



Case studies submitted to Global Diaspora Day 2016

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1. ADEPT (Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform)

A leading diaspora development network operating across 28 EU MS and 54 African states

Category: Diaspora & migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Sub-categories:

- **Diaspora and Migrants as Entrepreneurs and Investors**
 - **Diaspora and migrants' action on job creation and entrepreneurship - policy and practice**
- **Capacity building for all stakeholders:**
 - **Provision of support and capacity building to institutions, governments, and policy makers and other stakeholders**
 - **Technical support provided to diaspora and migrant entrepreneurs and investors**

Category: Beyond Xenophobia - Social Inclusion of Diaspora and Migrants

Paul Asquith

Like many African migrants, Dr Ahmed Bugre made the journey to Europe across the Mediterranean before settling in Malta. After informally supporting the country's migrants in relief work, the Ghanaian ended up running the Marsa centre. The Maltese authorities had effectively abandoned this migrant centre to its residents, many who had fled conflict in Eritrea and Somalia. On Dr. Bugre's first day on the job, he witnessed two murders at the centre, and was himself held hostage for several days.

Dr. Bugre overhauled the management of the centre; ten years later, it is a model of how to run a migrant reception centre. Residents are treated with respect and receive medical and other care. Dr Bugre places a lot of emphasis on skills training for residents, to improve their chances of finding work. So successful has Dr. Bugre's approach been, that the Maltese authorities have agreed to take over responsibility for running the centre again.

Dr Bugre runs a diaspora organisation, Foundation for the Safety of Migrants (FSM) Malta, and is an advisory council member of the Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT), a network focused on African development issues and migration and development policy. ADEPT is led and implemented by diaspora groups based in the 28 EU countries, plus Norway and Switzerland, called African Diaspora Development Organisations (ADDOS). In 2015, ADEPT provided accredited professional training to 100 of these ADDOS in 15 European countries, with origins in 30 African countries, including Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritania, Sudan and Togo.

Awareness of diaspora development activities is low among the general public and 'traditional' development and humanitarian actors. The effectiveness and scale of diaspora development activities in Europe is linked to their ability to integrate in European countries of residence. Dr. Bugre was one of the few representatives at the 2015 EU-Africa Valletta Summit on Migration, which enabled diaspora input into high-level policy fora in Europe and in Africa, and engaged governments and the EU.

Since 2014, ADEPT has worked with five ADDO partners and three mainstream partners to deliver Diaspora Development Forums in Denmark, Malta and Austria on topics as varied as enhancing the diaspora role in job creation in Africa, to actions to prevent irregular and dysfunctional migration.

ADEPT has further facilitated diaspora engagement with over 200 senior officials, policymakers and diplomats from European and African governments, civil society organisations, international

agencies and development institutions. We represented on the High Level Panel on Migration during the 2015 European Development Days.

It has also contributed to policy advocacy for the Financing for Development and Sustainable Development Goals global agreements, and hosted a side event during the Government Days of the 2015 Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), facilitating five ADDOs to participate in GFMD for the first time.

<http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/03/malta-migration-crisis-doctor-artist-engineer-blogger-human-stories->

2. AMANDLA EduFootball e.V. - Cape Town and Johannesburg

Category: Beyond Xenophobia - Social Inclusion of Diaspora and Migrants

Sub-category:

- **Inclusion and integration**
 - **Initiatives that ensure inclusion and integration of migrants in societies by providing access to services**

*Football is used as a vehicle for social change through the work of **AMANDLA**, in partnership with the Oliver Kahn foundation. In its Safe-Hub football camps in Cape Town and Johannesburg, and soon, Berlin, AMANDLA empowers the community*

***Ingo Bergmann** is a student of the Erasmus Masters in Euroculture at the Universities of Deusto and Udine. He has volunteered in South Africa, Spain, Germany, worked in Chile and New Zealand, and studied in Norway and Germany. He is a volunteer at AMANDLA*

After nine years in South Africa, AMANDLA plans to integrate one of its most successful projects in Berlin by 2018. I have been a volunteer at the NGO and seen how its 'Safe-Hub' model, where football is used as a vehicle for social change, works.

The Ikhusi Primary School was AMANDLA's first ever partner school in the township of Khayelitsha, Cape Town. Police statistics show how violence and crime decreased within a radius of 600m around the Safe-Hub; a significant decrease compared to the rest of the area. In all, there are three Safe-Hubs serving up to 6,000 young people in Diepsloot (north of Johannesburg), Khayelitsha and Gugulethu-Manenberg.

Safe-Hub AMANDLA is a place of physical and emotional safety, in which young people's rights are recognised and their potential is realised. Each Safe-Hub has a turf field, training academy, support centre, and a café which is run by local youth. There is commercial space for young entrepreneurs and local start-ups.

In Berlin, I hope the focus will be to empower the youth at risk, and to build social cohesion amongst German citizens. A first target group analysis revealed that out of 20 of the young interviewees at risk in the Berlin district of Wedding, 18 were children of (mainly) Turkish, Kurdish or Iraqi parents. There were clear cases of discrimination with regards to wearing veils or physical appearance.

<http://www.edufootball.org/en/#!impact>

3. Casa Africa

Category: Diaspora and Migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy Category: Beyond xenophobia - social inclusion of diaspora and migrants

Gemma Vecchio

Casa Africa was set up in 1978 during the Ethiopian war, before those who fled were even considered to be refugees at the time. In Rome, the association operates for migrants in Italy, providing education, food and clothing, but it also collaborates with associations helping refugees in villages abroad, in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burkina Faso. Our objective is to create a network of young Africans who can gain self-confidence and self-awareness for the common good, and to fight prejudices.

The association's outlook is truly pan-African - we work with migrants from Mali, Togo, Senegal, Nigeria; yet it is not limited to that spectrum, also helping people from Eastern Europe, South America, Asia and even Russia.

One of the biggest roles that Casa Africa can play for potential migrants is to empower them in their local community. We may know figures such as how between 2015 and 2016, 200,000 asylum seekers reached Italy. Yet almost 98% would never be granted a visa, and we have used media platforms to disseminate films in many African languages and dialects, in which migrants recount their horrific journey across the sea, the tragedies they have seen and how hard their life is even after they have made it to European shores. For example the film 'God, where are you?' tried to discourage young Africans and their parents to not embark in the perilous trip across the Mediterranean.

Our current project is currently in progress. The concept of 'Hakuna Matata' first came up in 1999. This is a planned international network in which young people fleeing African countries can learn a practical trade, for example in farming or plumbing. We have contacted the governments of, and associations in, countries such as Eritrea, Sudan, Chad, Mali and Ghana so far. Also referred to as 'Golden Bridge to Africa - a barrier before reaching the desert', this project was created in collaboration with academics from the University of La Sapienza in Rome. Hakuna Matata would build self-sufficient facilities powered by solar panel systems, and aim to train hundreds of young people across the network. The project has already been presented in Italy's Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

4. ConnectIreland

A mechanism through which individuals can influence Foreign Direct Investment

Category: Diaspora & migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy;

Sub-categories:

- **Diaspora and migrants' action on job creation and entrepreneurship - policy and practice;**
- **Enabling environment in countries of origin/residence/ interest**
 - **Incentives for diaspora and migrant enterprises in countries of origin**

*ConnectIreland works on an incentivized referral approach (register, refer, reward), engaging Ireland's diaspora to act as ambassadors for Ireland whilst encouraging FDI and as a result creating sustainable jobs. As Diaspora Engagement Specialist at ConnectIreland, **Thelma Harris** also spearheads the ConnectIreland Community Action Plan.*

'I mean, it's not exactly a hard sell when you think of the all of the international names that are in Ireland already,' says actress Saoirse Ronan. The Oscar-nominated actress features alongside other big names, such as Michael Flatley and Hollywood heavyweight Martin Sheen, whose mother was an Irish immigrant, in a video promoting ConnectIreland, the brainchild of Irish entrepreneur Terry Clune.

With a long tradition of protecting its vulnerable migrants abroad, Ireland has a reputation for being a global leader in the diaspora engagement space. Thus, when faced with economic recession in 2008, Ireland sought ways to use the strength of its diaspora relationship to influence economic development and ultimately job creation. This is in a country where, in 2012, the unemployment rate peaked at over 15%.

The work of ConnectIreland, a private company delivering a government initiative, was inspired by the inaugural Global Irish Economic Forum meeting in 2009. The company works in partnership with IDA Ireland, Ireland's investment development agency. Key to the company's success is that it has one clear and concise ask of the diaspora: 'Do you know a company looking to expand internationally?'

69 companies have located in Ireland as a result, with 2,069 approved jobs coming to Irish shores. Due to the size and nature of these companies, many have brought job creation to the more rural areas of Ireland. For example a multi-million euro industry manufacturing basalt fibre chose Ireland for their production facility, creating 70 jobs in 3 years in Meath, in the mid-east.

Over 70,000 diasporans are now 'Connectors'. As the programme is apolitical, these Connectors have a sense of ownership of its successes. Many individuals have registered who either are not in a position to reach a decision-maker in a company but want to positively engage, or there are those who register but are not overly engaged with influencing business in Ireland. ConnectIreland must ensure that these individuals become and remain engaged in alternative ways. It can take months or years for a successful introduction to be made; ConnectIreland therefore plays a long-term role.

'Succeed In Ireland', set up in 2012 as a one-year pilot programme, is now in its fifth year. ConnectIreland's remit seeks that all jobs approved through the programme must be in place for at least two years, and so our work results in sustainable economic development for Ireland.

With a strong understanding of one's own diaspora, a replication of ConnectIreland would be possible. Foundations in diaspora engagement would need to be in place before a job creation model could be implemented. Recently, ConnectIreland launched a Community Action Plan - a strategy designed to mobilise communities throughout Ireland to engage their local diasporas abroad.

5. Diaspora Remittances: Solar energy

Category: Diaspora & migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Sub-category: Partnerships

Terhas Hagos

Like many other rural dwellings in Sub-Saharan Africa, most rural women in the Gambia and Senegal, on the west coast, depend on biomass as a source of energy for cooking. The rudimentary techniques they use can lead to indoor air pollution, which in 2012, the World Health Organisation estimated was the cause of one in eight deaths globally*. Cheaper and healthier sources of energy would improve their livelihoods.

The educational development of children in a rapidly progressing digital age is another big concern. Imagine doing your homework in the evening, your home lit with candles or kerosene lamps. The increase in carbon emissions is one worry, as is the scores of fire disasters in different communities.

One particular project in Eritrea, which is NGO-free, was launched by the government thanks to remittances from the diaspora. The country has a 2% recovery and reconstruction (RRT) tax on the incomes of all Eritreans living abroad. Senafe is one of Eritrea's most transformed villages, with schools, clinics and shops heavily financed by diaspora communities. A new solar energy programme selects one or two women from neighboring cluster communities for training in the installation and maintenance of photovoltaic solar cells. Each household is provided with a set of solar panels, three LED bulbs (3-5 watts), as well as a wall plug to charge mobile phones - another economic burden that is not often thought of. One dollar per month allows for the upkeep of the equipment.

Having household solar lighting enables the women's businesses to continue once it darkens, and to prepare for market the next day. It means less labour is going into firewood collection. It is a community project well worth supporting.

* http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/en/

6. Global Somalia Diaspora (GSD)

Category: Diaspora and migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Established in Istanbul in 2014, with offices in London, Minnesota and Mogadishu, GSD's aim is to harness the power of Somalia diaspora for the reconstruction of the country

Abdihakim Ainte is former policy advisor of the Office of Somalia Diaspora (ODA) at the ministry of foreign affairs in Somalia

Somalia's diaspora: turning the tide

The vast majority of Somalis in the west were the first generation to escape after the civil war in 1991, and some have become remarkable migrants. Take Ahmed Hussen*, a lawyer and community activist who was elected to Canadian parliament, or award-winning Kenyan-born Somali poet Warsan Shire, a Londoner who was recently featured in Beyonce's album.

It is diaspora figures like Sadia*, a hot sauce entrepreneur who moved to the US in 1999, whose investment is keeping Somalia's economy alive. Sadia gave 10% of her proceeds for aid during the Somali famine. Indeed, in almost every major city in the world, from Nairobi to Dubai via London, Melbourne or Cape Town, you can find small Somali shops, a business mentality which has earned Somalis the reputation of entrepreneurial nomads*.

In the UN and international aid community, the jargon about Somalis is that they are 'resilient'. For two decades, the 1.5 million-strong Somali diaspora threw the country a lifeline by wiring a few hundred dollars to families and relatives. With this money, families can foot basic bills such as food, rent or sending children to school. The largest diaspora members, who live in Europe and North America, send a whopping almost 2 billion USD dollar per year*, rendering them one of the largest remittance-sender diasporas in the world.

After two decades abroad, the rapid return of the diaspora to their homeland is primarily driven by two motives: to navigate their roots and identity, and to contribute to the ongoing reconstruction effort with the aim of exploring business opportunities and participating in public institutions. While there is no substantive data on how much of the diaspora has returned to Somalia, their impact on the ground is measurable and widely seen. The overwhelming majority of current cabinet, police and military have lived abroad, including the prime minister, who spent years in Canada. In civil society, the recently launched Fursad Fund* is the first independent trust fund initiative arranged by members of diaspora, with the support of locals.

There is also small-scale investment in real estate, restaurants, home delivery pizza, coffee shops, laundry, ICT sector and even fresh flowers via a florist*. As result, for the first time in two decades, the IMF* reviewed Somali economy with a 2.7% growth projection, a quantum leap for a country still struggling with political instability, weak institutions and recurrent droughts.

Links:

- * <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-s-ahmed-hussen-1st-somali-canadian-elected-to-parliament-1.3281260>
- * <http://sadiassauce.com/about-sadia/>
- * <http://roguechiefs.com/2012/01/06/somalia-doesnt-have-to-fight-to-conquer-somalis-are-already-africas-small-kings-and-queens/>
- * <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/feb/20/what-role-somalia-diaspora-rebuilding>
- * <http://www.ibtimes.com/somalias-first-independent-trust-fund-offers-hope-unemployed-youth-raises-concerns-2328283>
- * <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/01/somalia-first-florist-romance-mogadishu>
- * <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2015/CAR072915B.htm>

7. NIDO Germany

Category: Diaspora & migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Sub-categories:

- **Diaspora and Migrants as Entrepreneurs and Investors**
 - **Diaspora and migrants' action on job creation and entrepreneurship - policy and practice**

NIDO-GERMANY is part of a global Nigerian diaspora network, the largest of Nigerians worldwide. Under the motto 'In Pursuance of National Development', it brings together professionals, academics and entrepreneurs globally, harnessing Nigeria's human resources for the development of their homeland

Stephania Ategbé Abibatu Alofuokhai-Ghogomu is Nigerian-born German educator, linguist and community organiser. She is a Development Officer at the Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State - Niger Delta, and a Migration and Development Advisor to Returning Experts from Germany to Nigeria

The way different Nigerian groups in Germany came into being has an impact on how they contribute to their homeland.

After the Second World War, the new Federal Republic of Germany gave two-year vocational training programmes to young Nigerians in the civil service, for the needs of the country's economy. These 'bridge-builders' between Nigerian and German industry took crash language courses and were offered vocational training programmes by the Carl-Duisburg Gesellschaft, founded in 1949.

Some Nigerians went on to study at German universities, leading to the creation of dynamic and critical Nigerian students' unions in Berlin and Hamburg, amongst others. Many returned to Nigeria afterwards, since the German Foreigners' Act made no provision for further work.

From 1980, it became an admissions requirement to have an intermediate level of German language when applying to German tertiary institutions. Under the regime of Babangida, a military leader who took power in Nigeria in a coup, an International Monetary Fund loan and its accompanying structural adjustment programmes led to emigration from Nigeria. The first Nigerian refugees (158) entered Germany in 1985.

These 'Ausländer' (foreigners) evolved into 'Migranten' (migrants), leading to the further establishment of groups such as the Nigerian Community in Berlin (1990), Nigerian Community Germany (1991) or the Association of Nigerian Doctors in Germany to quote some.

The annulment of the 1993 presidential elections in Nigeria, followed by the hanging of the environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa and his Ogoni contemporaries two years later, further led to the formation of political groups, such as: the Association of Nigerian Authors (Hanover); Nigerian Common Cause (Berlin), Coalition of Nigerian Democrats in Germany (Aachen), Nigerian Association in Niedersachsen (Hanover), Project Nigeria (Stuttgart), The Voice Forum (Jena) on refugee issues, the German Section of the Worldwide United Democratic Front of Nigeria (UDFN), amongst others. Nigerian cultural groups also formed in Germany.

The global acknowledgement of the contribution of the diaspora to national development, for example via remittances to the homeland, led to the African Union adopting the diaspora as a

Sixth Region (making it an entity equal to the five traditional existing regions - North African, West African, East African, Central Africa and Southern African).

After a long process, in March 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO Germany) with the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission* in Nigeria. Diaspora cooperation in the fight against corruption now exists under the new government. From a development perspective, there is funding from the German Agency GiZ, for example, in income generation through cassava and vegetable production by rural women in Benin City, Edo State, or youth empowerment programmes in renewable energy.

Some further recommendations: the Diaspora Commission and the government of Nigeria should monitor the reintegration process of returning experts for at least the first three years; no infrastructure is in place for this. There could be a National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) waiver for children of Nigerian descent. There should be more engagement in a policy dialogue between Germany and Nigeria (in line with the Policy Advisory component of the migration programme for development). This need to work together goes back to the colonial history of Africa's partition, which happened in Germany; Germany and Nigeria need to work better together to enhance diaspora benefits to both countries.

Links and references:

<http://icpc.gov.ng/>

Bundesamt für die Anerkennung ausländischer Flüchtlinge.

Friedman, Laurence M.: The Horizontal Society. New Haven: Yale University, 1999, p.155 ff.

Marchand, Katrin et al.: Diaspora Engagement in Development. An Analysis of the Engagement of the Nigerian Diaspora in Germany and the Potentials for Cooperation. Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG). 2015

Statistisches Bundesamt Zweigstelle Berlin: Auskunftsdienst

Personal Experience as a Migrant

8. NIPOL Germany

A charity improving health, education, community projects, infrastructure and opportunities for children, adults and families in rural areas and communities

Category: Diaspora & migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Category: Beyond Xenophobia - Social Inclusion of Diaspora and Migrants

NIPOL Germany was registered in November 2014 as a non-profit organisation in Hamburg. This organisation will render its charity aids to Africa and Germany. In Nigeria, we are working with Positive Life Development Association (PLDA) and Positive Life Empowerment Organisation (PLEO)

Mrs Ngozi Utoh-Samuel is one of the Trustees of NIPOL e.V Germany. She migrated to Germany 17 years ago from Nigeria, and has a HND certificate in Food Science & Technology from Federal Polytechnic Idah Kogi State Nigeria (1998)

NIPOL e.V Germany visited Nigeria, the Umunnekwu Agbo in Isuikwuato local government area of Abia state. This community requires infrastructure, enterprise and development to reduce the emigration and migration of youth and unemployment rates. A water project was the community's fundamental need, and so we created a water borehole, which is at a 90% completion stage.

An individual has promised to give a transformer to this community, so three people will be employed. A subsequent project will increase employment in this community.

We also held various workshops during our visit on how to advance young people's careers, hygiene in rural areas, and how to create employment.

We work with hundreds of charities, local community organisations and agencies, with the intention to work more with migrants to offer help and refer people to our community agencies. For example, people sometimes find it difficult to go to the police about hate crime. We will work with individuals to refer them to these agencies to provide free and impartial advice, support and information to the citizens and immigrants of Germany.

Since launching in November 2014, we have delivered materials to the education sector and less privileged homes. We have encouraged local representatives to register a charity and increased youth empowerment via workshops; student performance has increased.

Some of the major challenges we face is managing contractors, fundraising and legitimacy, representativeness and credibility – we have mitigated the latter by using a legal representative. The ownership of the project is transferred to the community through this figure.

With its local representative, NIPOL will draw up a maintenance strategy during the handover of the project, and transfer it to the host community to ensure the optimal integrity of the projects. This is where the community leaders, youth and local representative will make a plan for the sustainability of the project. NIPOL's model of providing water via a 'Need Assessment' can be replicated anywhere. We want all of the projects we fund to go on to long-term success.

9. Sub-Sahara Advisory Panel

A network of African diaspora organisations in Wales that carry out development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa (contribution to host and countries of origin)

Category: Diaspora & migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Sub-categories:

- **Diaspora and migrants' action on job creation and entrepreneurship - policy and practice**

In mid-2009 a number of diaspora group members in Wales joined forces to collectively advance their common interest in international development.

Fadhili Maghiya worked as a legal intern for the United Nation's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Royal African Society before joining Sub-Sahara Advisory Panel (SSAP). He spearheaded Comic Relief's Common Ground Initiative Africa-UK platform in Wales, and coordinates SSAP's Inclusion role within Hub Cymru Africa. Fadhili is also founder and curator of Watch-Africa, the first Wales African Film Festival.

The story of the African diaspora in Wales goes back to the 18th century, when seafarers from the horn of Africa, mainly Somalis, came to the UK as part of the shipping industry. From the ports of Liverpool, Bristol or Cardiff Bay, those who settled are now part of wider communities which includes Zimbabwean, Sudanese, Congolese, Somalilander and Zambian origin.

Supported by the Welsh government's 'Wales for Africa' programme and other donors, our network for African diaspora communities has played a key role in the international development sector in Wales since it launched in 2009.

Diasporas also have a huge and important role to play in contributing to such initiatives in Africa. Financial remittances stand out in the development discourse, with frightening figures that dwarf Overseas Development Aid. However, little is known about other, 'softer' forms of remittance, which can be social (access to contacts and networks); intellectual (skill and knowledge transfer) political (ability to influence) or cultural (insider-outsider perspective).

One such example is of the Somaliland community in Wales, who have played a major role in supporting different infrastructure projects, including the construction of roads and hospitals. Network organisations such as Hayaat Women Trust and Somaliland Mental Health Support, have supported local hospitals by training local midwives, construction of a mental health hospital unit, as well as building the capacity of local mental health workers. Led by Eid Ali Ahmed and Fowsia Ali, these organisations highlights a small portion of how the Welsh African diasporas are using their knowledge, expertise and resources to support communities back home.

In terms of high level engagement, SSAP through Hub Cymru Africa recently played a brokering role by connecting Tanzania and Kenyan High Commissioners with various institutions including the Welsh government, businesses, universities and other institutions interested in those regions. The visit by both commissioners also allowed SSAP to engage them with diasporas from countries of origin as well as key policy makers in UK and Africa.

Links:

Hayaat Women Trust <http://www.hayaatwomentrust.org/>

Somaliland Mental Health Support <http://www.somalilandmentalhealth.com/>

Hub Cymru Africa <http://www.hubcymru.org/hub/index.html>

10. The African Chamber of Commerce in Scandinavia (ACCS)

Partnership with Public Private Partnership and Multilateral Donors in relation to job creation in sea transport and fishery in Liberia

Category: Diaspora & migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Cinthia Loïs Thomsen

On a coastline with rocky infrastructure, trucks overloaded with goods such as tiles, plantain and salt from the port make their way down dangerous roads full of potholes. Since 2011, the African Chamber of Commerce in Scandinavia has been working on an essential project to provide a solution for this in Liberia. By pioneering an integrated shipping line along Liberia's 580-km long coastline, coastal cities will be linked, reducing passenger travel time and creating safe routes.

Liberia is not the only country with such a necessity in Africa, where many ships voyage to only one main port in each capital. Many people in Africa that you will speak to will have great ideas, but no funding. That's where a diaspora organisation like ours comes in, with the network and investors to help create change for a local economy.

The project also empowers a fishing community of over 30,000 fishing families in the nine coastal counties of Liberia. To boost the Liberian fish trade, the project helps deliver the objectives of the EU-funded Fish Trade programme, and will support the implementation of the EU-Liberian sustainable fisheries partnership agreement.

This 'Ferry-Fishery' project will create opportunities for the locals which include training, job creation, skills development in fields of fishing and packaging. There are also environmental benefits, for example through modern waste management solutions which are transformed into energy. The Liberian processing industry is mainly made up of women who will benefit from stable supplies, as will companies engaged in coastal or offshore economic activities.

The Liberian government and international community have achieved significant progress in stabilising the country; we are working to make sure that those along the coast can work and travel more safely and easily, and access healthy fisheries and farmed products with a high nutritional value.

11. WHEAT MST: One-on-one mentoring programme in UK and Horn of Africa

Category: Diaspora & migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Intro: WHEAT Mentor Support Trust was set up in the UK in 1996 to alleviate poverty in the Horn of Africa. In 2004 it started providing mentoring support to refugees and migrants in the UK, as well as advice and advocacy, children and young people's activities and consultancy services.

Author: Dr Hailu Hagos, Founder and Executive Director of WHEAT MST, has over 20 years of mentoring experience including with Birkbeck College. Previously, Dr Hagos led a RAMP (Refugee and Migrant Project) programme at the Renewal Programme in Newham, ranked as a Goldstar Project by the Home Office.

It's been almost a year since the Tsebiqiley Adigrat Gardening Project launched in Tigray, northern Ethiopia. The once-derelict land in a deprived neighbourhood is now home to 150 apple trees and a whole host of vegetables - carrots, tomatoes, cabbages, green pepper, salad - which are grown, and sold, across 4000 square metres of blossoming gardens.

The initiative was set up, thanks to funding from AFFORD by the UK-based charity WHEAT Mentor Support Trust. In a unique partnership with a local partner, the Orthodox, Muslim, and Catholic Unity Charitable Association (OMCUCA)

The project started in the summer of 2015, as El Nino drought ravaged parts of Ethiopia, including Eastern Zone 3, where the gardening site is based. Due to the shortage of water during the main rainy season, brave men and women made an assembly line to get water from a pond of a very deep gorge along the side the site; they collected water by horse carts and on the backs of women from far-away places. Before any plantation began, a massive clearing process of the derelict land took place.

Jobs have been created for a coordinator, five gardeners and ten casual labourers and over 30 OMCUCA members have volunteered their green fingers. Basic induction and sensitisation programmes were delivered to all members, followed by mentorship and planning sessions before the start of the planting work. The secret of the success comes from everyone's compassion, commitment and resilience. The site is now an attraction for foreign visitors and potential donors such as international NGO representatives in Ethiopia, the Canadian embassy team or Don Bosco staff.

Our dream is to build a business and recreation hub with hundreds more job opportunities, with an open market of stalls, facilities and a cafe onsite. We will link gardeners to potential local buyers, such as the university, hospital or hotels. Qualified and experienced gardeners will take contracts from Adigrat City Administration to plant a variety of trees in public spaces, businesses and residential homes. As the economy grows, more middle class consumers are being created with greater demand for gardening. We'll maintain the ecosystem of the town, promote healthy eating in the community and empower HIV/AIDS infected and affected households financially, socially and psychologically.

An even bigger dream is to reclaim land from the huge river gorge which passes through the middle of Adigrat City. During rainy seasons floods carry away soil, wood, animals and humans along with

it. The reclaimed land could create jobs for thousands who could develop their own city farms along the river.

[The Wheat Mentor Support Trust](#)