

African Diaspora Policy Centre

Summer update 2015

Note from the Director



On behalf of the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), I extend to you our warm greetings and trust that your endeavours in 2015 are proving fruitful. Thus far 2015 has been an exciting and dynamic year for ADPC as we continue in our efforts to empower the African diaspora as change agents for the development of their respective homelands. I would like to thank you once again for your unrelenting support in this important undertaking.

Within this newsletter we hope to update you on the progress of our ongoing projects, as well as inform you of the exciting new ventures that ADPC will be undertaking in the near future. Diaspora engagement is becoming an increasingly important and relevant aspect of development in Africa, and we as an organisation hope to contribute to this. Going forward, we remain committed to contributing to the ongoing efforts geared at integrating migration as a cross-cutting issue within the post-2015 UN development agenda.

In conclusion, as ADPC we look forward to continuing and strengthening our partnerships towards positive migration outcomes for human development.

I hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter which provides updates on our interventions during the first half of the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Awil Mohamoud'.

Dr. Awil Mohamoud

Director African Diaspora Policy Centre

"Migration can be an enormous force for good. If we follow the evidence, and begin a rational, forward-looking conversation about how to better manage our shared interests, we can together help to usher in the third stage of globalisation - a long-awaited era where more people than ever before begin to share in the world's prosperity".

Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General¹

In the above quote by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in an article provided to the Guardian entitled "We should welcome the dawn of the migration age" the growing importance of migration for development is brought to the forefront of development policy and programming. Through our interventions in the Diaspora Academy Programme and the Strengthening Policy Making Capacity of the Emerging Diaspora Ministries in Africa programme, ADPC is working towards capacitating diaspora as positive change agents in the development of their countries of origin and residence. Mid-year through our programming we are happy to share that the progress to date clearly indicates that ADPC has planted several "seeds of change."² Overall implementation in the first half of the year has set a very positive tone for our programming in 2015, a tone we look forward to sustaining throughout the year!

Our Diaspora Academy Programme

In 2014 ADPC launched the Diaspora Academy Programme in an effort to facilitate active diaspora engagement in peacebuilding, better lobbying and advocacy and enhanced networking and collaboration of the diaspora for development.



Why a Diaspora Academy?

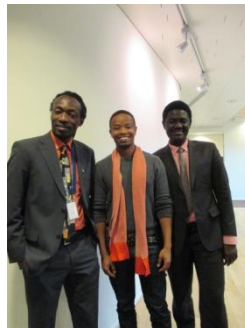
In the past decades the diaspora have significantly increased their involvement in the development of their respective countries of origin. Diaspora have shown themselves to be important actors in the field of development. However, lack access to the knowledge, insights and networks in this field remain some of the challenges that diaspora face in order to have greater impact. In response to this lack of capacity, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) established the Diaspora Academy Programme (DAP) in collaboration with The Network University and The Hague Academy for Local Governance .

DAP was established to help diaspora organisations to gain access to knowledge, information and viable networks that will enable diaspora development practitioners to fully contribute to development of their respective home countries. Through DAP, support to diaspora is provided in three areas namely: peacebuilding, lobbying and advocacy and smart partnerships. In these three areas three levels of interventions are undertaken encompassing training workshops, evidence based research and expert networking forums.

¹ Retrieved from: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2007/jul/10/comment.globalisation>

² When reflecting on one of ADPC's comparative advantages Peacebuilding Expert Jasmin Nordien (facilitator of our Peacebuilding workshops eloquently expressed that the organisation sows *seeds of change*.

The programme had its inaugural training workshop focused on Peacebuilding in December 2014. In the first half of this year, we held our first Advocacy and Lobbying training workshop, outlined in Text Box 1. Beyond the Advocacy and Lobbying workshop, preparations are also underway towards undertaking evidence based research in two areas: the role of diaspora in peacebuilding and the diaspora lobbying and advocacy. Both research outputs will be shared and enriched through Expert Meetings planned for August and October on the respective themes. These are outputs you will hear more about in our end of year Newsletter.



Strengthening Policy Making Capacity of the Emerging Diaspora Ministries in Africa

The Strengthening Policy Making Capacity of the Emerging Diaspora Ministries in Africa', or: SEDIMA. programme sets out to improve the capacity of diaspora-oriented policymakers in Africa. A three pronged approach is adopted, focused on training workshops for policy makers, direct technical assistance to governments and an e-learning course also targeted at policy makers.

Why SEDIMA

To date more than 30 African countries have established diaspora-oriented institutions or ministries in order to address diaspora-led development related issues in a more strategic manner. However, policy and performance of these newly formed institutions is hampered by a prevailing capacity deficit. The SEDIMA programme was therefore

TEXT BOX I: DAP Progress in Detail

Our Advocacy and Lobbying Workshop

Our inaugural Advocacy & Lobbying workshop was held from 13-17 April and brought together a group of nine dynamic African diaspora from Europe and one from the USA. The training was facilitated by two trainers from the Hague Academy for Local Governance with external input from a diaspora Expert trainer. The collaborative learning approach adopted provided ample space for interactive sessions, discussions and sharing of experiences.

The workshop covered different definitional and practical elements of advocacy & lobbying and encompassed a greater understanding of the public policy. In addition participants designed advocacy strategies for implementation along with a 'back home action plan'. In general the course was very positively evaluated by the participants. Beyond the valuable lobby and advocacy skills obtained, the workshop also provided a platform for the establishment of new relationships and partnerships between people with the same vision. In the words of one of our participants, "Not only did I learn a lot, but I have also gained an interesting network and new group of friends".

For more information on the workshop and those who participated, see the **Workshop Report** and **Participant Profile** which are available at: <http://www.diaspora-centre.org/publications/>

Our Research undertakings

Peacebuilding: The paper will demonstrate successes achieved through the activities initiated by diaspora organisations in the field of peacebuilding, the specific factors that have contributed to these positive outcomes and recommendations for improved engagement.

Lobbying and Advocacy: ADPC will facilitate a research paper on good practices in advocacy and lobbying among small NGOs and diaspora organisations.

Our Expert Meetings

Provide diaspora with the opportunity to establish viable contacts and relationships towards positive development outcomes. The forum provides the much needed space for exchange and interaction required for coordinated support to respective development interventions. Our August meeting thus provides a forum through which diaspora in the Netherlands can come together and share knowledge and information on the role of diaspora in peacebuilding.

initiated in response to the growing capacity needs of these institutions.

The programme will improve the technical competences of African policymakers to design diaspora-oriented national policy strategies as well as their capability to effectively implement diaspora-oriented strategies. The combination of programmes training workshops, direct technical assistance and e-learning course (discussed in **Text Box 2**) ensure cumulative returns as regards the capabilities policymakers.

Our Tailor-made Training for Agribusiness Development in Ethiopia

Implemented in collaboration with the Diaspora Engagement Affairs Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia this initiative provide demand driven support to the government of Ethiopia in the context of implementation of its Diaspora Policy.

This initiative is intended to leverage diaspora-driven development for increased food security and agricultural transformation in different regions of Ethiopian.

In facilitating this goal, the project will contribute to more professional and sustainable engagement between regional Diaspora Coordinating Offices (DCOs) and diaspora agribusiness professionals. Beneficiaries of the training will be senior policymakers tasked with mobilising Diaspora entrepreneurs in the growth and expansion of the agri-business sector of the economy.

TEXT BOX 2: SEDIMA Progress in Detail

Our Capacity Building Workshops

The last workshop was held in Addis Ababa in November 2014, and brought together 14 policymakers. In total our workshops have trained more than 48 policy makers from 24 different African countries. The overall objective of the workshops is to improve the policy-making capacity of the newly-formed Diaspora Ministries in Africa by ensuring that the trainees get access to up-to-date information in the field.

Direct Technical Assistance

The technical assistance initiative provides support to the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs from Uganda, Kenya and Ghana. In the context of their respective Diaspora Policies at various levels of development and implementation, policy makers within the ministries in question receive on the job support that entails policy advice, capacity building for stakeholders, coaching and mentoring. Assistance provided is demand-driven based on the key priorities of the government.

From 26-30 January a technical assistance mission was undertaken to Kenya, as a follow-up the first mission that took place in October 2014. Hosted by the Foreign Institute (FSI) and the Diaspora Affairs Division of the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade the mission consisted of a workshop facilitated by Dr. Gerd Junne, former ADPC board member. Supporting Kenya's Diaspora Policy of 2014, the workshop addressed issues of, amongst others, protection of migrant workers and practical means of diaspora engagement. Important key insights from the workshop as regards the Kenyan context include: i) sensitisation on that fact that diaspora engagement starts before migrants depart and goes beyond their return; ii) the need for a '4 x 4 strategy' in order to capitalise on diaspora remittance inflows; iii) embassies have an important role to play in the protection of migrant workers and; iv) reintegration; and reconciliation of the diaspora policy with the devolution process.

In March, a similar mission was taken to Uganda. From 16- 20 March Ms. Elizabeth Adjei, ADPC expert trainer and resource person, facilitated a workshop in response to the identified needs of the Diaspora Services Department (DSD) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala. Uganda is currently developing a National Diaspora Policy. Building on the assistance provided in August 2013, the March mission provided tailor made support to the ministry in the context of the draft policy. As such the support provided encompassed: drafting of the diaspora policy; identification of policy priorities and the use of respective policy tools and; protection of the diaspora.

E-Learning Course

In addition to the capacity building workshops and the direct technical assistance, SEDIMA provides the e-learning course 'Migration and Development'. The course enables African government policymakers to continue learning and to gain access to up-to-date information. The course provides an online platform, which helps the participants to create a network with like minded practitioners. The added value of this e-learning course is that in a relative easy manner many policymakers can be reached.

In May, the first course was held, in which 14 participants from different African governments participated in, and subsequently completed. Participants of the course collectively expressed that the course contributed positively to their knowledge regarding migration and development. In particular participants emphasized the usefulness of the online platform as a way of sharing their knowledge and learning from each other. The next round of the course will be held in October 2015.

Our Events Calendar: August -October 2015

Keep an eye open for up-coming events and further project developments in the second half of the year!

Date	Event
AUGUST	
• 17-18	Integrating the Ethiopian Diaspora in National and Local Development <i>[UNECA Conference centre, Addis Ababa]</i>
• 19-25	Developing a National Migration/Diaspora Data Management Framework <i>[Addis Ababa]</i>
• 27	Peacebuilding Expert Meeting <i>[Institute of Social Studies, The Hague]</i>
SEPTEMBER	
• 14-25	Tailor-made Training for Agribusiness Development in Ethiopia <i>[Addis Ababa]</i>
• 21-25	Peacebuilding Workshop <i>[The Hague Academy for Local Governance, The Hague]</i>
	Kenya Technical Assistance <i>[Kenya]</i>
OCTOBER	
• 08	Lobby & Advocacy Expert Meeting <i>[The Hague]</i>
• 12-16	Uganda Technical Assistance <i>[Uganda]</i>
• 19-23	Lobby & Advocacy Workshop <i>[The Hague Academy for Local Governance, The Hague]</i>
• 5-31	E-Learning course on 'Migration and Development'

NOTE: For details of the above events please visit our website at: <http://www.diaspora-centre.org/event-calender/>



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