

MAPPING THE
RWANDAN
DIASPORA
IN THE
NETHERLANDS

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MAPPING THE RWANDAN DIASPORA IN THE NETHERLANDS

Prepared by

Alain Nkurikiye





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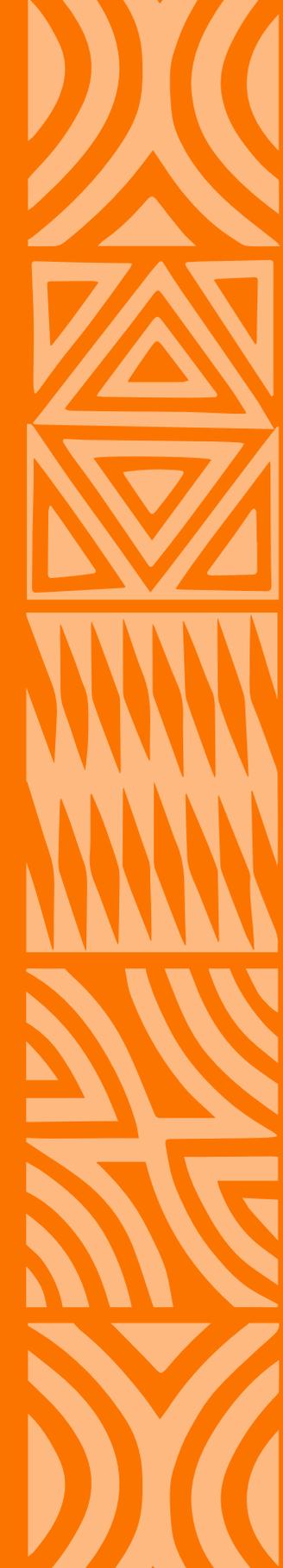
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ACRONYMS

CBI	Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries
CBS	Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (English: Central Bureau of Statistics (of the Netherlands))
CD4D	Connecting Diaspora for Development
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
ICT	information and communications technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MIDA	Migration for Development in Africa
MINAFFET	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MTO(s)	money transfer operator(s) RDGN Rwanda Diaspora Global Network
SME(s)	small and medium enterprise(s)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees





1. INTRODUCTION

This mapping exercise is commissioned by the Government of Rwanda with support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The purpose of this mapping exercise is to provide the Government of Rwanda with access to relevant information on the Rwandan diaspora in the Netherlands and identify members of the diaspora who are interested in contributing knowledge and other resources that will ultimately lead to the drafting of measures for enhancing participation in national development. These can come in different forms – scientific, experiential, technological, business- and investment-based, philanthropic, economic, cultural, and social – all of which contribute to development in various ways.

The definition of “Rwandan diaspora”, specifically, can be found in the Rwanda Diaspora Policy, issued by the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MINAFFET) (now known as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation). The document also provides a distinction between temporary and permanent diaspora members.

For purposes of this policy paper, the following working definition of “diaspora” will be used: individuals originating from one country, living outside that country, irrespective of their citizenship or nationality, who, individually or collectively, are or could be willing to contribute to the development of their country. Descendants of these individuals are also included in this definition... In the Rwandan context, “Rwandan Diaspora” refers in general to all Rwandans who left their country voluntarily or were forced to live in other countries of the world and are willing to contribute to the development of Rwanda. (Rwanda, MINAFFET, 2009, p. 6)

Knowledge may be scientific or business- and trade-related, and the resources exchanged may be, for example, cultural in nature or take the form of social capital or connections. Information gathered on available knowledge and resources among the Rwandan diaspora will be used to guide the Government of Rwanda in mobilizing the diaspora for national development.

The destination countries selected for the conduct of this mapping exercise are Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom. The skills identified as being critical to the development of Rwanda are set forth in the Second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS2) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and include areas such as transport, energy, mining, hospitality (including knowledge of international languages such as English and



French), information technology and trade logistics. Further, there is a need to develop basic skills, such as literacy and numeracy, as well as skills related to trade, construction, transport, agro-processing and light manufacturing. (Rwanda, MINECOFIN, 2013, p. 66)

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1.1. Economic context

Rwanda is one of the fastest growing economies in Central Africa. It notched up GDP growth of around 8 per cent per year from 2001 to 2014. Rwanda's growth slowed from mid-2016 to mid-2017, bottoming out at 3.4 per cent, but was expected to recover to 5.2 per cent for the second half of 2017, and may well accelerate in 2018 and 2019 as private and public investment pick up and agriculture becomes more productive (World Bank, 2017). An International Monetary Fund report has stated that Rwanda's growth was driven by construction, services, agriculture and manufacturing, but mining exports have slowed (Hutt, 2016).

The growth slowdown between 2001 and 2014 was mainly due to reduced foreign aid, as 30 to 40 per cent of the government budget came from aid (Hutt, 2016). Other causes were the combined effects of drought, weak export prices and construction activities.

In 2000, The Government of Rwanda introduced a development programme called Vision 2020.¹ Its main objective was transforming the country into a knowledge-based, middle-income country, in the process reducing poverty, health problems and making the nation united and democratic. To achieve this, Vision 2020 identified six interwoven pillars, which includes (a) good governance and an efficient State, (b) skilled human capital, (c) a vibrant private sector, (d) world class physical infrastructure, and (e) modern agriculture and livestock, all geared towards (f) prospering in national, regional and global markets (regional and international economic integration). (MINECOFIN, 2012)

An evaluation of Vision 2020's achievements by Jönköping International Business School (Nimusima et al., 2018) concluded that the programme has led to very good progress in the country's development, with major gains in social sectors, including health and education. In terms of non-income poverty, EDPRS2 has been much more successful. Infant, under-5 and maternal mortality decreased by 20 to 30 per cent, while poverty incidence was reduced from 58.9 per cent to 56.7 per cent. Extreme poverty fell by 4.2 percentage points, from 40 per cent to 35.8 per cent, between 2001 and 2005, while income inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, increased from 0.505 to 0.522.

¹ The revised Vision 2020 policy document is available at www.minecofin.gov.rw/fileadmin/templates/documents/NDPR/Vision_2020_.pdf.



1.1.2. Development challenges

According to the Vision 2020 report, Rwanda is facing a number of constraints to economic growth, such as the following:

- (a) **Low agricultural productivity and a narrow economic base.** Agriculture accounts for more than 71.6 per cent (2010) of the labour force, yet most agricultural production is at a subsistence level due to low productivity.
- (b) **Natural barriers to trade.** Rwanda is landlocked, with long distances from ocean ports – a factor that raises transportation costs for both exports and imports.
- (c) **Low level of human resource development.** The major challenges faced in human resource development are in developing technical and vocational skills needed by the labour market needs and continuing to develop a strong base of science, technology and innovation graduates to spearhead the move into regional and global markets.
- (d) **Low infrastructure development.** Rwanda has made strong governance reforms in doing business; however, a major challenge that remains is reducing the infrastructure-related costs of doing business, especially electricity, which is expensive largely due to the low levels of energy production.

Going forward, the private sector will have to play a bigger role in ensuring economic growth. Access to electricity and infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, as well as labour market (employable skills) are some of the major constraints to private sector development that still need to be addressed (Rwanda, Ministry of Infrastructure, 2016).

1.2. RATIONALE

A growing body of research suggests that skilled diasporas and country networks abroad are an important reservoir of knowledge.² The research underlines the possibility of migrants acting as agents of development and as contributors to their countries of origin of financial and social remittances, knowledge and know-how, and investment ventures, among others.³

Realizing the importance of its diaspora in the economic development, the Government of Rwanda intends to identify the conditions and factors that are necessary to engage the diaspora in the development of their homeland.

² See, for example: Barré et al., 2003; Khadria, 1999; Kuznetsov, 2006; Meyer and Brown, 1999; Pack and Page, 1994; Saxenian, 2002a, 2002b, 2004 and 2006; Wescott, 2006; and Wickramasekara, 2009.

³ See, for example: Tejada, 2012; Weinar, 2010; de Haas, 2006; Katseli et al., 2006; and Lowell and Gerova, 2004.



The Government of Rwanda believes that the Rwandan community abroad (i.e. the diaspora) lacks credible information on realities back home and they are often not acquainted with its socioeconomic and political drives. There is a real need for a well-established structural and strategic framework both in Rwanda and abroad to mobilize, coordinate and involve the diaspora in the development of Rwanda (Rwanda, MINAFFET, 2009). This mapping exercise aims to support and guide the Government of Rwanda in the design of diaspora engagement programmes to achieve such an aim.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The project aims to ascertain and transmit a profile that outlines information on the size, gender composition, and professional skills, training and expertise of the Rwandan diaspora in the Netherlands. This broad stock of hard data (facts and figures) will be complemented by interviews and informal, semi-structured conversations, which will examine future-oriented concerns that the diaspora might have.

The areas of interest to be examined through these interviews and correspondences include: Diaspora members' relationship with their "home" country, including in terms of contributions made thereto (e.g. remittances and investments); the desire to return to, invest in and share skills in Rwanda; and, finally, what they expect their individual involvement in these activities to be and how engagement might be better facilitated.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To explore the potential for diaspora engagement and cooperation, the following questions are asked:

- (a) Is the Rwandan diaspora interested in supporting vocational training in Rwanda?
- (b) In what other ways can the diaspora support the development of Rwanda?



1.5. METHODOLOGY

For this exercise, a mixed-methods approach was used to gather information about the Rwandan diaspora community in the Netherlands. The research took place between March and October 2018 and was conducted through online and offline surveys, key informant interviews (more information on what comprises a key informant can be found in succeeding paragraphs) and a focus group discussion. Selection of participants for the survey and key informant interviews was done through a convenience sampling procedure.

The mapping exercise was promoted through traditional, electronic and social media platforms. Following the initial outreach, interested respondents were invited to participate in focus groups and key informant interviews.

The following are the different methods of research and engagement applied during the conduct this exercise.

Desk research

A type of research that involves collecting and examining information that already exists and is relatively easy to access, such as company records, government reports, and articles in newspapers, magazines and on the Internet.⁴ For this study, desk research was conducted to review and investigate existing literature and sources of information on the history of the Rwandan diaspora in the Netherlands.

Key informant interviews with diaspora members

Key informant interviews are qualitative, in-depth interviews with people who know what is “going on” in their community. The purpose of key informant interviews is to collect information from a wide range of people – including community leaders, subject matter experts, professionals and residents – who have first-hand knowledge about the community. Community leaders and experts are either successful diaspora business owners, or founders or managers of diaspora associations or networks in the target destination country. Professionals are diaspora members working in the target destination country. Residents are students or other diaspora members who do not fall into either of the other two categories. These community experts, with their specific knowledge and understanding, can provide insights into the nature of certain problems and are in an excellent position to make recommendations concerning solutions.

Key informant interviews were conducted either face-to-face or over the telephone (whichever method the participant preferred) with 12 people in the Rwandan diaspora.

⁴ Cambridge University Press. “Desk research”, definition in Cambridge Dictionary (online). Available at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/desk-research>.



Table 1: Key informant interview respondents

Gender	Generation	Expertise	Interested in supporting vocational training programmes?	Interested in supporting other sectors?	Date and place of interview
Female	First	Law	No	Yes	15 May 2018, Den Haag
Male	First	Entrepreneurship	No	Yes	15 May 2018, Amsterdam
Female	First	Health	Yes	Yes	17 May 2018, Utrecht
Male	First	Finance	No	Yes	20 May 2018, Amsterdam
Male	First	Law	Yes	Yes	23 May 2018, Den Haag
Female	First	Horticulture	No	Yes	01 June 2018, via Skype
Male	Second	Water management	Yes	Yes	12 June 2018, Rotterdam
Female	First	Health	Yes	Yes	12 June 2018, via Skype
Female	First	Health	Yes	Yes	15 June 2018, via Skype
Male	First	Business	No	Yes	17 June 2018, Den Haag
Male	First	Business	No	Yes	20 June 2018, via Skype
Female	Second	Entrepreneurship	Yes	Yes	22 July 2018, Den Haag
Male	First	Entrepreneurship	Yes	Yes	24 July 2018, Den Haag

Focus group discussions

A focus group discussion is a research method that may be conducted to gather information about diaspora members' perspectives, opinions and levels of engagement in matters that are important to the diaspora in the destination country selected (be they remittances, investments or their interest in skills-sharing). Focus group discussion participants are asked questions in an interactive setting and are encouraged to discuss their thoughts freely with other participants.

During this mapping exercise, three focus group discussion sessions were organized with the Rwandan diaspora. Two of the focus groups were organized by the Rwandan Embassy in The Hague and the third one was organized by Rwandan diaspora members in the Netherlands.

Online survey

An online survey is a questionnaire that the target audience can complete on the Internet. For this exercise, a survey was created using a Google form. The online survey received 51 responses. It was promoted through traditional, electronic and social media platforms.



Privacy and ethics

Researchers ensured that ethical principles, based on IOM's Data Protection Principles,⁵ were respected throughout the duration of this exercise and that respondents' privacy was protected. Participation was voluntary and informed consent was maintained throughout the exercise.

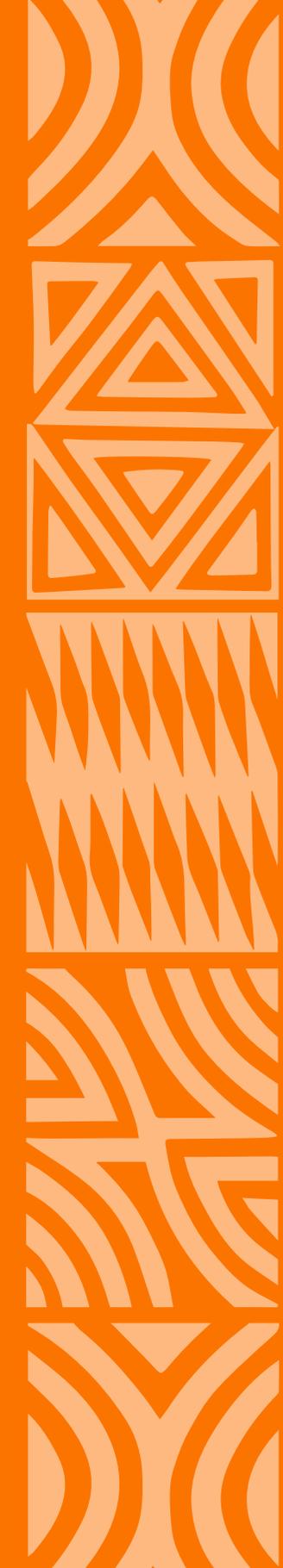
Respondents were informed that the purpose of the exercise was to gauge diaspora interest in contributing to Rwanda's development. Information gathered was kept anonymous and personal details were not required from respondents. Confidentiality was maintained during the focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

Limitations

This mapping exercise captured the views of a small sample of the Rwandan diaspora in the Netherlands. Although significant efforts were made to reach the widest audience possible, certain limitations affected the overall results of the exercise.

One important limitation was the respondents' lack of time to participate in this research. Indeed, diaspora members were not able to join focus groups meeting as they had other obligations. The consultant attempted to conduct a virtual meeting; however, the diaspora members were not keen on using such method. As a result, the consultant conducted three focus groups: The first was organized by the diaspora themselves, while the two others were organized by the embassy.

⁵ Further details about the IOM Data Protection Principles can be found at http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iomdataprotection_web.pdf.





2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This review of the literature discusses four broad and sometimes overlapping mechanisms that diaspora communities use to contribute to development and, more broadly, economic growth in their countries of origin: (a) remittances, (b) transnational entrepreneurship, (c) knowledge transfer and return migration, and (d) market development through tourism, trade, investment, transportation and telecommunications. It thereby serves to lay the groundwork for this report, in which we draw out ideas regarding different ways in which the Rwanda Government may seek to develop policies and programmes to enhance Rwandan diaspora involvement in the development of the country.

2.1. REMITTANCES⁶

Migrant remittances have become a major source of financing for developing countries and are particularly important in sub-Saharan Africa. The increasing role of remittances, and especially their ability to remain resilient during periods of economic and financial crises, has spurred interest among development practitioners who wish to understand the nature, potential developmental impact and policy implications of remittance flows. While remittances are spent primarily on consumption, research indicates that the portions not used to purchase food, pay for medical or education fees or buy household goods are often invested in small enterprises or real estate.

Migrants have the desire to invest, but there is little awareness of which area to invest in, and investment is intimidating for many. This, in turn, means opportunities for service and product providers. On the supply side, there are four prevalent models of diaspora investment: (a) diaspora bonds; (b) venture capital investment funds; (c) crowd-funding platforms; (d) and a hybrid model (developed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and tested in Somalia and replicated in the Philippines), whereby the diaspora can co-invest in small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

It would be worthwhile to better understand what people need and define the different categories of these needs.

⁶ Lubambu, 2014.



2.2. TRANSNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP⁷

Transnationalism has emerged in the development literature as one of the dominant frameworks for understanding the activities of diaspora communities in both their countries of origin and settlement.

Transnational entrepreneurs, in particular, often seen as the human face of globalization, represent “an alternative form of economic adaptation of foreign minorities...based on the mobilization of their cross-country social networks.” These individuals are also able to exploit opportunities and niche markets that others without such transnational ties cannot. In this sense, transnational entrepreneurship is both a logical response to and a symbol of a globalized world defined by increasingly open markets and freer trade.

2.3. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND RETURN MIGRATION

In today’s global economy, knowledge is the most important driver of productivity and economic growth, assuring competitiveness and innovation. In developing countries, knowledge is regarded as an important tool for development. The easiest and most intuitive way to define knowledge is as “literally what people know.” Knowledge emerges from the individual and always remains intrinsically linked to the individual – that is, each person creates his or her own knowledge from data and information. (Mueller, n.d.)

Increasingly, fears of migration-driven “brain drain” from the developing to the developed worlds are being attenuated by the increasing recognition of the fact that talented workers and students often go abroad to work or study, with many returning home to “use their own global networks, and especially those of their diasporas, to help build new establishments [e.g. business enterprises] in their home countries” (Newland and Tanaka, 2010). Consequently, “brain circulation” and “knowledge exchange” are displacing “brain drain” in the vocabulary of researchers and policymakers working on migration issues (Dade and Unheim, 2007). IOM has initiated similar programmes, such as Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA)⁸ and Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D),⁹ which are capacity-building initiatives with the purpose of promoting development goals through the participation and contribution of members of the African diaspora. This constant exchange of ideas, resources and knowledge across borders is, therefore, one of the most important means through which diaspora communities are contributing to economic development back home. For example, Meyer and Brown (1999) found that many developing countries have been able to harness the talents and expertise of their skilled overseas emigrants by encouraging them to serve as short-term trainers or consultants, or as investors. Kuznetsov and

⁷ Portes et al., 2002.

⁸ The MIDA website is available at www.iom.int/mida.

⁹ The CD4D website is available at www.connectingdiaspora.org/en.



Sabel (2006) argue that such policy expertise and managerial and marketing knowledge are the most significant resources of diaspora networks.

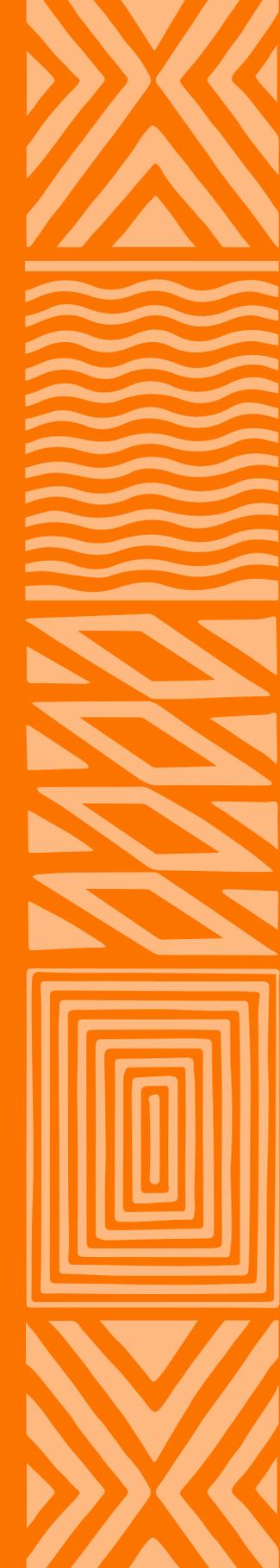
2.4. THE DIASPORA'S IMPACT ON MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Manuel Orozco's "5 Ts" approach remains one of the most illustrative mechanisms for explaining the economic impact of diasporas on their countries and regions of origin: tourism, transportation, telecommunications, (nostalgic) trade and, as discussed above, the transmission of monetary remittances (Lowell and Gerova, 2004). While the multiplier effects of nostalgia trade and remittances have already been discussed, many migrants also remain closely tied to their homelands through frequent visits and phone calls back home, both of which have been creating job opportunities through the expansion of related services and infrastructure.

Migrants travel back home to reconnect with family and friends, educate their children about their heritage, sustain transnational businesses, or simply to vacation, all of which have spurred growth in air travel and, in some cases, even sustained airlines servicing these destinations. Between trips back home, migrants remain in close contact with relatives over the phone, and growing demand for such services has financed and enabled the spread of telecommunications infrastructure and mobile phone companies in migrant-sending countries around the world (Mercer et al., 2013).

Johnson and Sedac have identified an alternative, yet overlapping, understanding of the ways in which diaspora communities contribute to market development back home: remittances, business investment, other investment instruments and knowledge transfer. Barré highlights the unrecognized potential of the diaspora to foster economic development, focusing on the highly skilled scientific and technological diaspora in the global North. The return of highly skilled Indian information technology professionals to their home country to start their own successful technology ventures, or their involvement in financing such initiatives, are cases in point in this regard (Manashi, 2010).

Migrants have the desire to invest, but there is little awareness of possible areas to invest in. In addition, investment is generally intimidating for many. There is a need to better understand what people need and define the different areas that the diaspora can invest in.





3. RWANDAN MIGRATION PATTERNS

3.1. BACKGROUND

In the early 1960s, more than 100,000 Rwandese refugees entered the neighbouring countries of Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. They sought asylum from the violence emerging from the social and political changes within Rwanda at the time. These refugees, and the generations they produced, remained in exile for more than thirty years until political alterations in Rwanda facilitated their return in 1994.

Simultaneously, as many of the refugees from the 1960s returned to Rwanda, a new wave of refugees left Rwanda following the 1994 genocide and the installation of a new government. In response to the 1994 genocide and earlier conflicts, massive migration flows emerged, involving over 2 million Rwandans. Most of these migrants fled to neighbouring countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi, and approximately 200,000 migrants fled to Europe (UNHCR, 2000). Although some of them returned after 1994, many Rwandans continue to live outside their home country.

3.2. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA

According to MINECOFIN, an estimated 345,800 Rwandans lived abroad¹⁰ in 2013, compared to 263,400 (2.6% of the population) in 2010.

A report by the International Fund for Agricultural Development estimated that remittances from the Rwandan diaspora amounted to USD 163 million in 2016. Remittances contributed at least 2 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP) during this period and grew by 34 per cent over the last decade. These remittances contribute to the development of Rwanda in different sectors and areas, including real estate development, community development and poverty alleviation. (Rwanda, MINAFFET, 2009, p. 6)

As of the writing of this report, there has not been any research on the migration of Rwandan citizens in the Netherlands.

¹⁰ 2013 key destination countries were: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Burundi, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of the Congo, France, Zambia, Malawi, Canada, Belgium and South Africa (World Bank, 2016).



3.3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RWANDAN DIASPORA IN THE NETHERLANDS

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of the Netherlands, the country hosted 1,575 individuals of Rwandan origin in 2017 (CBS, n.d.). There is a gender balance in the diaspora: Men represent 50.1 per cent and women, 49.9 per cent of the total population. From 2010 till 2017, the total Rwanda diaspora population grew by 8 per cent in the Netherlands.

Figure 1. Distribution of the Rwandan diaspora population in the Netherlands by generation and gender, 2010–2017



Source: CBS, n.d.

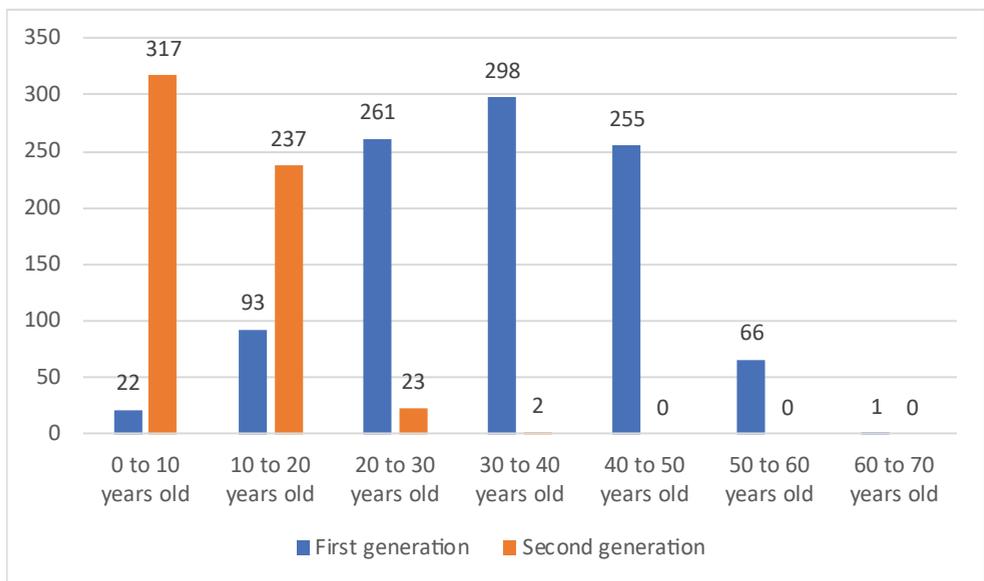


3.4. RWANDAN DIASPORA BY GENERATION

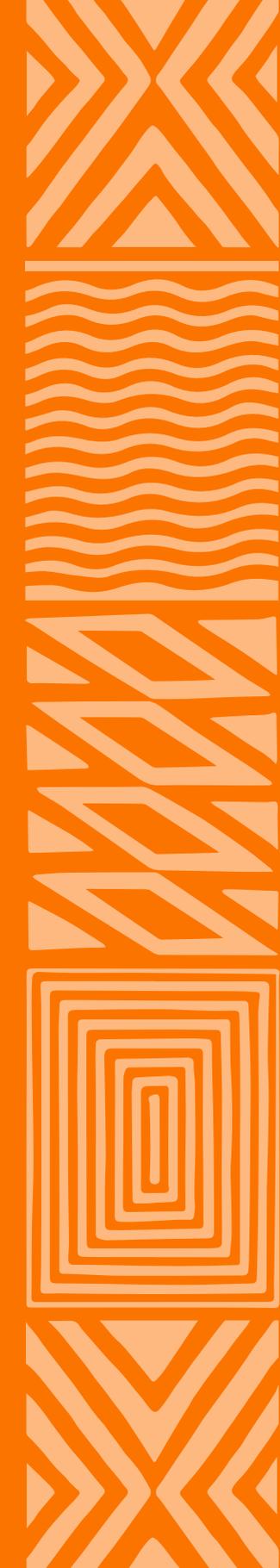
In this mapping exercise, we use the term “first generation” to refer to either a person who has immigrated to the Netherlands or to the children of such an immigrant. The term “second generation”, consequently, may refer to either the children or grandchildren of such an immigrant.

According to the CBS, 63 per cent of the total Rwandan diaspora population is composed of the first generation, with the remaining 37 per cent representing the second generation. The majority of the first-generation diaspora is young, aged between 20 and 50 years. The second generation is also relatively young and comprises minors.

Figure 2. First- and second-generation diaspora populations



Source: CBS, n.d.





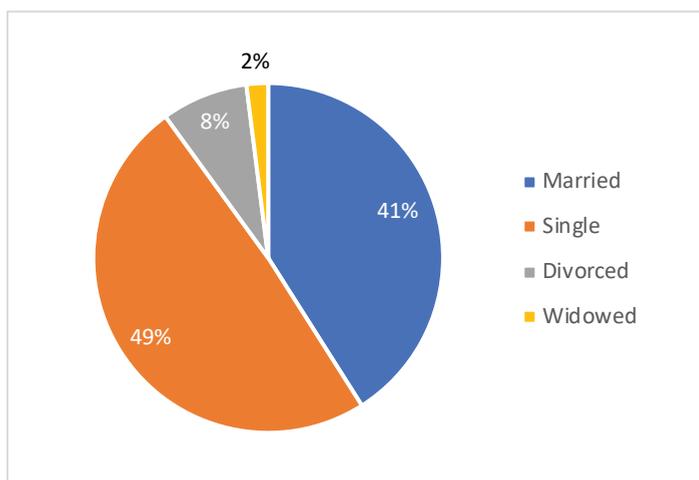
4. ONLINE SURVEY RESPONSES

The initial method of engagement with the Rwandan diaspora was through an online survey. The survey was open to the general public for the entire mapping period. Rwanda diaspora members were specifically invited to take part in the survey through targeted outreach and promotion efforts. By 31 October 2018, 51 completed survey questionnaires were received.

4.1. RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Around 57 per cent of respondents are male and the rest, female; 41 per cent are married and 49 per cent are single, with the rest being either divorced (8%) or widowed (2%).

Figure 3. Respondents' marital status



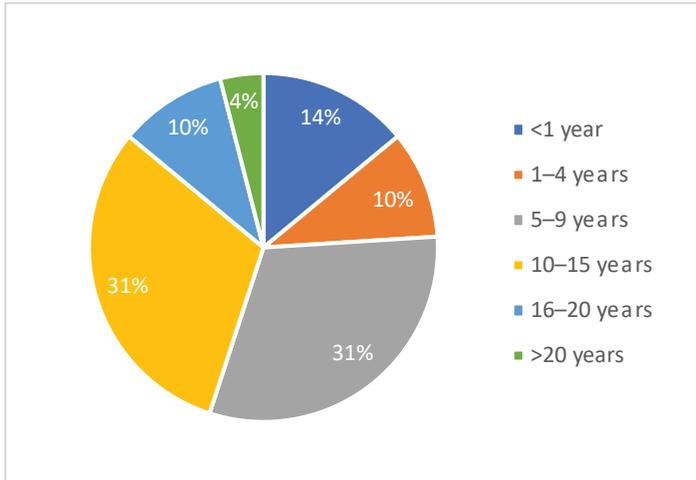
Source: CBS, n.d.



4.2. LENGTH OF STAY IN THE NETHERLANDS

A large majority (62%) of the respondents have been living in the Netherlands for between 5 to 15 years.

Figure 4. Respondents' length of stay in the Netherlands



Source: CBS, n.d.

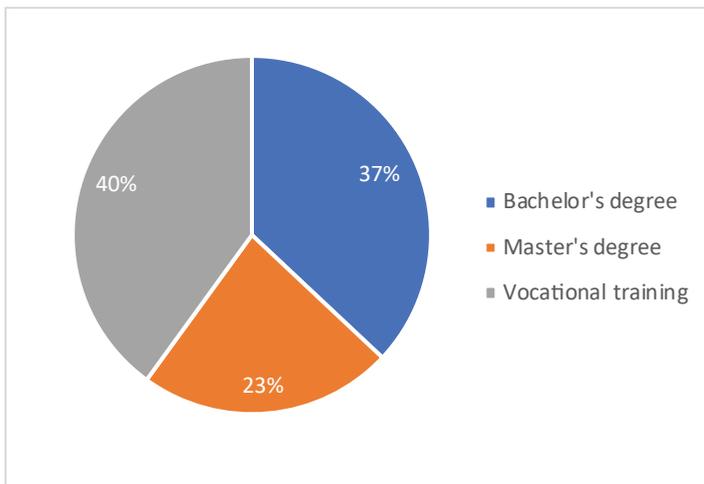
4.3. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

The educational attainment of Rwandan diaspora members in the Netherlands is highly variable. The highest educational attainment of most respondents is either a bachelor's degree or vocational training. First-generation migrants obtained their degrees either in Rwanda or abroad. Most of them did not pursue higher education in their respective fields in the Netherlands or have decided to follow vocational studies. Their children, however, adapt faster and are in a better position to take advantage of educational opportunities.

Our research has found out that 28 per cent of respondents are either working in the health sector or studying subjects related to health care. Around 16 per cent of the respondents have specialized in subjects related to agriculture, such as agricultural economics and agricultural engineering and most of the respondents in this category are still students at universities in the Netherlands. Another 14 per cent of respondents work in the hospitality and energy sectors; 45 per cent of the respondents are salaried employees ("employed, with wages" in Figure), while 26 per cent report being self-employed, 16 per cent as students and 13 per cent as unemployed.

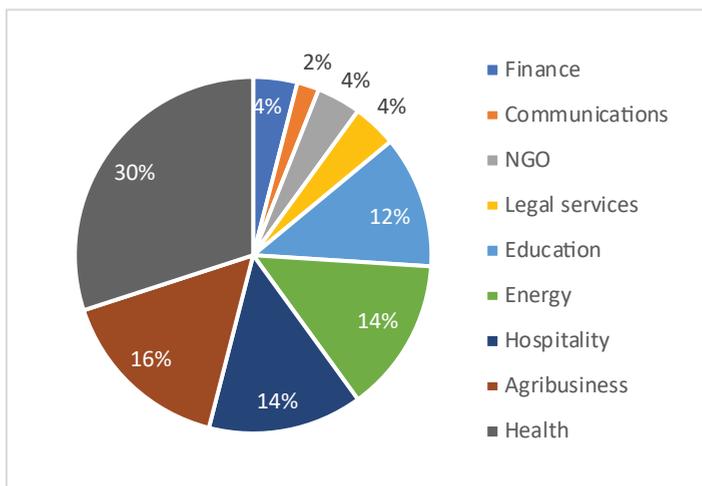


Figure 5. Respondents' level of education



Source: CBS, n.d.

Figure 6. Respondents' professional fields



Source: CBS, n.d.

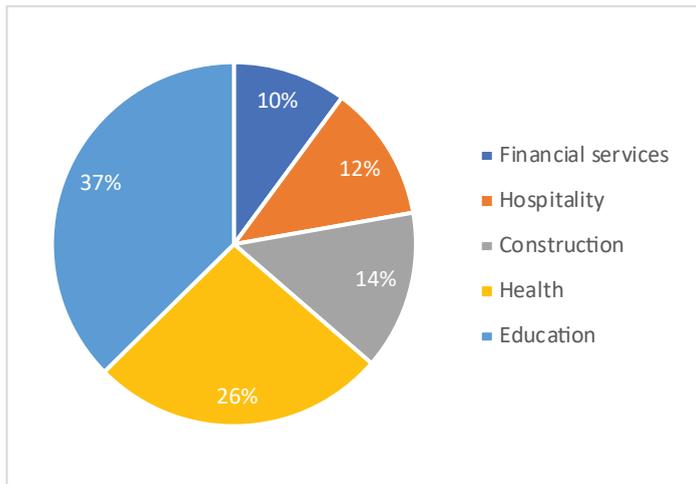
4.4. CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RWANDA

Around 80 per cent of participants have expressed their willingness to support the Rwandan Government in its development agenda. Some of them are already supporting various sectors in Rwanda, in one way or another; these sectors include education (37%), health (26%), construction (14%), hospitality (12%) and financial services (10%).



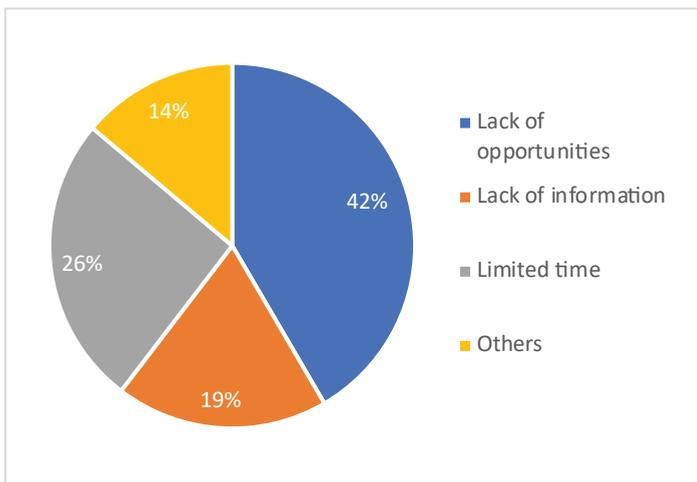
However, 95 per cent of respondents have not had the opportunity to participate in a national capacity-building programme. Indeed, there is no programme in the Netherlands that promotes knowledge transfer to Rwanda. Barriers to diaspora engagement include issues such as time constraints, lack of information on how to access such opportunities (if any existed), limited financial resources, the large geographic distance between Rwanda and the Netherlands, and not having the right support.

Figure 7. Sectors supported by the respondents



Source: CBS, n.d.

Figure 8. Barriers to diaspora engagement



Source: CBS, n.d.



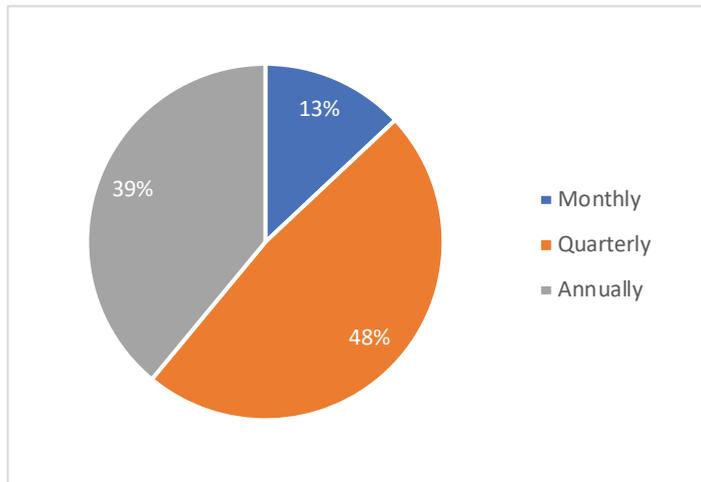
4.5. CONTRIBUTION THROUGH REMITTANCES

Some 48 per cent of the respondents send remittances quarterly and 39 per cent annually. A large majority (73%) have never sent remittances intended for development-related purposes. Some of the reasons respondents mention for not doing so are the following: disappointment in previous investments (due mainly to the distance between the Netherlands and Rwanda), a lack of opportunity to do so, and the lack of the means to do so, as they are either unemployed or have other financial obligations.

Respondents who send remittances for development-related purposes, do so annually and send between EUR 100 and EUR 500 (51%), while 13 per cent of respondents report sending between EUR 500 and EUR 1,000. An overwhelming majority (87%) of respondents send money to their families, mostly for household consumption purposes (80%). Slightly over half (53%) send at most 5 per cent of their disposable income and 43 per cent send between 6 and 10 per cent.

A large majority of respondents (62%) send money through international money transfer operators (MTOs), 18 per cent through family and friends travelling to Rwanda, and 16 per cent through local MTOs. The diaspora believes that remittances contribute to education, health and information and communications technology.

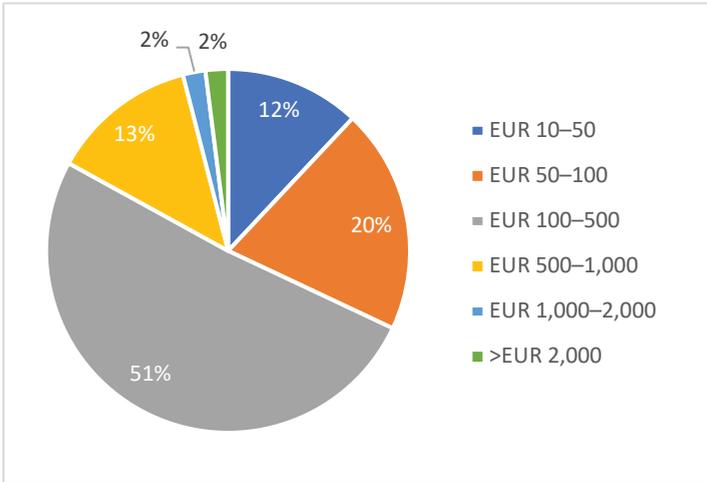
Figure 9. Frequency of sending remittances



Source: CBS, n.d.

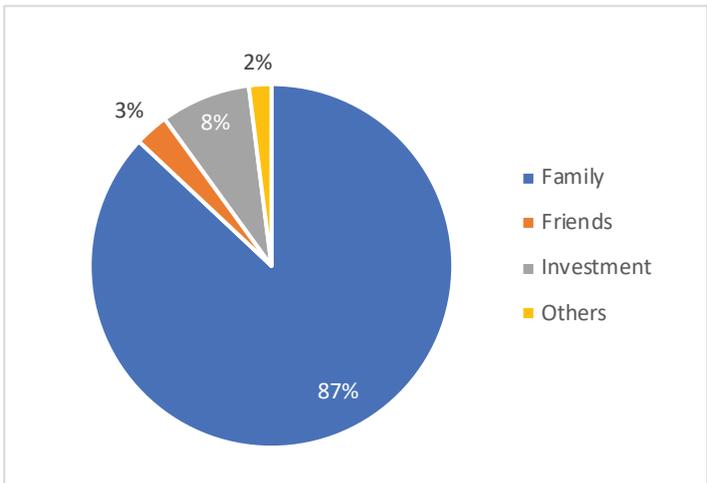


Figure 10. Remittance amounts sent by respondents



Source: CBS, n.d.

Figure 11. Recipients of remittances sent by respondents



Source: CBS, n.d.



Figure 12. How respondents send money

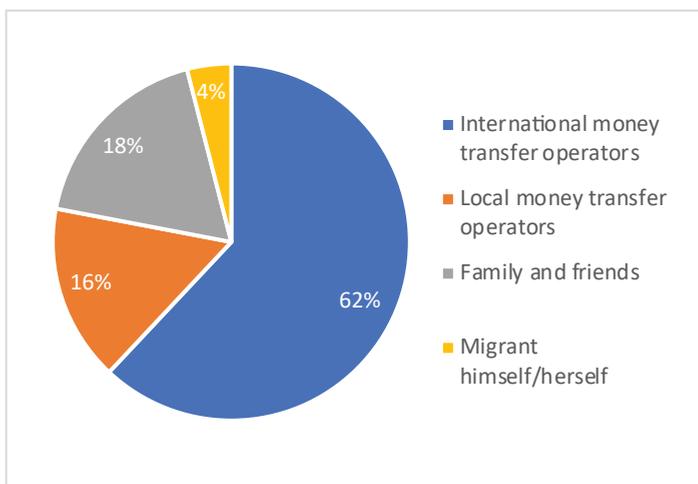
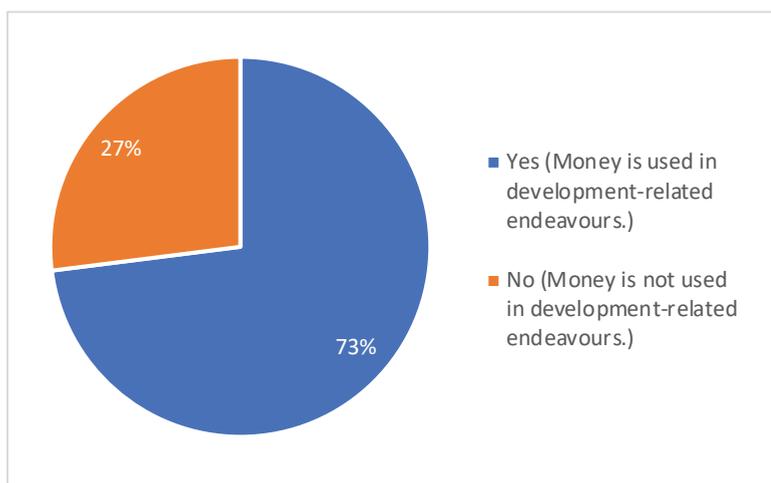


Figure 13. Remittances for development





4.6. DIASPORA NETWORKS

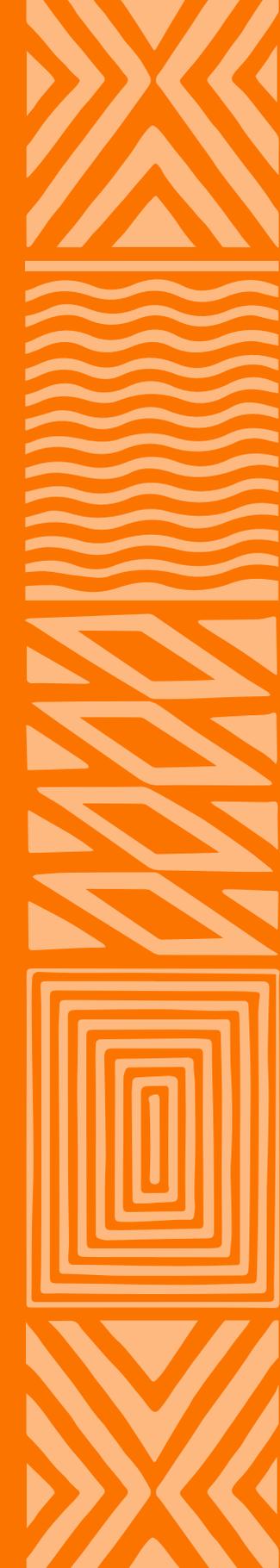
Among respondents, 75 per cent report being active members of a formal or informal diaspora association or community organization. As identified by respondents, these groups are social or cultural (30%), professional or career-focused (16%), academic (14%), or religious (14%) in nature. These groups are involved in activities that serve to keep diaspora ties with Rwanda through cultural programming, social and linguistic services, and professional opportunities related to Rwanda.

Information-sharing within these groups takes various forms. Since they maintain connections to the embassy, they and the embassy are able to jointly organize various activities throughout the year centred around Rwandan culture, trade promotion and many more. Respondents report email (20%), meetings (20%) and Facebook (13%) as the main communication tools in their respective diaspora groups or networks.

Around 75 per cent of respondents report belonging to a formal or informal diaspora group, with the vast majority being of a social or cultural nature. Some of these diaspora networks have made collective contributions collectively to Rwanda. They are connected to Rwanda through the Rwandan Embassy in The Hague, or through their families and affiliate organizations in Rwanda. Since they are informally organized, staffed by volunteers and with limited resources, in terms of both funding and equipment, it is sometimes difficult to make the kind of impact that matches their level of commitment to the home country.

4.7. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

A large majority (72%) of respondents mention that they need government support in setting up development support programmes. The respondents want the Rwandan Government to enhance the country's diaspora policy and conduct awareness campaigns on available opportunities back home. They also stress the need for a programme to promote diaspora entrepreneurship and investment, as well as information about funding opportunities. In addition, the Government could support its embassies to improve their programmes that aim to gain more information about the diaspora, make investment and trade contacts, and use embassies as vehicles for marketing investment and financial mechanisms.





5. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FINDINGS

The second method of engagement is the focus group discussion. Three such sessions are held with diaspora members who have also previously participated as survey respondents. They are contacted through the Rwanda diaspora committee in the Netherlands and selected on the basis of their personal and professional interests, as well as their availability to participate in the sessions. These focus group discussions allow respondents to provide meaningful input and feedback on their desires, experiences and views on the role of skilled diaspora professionals in Rwanda.

The discussions focus on the participants' perceptions, experiences and needs with regard to how they can professionally contribute to development in Rwanda. Specifically, participants are asked about the following areas:

- (a) Perceptions of currently available diaspora opportunities;
- (b) Willingness to support vocational training programmes in Rwanda;
- (c) Challenges with diaspora engagement;
- (d) Examples of incentives for diaspora participation.

5.1. PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RWANDA

Focus group participants generally have a not-so-favourable perception of currently available opportunities for the diaspora in Rwanda, and so they are reluctant to go back to Rwanda to work there. Some of them already have employment or small businesses in the Netherlands. They want to find out more about how such programmes would work.

Participants feel a strong desire to support Rwanda, but would like a programme that would allow them to live and work in both Rwanda and the Netherlands. In particular, the diaspora shows a strong desire to support the private sector through entrepreneurship and investment. They also want to contribute to the development of key sectors such as health, education and renewable energy. Others feel frustrated over the lack of information or opportunities to take part in those sectors, despite having interest, availability and the appropriate skill sets.



Most participants state that they know that opportunities for the diaspora to be involved in development in Rwanda exist, but are difficult to find or access. Participants express the lack of publicly available information and guidance for work and other opportunities.

These members of the diaspora mention their interest in supporting the private sector through direct investment in SMEs. They also mention that many commercial banks in Rwanda offer several services for the diaspora, such as savings accounts and mortgages. However, these products do not allow the diaspora to support the private sector. In addition, some of these products are not very attractive to the diaspora. For instance, the mortgage market in the Netherlands is more attractive than in Rwanda due to various incentives from the government and low interest rates. Also, since some diaspora members do not regularly send remittances back home as they used to do, a savings account does not quite appeal to them. As such, the diaspora stresses the need for banks to develop new financial services that respond to the needs of the diaspora.

5.2. WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN RWANDA

Respondents express their willingness to support vocational training programmes. They also express some concerns regarding their current engagements in the Netherlands, such as their jobs. Indeed, most of them have jobs and other obligations in the Netherlands, and they do not see how they could leave what they have here for a temporary programme in Rwanda. Moreover, they want to know if such a programme (if any exists) would offer the same benefits as those that they enjoy in their current positions. They remark that this programme may be beneficial for diaspora members who are currently unemployed or are recent university graduates. They believe that vocational training programmes may provide unemployed diaspora members with job opportunities and the chance to work back home. Respondents also raised the issue of working conditions and whether they will be subject to a local contract or an international one.

Regarding the transfer of skills from the diaspora to professionals in Rwanda, one key informant shares the challenges faced by skilled professionals who wish to move back to help support the development of the education sector. Two major challenges are cited: (a) lack of work equipment and (b) inadequate technology.

Moreover, respondents also stress that most of them are not experienced in providing educational training. They wonder whether the programme would include “training for trainers”, to equip them with the skills needed for this programme.



Throughout the interviews, it is repeatedly emphasized that diaspora interest to develop key sectors remains very high and that the Government should utilize that demand for professional sector development. They encourage the Government to deepen its engagement with qualified professionals and explore more effective ways to work with professionals in the diaspora.

5.3. CHALLENGES FOR DIASPORA PARTICIPATION

Participants note multiple challenges that affect their perceptions of working in Rwanda. Most centre on the difficulty behind meeting their personal and professional needs once in Rwanda.

(a) Limited access to information

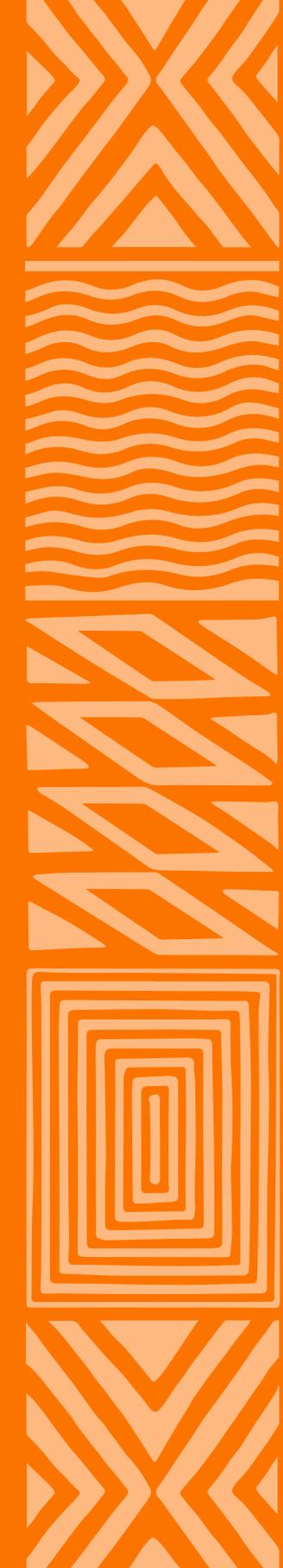
Participants express frustration towards the absence of an accessible diaspora platform for information, networking and new opportunities in Rwanda. Many state that they would be more likely to consider supporting Rwanda if information was more readily available.

(b) Risk of relocation and transition

In sectors such as agribusiness, health and education, participants are worried about the personal, professional and logistical challenges of relocating from the Netherlands to Rwanda. They emphasize the high level of risk of managing their affairs in the Netherlands from Rwanda. Concerns include fulfilling their financial obligations in the Netherlands, which may include debt, mortgages, bills and tuition payments.

(c) Delivering impact and value

The participants are concerned about having genuine impact on local communities in Rwanda. Based on their past experiences, they express their interest in working directly with the private sector and feel that the Government should do more to enhance their engagement with this sector.





6. KEY INFORMANT FINDINGS

The third method of engagement with professionals in the Rwandan diaspora is the one-on-one key informant interview. Key informants are interested survey respondents who are representatives or members of a diaspora organization, or ordinary diaspora members who are active in their communities and possess special knowledge about the development of Rwanda. A total of 13 interviews are conducted with each individual over the course of this exercise.

6.1. PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RWANDA

Key informants stress that it is high time to shift focus from depending too much on international aid towards helping Rwanda invest in its own continent (Africa) to spur local growth and job creation. They note many untapped opportunities across different sectors, including education, information and communications technology (ICT), agribusiness, renewable energy, and financial services, to name a few, which potential investors in the diaspora can tap into and build thriving enterprises in. For instance, there is a huge need for cybersecurity expertise in African countries as they rapidly adopt the latest technologies. Such expertise is available among the Rwandan diaspora.

Diaspora members can connect exporters in Rwanda to importers in the Netherlands and the rest of Europe. One key informant, for instance, runs a shop where he sells African food to the diaspora. Indeed, respondents stress that in the export business, partnerships are key to understanding and penetrating new markets. Key linkages in importing countries help businesspeople build sustainable businesses back home.

6.2. PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN RWANDA FOR DIASPORA-BASED ENTREPRENEURS

The mapping exercise includes discussions with Rwandan entrepreneurs who have already set up or are planning to set up businesses in Rwanda in the agribusiness and education sectors. Thanks to the unique perspectives and competencies they have gained while living in both Europe and Rwanda, they wish to act as catalysts for the entry of innovations in the local market. Indeed, one diaspora-based entrepreneur who has an established business in the retail sector in the Netherlands mentions his willingness to start a business in Rwanda, but stresses the lack of funding and technical



support. Another entrepreneur, who is setting up an online education programme to help universities in Rwanda to give online training to students, also mentioned the lack of funding to conduct a pilot project in the country.

Both entrepreneurs mention that they are aware of programmes supporting entrepreneurs in the Netherlands who wish to set up businesses abroad, but say that it is very complicated for them to get access to funding due to the investment criteria of these programmes. These entrepreneurs are aware of the financing facilities available from local banks. However, since most financial institutions require collateral to back up their loans, it is not easy for those living abroad to access such funding. High interest rates and short payback periods are some additional barriers they have encountered. In addition, these key informants are looking for donations from the Netherlands and other European countries for the support of their sectors.

Key informants also express their willingness to invest financially in the private sector in Rwanda. Some of them have already invested in real estate. The real estate market has witnessed significant growth in the past years due to incentives by the Government and the low risk perceived by members of the diaspora. The diaspora is also interested in investing in other sectors, such as agriculture and tourism, to accelerate growth and productivity, and sustain the country's broader economic prosperity.

Key informants have mentioned some challenges in direct investment in the private sector, such as deal-sourcing and portfolio management. Indeed, it is not easy for diaspora members to find good investment opportunities while abroad and conduct due diligence on the deals. Moreover, even if one is able to find a great deal, there is the issue of managing the investment from abroad. Key informants stress the need to establish financial instruments targeting the diaspora where they can make safe and secure investments in other sectors.

6.3. WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The key informants acknowledge the existence of various opportunities for diaspora engagement in the development of the education sector. They note that the Rwandan diaspora possesses transferable skills that are valuable for Rwanda and the rest of the African continent. They also stress the need to support the private sector in Rwanda, as it is one of the pillars of the country's economic development. They also mention that even though they are professionals in their respective fields, they might not possess the competence or knowledge needed to provide vocational training.



6.4. CHALLENGES WITH ENGAGING DIASPORA-BASED PROFESSIONALS

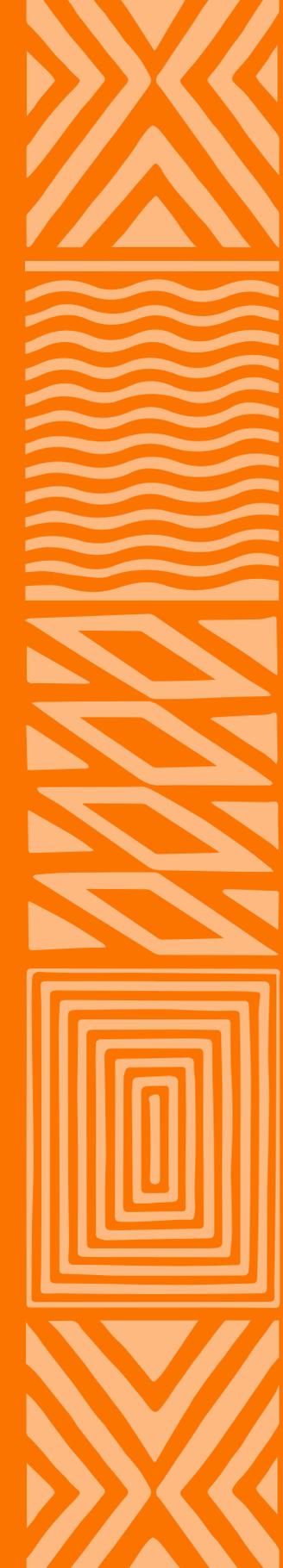
Overall, the key informants express optimism, along with a strong desire to contribute to Rwanda's development. However, they express some reservation and concern about the likelihood of attracting professionals from among the diaspora in the Netherlands.

Key informants feel it is difficult to attract diaspora interest for vocational training, as the diaspora is diverse and might be interested in other areas of development. Compensation is another common concern for key informants. Fulfilling their financial obligations in the Netherlands, which may include debts, mortgages, retirement savings and health insurance, would require securing an income source in Rwanda that can cover those costs.

6.5. CHALLENGES FACED BY DIASPORA ASSOCIATIONS OR NETWORKS

Most key informants are members of the Rwanda Diaspora Global Network (RDGN), a network established to coordinate efforts by the Rwandan diaspora to rebuild their nation. The network plays an important role in socioeconomic development, with a focus on promoting economic investment and keeping Rwandan culture alive.

Professionalism and lack of funding emerge, during the discussion sessions, as the RDGN's key challenges. Indeed, most people working for RDGN are volunteers with limited time to dedicate to the development of the network. Besides, the network, due to its limited resources (aside from manpower), has been able to conduct only a few programmes in Rwanda in the last few years. It focuses more on organizing cultural events in the Netherlands to enhance social cohesion within the diaspora. As also mentioned, most diaspora networks are not registered with the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce and, as such, cannot access government grants should they wish to engage in development programmes.





7. CONCLUSION

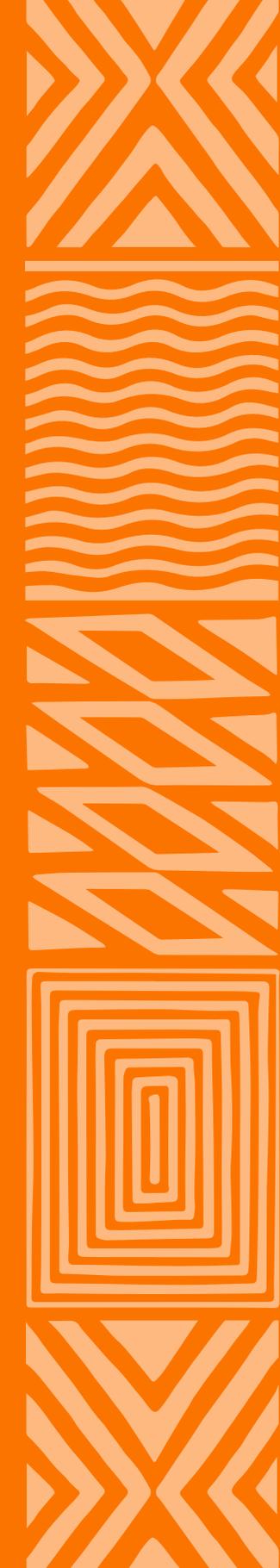
This mapping exercise of the Rwandan diaspora in the Netherlands reveals a strong willingness and desire of the diaspora to contribute to Rwanda's development through a variety of ways. Indeed, the Rwandan diaspora has been supporting the development of Rwanda through the following sectors: education, health, construction and financial services. Members of the diaspora who are not yet participating in development-related programmes cite barriers to doing so, such as time constraints, lack of information about existing opportunities, limited financial resources, the distance between Rwanda and the Netherlands, and not having the right support or information.

Diaspora-based professionals with experience in self-started professional initiatives offer best practices and lessons to consider for future projects, such as supporting the private sector through investment or introducing internships or training programmes for young Rwandans living in the Netherlands. Such programmes can help them to bring freshly acquired knowledge and expertise to different sectors, as well as help them to re-connect with their homeland.

Study participants also outline what basic needs and amenities they need in order to meaningfully participate in diaspora engagement schemes. Professionally, they emphasize the need to invest in their participation, especially through the establishment of virtual platforms and support for in-country returnee networks.

On a personal level, participants overwhelmingly express concern about the financial risks and management that would be required of them to shift away from their respective current commitments. In addition to the needs and amenities, many participants come from segments of the diaspora population that are more flexible and available to support, invest and contribute towards the country's development.

The Government of Rwanda has the opportunity to develop meaningful diaspora engagement schemes. By pursuing opportunities (whether short- or long-term) that would support communities in need and contribute to the country's development, including by enabling diaspora-based professionals to share their skills, the Government will be able to attract a wide variety of professionals from various segments of the diaspora population.





8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. REMITTANCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

This mapping exercise indicates that most remittances are spent on consumption and family maintenance, leaving little money available for productive investment.

Since remittances are personal funds, governments have no effective way of directing the use of these funds towards specific purposes. However, governments can facilitate the flow of remittances by reducing the cost of sending money and promoting access to savings, loans and health insurance products linked to remittances.

The Government of Rwanda could consider establishing legal frameworks to leverage migration and remittances for development, including by reducing the cost of sending money home, issuing debt instruments and establishing intermediary agencies. The following instruments will help to make the simple monetary transaction described above into a savings or investment decision: diaspora bonds, diaspora investments, insurance and pension funds, and diaspora venture capital.

8.2. PROMOTING TRANSNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

When discussing diaspora entrepreneurship, respondents emphasize their willingness to put up businesses back home. The establishment of micro-, small and medium enterprises will contribute tremendously to Rwanda's economic development. This has made the topic of "transnational entrepreneurship" a popular area of research within the broader area of international business and ethnic and immigrant entrepreneurship. Transnational entrepreneurs are seen as catalysts of the growth of SMEs in Africa.

To promote and enhance transnational entrepreneurship in the Netherlands, the Government of Rwanda could consider to work together with diaspora business networks in the Netherlands in order to support them in getting access to funding to kick-start their activities through programmes such as the Dutch Good Growth Fund.¹¹ The government of Rwanda could also liaise with the Dutch embassy in Kigali to set up a legal framework that can enhance doing business back home for the Rwandan diaspora, for example, through a tax relief.

¹¹ The Dutch Good Growth Fund website is available at www.dggf.nl.



8.3. KNOWLEDGE-SHARING AND RETURNING MIGRATION

Diaspora members participating in this research express their interest in supporting vocational training in Rwanda. The research could not determine whether these individuals, who are willing to engage in vocational training, have the knowledge and skills needed to provide such training. As a matter of fact, some of them express the need to undergo “train the trainer” courses.

In recent years, IOM has been supporting governments of countries of origin and destination to encourage temporary return, to enable knowledge transfer from highly skilled migrants. Examples of international programmes include MIDA, the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals Programme (or, simply, “TOKTEN”), Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals Programme and Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D). The Government of Rwanda should consider setting up similar programmes for the country.

Moreover, in the context of the Netherlands, the Government of Rwanda could consider working together with the Dutch Organization for Internationalization in Education (more popularly known as “Nuffic”) through its Orange Knowledge Programme. The aim of this programme is to support organizations through vocational training in developing countries by training select staff members. The Government of Rwanda and IOM could discuss with Nuffic about how to include diaspora members as vocational trainers in Rwanda.

8.4. DIASPORA IMPACT ON MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Another aspect that is not captured by this research and where the diaspora can play a role is to support foreign companies that plan to set up businesses in the diaspora’s country of origin. The diaspora can serve as a “bridge” by providing access to markets, sources of investment and expertise to entrepreneurs in their host country.

Accenture, a management consulting firm, has identified five challenges for foreign companies to kickstart their activities in Africa: availability of skilled labour, understanding local consumers, knowledge of regulatory requirements, identifying the right physical resources and accessing local capital (Bain Insights, 2012).



The Government of Rwanda can facilitate the development of business networks in the Netherlands to support Netherlands-based businesses in doing business with Rwanda. In the Netherlands, business networks can work with the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI), which supports SMEs in developing countries that wish to enter the European market and promotes the integration of these countries in global value chains. CBI is always looking for partnerships with different stakeholders, from SMEs to business support organizations, governments and international organizations, to tackle many different issues that impede exports.



ANNEX A. FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE

Communication that will take place ahead of time will outline the date and venue on which the focus group discussion will take place. Interviewees will also be apprised about the conditions under which their testimony will be given (i.e. anonymous, confidential, that their testimonies will be recorded, and that their data will be treated with great ethical care).

These focus groups will touch on all of the project's objectives, except for: "Estimate the number and composition of the diaspora in the area studied (profession, gender, age, skills, volume and location)."

1. Introduction

Our topic is: How is the Rwandan diaspora in the Netherlands contributing to the development of Rwanda and how can this contribution be further supported? The results will be used to further guide the design of potential diaspora engagement programme interventions in Rwanda to enable the diaspora to participate and engage in the country's developmental process.

Guidelines

- There are no right or wrong answers, only differing points of view.
- We are recording this interview.
- We ask that one person speak at a time.
- We are on a first-name basis. You don't need to agree with others, but you must listen respectfully as others share their views. We would like to ask you to kindly switch off your cell phones and pagers, if you have any. If you cannot and if you must respond to a call, please do so as quietly as possible and re-join us as quickly as you can.

Questions

1. Engagement questions. Introduction of the participants to the topic and get them comfortable with the discussion.
 - (a) Can you please introduce yourself and characterize your relationship to Rwanda at present?
 - (b) What are the challenges you face to greater support the development of Rwanda as a Rwandan living abroad?



- (c) Can you tell me some details about the Rwanda diaspora in Belgium/Germany/United Kingdom/the Netherlands?
 - (d) Which opportunities do you see for greater engagement of the diaspora in the development of Rwanda?
 - (e) Do you send home remittances? To whom do you send them? Do you feel any pressure to send them? How would you like the money to be spent/invested? How can this be better facilitated? Why do you think this does not happen at present?
2. Exploration questions. The following questions have been designed to get to the heart of the discussion and are typically open-ended:
 - (a) Are you involved in any development projects at present in Rwanda? Could you tell me about them?
 - (b) Are you interested in participating in Rwanda's developmental activities such as business, making investments and skills transfers? If so, how would you like to be involved? If not, would you like to be? What sector do you think you might best contribute to?
 - (c) Are you aware of any initiative in your host country that supports diaspora engagement back home? If so, did you participate in such programmes? If not, why?
 - (d) What do you think are the missing links/tools/instruments that would increase the participation of the diaspora in the development of Rwanda?
 - (e) Could you tell me how the Government might facilitate how you support Rwanda?
 - (f) In you had (unlimited) access to technical and/or financial resources, what would you do to support the development of your country of origin?
3. Exit question (designed to see if any aspect was overlooked during the discussion):
 - Is there anything else you would like to say about how the Government could support diaspora initiatives in Rwanda?



ANNEX B. KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE AND SCRIPT

What follows is an indication of the anticipated running order for an interview. This is meant to serve only as an explanatory template. The research script must retain a certain amount of flexibility, given the need to adapt to each researcher's unique set of circumstances, and due to the fact that any breakout or emergent notion that have been flagged elsewhere by previous participants need to be included in future research examinations. Interviews are expected to last between 45 and 75 minutes (depending on the context and level of interest demonstrated by the participant).

[Interview begins after confirming that the participant is comfortable to proceed, once the recorder has been switched on and the interviewee has given their name, the date and place of recording, and their informed consent for their testimony to be used for the Diaspora Mapping Project.]

Interviewer: First I would like to begin by thanking you for speaking with me today. So, for comparison purposes, I would like to ask a few technical questions.

May I ask for your age?

What gender do you identify as?

What level of education have you achieved?

What technical training skills do you possess?

Are you planning/hoping to go back to Rwanda one day? Why (not)? How often do you travel back to Rwanda annually?

Now, when did you move/were you born in Belgium/the Netherlands/Germany/United Kingdom? Why have you chosen to live in? (**Note to interviewer:** Establish context.) What is your employment status at present? What sector do you work in?

How involved are you in what are called "diaspora activities"? Are you involved with any diaspora associations in Belgium/the Netherlands/United Kingdom/Germany? [If not, why do you think that is? Do you find them unappealing?]



How would you characterize the type of association in which you are involved? [Is it a formal or an informal type of association?] How do they communicate with one another? [Would you be able to put me in touch with someone there?]

Do these organizations have ties with Rwanda? What kind of ties? Do they invest in development? How do they communicate with their counterparts in Rwanda?

How would you characterize your relationship with Rwanda at present (**Prompt:** Do you think of it as “home”? Do you long to return? Are you currently involved in remittance payments? What is the purpose of these payments?). [If remittances are being sent: How frequently do you send remittance payments? To whom do you send remittances? To members of your family or further removed family members/ community organizations)? What costs or expenses do the remittances cover? Do you invest the remittances (in family businesses, community initiatives or nationwide projects)? What sector do they contribute to? Have you ever encountered any difficulties in sending them that you would like to see be fixed?

From what I understand, many people in the Rwandan diaspora are involved in projects that are going on there. Are you (pause), involved in any such projects at present? Are you currently investing in Rwanda? Could you tell me about them? Do you feel involved in Rwanda's development? (If so, how...) If not, would you like to be? What sector do you think you might contribute best to?

Finally, I would like to ask you about the future. Do you see yourself becoming more closely involved with sharing the skills and knowledge you have acquired here in Rwanda? (If so, in what sector do you think you might be interested? If not, why do you think that is? Is there a way you can contribute to the dissemination of skills remotely? What would it take for you to change your mind?)

Thank you very much for your time. I will be in touch once a basic draft has been worked up. I can give you an indication of how your testimony will be used in the report and I welcome your feedback. Thanks again.

[At every point in the interview, there are multiple angles of pursuit; any offshoot that is related to the project, or if questions are anticipated by the participant, this should be entertained.]



ANNEX C. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE RWANDAN EMBASSY

Our topic is: How is the Rwandan diaspora contributing to the development of Rwanda and how can this contribution be further supported? The results of this exercise will be used to further guide the design of potential diaspora engagement programme interventions in Rwanda to enable the diaspora to participate and engage in the developmental process of the country.

We would like to discuss the following issues related to the Rwanda Diaspora Policy:

1. Do you organize, harmonize different initiatives and activities related to Rwandan diaspora engagement in Rwanda?
2. What information or data do you collect from the Rwanda diaspora in Belgium/Germany/Netherlands/United Kingdom? How do you contact/engage them?
3. Do you have programmes to mobilize expatriates and highly skilled diaspora members on knowledge and skills transfer to Rwanda?
4. Do you have programmes to mobilize and leverage Rwandan diaspora business communities for investment and trade in Rwanda?
5. What are you doing to create an enabling environment for financial investment and remittances for Rwandan diaspora in Rwanda?
6. Are you aware of any programmes initiated by the host country to create job opportunities overseas? (In the Netherlands, for examples, there is a programme called “Promoting Dutch investments in emerging countries”.)
7. Could you tell us the strengths and weaknesses that exist when it comes to setting up diaspora engagement programmes?

If you could speak directly to the diaspora in one venue, what would you convey to them?



ANNEX D. ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

A. Basic Demography

1. Gender*
 - Male
 - Female
2. Please select your age range*
 - <18
 - 19–29
 - 29–39
 - 40–49
 - 50–59
 - >60
3. Marital status*
 - Single
 - Married
 - Separated or divorced
 - Widowed
4. Since when do you live in Netherlands?*

Less than 1 year

1–4 years

5–9 years

10–15 years

16–20 years

More than 20 years

B. Education and Employment

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?*(Mark only one oval.)
 - Less than high school
 - Primary school
 - Vocational degree
 - Bachelor's degree



Master's degree

Phd degree

Other(s):

6. What professional sector do you work in?*

ICT

Agribusiness

Health

Education

Financial services and financial inclusion

Energy and renewable energy

7. If yes, select the sector you are contributing to.*

ICT

Education

Health

Financial services and financial inclusion

Agribusiness

Construction

Hospitality

Other:

8. Will you be interested in contributing to vocational education in Rwanda?*

Yes

No

If no, why?

9. Have you ever participated in nation building through skills and knowledge transfer?* (Mark only one oval.)

Yes

No

If no, why not?

10. If you are asked to contribute to the education of Rwanda, would you go back for a limited period of time?*

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all



11. In what ways would you be interested in contributing in the vocational education?*

Engaging in a skills transfer initiative

Through providing online training courses related to your sector

Through mentoring or consulting

Investing financially

Other(s):

C. Contribution through remittances

12. How often do you usually send money home?*

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Annually

13. Have you ever sent remittances to Rwanda specifically for development purposes?

Yes

No

If no, please explain.*

14. If yes, how often have you sent remittances for development?*

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Annually

Other:

15. What amount do you usually send?*

EUR 10–50

EUR 50–100

EUR 100–500

EUR 500–1,000

EUR 1,000–2,000

More than EUR 2,000

16. Who do you send money to?*

Family

Friends

Investment

Other



17. Why do you send money back home?*
- Consumption
 - Investment
18. What percentage of your income do you send?
- Less than 5%
 - 6–10%
 - 26–50%
 - 51–75%
 - More than 75%
19. What way do you send money back home?
- International money transfer operator
 - Local money transfer operator
 - Via friends/relatives travelling to Rwanda
 - You bring money back to family and friends yourself when you visit.
 - Other(s):
20. What areas in the development of Rwanda do you believe your remittances have contributed?
- ICT
 - Education
 - Agribusiness
 - Financial services and financial inclusion
 - Health
 - Energy
 - Renewable energy
 - Mechanical, electrical and plumbing
 - Other(s): (Please specify)

D. Networks and Community Organizations

21. Do you belong to a diaspora network (formal or informal)?
- Yes
 - No
- If no, please explain.



22. If yes, which type of diaspora network do you belong to? (Mark only one oval.)
- Professional/Career-based
 - Academic
 - Government
 - Social/Cultural
 - Religious
 - Internet-based social networking groups
 - Other(s):
23. Did you contribute collectively to the development of Rwanda?
- Yes
 - No
24. How is your organization connected to Rwanda?
- Through the Embassy
 - Through family in Rwanda
 - Through friends in Rwanda
 - Through a local organization
 - Other(s):
25. How is information shared among members of the diaspora network?
- Meetings
 - Email
 - Websites
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Newsletter
 - Word of mouth
 - Other(s):

E. Government Support

27. Do you need any support from the Government of Rwanda to enable you contribute in one way or the other in the development of the country?
- Yes
 - No
28. What policy recommendations do you wish to give to the Government to improve diaspora initiatives for the development interests of the country?



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