

Realizing the importance of the Rwandan diaspora in the development of the nation, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) strongly believes that the Rwandan diaspora is an important competent to the national socioeconomic development of the country. Previous diaspora mapping exercises conducted in Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom (UK) and the Netherlands, by IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MINAFFET), showed that the majority of the Rwandan diaspora members have the technical and professional capacity and are willing to contribute to the development of their country of origin, not only through remittances and investments but also through skills, knowledge, mentoring and technology transfer initiatives.

“Knowing and understanding transnational communities is crucial to engaging them effectively, and developing the appropriate outreach strategies towards diaspora communities.” - Former Director General IOM, William L. Swing¹

Following the Mapping in 2018, two Diaspora Engagement initiatives are being implemented in Rwanda:

1. DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT TO SUPPORT TVET IN RWANDA

The objective of this project is to address the needs of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in Rwanda through the engagement of Rwandan diaspora members residing in **Belgium or Germany**. A selection of 30 highly qualified professionals will temporarily relocate to Rwanda in order to give a training of trainers (ToT) to TVET professors and students in identified priority courses of the Rwanda Polytechnic’s (RP) host institutions, namely in the eight Integrated Polytechnic Regional Colleges (IPRCs) across the country.

Ultimately, the aim of the Trainings of Trainers (ToTs) is to bring the diaspora trainers and the trainees together in developing project ideas to address a number of local needs. The ten best proposals will receive support from IOM and potentially from other investors. These pilot projects will contribute to the development of local initiatives, job creation and improve the relation between diaspora members and their Rwandese counterparts.

2. DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN THE HEALTH SECTOR IN RWANDA

This project intends to engage at least 20 qualified Rwandan medical professionals, residing in **Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands or the UK** who wish to participate to the project to transfer their skills, knowledge and technology to Rwanda’s health sector.



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“Coming together today is one way of pulling as one for the common purpose of building our nation, a purpose to which every Rwandan and even the many friends of Rwanda are called.” - H.E. Paul Kagame at Rwanda Day in Amsterdam 3 Oct 2015²

HAPPENING SOON: Information sessions in Bonn and Brussels

The aim of the session is to provide information and details to diaspora members who are interested in transferring their skills and knowledge to support the education or health sector in Rwanda. IOM strongly encourages diaspora members with relevant qualifications, who are willing to relocate temporarily to Rwanda to participate.

Stay tuned here: <https://bit.ly/2mYZyqT> or scan the QR code:



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¹W.L. Swing, Director General of IOM, ‘Annual Diaspora Forum’, statement to the Annual Diaspora Forum initiated by the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies at the UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland on 18 May 2018. Available from <https://www.iom.int/fr/annual-diaspora-forum>.

²H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, “Statement to Rwanda Day in the Netherlands, Amsterdam on 3 October 2015”. Available from [rwandaday.com](http://www.rwandaday.com)