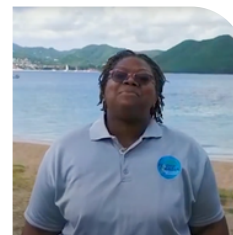
The Awards Ceremony of the iDiaspora Photo Contest represented an opportunity to acknowledge the talent of the global diaspora through photography by showcasing unique and defining elements of migrant and diasporic communities



Empoderando la Diáspora Suramericana como Actores en el Desarrollo Sostenible releva cómo las diásporas de la region contribuyen al desarrollo de sus países de origen y como pueden empoderar a las comunidades de la diáspora



IOM and iDiaspora created the Young Diaspora Leaders Initiative, seeking to inspire young leaders from transnational communities.



Meet Mandy Preville-Findlay, a leader and cofounder of Beyond Iyanola, an organization of Saint Lucians in the UK created in 2018 with the purpose of advocating and preserving art and culture from the St Lucia diaspora. [Watch the Video](#)



Online Course Developing Community Resilience: Shelter and Settlement Assistance Training for Diasporas: In this 25-minute course, you will learn about how you can more effectively contribute to humanitarian assistance before, during and after crises.



Diaspora Mapping Toolkit Online Course.
Open self-enrollment
Date: Available all year
Duration: 4 hours
Language: English
[Enroll for free in the course](#)



In preparation to the International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS 2023), the IOM organized a webinar focusing on diaspora engagement. The panel hosted experts in diaspora engagement and Diaspora Mapping. Watch the event [here](#).



GDWeek2022 took place from 11th to 17th December. During the event, there were 7 consultation meetings for each continent where GDC presented and listened to DOs' about their thoughts on the concepts of seven major activities. More news [here](#).

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



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