

DRC DIASPORA PROGRAMME

Diaspora engagement for humanitarian impact

Diaspora actors are often **among the first to respond to crises** and remain engaged through recovery. Since 2010, DRC has partnered with diaspora organisations as transnational civil society actors. We strengthen their capacity and connect them with local partners and the humanitarian system to deliver **timely, coordinated and accountable assistance**. In doing so, we increase their inclusion and visibility within the humanitarian sector.


15+

years of DRC experience in diaspora engagement

40+

countries of origin represented among engaged diaspora communities

4

thematic pillars aligned with DRC's core sectors

2015

DEMAC established as a global diaspora coordination initiative

— The added value of diaspora



Rapid resource mobilisation

Transnational networks channel funds quickly and flexibly.



Access to hard-to-reach areas

Community ties open access where international actors face constraints.



Trust and contextual knowledge

Over 60% of migrants consult contacts abroad before departure.

Source: Mixed Migration Centre



Sustained engagement

Engagement continues beyond the acute phase into recovery and resilience.

— Our thematic pillars

PILLAR 01



Anticipatory Action

Humanitarian action remains largely reactive.

- Forecasting and risk analysis
- Diaspora preparedness and early warning
- Inclusion in anticipatory action frameworks

PILLAR 02



Emergency Response

Access and funding gaps delay life-saving aid.

- Rapid diaspora capacity assessments
- Diaspora liaison officers
- Crowdfunding and community-led cash

PILLAR 03



Protection Information

Misinformation exposes people on the move to risk.

- Information on rights, risks and services
- Protection and PFA capacity strengthening
- Referrals to legal aid, health and MHPSS

PILLAR 04



Economic Engagement

Protracted displacement deepens aid dependency.

- Remittances and financial inclusion
- Crowdfunding and philanthropy
- Blended finance and private sector partnerships

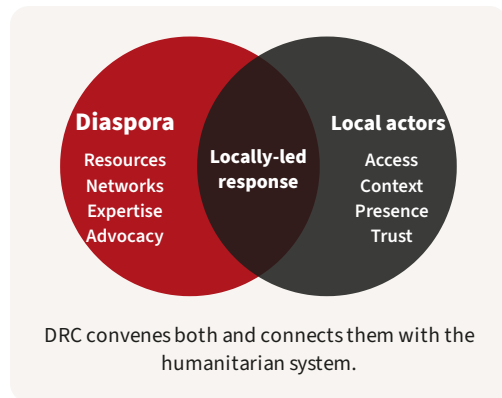
Cross-cutting approaches:

Localisation

Humanitarian–development–peace nexus

Conflict sensitivity

— Diaspora and localisation: complementary roles



Diaspora engagement **reinforces, rather than replaces, locally-led humanitarian action**. Diaspora bring resources and expertise from abroad; local actors bring access and operational presence.

Partnership with local actors

Joint implementation with local civil society and community-based organisations.

Knowledge exchange

Two-way capacity sharing between diaspora and local partners on technical and contextual expertise.

Direct, flexible funding

Diaspora resources reach local responders directly, complementing institutional funding.

Voice and representation

Local priorities carried into international coordination, advocacy and policy dialogue.

— Our approach



— Selected initiatives

111,764 people evacuated with diaspora support Ukraine Response 2020 – 2023 91+ diaspora organisations engaged since 2020. USD 10.8 million raised in the first five days after 24 February 2022. Diaspora Liaison Officer deployed for coordination. EMERGENCY RESPONSE	8 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia AHEAD 2024 – 2027 Diaspora and local partners are mapped and trained to strengthen preparedness and access to early warning and flexible funding. Current focus on Somalia. ANTICIPATORY ACTION	10+ countries along the Mediterranean routes Pathways to Protection 2025 – 2029 Implemented by DRC, the Danish Red Cross and IDC with 23+ local partners. Diaspora organisations provide protection information to people on the move. PROTECTION	17,632 people reached in Afghanistan and Somalia Diaspora Project Support 2015 – ongoing Funding mechanism for partnerships between diaspora organisations in Denmark and local partners in hard-to-reach areas of Afghanistan and Somalia. ECONOMIC RECOVERY
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GLOBAL COORDINATION

DEMAC – Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination

Since 2015, DEMAC has promoted the inclusion of diaspora organisations in the humanitarian system by:

- Building knowledge of diaspora humanitarian engagement
- Strengthening diaspora and institutional capacity
- Facilitating coordination platforms, such as SODECH

More information: demac.org

PARTNERING WITH THE DRC DIASPORA PROGRAMME

Value for partners

DONORS
Proven implementation modalities in hard-to-reach contexts, backed by DRC's accountability frameworks.

DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS
Funding, technical support and a role in coordination.

HUMANITARIAN AND LOCAL ACTORS
Access to diaspora networks and complementary resources.



CONTACT

Your partner in diaspora programming

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