



Grants for Diaspora Associations: Peer Exchange Group

IOM-UNDP Global Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development (Phase III)

Synthesis Report



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

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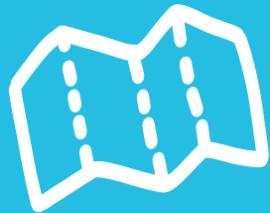
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OBJECTIVES



Objectives:

-  Showcase **concrete examples of grants** for diaspora organizations from Programme countries and diaspora experts
-  Identify **key success factors** and **common challenges** to managing grants for diaspora organizations and leveraging them for sustainable development
-  Provide **expert advice and guidance** on diaspora grant management aspects (including management, grants process, selection criteria, roll-out, capacity development and monitoring).

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139 participants: Government partners; diaspora organizations; experts; civil society; private sector; academia; IOM and UNDP representatives



Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Italy, Ireland, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, US, UK



14 January 2022
from 14.00 - 16.00
CET

TIPS & TRICKS



Preparing for a Successful Application Process

- 1 Clarify the **aims and desired outcomes** of the diaspora association grants and identify target beneficiaries accordingly: is the grant intended to build long-term partnerships or support short-term project implementation?
See also [Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries](#)
- 1 **Plan for sufficient time** to open the call for proposals to allow for outreach and engagement with interested diaspora associations.
- 1 **The application process begins long before applications are submitted;** effective management of the pre-application stage is vital to receiving high-quality proposals, particularly for smaller diaspora associations.
- 1 Provide as much **information** and as many **resources** as possible to diaspora associations to support them in the application process, including explanatory documents and templates.
- 1 Create multiple **opportunities** for diaspora associations to **ask questions and receive information** about the application and selection process through town halls and bilateral meetings.
- 1 **Streamline application requirements** to ensure a balance between the time and effort diaspora associations will need to invest in the application and the scale of project activities.
- 1 **Consider making activities that started before the application eligible for financing** to support longer-term engagement from diaspora associations and ensure project success.
- 1 **Model the grant management and application system** after systems used for other diaspora association grant programmes to accommodate associations who apply for multiple grants simultaneously.
- 1 For **new grants programmes** where initial project success is particularly important, consider **targeting well-established diaspora associations** that have clearly demonstrated capacities to implement the activities proposed.
- 1 **Tailored outreach produces benefits over time:** greater levels of engagement with diaspora organizations in the design and administration of the grants programme itself will result in partnerships that produce stronger applications.

TIPS & TRICKS



Managing Grant Selection

- 1 **Aim for an excellent *outcome* in a project, not a perfect *application*** - when an idea has strong potential, be willing to engage with the diaspora association to build capacities through the application process.
See also [Project Development Manual for Migrants' Associations: Global Development Agents](#)
- 1 To verify that applicants are functional and well-suited to the scale of the grant, integrate **organizational eligibility criteria** such as length of existence, registration status, annual turnover, and financial management experience.
- 1 Build a **balanced and multistakeholder selection committee**, including diaspora association members and individuals living in the country/countries of implementation.
- 1 Establish **clearly defined eligibility criteria** for both organizations and proposals and communicate it effectively to diaspora associations through outreach.
- 1 **Be consistent in applying selection criteria**; don't reject an application from one diaspora association similar to proposals that have been approved elsewhere.
- 1 Take a **holistic approach** to proposal selection, considering how grants can support organic support networks among diaspora members.
- 1 Explain the **reason for application selection decisions** in notifications to applicants of the decisions, including for proposals that were not selected for grants, to build capacities for future calls for proposals.

"If you want good applications, it starts long before the application process. It starts with developing and getting to know the organizations. It starts with workshops, where you show people how the application process is going to work and have them understand what you want to get out of it. And it also starts with peer-to-peer networks."

-Philip Grant, Director, Irish Abroad Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland

TIPS & TRICKS



Supporting Effective Monitoring and Reporting

- 1 Establish structures to facilitate **regular and frequent dialogues** to celebrate successes, address challenges, and allow diaspora associations to raise questions or concerns.
- 2 **Design a calendar** for diaspora associations based on reporting milestones to support workplan development and implementation.
- 3 Seek out opportunities for **participatory monitoring** of diaspora association activities wherever possible, including through attending online activities such as classes and one-off social or cultural events.
- 4 Encourage grant managers to **include insights gained through participatory monitoring in reporting** to enrich perspectives beyond those of diaspora associations.
See also [Contributions and Counting: Guidance on Measuring the Economic Impact of your Diaspora Beyond Remittances](#)
- 5 **Value diversity in monitoring methods** and be open to new or different forms of reporting to create more space for discussing project challenges.
- 6 **Provide reporting templates** to grantees to increase the homogeneity of reports received, which makes monitoring and follow-up across diverse diaspora associations easier and more efficient.

TIPS & TRICKS



Building Capacity: Grants and Beyond

- 1 Provide **targeted capacity building** and training to associations on monitoring and evaluation and project management, as many diaspora associations may not have these skills.
See also [Project Development Manual for Migrants' Associations: Global Development Agents](#)
- 1 Frame the grants programme as an **opportunity to build enduring partnerships** that nurture diaspora associations to learn, grow and expand over time.
See [My JMDI Toolbox on Migration and Local Development: Partnering with Diaspora Associations \(Module 2; Topic 4\)](#)
- 1 Consider **designing a capacity building programme** alongside or in advance of the grant programme to support project success.
- 1 Pursue a balance between **leveraging and nurturing the diaspora** through capacity development to meet the needs of both the government and the diaspora associations.
- 1 Consider **investing more in capacity building for small diaspora associations**, which may not have the resources or experiences for independent project implementation but are often enthusiastic, committed partners.
- 1 Establish **peer-to-peer networks** through the programme that allow larger, longer-established diaspora associations to support and help smaller, newer associations learn and grow.
- 1 Build in **opportunities for learning and dialogue throughout each cycle** of the application, selection, implementation, and monitoring processes to ensure that applicants, including diaspora associations whose proposals were not selected, benefit from the programme and build trust with the government.

"This is an opportunity to go on a journey together. Not only will the diaspora associations be helping you achieve your objectives, but as an additional benefit, their capacity will be increased and ideally in the future, they'll be able to deliver more."

-Paul Asquith, AFFORD UK

CASE STUDY



Republic of Moldova: Diaspora Association Grants

The Bureau of Diaspora Relations in the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova is establishing a diaspora association grants programme. Implemented under the umbrella of the Diaspora Engagement Hub, the government programme will **support diaspora associations to carry out socio-cultural activities abroad that encourage Moldova's development**. The programme aims to harness the potential of **diaspora associations** and **Romanian-language educational centers** by creating a mechanism for financial support that facilitates Moldovan diaspora communities in countries around the world to teach the Romanian language to second- and third-generation Moldovans and carry out cultural-educational activities to ultimately strengthen the connection between the Republic of Moldova and the Moldovan international community and associations.



The programme will fund activities related to both linguistic and socio-cultural education, Moldovan culture, mass media and fostering associative environments abroad through supporting existing or creating new diaspora associations and educational centers. The Republic of Moldova plans to evaluate and select projects based on the proposal's relevance and fit to the needs of the diaspora within the areas of funding, realistic and measurable goals, defined target beneficiaries, impact and sustainability, previous project implementation experience, and the **potential to strengthen the connection between diaspora communities and the Republic of Moldova**.

RESULTS



Peer and Expert Feedback on Grants Programme

The Republic of Moldova received feedback on the proposed grant programme for diaspora associations from a panel of representatives from governments and civil society with expertise and previous experience in providing diaspora associations with grants. The broad recommendations for the Republic of Moldova's proposal included the following:

Define the geographical scope and aims of the programme, particularly with respect to whether the objective is to implement short-term projects or to establish enduring partnerships with select diaspora associations. This clarification should in turn inform planning for outreach, selection and capacity.

Clarify whether the desired relationships with diaspora associations are project-based (short term) or strategic (long term) which will ensure the grants programme is fit for purpose. Considering synergies and ongoing activities as part of the selection criteria can support capacity- and relationship-building for longer-term goals.

Add a pre-application stage to the current timeline and invest in dedicated efforts for targeted outreach and dialogue as well as carry out open/coordination sessions with diaspora organizations to set up the application process for success.



In addition to this virtual peer exchange, experts were encouraged to continue to discuss in an [online e-forum](#) on the same topic. Contributions in this space similarly highlighted the importance of defining clear objectives for effective programme design, as well as for ensuring the diaspora associations who are encouraged to apply are a strong match for the programme in terms of experience, resources, and operations.

TOOLS



[**Diaspora Mapping Toolkit**](#) (IOM). Contact jirvine@iom.int for more information.



[**Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries**](#) (IOM, MPI)



[**Contributions and Counting: Guidance on Measuring the Economic Impact of your Diaspora Beyond Remittances**](#) (IOM)



[**Maximizing Diaspora Engagement: Building Trust, Mobilizing Resources and Ensuring Sustainability. Insights and Reflections Paper**](#) (IOM, GRFDT, CISAN and ADEPT)



[**Project Development Manual for Migrants' Associations: Global Development Agents**](#) (IOM)



[**Engaging Diasporas in Local Development: An Operational Guide Based on the Experience of Moldova**](#) (UNDP)



[**Global Diasporas Reacting to the COVID-19 Crisis: Best Practices from the Field**](#) (IOM)



[**Handbook to Develop Projects on Remittances: Good Practices to Maximize the Impact of Remittances on Development**](#) (IOM, FIIAPP)



[**My JMDI Toolbox on Migration and Local Development**](#) (Joint Migration and Development Initiative, JMDI): For diaspora-related guidance, see:

- **Partnering with Diaspora Associations** (Module 2; Topic 4)
- **Empowering Migrants' & Diaspora Associations** (Module 3, Topic 3)

TOOLS



Check out [iDIASPORA](#) for further resources and information about engaging diasporas.



Check out [M4D Net](#) for further resources and information about migration and sustainable development.

