

Sierra Leone Roadmap

towards the engagement
of diaspora in development



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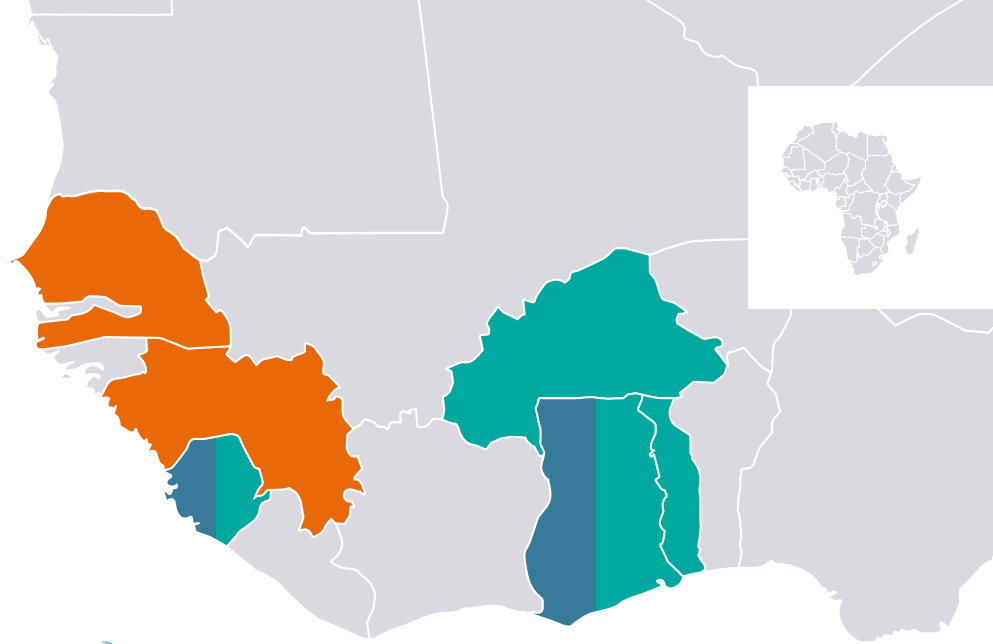
Acronyms

- ADEPT – The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform
- AFFORD – The African Foundation for Development
- CSO – Civil Society Organisation
- DEMAC – Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination
- EVD – Ebola Virus Disease
- MADE – Migration and Development
- MICIC – Migrants in Countries in Crisis
- MIEUX – Migration EU eXpertise
- MTO – Money transfer operator
- NHS – National Health Service
- OECD – The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- SDG – Sustainable Development Goals
- SME – Small and medium-sized enterprises
- TOSHPA – The Organisation of Sierra Leonean Healthcare Professionals Abroad



MADE West Africa Project Overview

This roadmap is an output of the project “West Africa – Migration and Development, Partnership for Rights-based Governance of Migration and Mobility” or MADE West Africa, which is funded by the European Commission. MADE West Africa was launched by AFFORD (African Foundation for Development), the Centre for Migration Studies (University of Ghana), the FORIM (Forum of International Organizations of Migration Issues), and ICMC Europe (International Catholic Migration Commission). MADE West Africa’s general objective is to promote good governance of migration and mobility, as well as the protection of the rights of migrants in the ECOWAS region, in order to increase the benefits of migration and mobility on development. This objective is achieved through in-depth work from 2017-2020 in six pilot countries with the following pillars:



01 Ghana, Sierra Leone

Improving the capacity of civil society and national/local State authorities to enhance intra-regional mobility via the implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol.

Implemented by the Centre for Migration Studies (University of Ghana)



02 Senegal, Guinea

Improving the protection of migrant workers, fair labour recruitment, and promoting civil society’s participation in labour migration governance.

Implemented by ICMC Europe (International Catholic Migration Commission)



03 Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Togo

Maximizing the contribution of diaspora to the development of countries of origin by promoting innovative cooperation frameworks between diaspora, development NGOs, national/local authorities and the private sector.

Implemented by AFFORD (African Foundation for Development) and the FORIM (Forum of International Organizations of Migration Issues)



MADE West Africa Project

Introduction to the document



The roadmap is a plan developed from AFFORD's MADE West Africa activities between 2016 and 2020. It considered what has been accomplished so far and looks at future actions to harness diaspora resources into development.

Methodology

To identify policy and practice gaps in diaspora engagement for development, the following methodology was adopted.

- Research on the positive contribution of diaspora for development and job creation in Ghana and Sierra Leone through a desk review and in-depth interviews with 25 selected stakeholders including officials of state institutions/agencies responsible for diaspora engagement, diaspora members and civil society organisations.
- Training Workshops to build capacities of civil society and State authorities on advocacy and policy influencing and developing networks for development and exchange of good practices.
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues to initiate actions that tackle identified policy and practice gaps relating to diaspora engagement for development and job creation.
- Granting of Seed funds to small CSOs for the implementation of advocacy actions that promote diaspora engagement as development actors.
- Participation at the diaspora investment forum (2019) and annual Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) (Berlin 2017, Marrakesh 2018, and Quito 2020), which provided more information and context to further develop the roadmap content.

This roadmap is meant to be a practical set of actions that incorporates a multi-stakeholder approach for the implementation of the strategies identified within the next 3-5 years. The roadmap also identifies specific areas that all stakeholders including national and local governments, civil society organisations, diaspora and migrants, private sector businesses and investors and international organisations can engage in to enhance the cooperation and partnerships needed to achieve progress and engage all stakeholders for development. The thematic areas were developed during the aforementioned events and revisited at subsequent events. Throughout this process from 2016 to 2020, participants continued to improve their roadmaps through various workshops.

The implementation of the MADE West Africa programme highlighted a unique engagement structure by promoting a south-south-diaspora dimension and a multi-stakeholder engagement approach that produced concrete successes and led to a stakeholder forum.

This multi-stakeholder approach highlighted the local dimension involving local authorities, small and medium scale enterprises and civil society organisations working through a multi-stakeholder engagement approach with diaspora and government institutions.

Given the international focus of initiatives, the Global Forum on Migration and Development is adopting a multi-stakeholder approach, taking the local dimension seriously and looking at south-south engagement. This has become relevant and the multi-stakeholder engagement approach is a cross-cutting theme for all the objectives of the roadmap.



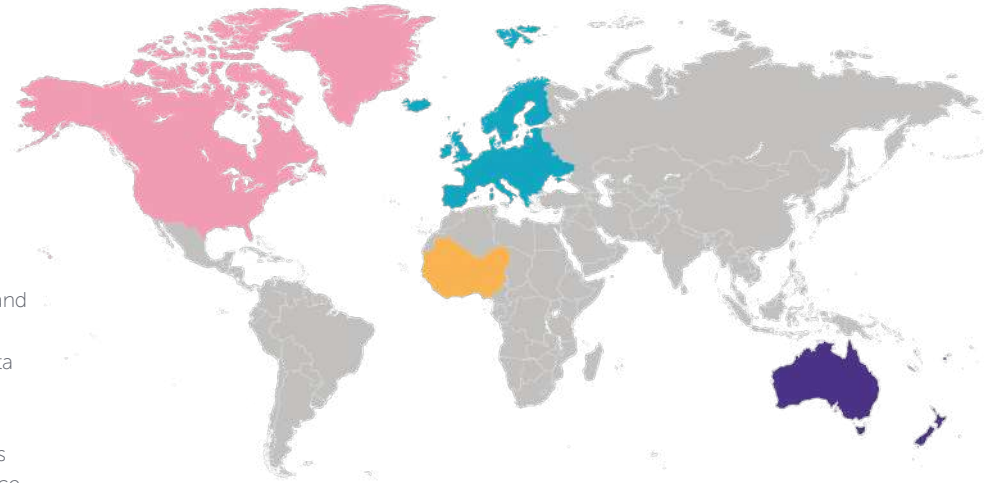
Sierra Leone Overview

The overall objective of this roadmap is to encourage the diaspora to strengthen their engagement with countries of origin, make their remittances more effective and promote the development impact of migration. SDG 10.c focuses on reducing the cost of remittances which would enable remittances to go further. World Bank Data indicates that Africa has the highest remittance costs (around 10%), which means a \$3 billion super-tax on African households.¹ In view of the apparent development gains that could be achieved by reducing remittance costs, SDG 10.c and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda² have incorporated this as a target. The broad aim is to reduce the cost of remittances to less than 3% and eliminate corridors with costs higher than 5%. The potential gains from this could be as high as \$20 billion in resources flowing directly to households.³

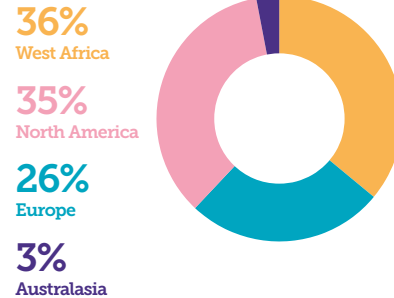
Migration has, historically, been an integral part of livelihoods in Sierra Leone. Recent civil war,⁴ natural disasters and poverty have contributed to massive migration since the 1990s.

The number of Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora is estimated to be 336,000.⁵ Emigration is estimated at 5.4% of the population and the major destinations are proximal African countries (Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, and Nigeria), Europe (the UK, Germany and the Netherlands), North America (the USA and Canada) and Australasia.⁶

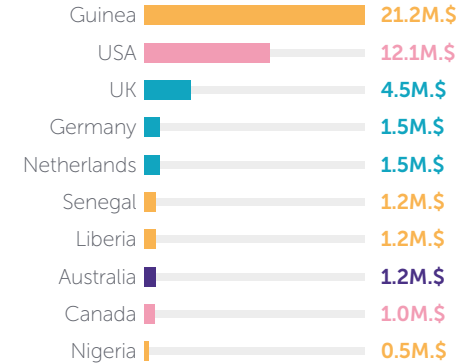
About 33.7% of Sierra Leoneans living in OECD countries have a tertiary-level education.⁷ About 1.8% of the population are immigrants of which 97% are of West African descent, mainly from Guinea (65.3%) and Liberia (23.5%).⁸



Sierra Leonean migrants by destination⁹



Sierra Leone: Remittances received (2017)¹⁰



Sierra Leone

The Socio-Economic Context for Migration

Since the end of the war, Sierra Leone has made significant progress in consolidating peace and security countrywide and in rebuilding its economy. Although there is progress, unemployment is still high, which was one of the reasons that the civil conflict happened. About 70% of young people aged 15-35, who make up a third of the total country's population, cannot find work due to lack of skills, lack of access to capacity building to fill positions, and the general economy running mainly by the informal sector.¹¹ Sierra Leone has continuous projects to solve these problems. The country has been very successful at implementing development strategies that invest in peace and state-building initiatives mainly through consolidation and infrastructure enhancement and strengthening macroeconomic foundations.

Additionally, around 60% of diaspora investors and business people stated that they were affected by the EVD crisis, which impacted investment. Despite this impact, in addition to global assistance, the diaspora remitted a record USD 104 million in 2014 to support their families back home and aided the national efforts to respond to the crisis.¹² In Sierra Leone, the significance of foreign remittance flows is enhanced by other recent natural crises such as flooding and mudslides caused by heavy rains affecting the country.

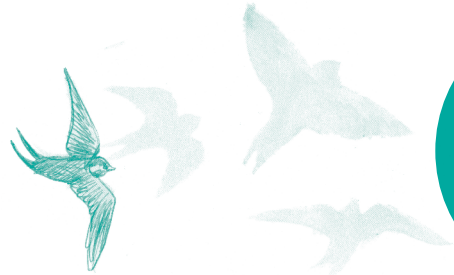
By leveraging the multiple skills and expertise of the diaspora in addition to their role as senders of remittances, investors, philanthropists, innovators, and tourists, Sierra Leoneans both abroad and at home are among the most essential assets for Sierra Leone to harness for development.



Sierra Leone

Key objectives

The following objectives are directly in line with SDG 10.c: Remittances; reducing the cost of remittances by 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%





KEY THEME

Multi-Stakeholder Approach (promoting local authority participation and a diaspora dimension linking to South-South collaboration)

DIAGNOSTIC

Particularly unique to the multi-stakeholder engagement and component of the MADE West Africa Project, was participation across all sectors including local governments; as well as a South-South dimension between Ghanaian (GH) and Sierra Leonean (SL) diaspora and local businesses. This resulted in new relationships between SMEs in both countries; and allowed diaspora entrepreneurs and investors to form business partnerships with local GH and SL entrepreneurs.

KEY THEME

Multi-Stakeholder Approach (promoting local authority participation and a diaspora dimension linking to South-South collaboration)

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>AFFORD organised a Multi-stakeholder workshop on building diaspora investment platforms</p> <p>Accra- Ghana, July 2017</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector</p>	<p>50 participants were interviewed and over 200 participants answered surveys to support our research. A report was produced on "Promoting the Positive Potential of Migrants for Development: The Case of Ghana and Sierra Leone."</p>
<p>AFFORD organised a Multi-stakeholder Training workshop on building networks to channel diaspora resources into development</p> <p>Accra- Ghana, March 2018</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector</p>	<p>70 participants were trained further in advocacy and policy influencing. All acknowledged to build strong networks between diaspora, local authorities and businesses. MADE West Africa commenced the development and delivery of business support services designed to support their individual businesses.</p>

Key message

"Exploring, mobilising and building partnerships between local authorities" and encouraging "investors to channel diaspora resources towards local economic development, job and wealth creation" will improve our economies and provide young people jobs.

M. L. diaspora entrepreneur

KEY THEME

Multi-Stakeholder Approach (promoting local authority participation and a diaspora dimension linking to South-South collaboration)

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>AFFORD organised a Multi-stakeholder Training workshop and Policy Forum on reducing the cost of sending remittances</p> <p>Freetown - Sierra Leone, June 2018</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector, local authorities, SME's</p>	<p>Over 180 participants from different sectors were trained on advocacy and policy influencing. Over 70 delegates took part in a policy forum with the Central Bank of Sierra Leone and MTO's to explore ways to reduce the cost of sending remittances. A working group was formed to continue to engage stakeholders and ensure the reduction of sending remittances.</p>
<p>Multi Stakeholder Forum - "Channelling diaspora resources into local enterprise development and job creation: The role of partnerships in Ghana and Sierra Leone"</p> <p>Accra- Ghana, May 2019</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector, local authorities, SME's</p>	<p>Over 250 participants attended from a range of sectors and countries in Europe, and West Africa. A number of partnerships were formed between the Sierra Leone diaspora from the UK investing in Ghanaian SME's and paying for business development services to support their growth.</p>

Way Forward

KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Creating more awareness on the multi-stakeholder approach and south-south-diaspora collaborations to development and transfer of resources</p> <p>Short - Long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector, local authorities, SME's</p>	<p>Further research and more initiatives like MADE West Africa focusing on a multi-stakeholder approach will build best practices, further collaborations and encourage others to do more.</p>
<p>Building and improving networks for skills and technological transfers</p> <p>Short - Long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector</p>	<p>Building networks will support the sharing of information and expertise and provide entrepreneurs and investors with relevant information needed for business in their countries of origin. It will also promote partnerships for development.</p>
<p>Increasing understanding of diaspora investment and increased capacity to support diaspora investors among business development institutions in Europe, UK and West Africa</p> <p>Short - Long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector, local authorities, SME's</p>	<p>Campaigning and highlighting different platforms and options for investment and business development will demonstrate successes and encourage more to be involved in the development process of economies.</p>
<p>Developing diaspora investment platforms to channel diaspora resources into local enterprise development and job creation</p> <p>Short - Long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector, local authorities, SME's</p>	<p>Developing diaspora investment platforms will provide diaspora entrepreneurs and investors with different options to invest into local economies</p>



OBJECTIVE 01

Towards promoting policy development and engagement

DIAGNOSTIC

Sierra Leone has a labour and migration policy and allows dual citizenship status. However, those with dual citizenship cannot hold political office.

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>Enacting labour and migration policy Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2019</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Update on global policies especially the SDGs and SDG implementation. Developed a National Migration Policy in 2017 to optimise benefits for national development and commissioned a Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Study post Ebola in partnership with the World Bank.</p>
<p>Diaspora Investment Forums held in countries of residence UK, USA & Ghana, 2019</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Entrepreneurs and Investors</p>	<p>The Diaspora Relations Office in the Office of the President and the Diaspora Unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs incorporated the diaspora into development programs.</p>
<p>The Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment Summit held in countries of residence UK, since 2011</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>A roadmap document emerged from the 2011 Diaspora Office Transformation Plan and Diaspora Engagement Strategy Workshop.</p>

Key message

“We need a working diaspora engagement policy that outlines what is available to us as diaspora and clearly defines our expected role this policy will give, provide a framework but also make citizens aware of our role. We need more than political statements”

S.A. diaspora entrepreneur



Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>Establishing an inter-ministerial working group to improve the migration and diaspora policy</p> <p>Freetown, Sierra Leone</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>The Office of Diaspora Affairs (ODA) was established and the contribution of the diaspora to national development has been selected as priority area by the current government.</p>

Way Forward

KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Establish clear channels to share accurate and timely information and include budget lines for diaspora related engagement</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>	<p>Sierra Leonean High Commissions and Embassies, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government, Diaspora Institutions (members, entrepreneurs and investors)</p>	<p>Establishing clear channels of communication will lead to diaspora being informed of diaspora engagement plans and being aware of the key messages for engagement.</p>
<p>Stimulate new approaches for interaction between stakeholders on diaspora and migration matters</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>	<p>Diaspora Institutions, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Increased interaction will lead to additional partnerships, innovation, and funding for diaspora and migration matters.</p>

Best Practices

- The Senegalese Diaspora allocated 15 out of 165 seats in the Senegalese parliament for overseas voters. <https://spectator.clingendael.org/pub/2018/4/the-diaspora-influence/>

Way Forward

KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Develop country, municipal and local level diaspora engagement plans to promote partnerships</p> <p>Short – Medium term</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Local Authority, Mayors, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Provide training and capacity building on international migration policies and processes that further diaspora engagement, knowledge sharing through transnational engagement of diasporas and 'brain circulation' instead of restrictive migration policies that force migrants into permanent settlement.</p>
<p>Ensure the creation of a diaspora facilitation centre to serve as the one-stop centre to address diaspora related issues</p> <p>Medium – Long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Pilot a multi-stakeholder approach project to promote sustainable partnerships for development.</p>



OBJECTIVE 02

Advocacy and Policy Influencing

DIAGNOSTIC

There is little advocacy for and from different stakeholders in Sierra Leone to change existing policies, support the creation of new policies, or support the diaspora as agents of development.

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>Migration policy Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2017–2019</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, MIEUX Experts</p>	<p>MIEUX experts support the government and diaspora to participate in global forums related to migration and development to provide exposure and experience for advocacy and policy influencing.</p>
<p>Diaspora Engagement Strategy workshop Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2011</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>The Diaspora Engagement Strategy Workshop led to the creation of a roadmap document and Diaspora Office Transformation Plan in 2011.</p>

Key message

“From the UK, the cost of remittances to Sierra Leone ranges between 5.92% to 14.61%, however the average cost of transfer was 10.35% in the first quarter of 2018. Currently this would represent an average figure of over \$400,000 in transfer charges in the UK corridor based on the \$4.4m figure. This would free up in this corridor alone to an additional \$280,000 which would remain with senders and recipients. Therefore, it is important to work to reduce the cost of sending remittance.”

Way Forward

KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Encourage the creation of an inter-disciplinary working group of all stakeholders to evaluate developments related to diaspora issues, analyse the effectiveness of ongoing activities and offer recommendations on the diaspora office and support initiatives.</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>	<p>Sierra Leonean High Commissions and Embassies, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Civil Society Organisations, Government, Diaspora Institutions (members, entrepreneurs and investors)</p>	<p>The inter-disciplinary working group will coordinate and organise training workshops for all ministries, agencies and civil society organisations to improve their understanding and ability to adapt to changing international, regional and national policies.</p>
<p>Capacity building for diaspora organisations to better advocate and influence policies related to diaspora engagement and their sectors of interest.</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>	<p>Sierra Leonean High Commissions and Embassies, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Civil Society Organisations, Government, Diaspora Institutions (members, entrepreneurs and investors)</p>	<p>Building capacity of diaspora organisations will provide relevant information and skills for the diaspora to better engage with their countries of origin and residence. Organising policy forums of selected topics relevant to the diaspora, migration and development and support for the working group to gather data will be a source of knowledge for further policy development.</p>

Best Practices

- **Nairobi Action Plan 2016 - Kenyan Government, African Institute for Remittances and ADEPT.** <https://www.diasporadialogue.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DDD5-Report.pdf>



OBJECTIVE 03

Reducing the cost of remittances

DIAGNOSTIC

Advocating for remittance transfers that are cheaper, safer, faster, reliable and legally compliant has become a common global interest. African and European leaders have made a number of commitments to reduce the transaction costs of remittances to 3% or less, and to identify and eliminate remittance corridors that have transfer costs higher than 5% by 2020. Moreover, both the SDGs (specifically Target 10.c) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) have incorporated this as a target. The potential gains from this could be as high as \$20 billion in resources flowing directly to households.

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>The opening and deregulation of the banking sector attracted sub-regional and continental banks to open branches in Sierra Leone and subsequently affected the ability to remit within the same bank in the ECOWAS region and across Africa.</p> <p>Freetown, Sierra Leone</p>	<p>Central Bank, Commercial banks, MTOs, Diaspora, Diaspora Relations office, International banks, Fintech businesses</p>	<p>Enhanced convenience and improvement of transaction time and costs, particularly with regards to eliminating corridors with costs higher than 5%, the African Free Trade Agreement. This increased the willingness of the Sierra Leone diaspora to engage the country for national development and offer support during disasters such as Ebola and landslides.</p>

Key message

“It is too expensive to send remittances to Sierra Leone. That is why I use the informal market. Unfortunately, it has turned out to be quicker and trusted more than the formal channels”

M.F. Insight Magazine

Way Forward

KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Introduce legislation to improve competition in banking and money transfer organisations</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>	<p>Sierra Leonean High Commissions and Embassies, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Civil Society Organisations, Government, Diaspora Institutions (members, entrepreneurs and investors)</p>	<p>Improved legislations would help institutions and organisations to develop structured products targeted at the diaspora.</p>
<p>Incentivise senders to use formal channels</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>		<p>Incentivising remitters to use formal channels will reduce risk and bring in more remittances through formal channels.</p>
<p>Promote financial literacy and rural banking to improve access to banking services</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>		<p>Improved financial literacy will lead to improved access to banking services that support remitters and recipients of remittances.</p>

Best Practices

- In order to provide for an ownership structure in Pakistan for remittance facilitation, the State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Ministry of Finance launched a joint initiative called the **Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI)**. <http://www.pri.gov.pk/>



OBJECTIVE 04

Remittance match funds and investment platforms

DIAGNOSTIC

Sierra Leone has benefitted from the remittances sent to family units and those sent to support during major natural disasters. However, it has not managed to capitalise on harnessing remittances for investment and development.

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>AFFORD Diaspora Finance (ADF) aims to expand, diversify and structure diaspora investment into Sierra Leone</p> <p>UK, Freetown- Sierra Leone</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>It contains a number of programmes: AFFORD Business Club-UK, provides matched grants and business development support to diaspora businesses to stimulate economic activity, creating wealth and jobs in Sierra Leone.</p>
<p>The diaspora has galvanised public private partnerships (PPPs) in sectors where such expertise is not locally available</p> <p>Netherlands, UK & USA</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>This conduit in knowledge and skills transfer has proved effective especially during the Ebola epidemic when UK-based Sierra Leonean health workers (through the organisation they established –TOSHPA– to support transfer of equipment, knowledge and skills) volunteered by working with Public Health England and the NHS to provide cultural awareness training for anyone travelling to Sierra Leone.</p>

Key message

“Having invested in Sierra Leone for a decade, we continue to see a range of profitable investment opportunities in the country. A collective diaspora action might help to answer some of the needed questions both in finances and skills.”

A.D. Sierra Leone Diaspora network

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Stakeholder Forum</p> <p>UK & USA</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Commitment of Sierra Leone diaspora interest to invest in Real Estate, Social Impact Investing, Volunteerism & Skills Transfer, Entrepreneurship & Diaspora Direct Investment, and Private Equity & Venture Capital Investing.</p>
<p>The Diaspora Investment and Trade Platform</p> <p>Online</p>	<p>Office of Diaspora Relations, Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>The Diaspora Investment and Trade Platform is one of the outcomes of a year-long World Bank study on the Sierra Leone diaspora's perceptions about the challenges and opportunities to investing in Sierra Leone.</p>

Way Forward

KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Increase remittances inflows to Sierra Leone by 10% targeted at specific development projects</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Supporting initiatives to facilitate diaspora direct investment will lead to increasing remittances inflows by 10% to specific projects.</p>
<p>Form an Inter-disciplinary working group tasked with coordinating and strengthening cooperation between institutions</p> <p>Short, medium, long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Forming an Inter-disciplinary working group will promote and strengthen institutions. It will also increase the potential of eliminating barriers to remittances and therefore transform the money transfer market, through the introduction of more mobile apps for money transfers and online platforms that eliminate transfer costs.</p>

Best Practices

- AFFORD's Diaspora Finance Initiative (DFI) brings together a series of programmes, grants and services aimed at promoting, stimulating and harnessing diaspora investment opportunities for jobs and wealth creation. <https://www.afford-uk.org/diaspora-finance-initiative-dfi/>
- DFI aims to expand, diversify and structure diaspora investment into Africa. <https://www.afford-uk.org/diaspora-finance-initiative-dfi/>

Way Forward

KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Crowd funding alternatives to encourage diaspora retail investment opportunities to develop scalable, tailored, investment portfolios of fixed income investment products</p> <p>Short, medium, long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Mobilization of diaspora investors and large scale funds for social and economic development. Attract specific financial investment through crowdfunding into specific projects and areas of need with clearly defined goals.</p>
<p>Establish a diaspora investment platform targeted at specific projects and sectors for development</p> <p>Short, medium, long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>Supporting the establishment and development of unique diaspora investment platforms or funds will support the necessary development and growth of sectors and SMEs who lack capital by attracting diaspora to fulfil their potential as development actors.</p>

Best Practices

- **Sierra Leone Diaspora Agribusiness Investor Forum.** <https://adiasporai.com/node/60>
- **The African Diaspora Marketplace (ADM)—a partnership originated by USAID, Western Union and George Washington University—supports U.S.-based African diaspora entrepreneurs.** <http://www.diasporamarketplace.org/>



OBJECTIVE 05

Developing business networks for capacity building and skills transfer

DIAGNOSTIC

Sierra Leone has many diaspora networks targeted at different sectors. However, the focus of these networks has been to address specific needs. These have been evident in their support during natural disasters.

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>Increased involvement of diaspora organisations in humanitarian crises (by DEMAC & MICIC)</p> <p>UK, Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2015–2019</p>	<p>Diaspora, International Non-Governmental Organisations, Civil Society Organisations, Government Agencies, Privates sector, Mayors</p>	<p>The National Organization of Sierra Leoneans in North America (NOSLINA) that formed in May 1998, was re-energised by the Ebola crisis. In London, the Sierra Leone UK Diaspora Ebola Taskforce (SLUKDERT) was formed in September 2014 after two townhall meetings for Sierra Leoneans called by the High Commissioner to the UK.</p>
<p>Hometown Associations are starting form in the Kono District through the District Development Association (KDDA), Kono District Union (KDU) and Old student associations focused on supporting their alma mater</p> <p>Africa, UK & USA, 1990s</p>	<p>Academic Institutions (University of Sierra Leone's Institute of Public Administration and Management), Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions</p>	<p>NOSLINA helped bring together the Sierra Leone diaspora community in Africa, Europe & North America. This led to interconnectedness between the diaspora and Sierra Leone resulting in alleviating the suffering of citizens in crisis.</p>

Key message

"I think Government, Diaspora and citizens living in the country of origin all need a change in mind-set, behaviour and attitude to make any process of us working together productive. We all have to learn and not have a certain mind-set of looking down or mistrust, but desire to see a positive outcome by putting the needs of the country first. That is why I believe we need capacity building and training and reorientation before any project begins."

L.P. diaspora entrepreneur

Key milestones

completed by MADE WA and non-MADE WA partners

INITIATIVES →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTPUTS →
<p>Establishment of professional networks focused on harnessing skills and highlighting opportunities</p> <p>UK, Sierra Leone & Online</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector</p>	<p>The Sierra Leone Investment Information Portal (SLIIP) was developed to address the lack of cohesive diaspora-specific investment information on Sierra Leone. As an initiative of the Sierra Leone Diaspora Network (SLDN), SLIIP was borne out of a series of consultative forums held by the diaspora in the UK in 2005 and in Sierra Leone in 2006.</p>
<p>Establishment of a business network for development and job creation taking on a multi-stakeholder approach</p> <p>Accra, Freetown, Europe, UK & Sierra Leone, 2018</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector</p>	<p>The AFFORD MADE West Africa stakeholder forum, trade mission and engagement with Central and local government authorities for development highlighted investment opportunities and partnerships. ADEPT's platform for African Diaspora Development Organisations has also taken a multi-stakeholder approach to their activities.</p>

Way Forward

KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Train and build capacity of all stakeholders. Help identify diaspora for skills transfer and gaps that need to be supported.</p> <p>Short - Medium term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector</p>	<p>Building capacity of all stakeholders will strengthen cooperation between institutions in the countries of origin, residences and diaspora organisations and provide an avenue to transfer relevant skills and bridge any gaps identified.</p>
<p>Create opportunities for capacity building through skills and resource transfer to address knowledge and industry gaps</p> <p>Short, medium, Long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Private sector, Academic Institutions (University of Sierra Leone's Institute of Public Administration and Management), Civil Society Organisations</p>	<p>Creating the opportunity to facilitate technological transfers and leverage business and social networks for investment and job creation, will enhance interaction between academic actors, government agencies, diasporas and migrants to stimulate new approaches support development.</p>

Best Practices

- ADEPT is an umbrella organisation uniting African diaspora development actors across the European Union (EU), GIZ and Swiss government.

Diaspora communities have become increasingly recognised as a valuable resource for sustainable development and migration management. In light of this, ADEPT was established to facilitate the development and enhancement of diaspora engagement through capacity building and dialogue such as the Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD's). <https://www.adept-platform.org/>

Way Forward

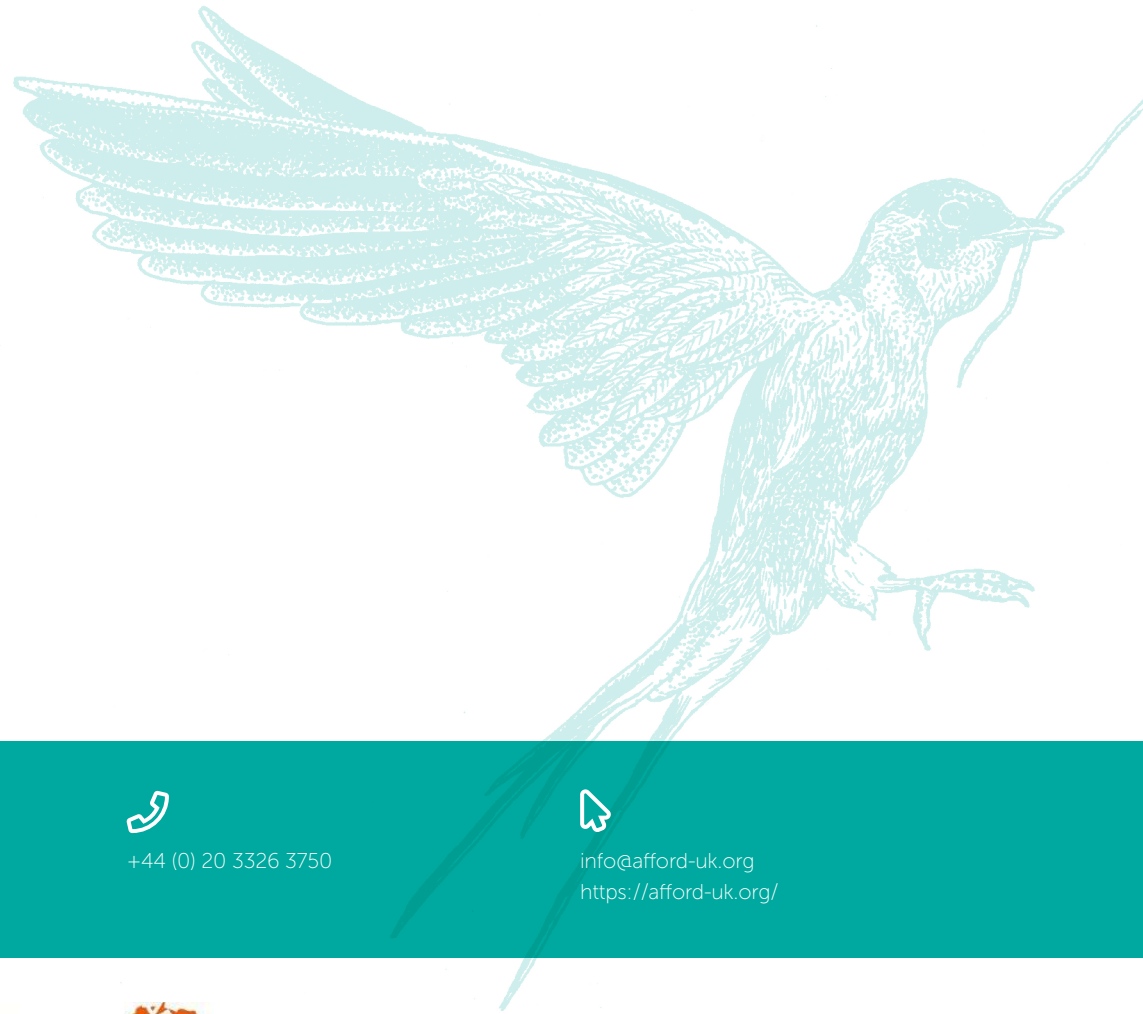
KEY STEPS →	STAKEHOLDERS →	OUTCOMES →
<p>Facilitate technological transfers and leverage business and social networks for investment and job creation</p> <p>Short, medium, Long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Private sector, Academic Institutions (University of Ghana Centre for Migration Studies and Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy), Civil Society Organisations</p>	<p>Encouraging the creation of diaspora networks will provide diaspora and potential investors more avenues to engage with government and national development.</p>
<p>Create more awareness about investment opportunities and encourage transparency and trustworthiness in official channels of governance</p> <p>Short, medium, Long term</p>	<p>Diaspora, Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector</p>	<p>Stronger campaigning for a coherent diaspora engagement policy on national development and facilitation of investments will lead to better awareness of existing and future opportunities.</p>

Best Practices

- **Supporting Entrepreneurs and Enterprise Development in Africa (SEEDA)** harnesses the resources of the African diaspora alongside domestic resources by providing skills, knowledge and investment opportunities to spur enterprise development for Micro, Small and Medium-sized enterprises. <https://www.afford-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/seeda-programme.pdf>
- **Diaspora Networks Alliance (DNA):** There are different types of DNA involvement: diaspora engagement beyond remittances; diaspora philanthropy or “collective remittances”; **Diaspora Volunteer Corps**; **Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI)** to home countries; **Diaspora Capital Markets** (bonds and remittance-backed securities); **Diaspora Tourism and Nostalgic Trade**; **Diaspora Advocacy and Diplomacy**; and various partnerships for change. [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1880/DNA_Framework_\(revAug2013\).pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1880/DNA_Framework_(revAug2013).pdf)

Acknowledgement

This Roadmap is an output of the MADE West African project, funded by the European Union. The project was implemented by the MADE West Africa project. Our greatest appreciation goes to all participants from Government officials, International Organisations, Civil Society Organisations, Diaspora, Diaspora Entrepreneurs and Investors, Academic Institutions, Private Sector and Partners in Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Ghana and Sierra Leone. AFFORD is also indebted to the entire AFFORD staff for their support.



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