

Frederica
Rodrigues

Mapping Organisations of the Diaspora and its Contribution to the Development of Guinea-Bissau (2016/2021)

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(2016/2021)**

Frederica Rodrigues

TECHNICAL FILE

The *landa Guiné! Djuntu* investigates topics relevant to Guinean civil society that contribute to the dissemination of knowledge and collaborate effectively to solve community problems and national challenges.

The ***landa Guiné! Djuntu*** is implemented by Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (IMVF) as part of *landa Guiné!*, a European Union programme of social and economic opportunities for the people of Guinea-Bissau.

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PREFACE

This study reveals with concrete data the power and unwavering commitment of many Bissau-Guinean diaspora organisations in contributing to the progress and well-being of our country. By way of example, diaspora organisations are playing a vital role in promoting education among the younger generations and have been instrumental in combating the Covid-19 pandemic and mitigating its effects on the impoverishment of the population.

A word of thanks is therefore due for the efforts, motivation and solidarity shown by our compatriots organised collectively abroad. A heartfelt thank you also goes to IMVF for its initiative and to all those involved in this research and the production of this publication.

Knowing the diasporas and their organisations - knowing who they are, where they are (in their countries of residence and in Guinea-Bissau), what and how they do, what they want, as well as the limitations they face when engaging in development initiatives - is paving the way for the government and other key players to make the most of this development asset in Guinea-Bissau.

The research presented here provides a remarkable amount of information on the actions of Bissau-Guinean diaspora organisations. It describes the wide range of concrete actions of the diaspora in favour of development, among other things by region, sector of intervention and type of activity, and characterises the *modus operandi* of the organisations, particularly in terms of identifying needs, mobilising resources (financial and material), establishing partnerships, difficulties during implementation, compliance and monitoring of results. It also provides the government with a range of additional recommendations that will help us establish a clear direction in building a constructive relationship with the diasporas, in line with what is established in the Government's Strategic Plan for the Diaspora.

It is our understanding that diaspora engagement must be realised through collaborative and inclusive partnerships. This study supports us in doing just that, as it is a valuable tool that allows us to identify opportunities for collaboration, promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences, and ensure that the voices of diaspora organisations are heard and their concerns are addressed.

Building trust and an open and lasting dialogue between Guinea-Bissau and the diaspora, particularly through their organisations, is one of the biggest challenges in the governance of migration issues. It is our responsibility to support closer collaboration between the government and diaspora organisations and to direct state institutions towards serving these organisations closely. This includes facilitating access to relevant information, creating administrative and legal arrangements that boost and facilitate their contribution, and serving as an intermediary bridge between them and other relevant actors and projects in Guinea-Bissau. We must take advantage of both the already revealed and the still untapped potential of these diaspora organisations and cultivate an environment conducive to continued and fruitful collaboration.

Braima Mané Director General
of Communities

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To the operational team on the ground that supported the preparation of the study, a word of thanks goes to Haua Embalo and Emmanuel Lopes for their support in carrying out the interviews with the beneficiaries of the diaspora initiatives in Guinea-Bissau and with the diaspora organisations themselves. We would also like to thank the study's focal points in the different regions for their invaluable work in identifying the communities that benefited from the diaspora organisations' initiatives.

We are also grateful for the generosity of researcher Alexandre Abreu, who readily made available his database of contacts from Bissau-Guinean diaspora organisations.

Finally, and with a word of great appreciation, this study would not have been possible without the collaboration and availability of many leaders and technicians from Bissau-Guinean diaspora organisations in various parts of the world, who shared their time, experience, lessons learned and recommendations. These were long conversations at the end of a working day and during weekends, which also expressed their desire to make an engaged and continuous contribution to Guinea-Bissau's development process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this study is to present an **up-to-date map of diaspora organisations active throughout Guinea-Bissau (from 2016 to 2021) and a reliable picture of the main characteristics of their activities/initiatives in support of the country's development.**

Concrete actions by the diaspora in favour of development are systematised by region, sector of intervention and type of activity, and the *modus operandi* of the organisations is characterised, particularly in terms of identifying needs, mobilising resources (financial and material), establishing partnerships, difficulties during implementation, compliance and monitoring results.

In terms of **methodology**, a **literature review** was carried out on Bissau-Guinean organisations in the diaspora. In order to identify diaspora organisations operating in Guinea-Bissau, **key informants were interviewed in Bissau at a central level and in all regions and SAB**, using the snowball sampling method. **Databases on existing organisations** were also **consulted and diplomatic missions in Guinea-Bissau were contacted** to identify others. This process resulted in the identification of 189 diaspora organisations. Of those that could be contacted, **48 organisations had carried out initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau during the period under analysis. Semi-structured interviews** were therefore carried out **with these 48 diaspora organisations, which had implemented a total of 78 initiatives.** The semi-structured interviews with the diaspora organisations resulted in **a database that allowed for statistical analysis of the results using SPSS.** From the range of diaspora organisations, **some were selected as examples of good practice**, in the light of what the analysis of results identified as some of the main problematic aspects of the implementation of development support initiatives in Guinea Bissau.

The **diaspora organisations** that are contributing to Guinea-Bissau's development in the timeframe under analysis (2016-2021) are homeland organisations **based in a wide range of countries, with larger or smaller contingents of Guineans. These organisations are mainly based in Europe, particularly in Portugal and France, and their contribution cuts across the entire territory of Guinea-Bissau. Because of the importance and size of emigration, Cacheu stands out as a beneficiary region, followed by Bafatá and Gabú.**

With prior consultation and consensus on the initiatives with the beneficiary communities/entities, diaspora organisations **have focused on initiatives that address the basic needs of the population, particularly in terms of education and health.** Diaspora organisations **have also done a lot of work on food security**, especially with the distribution of basic food items to various families.

Diaspora organisations are contributing to development, above all by **providing material for building schools, reinforcing school supplies, building health centres and donating equipment and various materials. They have invested in initiatives to train and transfer skills from Guinean emigrants or other professionals mobilised by them to entities, public services or communities in Guinea-Bissau, although on a smaller scale.**

The data obtained shows that initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau **have been carried out through partnerships, in which the role of local communities or associations similar to those in the diaspora as implementing agents stands out. Foundations and Non-Governmental Organisations in the diaspora's countries of residence also appear as important partners for diaspora organisations** - for example, by donating material or facilitating the transport of goods with their own means to Guinea-Bissau. In contrast, public entities in the countries of residence and in Guinea-Bissau do not appear as key partners in these collective contributions from the diaspora. It is important to note that, **according to the figures and the speeches of the leaders of diaspora organisations, the Guinea-Bissau state is in fact a potentially very important element, but one whose role could clearly be strengthened.** The initiatives are largely **implemented by volunteers**, both in the diaspora and in Guinea-Bissau.

In terms of funding, diaspora organisations show a solid capacity to build up their own resource base to carry out their initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau. Around 6 out of 10 initiatives are carried out with the **organisations' own funding, which comes mainly from internal membership fees. Where external funding is obtained, most initiatives are financed by foundations in the diaspora organisations' countries of residence.**

Although diaspora organisations have **financial autonomy** and can therefore define their priorities for action in their country of origin, this independence can, on the other hand, **limit the size and scope of their results.** This is because organisations generally have few members who pay their membership fees on an ongoing basis, due to the socio-economic difficulties they face in their countries of residence. This situation can reflect a lack of capacity to attract external funding.

Diaspora organisations have achieved diverse results in their development support work. In the vast majority of situations, the **reporting of results is limited to checking whether or not the planned activities have taken place.** Accounting for their **effects and impact is a practice that is generally absent from the organisations' procedures**, except in the case of non-governmental organisations whose level of professionalism requires them to present this data. They don't usually publish annual activity, financial or audit reports, which may be due to a lack of technical capacity or a lack of demand from funders. **This shortcoming** in terms of monitoring and evaluation and reporting results **may be contributing to distrust on the part of the diaspora in the use of donations**, an aspect mentioned at various times by the leaders of the organisations, which limits fundraising from emigrants.

Although there are problems with the planning, budgeting and sustainability of some of the initiatives, the contribution of diaspora organisations is crucial to the well-being of the people who benefit from them, as they are covering the basic needs of the population, particularly in terms of health, education and access to water. It can be said, for example, that there would be many more children without access to school without the contribution of diaspora organisations, which not only build or rehabilitate infrastructure but also co-finance the payment of teachers' salaries. The testimonies of those in the communities in Guinea-Bissau who recognise the "enormous help" and "solution" that diaspora collectives represent in alleviating their difficulties are indicative of this support. Moreover, diaspora organisations are contributing to localities and initiatives that are not covered by the Guinea-Bissau state or by other development agents, such as non-governmental organisations.

As far as difficulties are concerned, access to funding for diaspora organisations is identified by them as the main difficulty they face. On the other hand, it is important to mention the enormous challenges that diaspora organisations have faced in clearing goods through customs at the port of Bissau. In addition to cases in which goods disappear from containers, organisations often have to pay large sums of money. There is therefore a great deal of misinformation on the part of diaspora organisations about the container customs clearance process, not least because the procedure is not properly explained ("step by step") by the state.

Thus, and in line with the difficulties previously identified by the organisations, the most requested reinforcements are related to access to funding, in particular training in funding opportunities, capacity building in proposal development and approaching donors.

To this end, we propose a set of recommendations for action that contribute to five major objectives:

- i. Bringing the state closer to diaspora organisations and strengthening bonds of trust through consultation and dialogue processes;
- ii. Generating an environment conducive to the contribution of diaspora organisations, through institutional reforms in the state and making information available in various media and languages;
- iii. Strengthening the capacities of diaspora organisations to access various types of funding, identify opportunities, be accountable, monitor and disseminate results, through ongoing training activities;
- iv. Expanding multiple partnerships, particularly between diaspora organisations and development agents in Guinea-Bissau, by identifying of useful contacts with each other;
- v. Encouraging cooperation and coordination between diaspora organisations by sharing knowledge with each other.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

DGC Directorate General for Communities

ICANG Institute for the Coordination of Non-Governmental Action

IMVF Marquês de Valle Flôr Institute

IOM International Organisation for Migration

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

NGDO Non-Governmental Development Organisation

SAB Autonomous Sector of Bissau

EU European Union

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INTRODUCTION

Diaspora communities and their representative organisations are increasingly seen as an important asset in the social and economic development of their countries of origin, due to their financial capital, technical knowledge and networks.

In this light, this study aims to map and diagnose the work of Bissau-Guinean diaspora organisations in their contribution to Guinea-Bissau's development. This document is part of the *Ianda Guiné! Djuntu Action*, implemented by IMVF and part of the *Ianda Guiné* Programme, promoted and funded by the European Union.

With the aim of encouraging greater synergy between diaspora organisations and boosting results, this research is part of the *EU's Roadmap for engagement with civil society in Guinea-Bissau*, the overall objective of which is to contribute to the consolidation of good governance in the country by strengthening the capacities, participation and consultation of civil society.

Specifically, the aim is to present an up-to-date map of the diaspora organisations active throughout Guinea-Bissau (from 2016 to 2021) and a reliable description of the main characteristics of their activities/initiatives in support of the country's development, particularly in the fight against poverty and inequality, the promotion of democracy and human rights and action on the challenges of sustainable development, particularly in favour of the most vulnerable and marginalised populations.

Concrete actions by the diaspora in favour of development are systematised by region, sector of intervention and type of activity, and the *modus operandi* of the organisations is characterised, particularly in terms of identifying needs, mobilising resources (financial and material), establishing partnerships, difficulties during implementation, compliance and monitoring results.

The mapping of diaspora organisations and their development support initiatives includes all initiatives aimed at identifying, managing and solving emerging problems in the public or community space. This can include actions aimed at public administrations (such as debate and participation in the formulation of public policies), as well as actions aimed at facilitating access to essential services such as water, health and education.

This study answers a series of questions:

- **Who are the Diaspora Organisations?** - contains information on the number and types of organisation, as well as their formal or informal nature and their basic motivations;
- **Where are the Diaspora Organisations?** - presents the country from which initiatives to support Guinea-Bissau originate;
- **Which Regions Receive Contributions from Diaspora Organisations?** - identifies the number of support initiatives in each of the eight regions and the Autonomous Sector of Bissau;

- **What are the Areas and Type of Intervention of the Initiatives?** - lists the sectors to which the organisations are contributing, as well as the type of support they are providing (donation of materials, construction and training) and by what means (sending materials, financial capital and professionals);
- **What are the partnerships?** - This section seeks to understand the links with partners in the countries of residence, the synergies between diaspora associations and the connections with local partners in Guinea-Bissau. This section answers the question of how associations organise themselves to define strategic plans to support local development;
- **How are they funded?** - describes the main and secondary sources of funding used by diaspora organisations, as well as the development of specific fundraising activities;
- **What are the results?** - the measurement of the contribution of diaspora actions to local and national development is explored, namely by verifying whether diaspora initiatives are aligned with the national development framework and sustainable development objectives;
- **What are the difficulties?** - The main vulnerabilities of the diaspora's role in local development in Guinea are identified, both in terms of the operationalisation of projects and initiatives and the impact and sustainability of diaspora practices in the territory;
- **What reinforcements are required?** - A reflection on the critical elements of future training is outlined.

Finally, based on the diagnosis of trends, patterns, gaps and challenges in the work of diaspora organisations in Guinea-Bissau, a set of recommendations is proposed to increase the positive effects of diaspora organisations on the country's development. In this section, special attention will be paid to the elements that facilitate better cooperation between the state, civil society organisations in Guinea-Bissau and diaspora organisations.

METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the objectives listed in the study's Terms of Reference, and taking into account the purpose of this document to provide information to support the state of Guinea-Bissau and its partners in capitalising on the potential of diaspora organisations for the country's development, a methodology is proposed which chooses to give less prominence to theoretical elements and greater emphasis to the contextualisation and problematisation of the results obtained in the field.

Nevertheless, a literature review was first carried out to systematise the state of the art on the subject of Bissau-Guinean organisations in the diaspora, with a bibliographic analysis of the main academic productions¹. In addition, projects and publications with the same objective as this study were consulted in order to schematise the data collection tools².

In order to identify diaspora organisations working in Guinea-Bissau, several key informants were contacted. Key informants are defined as entities or people who can provide information on: i. diaspora organisations that have an initiative to contribute to local or national development in Guinea-Bissau (from 2016 to 2021); ii. organisations in Guinea-Bissau that have been partners in initiatives by diaspora organisations to contribute to Guinea-Bissau's local or national development (from 2016 to 2021); and iii. the *modus operandi* and effects of initiatives by diaspora organisations to contribute to Guinea-Bissau's local or national development.

To this end, a focal point was established per region and in the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, which carried out interviews at local level (25 in total) with the heads of the Regional Directorate of Education, the Regional Directorate of Health, the Regional Directorate of Planning and Statistics and, where it existed, the Platform of Non-Governmental Organisations. The regional technical teams of *Ação Ianda Guiné! Djuntu* were also consulted to provide contacts for organisations. These initial contacts resulted in a very significant list of initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau led by diaspora organisations.

¹In particular the publications Assessment of the development potential of the Guinea-Bissau diaspora in Portugal and France (Sangreman et al., 2012), "Guinean Diaspora as a Local Development Agent: The Role of Guinean Associations in Portugal in Cooperation and Development Projects in Guinea-Bissau" (Costa, 2016), Diaspora Cartography: Sociodemographic Profile of the Diasporas of Guatemala, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau in Italy (IOM, 2019), "Structures of the Guinean Diaspora in Portugal. Sociodemographic Profile of the Guinea-Bissau Diaspora in Portugal" (IOM, 2020) and the articles "Associative practices of Guineans, transnational connections and incomplete citizenship" (Quintino, 2010) and "Associations of migrant communities in Portugal and their participation in the development of the country of origin: the Guinean case" (Có, 2004).²

For example, the EU DIF - Diaspora engagement map - EUDiF (available at: <https://diasporafordevelopment.eu/diaspora-engagement-map/>).

In parallel, 11 semi-structured interviews were carried out with senior officials from the key ministries for managing emigration, contributing to the diaspora and national development planning, as well as leaders and technicians from other relevant organisations:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities (Secretariat of State for the Communities and Directorate-General for the Communities);
- Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration (Planning Directorate);
- Ministry of Finance (at central level and with the General Directorate of Customs);
- Institute for the Coordination of Non-Governmental Aid;
- International Organisation for Migration;
- Delegation of the European Union;
- *landa Guinea* Programme Coordination Unit;
- One of the members of the National Assembly elected by the emigration constituency;
- National Movement for Peace and Democracy.

The aim of these interviews was to listen to their interests, needs and recommendations for the organisations' actions in favour of Guinea-Bissau's development, as well as to ascertain the alignment of the diaspora's initiatives with the government's development programme.

All these strategies for identifying organisations led to contacts with members or organisations in the target communities of the diaspora support initiatives, with whom the central research team conducted semi-structured interviews in the regions (36 in total). The team did not travel to Quinara, Tombali and Bolama/Bijagós due to the small number of initiatives identified. All these people were asked the following questions:

- i. What diaspora organisations have done;
- ii. What was the community's participation?
- iii. Who identified the needs and whether they correspond to local priorities;
- iv. What results were obtained;
- v. What difficulties were encountered in the process.

For each interview carried out locally, the contact details of a responsible member of the diaspora were obtained. In some cases it was possible to visit the tabanca/development support initiative, such as Bigene and Bula.

At the same time, and with a view to identifying more diaspora organisations working in Guinea-Bissau, the Guinea-Bissau diplomatic missions in the communities' main countries of residence were also contacted. Direct liaison with the embassies in Brazil, Cape Verde and Belgium resulted in concrete contacts with diaspora organisations.

We also consulted databases that identify and provide contact details for associations in the Guinean diaspora, namely the list provided by *Nô Rede - Diáspora* (diasporagb.org), *landa Guiné! Djuntu*³, the Portuguese for Migration ([O que são as Associações de Imigrantes e o que fazem? - ArtigoDetalhe - ACM](#)) and previous research projects⁴. High Commission

³*landa Guiné! Djuntu* mapped diaspora organisations prior to this study, which resulted in the list available on *Nô Rede*, the diaspora website created to support the creation of the Diaspora Network.

⁴It is worth highlighting the sharing of contacts of diaspora organisations in Portugal identified in the research project by Sangreman et al. (2012).

From this data collection, we were able to identify 189 Guinean diaspora organisations. Of these, we managed to contact 78 (41%). It was not possible to get in touch directly with the remaining organisations identified, as their contact details were out of date or not operational (numbers disconnected, calls not answered, email correspondence not replied to), or it was not even possible to identify a contact (email or telephone). This situation seems to reveal the changing and ceasing dynamics of the associative fabric of the Guinean diaspora, since several of the organisations were no longer active and, on the other hand, some of those mapped for this study are recent. Of the total number of organisations contacted, 48 had developed initiatives in Guinea-Bissau, which corresponds to 62%. Using Portugal as the country in which most organisations were pre-identified, it should be noted that of the 105 organisations mapped, 77 could not be contacted. Of the 28 organisations with which contact was established, 23 (i.e. 82% of the total) had initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau in the period under analysis (2016-2021).

With the contacts that emerged from all these strategies for identifying diaspora organisations and with subsequent contacts from the diaspora itself (in a snowball sampling logic), 48 semi-structured interviews were carried out with Guinean diaspora organisations to find out what they do, how they do it and with what results. The interview was based on the open-ended and fluid application of a set of questions that gave rise to a database. A battery of questions was asked, such as:

- i. What are the activities carried out by this association that specifically aim to contribute to improving living conditions in the community(ies) of origin or in Guinea-Bissau in general?
- ii. What are the main obstacles and difficulties that the association has encountered in the context of these activities to support the improvement of living conditions and development in Guinea-Bissau?
- iii. What technical reinforcements could be useful for the organisation's work.

Semi-structured interviews were chosen because the risk of non-response to an online questionnaire survey to be answered voluntarily by the organisations was considered high.

The semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations resulted in a database that allowed for statistical analysis of the results, without, however, losing the details of the interventions and the direct speech (for example, the vocabulary used) of the members of the diaspora organisations, sometimes supplemented with information shared by the focal point of the community/organisation in Guinea-Bissau.

The data was analysed statistically using the SPSS (*Statistical Package for the Social Sciences*) programme, and the main overall results of the Bissau-Guinean diaspora's intervention are presented here. The volume of data does not allow for more detailed and reliable statistical analyses, for example by type of organisation or recipient region.

From the range of diaspora organisations, some have been selected as examples of good practice, in the light of what the analysis of results has identified as some of the main problematic aspects of the implementation of development support initiatives in Guinea-Bissau. These good practice initiatives are highlighted in text boxes.

Finally, and in terms of operationalising the study, the following challenges are worth mentioning:

- The difficulty of identifying key informants in the regions (the fact that the staff of the regional Directorates for Education, Health and Planning have a high turnover limits their knowledge of the initiatives of diaspora organisations and the need to make direct contacts with the communities);
- The length of time it took to schedule interviews with diaspora organisations (each one was contacted an average of three times) and the fact that they were carried out mainly during after-work hours (late afternoons and weekends), due to the fact that almost all of the leaders or staff were engaged in other professional activities;
- The absence, in some cases, of precise information from the diaspora organisations (concrete results, budget involved, etc.). There were cases in which the information shared by the partners/organisations in Guinea-Bissau was inaccurate (for example, the year the initiative took place);
- The additional work of identifying other organisations with initiatives (not mapped during the fieldwork in Guinea-Bissau) proved to be quite difficult due to the fact that contacts were not up-to-date or there were no contacts at all for the associations identified during the literature review process.

Nevertheless, the process of listening to diaspora organisations is very positive, as they showed a high degree of openness to the interview and a need for dialogue and sharing, particularly about the problems and challenges they face when carrying out initiatives in Guinea-Bissau.

PREVIOUS STUDIES ON ASSOCIATIONS IN THE BISSAU-GUINEAN DIASPORA

Here is a short summary of the information that can be found in the literature researched:

- *Guinean Diaspora as an Agent of Local Development: The Role of Guinean Associations in Portugal in Cooperation and Development Projects in Guinea-Bissau* (Costa, 2016) - briefly presents the history of Guinean migration and the origins and dynamics of Guinean immigrant associations in Portugal. It uses ten case studies of migrant associations in Portugal to analyse their contributions to supporting development in their country of origin and their participation in development cooperation projects in Guinea-Bissau. All the organisations recognised the importance of the development projects carried out and their impact on supporting the communities, both in Guinea-Bissau and in the host country. There are networks of partnerships and co-operation between the associations that have been developed by the different organisations to support the associations' action plans. It was found that there were several projects already being carried out by the associations in partnership with public and private institutions and other organisations to support the development of the communities of origin. The following sectors were favoured in these projects: education (construction of school pavilions and their equipment, support for teaching materials) and health (construction and lighting of health posts, as well as hospice equipment). Many of the projects were realised through funding from the associations' funds, i.e. through membership fees;

- *Cartography of the Diaspora: Sociodemographic Profile of the Gambian, Guinean and Guinea-Bissau Diasporas* (IOM, 2019) - presents the size and main features of *Guinea-Bissau* immigration in Italy and devotes a section to the two migrant organisations identified. Only one of them was active in supporting Guinea-Bissau's development.

-In this study, the associations mentioned a lack of skills related to project management and fundraising strategies and expressed an interest in consolidating activities in these areas. In this study, the associations mentioned a lack of skills related to project management and fundraising strategies and expressed interest in consolidation activities in these areas;

- *Structures of the Guinean Diaspora in Portugal. Sociodemographic Profile of the Guinea-Bissau Diaspora in Portugal* (IOM, 2020) - presents a set of data on the *Guinea-Bissau* migration in Portugal and gives a portrait of *Guinea-Bissau* associations. It emphasises that the number of formally constituted associations cannot be considered an indicator of the real activity of these structures, i.e. their dynamics in promoting concrete initiatives and projects. On the other hand, while it is possible to map formally constituted associations, it is not possible to understand those that are inactive or have been abolished. He points out that the organisations of the Guinean diaspora in Portuguese territory have *d i f f e r e n t* characteristics and models of intervention: organisations structured around the ethnic/geographical belonging of the migrants, around religious belonging and around nationality. Organisations based in their homeland have the most experience in carrying out humanitarian or development activities in their region of origin. In some cases, the activities are carried out in partnership with Portuguese non-governmental organisations, municipalities or other entities involved in international cooperation.

Of the 12 associations interviewed in this study, 8 are or have been active in Guinea-Bissau. Of those that had not yet done so, 3 were interested in doing so and 1 is a structure representing associations in Portugal and Guinea-Bissau.

-Bissau. The "homeland" associations are those with the most experience in promoting social initiatives in their communities of origin, and are involved in rehabilitating and equipping social infrastructures such as schools and health centres, and paying salaries to teachers or health technicians. The associations also send school materials, clothes, medicines and pharmaceutical products. Vocational training, awareness-raising and education initiatives and income-generating activities are less common, and were mentioned by 2 associations. In Portugal, associations have suffered the impact of the economic crisis and the re-emigration of their members to other countries. Since their main resource is their members, their commitment, skills and experience, and the network of contacts they have in Portugal and Guinea-Bissau, leaving for other countries was associated with the loss of financial resources mobilised through membership fees and the dynamics of activities. The departure of leaders and associative leaders had sometimes contributed to the near paralysis of some associations. Another set of constraints is linked to the criteria that associations have to fulfil in order to access tenders from Portuguese institutions that fund activities linked to migration and development cooperation. In some cases, associations don't have the necessary experience in promoting activities or they don't carry out the other procedures (regular elections, general meetings, approval of annual plans and reports) that are considered fundamental for access to the status of immigrant association or NGDO. However, some migrant associations have participated in projects funded by development co-operation agents through partnerships with NGOs, and at least two with this type of experience were identified. Thus, without access to Portuguese cooperation resources, activities in Guinea-Bissau are mainly made possible by membership fees, in some cases organised into transnational networks / federations, donations of equipment and materials by public and private entities, both Guinean and Portuguese, and private companies. Some Guinean associations, which are similar to Guinean migrant associations in Portugal, had access to resources from international donors or were planning to do so. The Guinean state was not mentioned as a funder in the interviews, except for one organisation that received occasional support for health activities. Thus, Guinea-Bissau's migrant associations are constrained in their access to resources, both for their activities in Portugal and in Guinea-Bissau. These constraints cannot be disassociated from the dynamics of professionalisation and specialisation, associated with the growing bureaucratisation of access to funding. In this context, it is more difficult for associations made up mainly of volunteers with other professional activities to have people with availability, information and specialised knowledge in the technical and administrative procedures of funders and in monitoring activities. There is also a lack of knowledge on the part of the organisations about the mechanisms of Portuguese cooperation and the status of NGOs. Difficulties in successfully submitting applications and the scarcity of funds available to work in Portugal and Guinea-Bissau were mentioned. Only 4 of the 12 associations interviewed had their own headquarters where they could carry out their activities. The increasing complexity of submitting applications for tenders and managing them makes access to resources more difficult for those organisations that operate without full-time paid technical teams, as is the case with 11 of the 12 associations interviewed. Those associations that carry out humanitarian aid or local development initiatives in Guinea-Bissau also mention another type of organisation.

difficulties. The cost of transporting materials and having them removed from customs in Guinea-Bissau limits the possibility of sending goods and equipment to some associations with this type of practice. On the other hand, the interlocutors in Guinea-Bissau don't always respond in time to the demands of their counterparts in Portugal, which makes it more complex to develop projects and submit applications for funding. Associations sometimes make investments in improving health and education infrastructures, which are then not continued due to the lack of specialised human resources and the lack of integration/involvement of state authorities. The isolation of diaspora associations' initiatives has led to a waste of resources, according to one of the leaders who has invested in creating a transnational network of associations to make a more integrated contribution to a region of the country. For some Guinean immigrant associations in Portugal that have invested mainly in projects with migrant communities, the lack of partners in Guinea-Bissau is a constraint on initiatives in the country, despite their interest in doing so. In a context of scarce human and financial resources to maintain the work of the associations, the prioritisation and specialisation of work to support migrants in Portugal does not free up resources to invest in finding partnerships and projects in Guinea-Bissau. In this context, coordination between diaspora associations in Portugal, the exchange of information and greater representation with national and international authorities is essential to enable greater participation by the diaspora in Portugal and Guinea-Bissau. The Federation of Guinean Associations was set up in 2014, some 14 years after the first attempts to federate diaspora associations, a process that proved difficult, as other studies have pointed out (Quintino, 2010). At the time of the study, the Federation had 16 members and its main activities were taking part in meetings and events and mediating contacts with various organisations;

- *Associative practices of Guineans, transnational connections and incomplete citizenship* (Quintino, 2010) - this article analyses the associations of Guineans and focuses on the Lisbon Metropolitan Area (AML), where the concentration of Guineans and their associations in Portugal is highest. The approach adopted follows theoretical perspectives of transnationalism to capture associative practices and their meanings, negotiated in the complex articulations between state and civil society and in the interwoven connections between the local, national and transnational scales. It begins by characterising and typifying the associations, followed by an analysis of their agendas, identifying problems, central strategies and describing their activities. It is noted that in the AML, Guinea-Bissau associations have an internal structure of varying complexity and formality that biases any count. Three levels of structuring can be distinguished which, although they coexist, express three phases of institutional evolution that began in the late 1980s: social networks, associations and federations. The most common in the neighbourhoods where the most disadvantaged Guineans are concentrated have a simple, horizontal structure based on informal networks of relatives, friends and neighbours who form and share a common fund through monthly contributions or direct collection. These informal networks played an important role in helping Guineans migrate to Portugal and in providing services to newly arrived Guineans.

-rivals. At the time of writing, their main function was group sociability and helping each other look after their children and in times of emergency, such as unemployment, illness or death. The processes of creating, legalising and setting up these more complex and hierarchical structures, as a rule and as is the case with many other migrants, began in the mid-1990s, taking advantage of the legal and institutional opportunities created in Portugal in the meantime, both at local and national level. These structures tend to be small in terms of budgets.

The oldest networks evolved from the informal ones created in the clandestine neighbourhoods between the late 1980s and the beginning of the 20th century. The oldest associations evolved from informal networks created in clandestine neighbourhoods between the late 1980s and early 1990s and were designed to provide for the needs of their members and support newcomers. The associations of the national collective are the ones that tend to have larger structures, but maintain their neighbourhood domicile. They most often act as political arenas in disputes and negotiations over citizenship rights in Portugal and Guinea-Bissau. Finally, the third level of structuring is federation, a recent process that reveals an associative fabric far from reaching the maturity seen in other migrant groups in Europe. The diversity of activities described as objectives in the agendas are subject to budgets whose income expresses self-financing difficulties. Generally speaking, income is based on membership fees, which tend to be small; funds raised through direct collection systems and from organising or participating in events, which are very common in smaller associations; more rarely, income from own assets, which is the privilege of a small number of larger associations; and public subsidies and other funds, which together account for a large proportion of income. The municipalities where they are based and ACIDI (High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue) are the institutions from which they most often receive regular subsidies or subsidies for one-off activities, although the amounts vary significantly, a situation that does not seem unrelated to the negotiating skills of their leaders, necessarily influenced by their qualifications. In general, all the associations are active in Guinea-Bissau. It should be noted that the mechanisms of reciprocity and solidarity that sustain these nodes of extended kinship relations are crucial in the formation of circular flows associated with the design, practice and impact of the development activities of the associative structures based in the AML. Health and education have been the priority areas of local development projects that have also favoured the circulation of flows of knowledge and skills, in addition to the construction and repair of infrastructure and the sending of basic resources. National collective associations have been more involved in humanitarian aid programmes and campaigns in partnership with public and private institutions and NGOs, and have played an important role both in the more general distribution of resources and in supporting social solidarity institutions;

- *The associations of migrant communities in Portugal and their participation in the development of the country of origin: the Guinean case* (Có, 2004) - brings together a set of information obtained through interviews with different leaders of the associations registered with the "Confederation of Guinean Immigrant Associations in Portugal" (including some CIDAC staff) in 2003, with the aim of finding out about the formation of the associations, their nature/objectives, participatory elements and ways of contributing to the development of the country or place of origin. It should be emphasised that the transnationalism of the Guinean diaspora is mainly expressed in a regional/local/ethnic community register. In 2002, of the 35 associations recognised by the "Confederation of Guinean Associations in Portugal", 22, or 63%, had a common identity (i.e. groups made up of people with the same cultural, local and ethnic identity). It should be noted that the link between the Associations of Migrant Communities and their origins, through projects, was clearly visible in Guinea-Bissau at local level, reflecting the problems of the population. Examples of actions and projects include aid for medicines, school materials and sports equipment, the construction of educational establishments and dykes for agriculture, the development of trade and religious encouragement.

These initiatives are sometimes carried out or supported by Non-Governmental Development Organisations (NGDOs), as well as United Nations agencies (such as the UNDP - United Nations Development Programme, the WFP - World Food Programme, etc.), with (occasional) contributions from local NGOs. The volunteer capacity of the Associations of Migrant Communities is emphasised, despite the financial difficulties they face. It is also noted that many associations wanted to create partnerships with the government of the country of origin, as well as with other institutions, in order to better respond to the local needs of their members and family members, but that there are many problems in this regard. It is a relatively recent associative fabric, still in the process of legalisation and establishment, dependent on public subsidies and other funds, and with a considerable and incomplete level of diversification in terms of specialisation. This diversity does not express institutional specialisation, but rather highlights the heterogeneity that characterises Guineans, visible in the subjectivities they represent, the geographical scales on which they operate and the leadership and greater political activity of the structures run by qualified Guineans, although almost all of them serve the most disadvantaged Guineans and are located in the suburban parishes of the AML;

- *Assessment of the development potential of the Guinea-Bissau diaspora in Portugal and France* (Sangreman et al., 2012) - provides contextualised information to the State of Guinea-Bissau on the Guinea-Bissau diaspora in Portugal and France and its potential to contribute to Guinea-Bissau's development. Data is presented on the communities of Guinean origin residing in these countries, their associative fabric and activities and the transnational dynamics and practices that link the diaspora to each other and to Guinea-Bissau, as well as their perceptions and points of view regarding Guinea-Bissau's development process and the current and potential role of the diaspora in this process. From the data collected in the study, they conclude that at least 17 associations out of 27 interviewed in Portugal have already developed activities in their country of origin in the areas of education and health, including the rehabilitation of schools, the equipping of health posts and the payment of salaries for medical staff and teachers, the purchase of transport, among others. The initiatives are generally implemented by local associations, which are similar to migrant associations. In Guinea-Bissau, information was collected on the impact of migration on development levels in 45 localities in the country's 7 continental regions. There is no local information on the contribution of diaspora organisations. The results show that the scale of the migration phenomenon, as well as the degree of involvement and intervention strategies of migrants in favour of their country's development, vary significantly from region to region. Nevertheless, despite this heterogeneity, it can be concluded that Guinean migration has a substantial impact on the well-being of the populations it benefits and that it contributes to the overall development of the country, even being fundamental in key areas such as health, education and food security. The results of the fieldwork in Guinea-Bissau show the unanimous global opinion that one of the main obstacles to increasing the benefits of migration is the lack of support from the Guinean state for its diaspora. This opinion is in line with the results of work carried out with Guinean communities in Portugal and France. The information obtained was used to draw up a set of recommendations aimed at operationalising strategies to strengthen the connection between the Guinean state and its diaspora in Portugal and France, and to make the most of the economic, social, cultural and human ties that exist between the diaspora and its country of origin, in favour of Guinea-Bissau's development.

CHARACTERISING THE CONTRIBUTION OF DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

WHO ARE THE ORGANISATIONS OF THE BISSAU GUINEAN DIASPORA?

According to previous research, most associations of the Guinean community in the diaspora favour intervention in the host context, particularly in the area of health, support in the event of death, socialising and other social support (Sangreman et al., 2012)⁵. As Có (2004) notes, diaspora organisations have emerged to meet the integration needs of their immigrant members, trying to respond to the new demands caused by the growth of the migratory flow. In the author's words:



"They all arose from the need to integrate their members, in an attempt to respond to the new demands caused by the growth in migratory flows. Over time, as the flow of migrants continued to increase and the problems of integration became more acute, these associations took on an institutional character (although some are still informal today)."

However, this focus on the various needs of emigrant Guinean compatriots does not mean a disconnection from the country of origin. In other words, and looking at the Guinean associations in the Lisbon metropolitan area, they *"constitute a real alternative, both to the reception structures of the Portuguese state, which have proved inadequate for the integration of those who leave, and to the lack of development structures in the Guinean state, which is incapable of looking after the well-being of those who stay."* (Quintino, 2010).

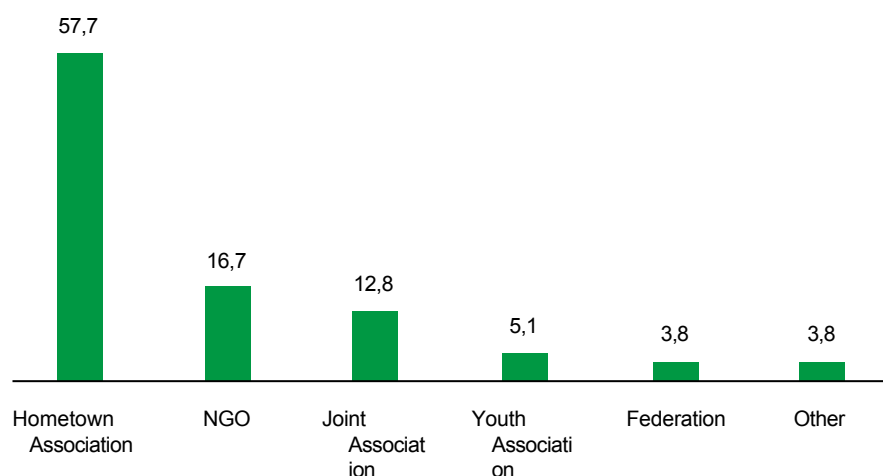
Moreover, the first thing to note from this study is that although there are diaspora organisations that focus their activities exclusively on the country of residence and direct support for migrants living there, more than half of the diaspora organisations contacted have also carried out initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau between 2016 and 2021⁶. They are therefore organisations that manage agendas that simultaneously meet their members' needs for integration into the society of residence and for development in their country of origin.

Thus, and looking at who carries out activities to support development in Guinea Bissau, the active diaspora organisations are mainly homeland associations, i.e. associations formed around the migrants' community of origin. Around 6 out of 10 diaspora organisations with initiatives in Guinea-Bissau are "children and friends" of a specific village, sector or region.

⁵Support that constitutes, in the case of many of them, an authentic parallel welfare system that complements the social support provided by the state.

⁶This result is in line with the Sangreman et al. study (2012) in which 17 of the 27 associations surveyed in Portugal also develop, or have already developed, initiatives for the benefit of their country of origin.

Figure 1: Diaspora organisations identified with initiatives to support Guinea-Bissau (2016/2021), by type of organisation (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews⁷ with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

Hometown organisations, i.e. associations formed around the migrants' community of origin, are followed by non-governmental organisations, which account for 17% of all diaspora organisations active in Guinea-Bissau. They are formally constituted and, broadly speaking, have a level of professionalisation that allows them to carry out more activities, in a more consolidated and continuous way over time.

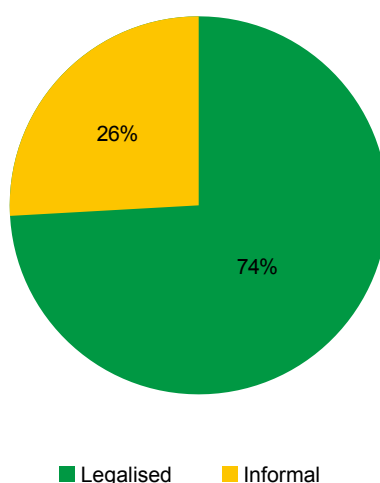
For their part, the federations of associations still play a minor role in the overall picture of diaspora organisations active in cooperation with the country of origin. On the one hand, this can be explained by the small number of federations of associations. On the other hand, the work of the federations seems to be serving other purposes, namely liaison with the governments of the countries of residence and Guinea-Bissau, and not so much organising or centralising initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau, which are more carried out by local organisations. It could be difficult for a national federation to start a discussion and reach a consensus on where and what to support in the country of origin when there are local organisations with divergent interests. It also seems challenging to simulate a scenario in which local organisations give up their projects in order to transfer their funds to a national project. In fact, none of the federations that appear to be implementing initiatives are national in scope, i.e. they are federations that bring together a limited number of locally-based associations from the same administrative sector in Guinea-Bissau. Examples include the Baboque Association in Portugal (ABP), which unites twelve associations of manjac villages in Portugal, their counterparts in France, in Spain and in the villages in Guinea-Bissau and takes on the role of coordinating development projects in the "lands" of origin and the Federation of Immigrant Associations and Friends of the Calequisse Sector in Portugal, which brings together the heads of the associations of the respective federated tabancas, namely Bajobe, Barambe, Bassarel, Bipar, Betenta, Bô, Bote, Calequisse, Catije, Catchalame, Mata de Ucô, Nhãgabeth, Peguragur and Timate.

⁷A set of open questions (with a rigid script in which some questions were always asked) was applied in the interviews that gave rise to the database. However, the method used is interviews.

The lack of relevance of federative structures suggests that the scale and results of initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau could be greater if there were a greater pooling of efforts by diaspora organisations, at least at sector/region level. Instead of acting together on platforms that bring them together, diaspora organisations have been acting individually. In fact, in several situations, the diaspora organisations with contributions in Guinea-Bissau don't know each other or exchange experiences, thus wasting the capital of lessons learned that could be useful to the collective.

It should also be noted that 3 out of 4 organisations are formally constituted in the diaspora country in which they operate. This is not surprising given that the average length of time organisations have been in operation is 10 years. If we exclude from this group the organisations that were set up *ad hoc* to deal specifically and exclusively with the damaging effects of the Covid-19 pandemic (and there are quite a few of them, as presented later in the report), we can conclude that the major trend is for organisations to have been in operation for more than a decade.

Figure 2: Diaspora organisations identified with initiatives to support Guinea-Bissau (2016-2021) formally or informally constituted (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

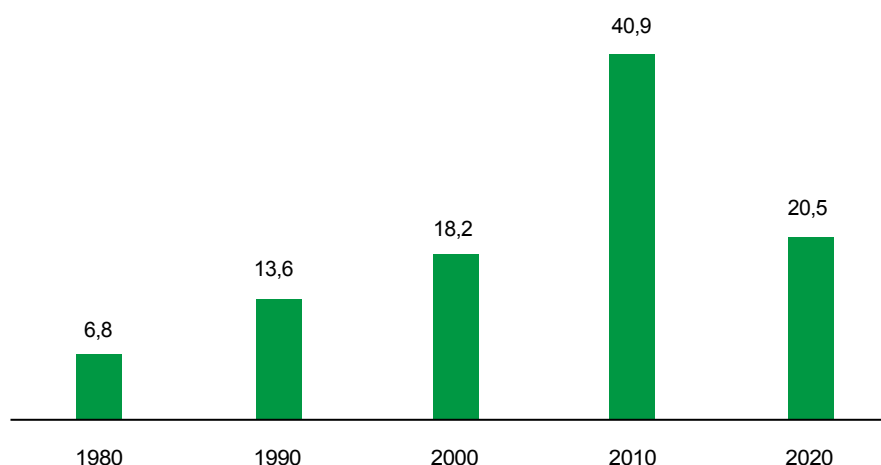
The fact that the vast majority of diaspora organisations are legalised in their country of residence is a very positive point for Guinea-Bissau's associative fabric, since proof of representation in a country abroad not only makes it possible to apply for funding and establish partnerships, but also, according to one of the interviewees, *"opens doors to teamwork with organisations in Guinea-Bissau"*.

Moreover, according to Sangreman et al. (2012), the process of formalisation of some Guinean organisations took place mainly in the more recent decades (from 1990 onwards, in both the French and Portuguese cases) and corresponded, in the cases where this happened, to their gradual transformation into NGOs, with the aim of providing a more structured response to various needs, both of the members themselves and of third parties (mainly the localities of origin, in the case of homeland associations). For those who followed this path, the formalisation process was seen not only as a necessity, but also as an opportunity. As a necessity, insofar as the growth in the number of members and the increase in the scale of the activities carried out required more structured internal operating mechanisms. As an opportunity, in the sense that the formal constitution of the associations was a necessary condition for them to have access to additional support and resources that could facilitate the pursuit of their objectives.

In the Portuguese context, a determining factor was the creation of the High Commission for Migration (ACM, then ACIME) in 1996 - which, over the following years, created a series of incentives to formalise migrant associations and set them up as institutional partners (incentives that included the provision of funds for various purposes and activities). Even though these funds were not directed at initiatives to support Guinea-Bissau, they made it possible to alleviate overheads and thus facilitate savings for the country of origin.

Looking at the year in which the organisations under analysis were set up, we see that the majority (around 41%) were created in the 2010s. We should also note the strong emergence of organisations in the 2020s, especially informal structures that lead initiatives linked to minimising the harmful effects of Covid-19. Notwithstanding this presence of newly created organisations, on the other hand, it should be noted that many diaspora organisations have been operating for more than twenty years (taking 1999 as the last year). In fact, if we exclude the organisations set up to deal with Covid-19 on a one-off basis, we see that around 50% of the organisations have a long history of existence, having been set up until 2009.

Figure 3: Diaspora organisations identified with initiatives to support Guinea-Bissau (2016-2021) by year/decade of creation (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

In terms of leadership, almost all of the organisations have a man as president and their governing bodies also have a greater male than female presence. This evidence had already been identified in the IOM study (2020), in which of the 17 leaders of migrant associations interviewed, 16 were men and only 1 was a woman, on the one hand, and the associations interviewed involve 47 men and 18 women on their governing bodies.

With regard to the size of the organisations, the interviews conducted show that leaders are concerned about the reduction in the number of members, both because of the effect of emigration and because of the lack of growth in the number of new members or newcomers. Although no specific questions were asked on this topic, previous studies have shown that in most cases these are small organisations. Hometown associations, which are the most prevalent in this mapping, have a smaller average size than federations and general organisations. However, as Sangreman et al. (2012) point out, even within this subset there is considerable heterogeneity: in the Portuguese case, 40 per cent of hometown associations have between 50 and 99 members, but around 25 per cent have 300 members or more. Costa's (2016) survey of eight case studies of hometown associations points to an average of 300 members per association⁸. Another relevant result of the study by Sangreman et al. (2012) is that the homeland associations of the Guinean community in Portugal have a much larger average size than their French counterparts when it comes to the number of members: in the Portuguese context, associations with 200, 300 or 400 members are not uncommon, while the vast majority of homeland associations in the French context report fewer than 100 members.

Whether the contribution is more or less linked to their homeland, diaspora organisations are contributing to Guinea-Bissau strongly motivated by emotional ties and a sense of solidarity, responsibility and giving back. There seems to be a "feeling" and "sense of obligation" on the part of those who leave towards those who stay, as evidenced by the speeches of some of *those* interviewed in the diaspora: "*We know how difficult it is there - we help those we left behind*", "*We know where we came from - there is a lack of everything and anything*" and "*I am the fruit of help. I studied and emigrated because they helped me*".

Kinship networks continue to constitute dense and wide-ranging nodes of social and emotional relations that play an important role in closely linking the daily lives of relatives who leave for different destinations and those who remain in their homelands. The mechanisms of reciprocity and solidarity that sustain these links of extended kinship relations are crucial in the formation of circular flows associated with the design, practice and impact of the development activities of associative structures (Quintino, 2010).

⁸Own calculations based on the number of members of the eight hometown associations studied.

Here is the list of organisations identified and interviewed for this study (in no particular order) with initiatives/actions in Guinea-Bissau between 2016 and 2021:

1. Association of Sons and Friends of Djabicunda - Portugal
2. Matosinhos Mansoa Friendship Association - Portugal
3. Union of Baboque Associations - Portugal
4. Association of the Sons and Friends of Tchantum - Portugal
5. Federation of Immigrant Associations and Friends of the Kalequisse Sector in Portugal - Portugal
6. Association of Sons and Friends of Bachil - Portugal
7. House of Guinea - Portugal
8. Emigrant Association of Tame - Portugal
9. Association of Sons and Friends of Prabís in Guinea-Bissau - Portugal
10. Associação de Jovens Unidos de Bula - Portugal
11. Balole Association - Portugal
12. Association of Children of Bara Mama - Portugal
13. Solidarity Association of Sons and Friends of the Gabú Region - Portugal
14. Association of Children and Friends of Common Farms - Portugal
15. Association of Sons and Friends of Bigimita - Portugal
16. Tadjá Fome - Portugal
17. Association of Sons and Friends of the Biombo Region N'dja lel' Fã - Portugal
18. (Youth centre) Association of Children and Friends of Pelundo living in Portugal - Portugal
19. Onenoral Association of the Sons and Friends of Suzana Section - Portugal
20. Association of Sons and Friends of Amedalai - Portugal
21. Saúde Sabe Tene - Portugal
22. Patchara Association - Portugal
23. Associação dos Naturais e Amigos da Região de Bafatá - Portugal
24. Organising the Beat Covid-19 Campaign on all fronts - Brazil
25. Tabanka di Sintcham - Brazil
26. Action Multiculturelle pour le Developpement de Quinara - Belgium
27. Bantaba of Hope - Belgium
28. Association of Sons and Friends of Guinea-Bissau in Newcastle - United Kingdom
29. Bafatá na Corçon - United Kingdom
30. Association of the Sons and Friends of Canhamina - United Kingdom
31. Association Suisse d'Aide aux personnes diabétiques en Guinée-Bissau - Switzerland
32. Guinea-Bissau Solidarity Association Switzerland-Geneva - Switzerland
33. APPRENDA - France
34. Association Avenir Kadjindiassa - France
35. Place Petabe Bra Committee - France
36. Association Djukanin Mandjaku - France
37. Association de Baboque - France
38. Association culturelle et d'Entraide Binhante - France
39. Bafata Terra Sabi - Spain
40. Asociación cultural colectivo de los emigrantes de las Islas Canarias - Spain
41. Association of Sons of Batucar - Spain
42. Heart of Guinea-Bissau Association - Luxembourg
43. Association Guineenne de Cabienque au Luxembourg - Luxembourg
44. Association of Sons and Friends of the Dara Section - Germany
45. No Lanta Djuntu - Germany
46. Pitche Industry Association - Germany
47. Sol Mansi Onlus - Italy
48. Association of Sons and Friends for the Integrated Development of the Bafatá Region - Bafatá XXI - Cape Verde

WHERE ARE THE ORGANISATIONS OF THE BISSAU GUINEAN DIASPORA?

The exhaustive survey of diaspora organisations with activities in Guinea-Bissau from 2016 to 2021 shows that emigrants' solidarity contributions come from multiple countries, reflecting the proliferation of destinations for Guinean emigration.

However, diaspora organisations are mainly based on the European continent. The data shows that 93% of diaspora organisations are located in Europe, followed by South America (4%) and Africa (2%).

Although emigration from Guinea takes place mainly in Africa, particularly within the ECOWAS region (Sangreman et al., 2012; IOM 2020), it seems that emigrants living in Europe are the ones who, due to their economic status, possibilities for partnerships, access to funding and perhaps the longevity, stability and type of their migratory project (labour vs student⁹), are best placed to start initiatives to support the development of their country of origin.

Portugal has a strong command of operations, with almost half of the diaspora organisations operating from this country. France is the second country with the most Guinean organisations developing initiatives to support the country of origin. These figures reflect the large concentration of Guinean migrants in Portugal and France, which are the main countries of residence of the Guinean diaspora in Europe. Spain, Germany and the UK come third on the list of countries where diaspora organisations are active in Guinea-Bissau. There are also organisations in Belgium, Brazil, Luxembourg, Switzerland and, finally, Cape Verde and Italy.

We were unable to identify any new initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau from Senegal - the associations we contacted had not organised any action in the timeframe under analysis. We only interviewed the Dakar branch of the Bara Mama initiative, which is registered in this study in Portugal (as the action was centred in that country). In the case of The Gambia, it was not possible to contact the pre-identified organisations. In Guinea-Conakry and the Netherlands, we were unable to identify any organisations - in other words, neither local and state agents in Guinea-Bissau nor Guinea-Bissau's diplomatic missions abroad were aware of their existence, nor did the literature review offer any avenues for research in this regard.

⁹By way of illustration, Guineans emigrating to Brazil are mainly university students who find it more difficult to save money, on the one hand, and in an organised way, on the other, because they are widely dispersed throughout the country.

Table 1: Country of Location of Diaspora Organisations identified with initiatives to support Guinea-Bissau (2016-2021)

	N	%
Portugal	23	47.9
France	6	12.5
Spain	3	6.3
Germany	3	6.3
United Kingdom	3	6.3
Belgium	2	4.2
Switzerland	2	4.2
Brazil	2	4.2
Luxembourg	2	4.2
Cape Verde	1	2.1
Italy	1	2.1

Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

However, it should be pointed out that this ranking of countries where diaspora organisations are in charge of development support initiatives in Guinea-Bissau does not mean that funding and support for their implementation only comes from the diaspora living there. There are therefore many examples of organisations in Portugal that manage to carry out activities in Guinea-Bissau with the support of emigrants in France and other countries that are invisible in this list, such as Senegal and Gambia.

The research shows that diaspora organisations, especially when they are hometown associations, cooperate in the funding and implementation of initiatives. An initiative, for example, started by an organisation in France may be being carried out with the financial support of its counterparts in Spain and/or Portugal.

In this vein, the study by Sangreman et al. (2012) revealed that the majority of Manjaca land associations, in particular, have sister associations in France in which co-operation between the 'branches' of each country, in the context of co-funding and co-implementation of projects in the tabanca of origin, is a very common practice.

According to the findings of this study, these connections are made informally and on the basis of personal knowledge and the bonds of trust created between its members. It is common for fundraising to be centralised in the bank account of one of the members, who sends the final amount to the initiative's parent organisation in another country. The very mobility of Guineans between European countries leads to this diversification of links and connections between diaspora centres. There are no known initiatives to support links between these nuclei of diaspora organisations.

In turn, there seems to be little contact and/or knowledge between diaspora organisations that are not from the same homeland in different countries. In the survey of initiatives carried out for this study, no inter-organisational initiatives were identified.
-countries led by an NGO.

WHAT ARE THE RECEIVING REGIONS IN GUINEA-BISSAU?

Diaspora organisations are organising initiatives to support development throughout Guinea-Bissau, as the data from this mapping shows. This means that even regions with low or almost non-existent emigration rates (e.g. localities in the Quinara or Tombali regions) are benefiting from the solidarity of Guineans living abroad.

Nevertheless, the regions of Guinea-Bissau that benefit most from the initiatives of diaspora organisations are those with the largest emigrant populations¹⁰. In contrast, the regions from which few Guineans go abroad benefit to a lesser extent from the contributions of diaspora organisations. It can therefore be concluded that a high rate of emigration tends to mean a greater return on that emigration for the development of the region of origin.

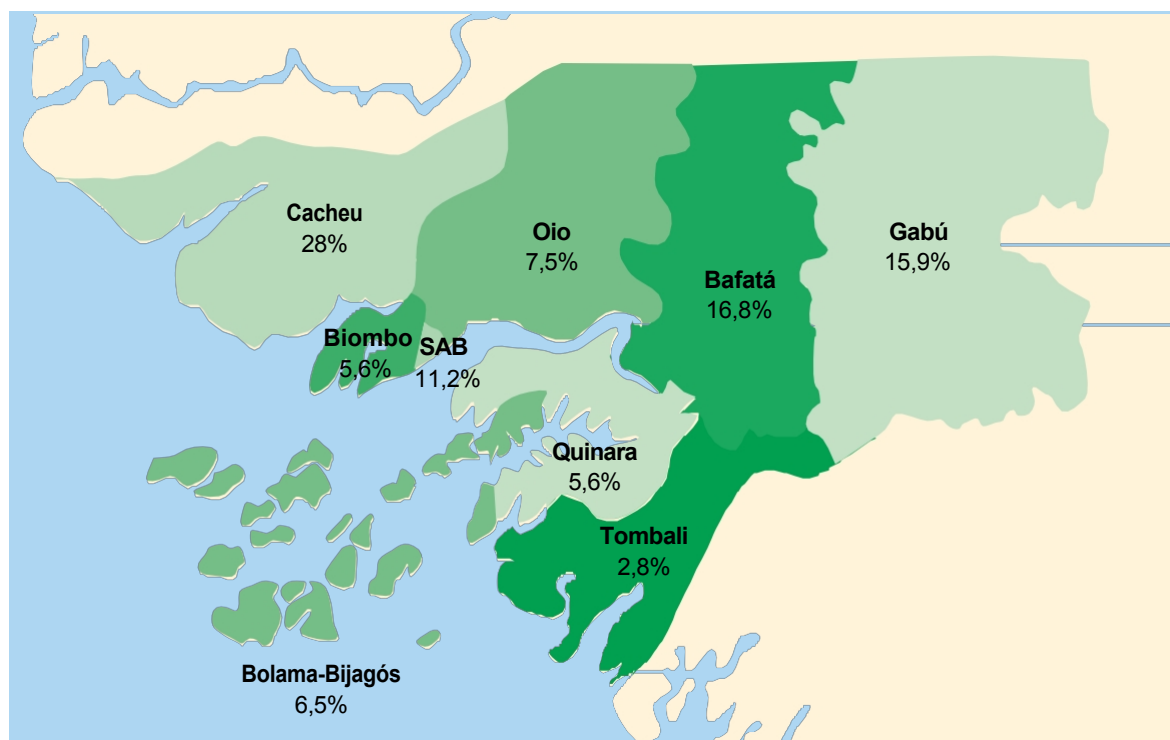
As these are initiatives that seem to be supported by bonds of affection and connections between those who leave and those who stay, the social interactions they generate are also more intense on a local scale than on a national scale, and are often limited to the migrants' specific places of origin.

On the other hand, the age of the migration process and the predominant countries of destination in each region are also important explanatory elements for the heterogeneity in the intensity of the contribution to Guinea-Bissau. For example, long-standing emigrants from the Cacheu region are mainly in France, Portugal and Senegal (Sangreman et al., 2012), while more recent emigrants from the Gabú region are embarking on overland migration projects towards Europe, which often end unsuccessfully and with an early return to Guinea-Bissau (IOM, 2020). The longevity and stability of migratory projects in different countries seem to condition the ability of emigrants to organise themselves into collective structures and thus contribute to their country of origin.

As noted in the study by Sangreman et al. (2012), the length of the migration process and the predominant countries of destination, as well as the ethnicity and degree of organisation of the migrants themselves, are variables that have an impact on the contribution of emigration to Guinea-Bissau.

¹⁰Studies that have already been carried out (Carreiro, 2007; Carreiro and Sangreman, 2011 and Sangreman et al, 2012), suggest: i. that migration is not a uniform ambition, i.e. it is not considered a favoured life strategy by all ethnic groups; ii. that migration occurs with greater intensity when it is associated with a rite of passage, as in the case of the manjacos, or with a professional practice that involves mobility, such as trade, in the case of the fulas and mandingas; iii. that in contexts where migration is not collectively perceived as a preferred life strategy, then it occurs on a smaller scale, bearing in mind that the financial investment associated with the migration process (to Europe) is significant and that the rural migrant, who has little schooling, is unlikely to be able to undertake it alone; iv. This confirms that investment in international migration tends to be a family (and even community) decision and investment and that there is a similar expectation of return, which largely justifies the different types of investments made by migrants in favour of their families and communities of origin.

Figure 4: Distribution of Diaspora Organisation Initiatives identified (2016- 2021), by region in Guinea-Bissau (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

Specifically, the contribution of the diaspora is concentrated in the north, in Cacheu, and also in the east, in Bafatá and Gabú. According to one of the interviewees, the manjacos and fulas are more organised in the diaspora and are always concerned about those left behind, which is a way of recognising the effort that a group of people have made so that some have been able to emigrate.

Cacheu absorbs 28% of the initiatives of diaspora organisations. There were 30 initiatives identified to support development, mainly in the Canchungo sector. This is the region of Guinea-Bissau with the most significant contingents of migrants, with some villages having more migrants than non-migrants (Sangreman et al., 2012¹¹; IOM, 2020). The strong presence of diaspora organisations in Cacheu is also based on the fact that the Manjac ethnic group has a longer tradition of associative practices (Sangreman et al., 2012¹²).

¹¹The research carried out in Guinea-Bissau aimed to identify the effects of migration on the development of the migrants' villages of origin and their contribution to the regional and global development of Guinea-Bissau. 45 villages were studied, spread across all the continental regions of Guinea-Bissau - Bafatá, Biombo, Cacheu, Gabú, Oio, Quinara and Tombali.

¹²This phenomenon probably has its origins in the division of Manjaca society into age classes and in the traditional practice of individuals belonging to each of these classes ("uran") carrying out collective agricultural work for others, mainly as young people, in exchange for remuneration that is also used collectively (e.g. at festivals or to buy costumes for all the members) - in addition to the reinforced solidarity that comes from the common performance of initiation ceremonies by the members of these classes. In the context of migration, this solidarity and this practice have been adapted to create support mechanisms designed to facilitate the process of settling in for newly arrived migrants and to guarantee a network of mutual solidarity. It is these informal collective arrangements that are at the root of most of the associative fabric in the migrant context - and at a later stage (once a minimum of stability had been ensured for the "pioneers" of the village), they began to direct a more substantial part of their attention to developing initiatives in the localities of origin. More recently, migrants from various tabancas in Guinea-Bissau, where Islamised ethnic groups predominate, have also increasingly adopted this practice, although in these cases it doesn't have the same kind of "organic" cultural roots.

Bafatá is the destination of 17 per cent of emigrants' collective contribution. There were 30 initiatives identified to support development. This result is in line with the study by Sangreman et al. (2012) in which it was reported that in 6 of the 7 villages analysed, the focus groups considered that it was migrants who contributed most to local development.

Gabú receives 16% of the interventions from the organised diaspora, some of which are from hometown associations. There are 17 initiatives identified between 2016 and 2021. The results of this mapping point to a significant contribution from diaspora organisations. By contrast, or because emigration movements are more recent, among the villages analysed in the study by Sangreman et al. (2012) only one had development projects promoted by migrants aimed at the community as such.

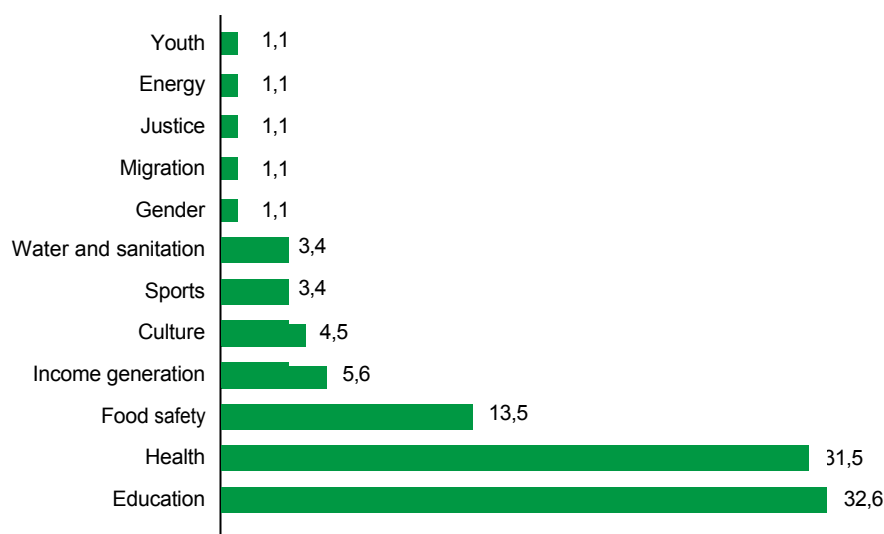
The Autonomous Sector of Bissau concentrates 1 in 10 of the development support initiatives carried out by diaspora organisations. This is mainly due to the support given to the Simão Mendes National Hospital, the country's main hospital, both in terms of services and the training of health professionals who are sent to the other regions. On the other hand, there are many social action organisations operating in Bissau, such as orphanages, and their ability to attract and publicise their activities to members of the diaspora and influential people (MPs, members of the government, journalists) may also be greater.

Finally, and as expected given the strong rural component of Guinea-Bissau's territory, three quarters of the initiatives take place in rural areas.

WHAT ARE THE AREAS AND TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Development support initiatives in Guinea-Bissau are heavily concentrated in the education and health sectors, as they are directly related to the most pressing needs felt in the villages and these are generally the subject of relative consensus. Roughly speaking, it is the communities at origin that, through *djumbais* between their members and people with greater influence, choose education and health as the priorities for intervention and support from diaspora organisations.

Figure 5: Distribution of Diaspora Organisation Initiatives identified (2016- 2021), by area of intervention in Guinea-Bissau (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

Education, with 33 per cent of the total interventions, is the most supported sector, followed by health, which accounts for 32 per cent of the investments made. In the words of one of the interviewees, *"both education and health are in the hands of emigrants"*.

In third place are food security initiatives, mainly to combat hunger during the lockdown periods of the Covid-19 pandemic, which accounted for 14 per cent of the total interventions carried out.

On the other hand, support for collective income-generating activities is less common, accounting for only 6% of all initiatives, and is related to horticulture and agriculture. There are no initiatives to support income generation, particularly on a small scale in the hotel and catering sector.

Example of Good Innovation Practice: Generating Income through Culture

Responsible Organisation: Comité de Soutien Place Petabe Association

Country of diaspora: France

Destination in Guinea-Bissau: Cacheu

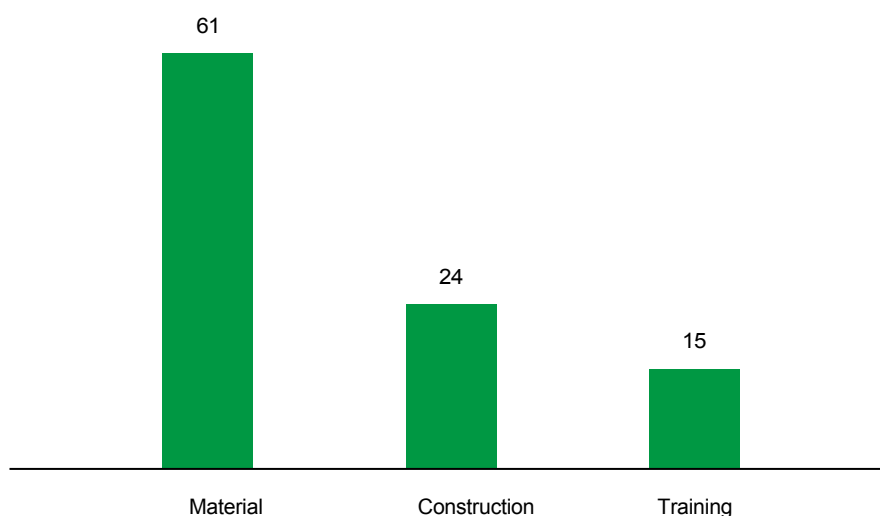
Description: sending money (2800 euros) to make bombolons (6 in total). These musical instruments are used in funeral ceremonies (burial and "Toca-Tchur") to summon the spirits and are also used as a means of remote communication. In other words, *"when there is a ceremony in the community, they play the Bombolom to inform the whole neighbourhood and surrounding communities, because the echo of its resonance goes far. The sounds emitted transmit information such as the name of the deceased, the day and location of the ceremony. These sounds are learnt during adult initiation ceremonies through fanados (circumcision)."* The aim of this initiative is to have its own service, saving money on the one hand, and to generate a source of income from renting it out to other communities on the other.

Finally, initiatives in the cultural sphere, especially religious ones, account for 5% of all initiatives. When comparing sectors, the contribution of diaspora organisations to sport, water and sanitation, gender, migration, justice, energy and youth is residual.

Initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau cover various sectors and are very varied, including the (re)construction of infrastructure such as kindergartens, schools, health centres and hospitals, as well as capacity building for the respective professionals. In the case of teachers in particular, diaspora organisations are co-financing their salaries. Also noteworthy is the sending of vehicles to ensure medical transport (ambulances and bicycles) and the sending of various pieces of equipment to the health services, such as beds, mattresses, medical diagnostic equipment, surgical equipment, among others. In the case of schools, there are initiatives to equip classrooms with desks and distribute school supplies to pupils. In terms of food security, diaspora organisations have focused their initiatives on distributing basic food items during the Covid-19 pandemic and on promoting agricultural entrepreneurship, especially in terms of training young people in horticulture and setting up an agricultural cooperative to sell their produce.

In terms of the type of initiatives, the contribution of diaspora organisations to Guinea-Bissau's development mainly involves providing material (61% of the total), followed by support through the (re)construction of infrastructure (24% of the total) and support for training professionals (15% of the total).

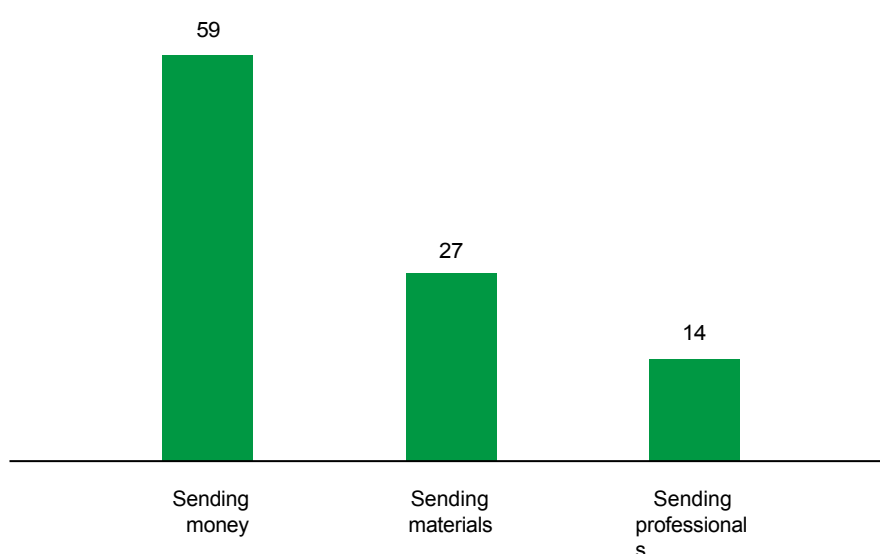
Figure 6: Distribution of Diaspora Organisation Initiatives identified (2016- 2021), by type of intervention in Guinea-Bissau (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

In terms of how they contribute, diaspora organisations have mainly chosen to send money to benefit the communities in Guinea-Bissau (59% of the total). Around 30% of the initiatives send materials from abroad, especially from the countries where the diaspora organisations operate. Only 14% of the initiatives are carried out by sending professionals from abroad in the areas of the initiatives (health, education, food security, among others).

Figure 7: Distribution of Diaspora Organisation Initiatives identified (2016- 2021), by type of intervention in Guinea-Bissau (%)

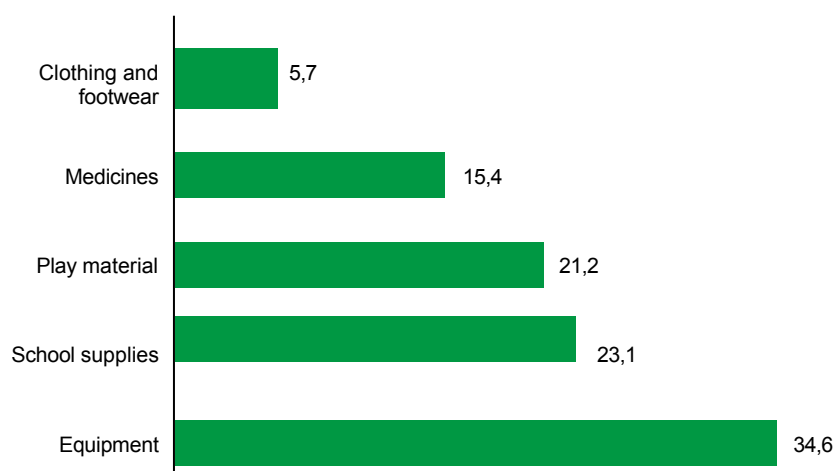


Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

For fundraising in the diaspora, either the accounts of the associations or the bank accounts of individuals are used. Bank transfers or money transfer agencies are used to send money to Guinea-Bissau. The use of informal channels, such as travellers, is done on a small scale and as a matter of opportunity. As one of the interviewees put it, *"when there is someone from the association or the tabanca, that person takes the money... there have never been any problems. It's never gone missing. They're trustworthy people."* The way in which money is sent continues to rely heavily on the bonds of trust between members of the diaspora and creative ways of avoiding paying the high fees charged for remittance transfers. By way of illustration, one of the initiatives by members of the diaspora sent the entire amount raised to a member of the diaspora, as he needed money in euros in his bank account in the diaspora, and he made the entire amount available in CFA francs in Guinea-Bissau.

Analysing the materials that are sent to Guinea-Bissau, it is mainly equipment such as furniture, health diagnostic instruments, transport vehicles (such as bicycles or ambulances), followed by school supplies (notebooks, books, pens, backpacks...), play equipment (games, balls) and medicines. To a lesser extent, clothing and footwear are also sent. It should be noted that the food donated to the community at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic is not mentioned because it was not sent from the countries where the diaspora organisations operate, but was bought in Guinea-Bissau.

Figure 8: Material sent to Guinea-Bissau by the Diaspora Organisation Initiatives identified (2016-2021), by type of goods (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

With regard to the professionals who are sent abroad, health personnel (mainly doctors, but also nurses) stand out. It is in fact in the health sector that there is the greatest mobilisation of qualified people from abroad to take part in initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau. However, there are other initiatives - which are carried out with the *on-site* participation of engineers and teachers from abroad. For example, ANARBA organised the training of young people in horticulture with the help of an agronomist. The Solidarity Association of the Sons and Friends of the Gabú Region organised a conference on "Thinking about the development of Gabú", with a number of people from the diaspora, including teachers, engineers and doctors.

Table 2: Professionals sent to Guinea-Bissau by the Diaspora Organisation Initiatives identified (2016-2021)

	N	%
Doctors	7	37
Engineers	5	26
Nurses	4	21
Teachers	3	16
Total	19	100

Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

The face-to-face sending of professionals from abroad - whether or not they are members of the diaspora - to support development initiatives in Guinea-Bissau does not, however, exclude the existence of training and/or knowledge transfer activities organised remotely by the diaspora. For example, a doctor from the Association of Sons and Friends of Bigimita gave a talk via the *Zoom* platform to his fellow countrymen at home and elsewhere in the diaspora about Covid-19 and ways to prevent infection, with 100 participants.

Finally, it should be noted that very few diaspora organisations have any specialisation. The vast majority of organisations work in response to local needs, which vary over time and as actions address them. This means that they may have first worked in the education sector and then in the water sector. Some of the organisations that have specialised in the health sector are: Saúde Sabe Tene and the Association Suisse d'Aide aux personnes diabétiques en Guinée-Bissau.

Discussing the relevance and importance, taking into account local circumstances and priorities, of the initiatives carried out by diaspora organisations is a rather complex task, since it would be necessary to study the context of each one in depth. Nevertheless, based on the interviews conducted with both the diaspora organisations and the focal points of the initiatives in Guinea-Bissau, the diagnosis of needs and the identification of priorities was generally carried out by listening to the community and agreeing on the future action plan. In other words, this process involved a debate between the diaspora and the beneficiaries of the initiatives. On the other hand, the intervention sectors of the initiatives, especially education and health, with direct support for schools, health centres and hospitals (construction, equipment, vocational training and in the case of education also payment of salaries), as well as health education initiatives as part of Covid-19 prevention campaigns, seem to indicate that diaspora organisations are focusing on meeting the basic needs of the population and the pillars of a community's development. Based on human capital theories, diaspora organisations' initiatives are underpinned by the idea of education as a way of supporting the modernisation of societies. In turn, good health is a precondition for work and a measure of sustainable development, giving health a privileged place in the construction of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Looking at the previous government programme Guinea-Bissau 2025 Strategic and Operational Plan 2015-2020 "Terra Ranka", which corresponds to roughly the same period as the initiatives of the diaspora organisations under analysis (2016-2021), we can also see the emphasis on education and health, specifically in the chapter "strengthening human capital and improving the quality of life of every citizen". It can therefore be concluded that there is an alignment between the diaspora's initiatives and the government programme for the period in question.

Looking at the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda¹³, the initiatives of diaspora organisations are contributing, above all and directly, to the achievement of:



Goal 1 - Eradicate hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

There have been several initiatives by diaspora organisations which, recognising the economic difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, have distributed basic food baskets (with rice and oil) to the population practically everywhere in the country, particularly to the poorest and people in vulnerable situations. One organisation is particularly dedicated to increasing the agricultural productivity and income of young farmers, through access to land and the provision of materials and knowledge. Support for the distribution of school meals also helps to ensure better nutrition for children and young people in Guinea-Bissau.



Goal 3 - Ensure a healthy life and promote well-being for all, at all ages

Diaspora organisations contribute directly to achieving universal health coverage by facilitating access to essential health services and medicines. Hospitals and health centres are built and reinforced by sending material goods such as furniture, medical equipment and surgical supplies, emergency transport vehicles, among others. During the Covid-19 pandemic, there were many initiatives to distribute hygiene and personal protection material and material for collective use in key places in the communities. There have also been information and clarification sessions for community members on how to prevent the spread of the disease, its main symptoms and the measures to be taken if the disease is suspected or contracted. There is an example of an organisation working to combat specific diseases in various regions of the country and another organisation that carries out several missions of doctors and nurses to Guinea-Bissau, sending multiple materials in parallel, for the direct treatment of patients and training of active staff in the Guinean National Health Service.

(13) <https://unric.org/pt/objetivos-de-desenvolvimento-sustentavel/> and <https://diasporagb.org/ods/>.



Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Diaspora organisations are strongly committed to the aim of increasing the number of girls and boys who complete primary education. Some also support secondary and pre-school education. Their support includes building schools (classrooms, canteens, toilets), sending school supplies, paying teachers' salaries and providing meals during the school term. There are also initiatives to support teacher/educator training.



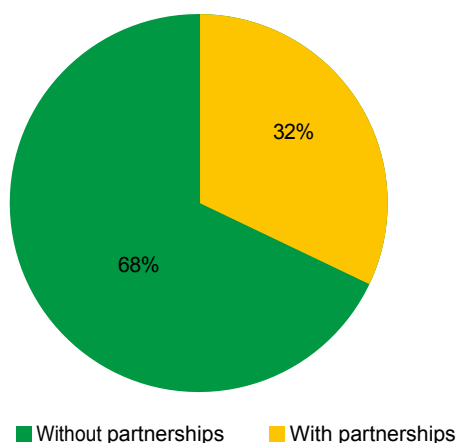
Goal 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of drinking water and sanitation for all

Diaspora organisations have built wells to give people access to water suitable for human consumption.

WHAT ARE THE PARTNERSHIPS

The vast majority of initiatives are carried out through partnerships, both in the country of residence and in Guinea-Bissau. In fact, only 3 out of 10 initiatives are carried out in isolation. Failure to enter into partnerships can mean a low capacity to mobilise or access financial resources or access to information, training opportunities and innovation, among others.

Figure 9: Use of Partnerships in Diaspora Organisation Initiatives identified between 2016 and 2021 (%)



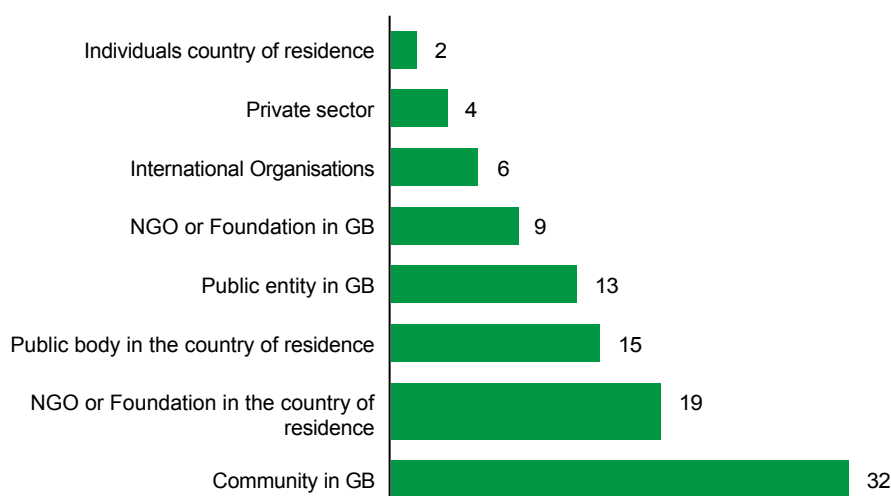
Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

When identifying the main partner of the initiatives, the community of origin of the intervention in Guinea-Bissau stands out. For 32 per cent of the initiatives, it is the community as a whole or a similar association to the diaspora in Guinea-Bissau that works together with the diaspora. Often it is the counterpart associations in Guinea-Bissau that take responsibility for receiving and managing the funds involved, supervising the implementation of the project and reporting on its results. On the other hand, diaspora organisations rely on community members to work as volunteers in the implementation of development support initiatives.

The second most important partner in the diaspora's collective contribution are non-governmental organisations or foundations in the countries of residence. These are particularly important in donating the material that is subsequently sent to Guinea-Bissau. In this light, it is worth noting the marginal role played by the private sector in this area. Non-governmental organisations in Guinea-Bissau, on the other hand, are of little relevance if we exclude in particular the case of GRDR (Groupe de Recherche et de Realisation pour le Developpement Rural), which in the Cacheu area has served as a support or even implementing partner for the initiatives.

Public entities in the country of residence, such as local authorities, and in Guinea-Bissau, in particular schools and hospitals/health centres run by the Guinean public administration, are the third and fourth most important partners for diaspora organisations.

Figure 10: Main Partner of the Diaspora Organisations' Initiatives identified (2016-2021), by type of partner (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

Example of Good Partnership Practice

Responsible Organisation: NGO Saúde Sabe Tene

Country of Diaspora: Portugal

Destination in Guinea-Bissau: SAB

Description: organisation of more than 15 missions with approximately 500 doctors and nurses, delivering equipment to Guinea Bissau's Simão Mendes national hospital and carrying out 700 surgeries + 10,000 consultations + 500 examinations. This is realised through multiple partnerships in Portugal (hospitals and funding from various sources) and Guinea-Bissau (government - partnership declaration; Simão Mendes hospital; and hotel sector); presentation of public reports on each mission to the Guinea-Bissau government and donors.

Given that diaspora initiatives support development in Guinea Bissau, a higher level of collaboration between diaspora organisations and government bodies would be expected. However, on the contrary, the Guinean state is still absent from the migration and development binomial. As noted by Có (2004), the state not only doesn't add anything to the projects, but on the contrary imposes unnecessary bureaucratic constraints that hinder the efforts made.

In fact, the interviews with multiple government and public administration actors reveal a general lack of awareness of the initiatives on the part of the government and the lack of coordination between diaspora organisations and public institutions. This may be due, on the one hand, to the state's inaction in reaching out to the diaspora and its organisations (namely by mapping the organisations and initiatives that have received tax exemptions in Guinea-Bissau), and, on the other, to the inaction on the part of emigrants to seek spaces for dialogue with the state. In the words of one of the interviewees, *"the migrants don't go to the embassies and the embassies don't go to the migrants either"*.

The failure of emigrants to seek support from the state may be due, as noted in the study by Sangreman et al. (2012), to the Guinean diaspora's "deep mistrust of government initiatives. (...) This feeling creates difficulties in the relationship between the diaspora and political power, with obvious consequences for the ability to formulate and implement policies aimed at emigration".

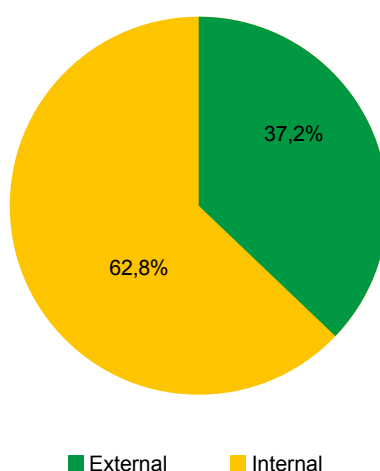
In fact, diaspora organisations don't rely on state institutions in Guinea Bissau or diplomatic missions to make their contributions, and generally don't consider them to be able or willing to provide support. In the words of the interviewees, "we don't rely on the government", "when we ask for support we don't even get a response" and/or "the diplomatic missions are not prepared to pass on information to the associations".

Nevertheless, it seems important to strengthen the building of partnerships between diaspora organisations and external entities (namely the local community benefiting from the initiative in Guinea-Bissau). The organisations' own lack of professionalism, which can be seen in their weak ability to plan, measure and report on the results of initiatives (explained in more detail below), obstructs the process of building relationships and creating partnerships and synergies with the state itself. For example, it becomes very difficult to work in partnership if the activities are not detailed in detail, if there are no financial reports and/or if there is a lack of presentation of concrete results.

WHAT FINANCING IS AVAILABLE

Diaspora organisations show a solid capacity to build up their own resource base to carry out their initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau. Around 6 out of 10 initiatives are carried out with the organisations' own funding, which comes mainly from internal membership fees, which generally tend to be small (between 5 and 10 euros per month), extraordinary fundraising (in *ad hoc* campaigns for specific purposes) and income from activities (such as gastronomic or musical events). The organisation does not generate any income from rent on its own assets.

Figure 11: Financing of the Initiatives of the Guinean Diaspora Organisations identified (2016-2021), by external or internal funding (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

If, on the one hand, this financial autonomy allows them total autonomy in defining the priorities of their operations in the country of origin, on the other hand, it may be reflecting the lack of capacity to attract external funding.

Failure to diversify funding sources or, in other words, dependence on contributions from members makes the organisation more susceptible to economic cycles and the mobility of its members. There have been countless reports of organisations reducing their membership due to re-emigration to other destinations or the loss of income during the Covid-19 pandemic due to the increased economic difficulties of their members and the impossibility of contact and face-to-face meetings. In fact, these associations bring together people from rural communities and often from disadvantaged social backgrounds in the host countries, so their willingness to contribute to a collective beyond their immediate family in Guinea-Bissau is limited.

Looking at the sources of external funding, it should be emphasised that the Guinean state does not appear as a (co) funder of any of the initiatives. Most of the initiatives are funded by foundations in the diaspora organisations' countries of residence. Local authorities are the second most frequent funder, followed by anonymous citizens and the United Nations. The latter is represented by a line of funding from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Guinea-Bissau intended exclusively for diaspora organisations, but which was not fully used due to a lack of applications.

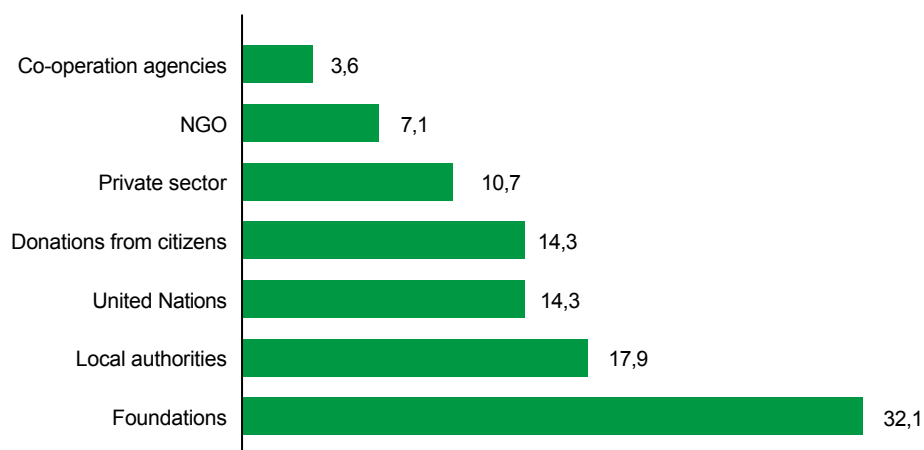
The private sector accounts for around 20% of all donors to diaspora organisations. Non-governmental organisations are less important, perhaps because they too are looking for funding.

Cooperation agencies are the least frequent funders of initiatives by diaspora organisations to support development in Guinea-Bissau. This evidence may be due to the fact that, on the one hand, the organisations need to be formally constituted (which is not the case for all the organisations mapped) and, on the other, they lack the status of a non-governmental development organisation. In Portugal, no associations of Guinean migrants were identified with non-governmental development organisation (NGDO) status, granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Access to this status requires associations to explicitly state in their statutes the purpose of co-operation and/or education for development or humanitarian aid and to demonstrate experience in this type of activity. Associations have to be recognised by the High Commission for Migration, become NGDOs recognised by Camões, I.P. and seek alliances with other non-governmental and governmental actors for applications in the first few years, given the requirement of 3 years of intervention. According to one of the interviewees from an organisation that has this process underway "the procedure is bureaucratic and time-consuming and so far we haven't achieved a positive result".

Interviews with diaspora organisations reveal that in most situations they don't apply for or access external lines of funding. This can hinder the scale of their contribution and results in Guinea-Bissau. This is particularly true of diaspora organisations with few members (the smallest identified for this mapping has only six members¹⁴). Diaspora organisations don't seem to be taking advantage of external funding lines, as was the case with the opportunity generated by the IOM, due to their lack of knowledge, lack of technical preparation, lack of available time on the part of their members (the vast majority of whom are volunteers) or failure to meet the formal requirements for applying. For example, funding lines require collaboration with organisations formally established in Guinea-Bissau and this is not the natural way for the community in Guinea-Bissau to get involved. For the same reasons, and with the complexity required in submitting applications for tenders, difficulties were reported in successfully submitting proposals.

¹⁴The study by Sangreman et al. (2012) indicates that, in the Portuguese case, 40 per cent of hometown associations have between 50 and 99 members.

Figure 12: Main External Funder of the Diaspora Organisations' Initiatives identified (2016-2021), by type of funder (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

Example of Good Practice in Taking Advantage of a Financing Opportunity

Responsible Organisation: FAIASCAP Federation and Bafatá XXI

Country of Diaspora: Portugal and Cape Verde

Destination in Guinea-Bissau: Cacheu

Description: Knowledge and preparation to take advantage of funding lines from international partners (between 10 and 20,000 euros) - planning the intervention with objectives, expected results and activities. Since there is an open line of funding for diaspora organisations, these two organisations showed the will and determination to fill in the forms to submit an application.

Finally, it is important to mention the strong capacity to mobilise resources in crisis situations, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Several organisations and/or groups set up for this purpose managed, in a very short space of time and with success, to launch fundraising campaigns to buy food and personal protective equipment in Guinea-Bissau.

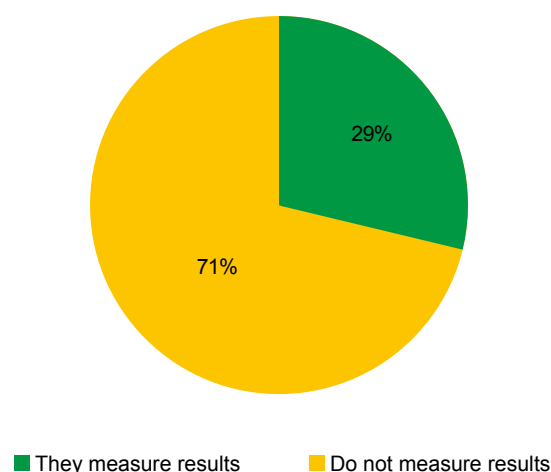
WHAT ARE THE RESULTS

Although diaspora organisations manage to convey how their activities impact on reality, the results of their initiatives are rarely measured or monitored. This seems to be due, on the one hand, to a lack of technical capacity to do so, both because there are no dedicated human resources with the knowledge needed to quantify and qualify them, and because of the apparent lack of accountability on the part of their funders (most of whom are partners in the organisations). It should be noted that most of these initiatives are implemented by volunteers, both in the diaspora and in Guinea-Bissau, whose technical training seems to need to be clearly reinforced in these areas. It is also important to note that the culture of evaluation in the international cooperation sector has been strongly driven by funders and not so much by an internal critical sense within organisations to analyse what is achieved and how results and processes can be improved.

The existing reporting is limited to checking whether or not the planned activities have taken place (outputs) and not the effect they have on potential beneficiaries (*outcomes*). By way of illustration, the shipment of material to Guinea-Bissau is not always properly scrutinised once it arrives in the country, so there is no knowledge of the criteria for its distribution or its proper use.

It is therefore necessary to work on the issue of transparency and the presentation of accounts in order to safeguard the organisations themselves and to dispel the possible mistrust that arises (a topic that will be dealt with later in the report).

Figure 13: Measuring the Results of the Initiatives of Guyanese Diaspora Organisations identified between 2016 and 2021 (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

Thus, despite their strong capacity to mobilise resources and volunteers, diaspora organisations generally lack the level of professionalism to be able to present the results of the initiatives they have implemented. This shortcoming may in turn be preventing them from accessing new funding and establishing proximity with possible donors or international cooperation partners.

In turn, the trend observed is that annual activity, financial and audit reports are either non-existent or not made public. Once again, this seems to be due to the lack of dedicated and paid human resources for this purpose, the lack of technical skills in some situations or the fact that they are not required by their partners and/or other funders. The work is carried out using internal records, but these lack the format of a report. There is also, as a general rule, no dissemination or disclosure of the work that the diaspora organisation is doing in Guinea-Bissau. Their results thus become invisible or unknown to many. Several organisations have no website or profile on any social network, which seems to indicate limited interest or a lack of professionalism and awareness of the importance of promoting their work.

From another perspective, their projection over time is, in some situations, poorly sustained. The non-involvement of national authorities, as seen above, can jeopardise the impact of diaspora initiatives. For example, there are investments made in improving health and education infrastructures that are not continued due to the failure to integrate human resources paid by the public administration into these services and the fragility of public policies in general. A case in point are the ambulances that have been sent and are not in operation due to a lack of funds to maintain them. Just as often, investments made by migrants have no impact because they are not finalised. In this light, there are many examples of infrastructure being built that are not completed due to a lack of funds, and which run the risk of deteriorating with the passage of time. In some situations, the choice has been made to build more than the funds available, for example by choosing to build three rooms in a health centre (none of which have been completed) instead of concentrating efforts on just one successful room.

Another problematic issue, which reveals the lack of detailed planning, relates to the efficiency of some of the initiatives. Clear examples of this are situations in which sending material (namely desks and other school equipment) from abroad to Guinea-Bissau (even if it is donated by third parties) does not offset the costs involved. In other words, there are packages of material whose value is less than the cost of transport (both by sea and overland within Guinea-Bissau) and the cost of customs clearance of the goods at the port of Bissau (a process described in more detail in the chapter on difficulties). This is where a more detailed analysis of the availability of the same materials/goods in Guinea-Bissau is needed, and their acquisition at local level should be budgeted for in comparison. The lack of a detailed budget on the costs involved in sending the material to Guinea-Bissau sometimes leads to uninformed decision-making.

However, there are no studies on the impact of the organisations' initiatives on development in Guinea-Bissau, nor are there any systematised analyses geared towards organisational learning from each initiative implemented. It would therefore be useful to invest in monitoring and evaluation systems, with participatory methods for listening to members, partners and communities, which would allow action to be (re)directed and lessons learnt from the implementation of each process to be compiled.

Despite the fragile reporting of their results and impacts, and although their scale, level of professionalisation and scope of results vary, one point is common to all of them - the testimonies of those in communities in Guinea-Bissau who recognise the "enormous help" and "solution" that diaspora collectives represent in alleviating their difficulties. What's more, diaspora organisations are contributing to localities and initiatives that are not covered by the Guinea-Bissau state or by other development agents, such as non-governmental organisations. They can therefore be considered as last mile support for populations living far from urban centres.

It is therefore crucial to stress that diaspora organisations are making an effective contribution to the well-being of the people in Guinea-Bissau. Analysing the data from the initiatives that indicated a specific number of beneficiaries for their initiatives, it can be seen that the initiatives benefit an average of 181 people. Multiplying this figure by the number of initiatives gives us an estimated total of 13,937 individuals benefited by diaspora organisations. It should be noted, however, that the NGO Saúde Sabe Tene has been excluded from this calculation, as it has benefited at least 10,000 people in the five years under analysis with consultations, operations and equipment at various hospital centres, especially the Simão Mendes Hospital. In broad terms, diaspora organisations worked for the benefit of around 24,000 individuals in Guinea-Bissau between 2016 and 2021.

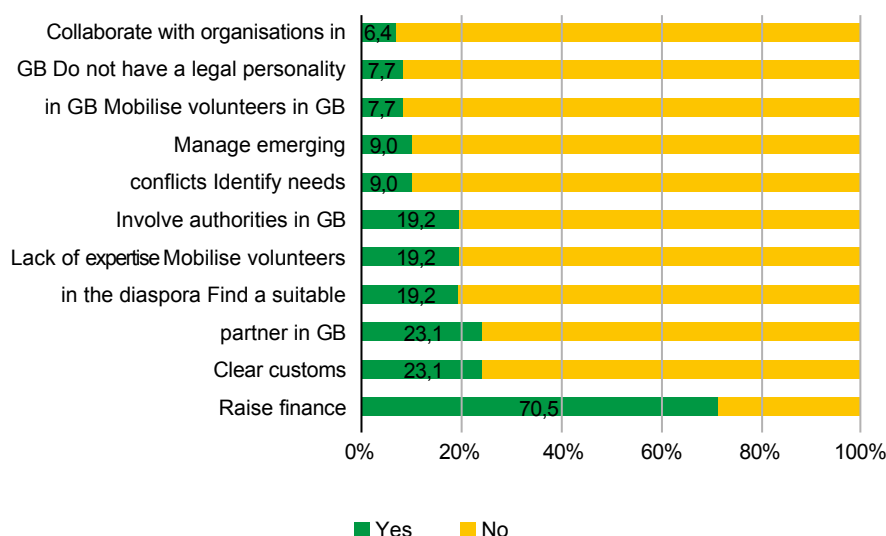
There are many examples of initiatives by diaspora organisations that have a huge impact on the well-being of the population. One example is the money sent to buy two batteries for the solar panels that serve the delivery room at the hospital/health centre in Tite, which until then operated without light at night. Another success story is the support for the creation of an exclusive service for diabetics at the Simão Mendes National Hospital, with the appropriate training for doctors and nurses and the free distribution of medicines to patients. In other tabancas, the contribution of emigrant organisations has focused on cultural and/or religious aspects, with the construction of a multifunctional centre with a cinema, cyber and library, or a chapel and mosque. There are also communities that currently benefit from a school thanks to the contribution of diaspora organisations, or the expansion of their infrastructure, or the improvement of their sanitary conditions (with the construction of latrines). In the particular case of one community that already had a school built with the support of the diaspora, the contribution towards the purchase of the solar panel will enable the women of the village to be literate in the late afternoon or evening. The construction of wells to make water more accessible is also taking place in several communities. During the Covid-19 pandemic, emigrants have been particularly supportive of the population in Guinea-Bissau, with 23 initiatives sending money to buy (or, to a lesser extent, choosing to send from abroad) personal protective equipment to prevent contagion (buckets with bleach or soap distributed at critical points where the population is concentrated, such as public administration centres) and/or preventing hunger in some families by distributing basic food baskets, especially with rice and oil. The ability to mobilise funds in a short space of time shows that diaspora organisations can make their contribution in a humanitarian emergency.

WHAT THE DIFFICULTIES ARE

According to those interviewed in the diaspora, these are the main difficulties in implementing initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau:

- i. Raising finance;
- ii. Clear customs;
- ii. Have a suitable partner in Guinea-Bissau;
- iii. Mobilising volunteers in the diaspora;
- iii. Have technical knowledge and involve the authorities in Guinea-Bissau.

Figure 14: Difficulties in Implementing the Initiatives of Diaspora Organisations in Guinea-Bissau between 2016 and 2021 (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

Looking at the challenges mentioned by the diaspora separately, the biggest difficulty organisations face is in raising and mobilising resources. In fact, 7 out of 10 initiatives face the challenge of raising the funds needed to meet the development needs identified in the communities in Guinea-Bissau. In the words of several of those interviewed in this regard: "Only 10 per cent of our members (180) pay their dues. That's our Achilles heel"; "Raising funds here is very difficult... even if it's 5 euros"; "We've been very unsuccessful with their contributions"; "Sometimes projects take 5 years to be implemented because of the lack of money"; "The hardest thing was to sensitise the whole diaspora... there are diasporans who didn't want to give anything because there's no one there any more. If the whole diaspora contributed, the whole school would already be done."

Thus, the financing difficulties seem to be related to four main reasons:

- i. The dependence, in many cases exclusively, on the contribution of members - there are countless reports from leaders of organisations about non-payment of membership fees. Even at 5 to 10 euros a month, the proportion of those who make this payment on a regular basis is very small. This is a voluntary, non-binding donation. In this light, and as a way of reversing this non-binding nature, one of the organisations reported having a strategy, in consortium with the community of origin, of not allowing funeral ceremonies to be held in the community unless the member has paid their dues. It is important to recognise here that many of the members of diaspora organisations or other non-affiliated Guinean migrants are people who have been integrated into the labour market for a long time.

low salaries (or the lowest, as is the case with the Guinean community in Portugal compared to the other immigrant communities) and who generally already contribute remittances to their families in Guinea-Bissau. As one of the interviewees said, "Life here isn't easy either - getting more than 5 euros is very difficult." The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are also being felt in terms of membership fees, given the impossibility of holding face-to-face meetings between members of the organisations. There are also those who say that members of the diaspora want to contribute individually so that they can be recognised;

ii. Lack of time on the part of the organisations' members - collecting membership fees and raising awareness when launching extraordinary funding campaigns requires a lot of time and human resources;

iii. The lack of exploration of alternative sources of funding, due to a lack of technical capacity, a lack of time on the part of volunteers and the fact that some of the organisations are not formally constituted (also because this process requires financial resources that they don't have). In fact, the non-formalisation of some diaspora organisations prevents them from accessing more funding and state support. This has led associations to adopt new formalisation strategies, such as trying to acquire IPSS and NGO status;

iv. Distrust on the part of the diaspora in the use of donations. There is enormous potential for mobilising small contributions from members of the diaspora that cannot be raised because not enough work has been done on transparency and the presentation of results. In other words, the problem doesn't always lie in the actual diversion of funds, but in the perception that this may have occurred. Previous cases of malpractice in the management of funds undermine the ability to raise future funding. It is therefore essential to have mechanisms for monitoring donations, such as open lists with the publication of each member's donations so that everyone can be monitored. According to one of the interviewees, "Anyone working here would be willing to take 5 euros, as long as they were sure it was going to the agreed destination."

Example of Transparency Best Practice

Responsible Organisation: Informal group - Covid-19 campaign

Country of Diaspora: Brazil

Destination in Guinea-Bissau: Bafatá, Oio, Gabú, Cacheu and Bolama

Description: Raising funds to combat Covid-19 (hygiene and food products) through an *online* campaign on *Facebook*, weekly publications of incoming donations, a competition to identify partners in the GB regions + market research on prices and purchase of goods+ submission of invoices+ record of delivery of materials to beneficiaries + final report for presentation of accounts

In addition to the challenge of financing, the second biggest difficulty is the process of clearing goods through customs. Around 25 per cent of the initiatives had or still have problems getting their goods out of customs. However, if we cross-check this figure with that of the initiatives that have sent goods to Guinea-Bissau, we can see that almost 90% of them report serious difficulties with customs. In other words, this problem is not more significant overall because most of the initiatives did not involve sending goods to Guinea-Bissau.

There are countless reports of problems with the customs clearance of goods sent by diaspora organisations. In addition to cases in which goods disappear from containers, organisations often have to pay large sums of money.

There is therefore a great deal of misinformation among diaspora organisations about the container customs clearance process, not least because the procedure is not properly explained ("step by step") by the state. Many are unaware:

- i. The possibility of having tax exemptions because it is a charitable contribution, although for this they need to be formally constituted in Guinea-Bissau and have a declaration of partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Planning issued. Many were not even aware of this partnership possibility or were unable to find out how to obtain it. In order for there to be tax exemptions for the goods sent, the diaspora organisation must present the purchase invoice or donation letter for the material sent in the container. This requirement prevents organisations from taking advantage of this exemption, since most of the material has been donated to them by various third parties (including private individuals) in the countries of emigration;
- ii. That even with the tax exemption there are associated costs, i.e. the process is not free because it is a donation. You have to pay EU taxes and fees, as well as customs and customs agents. Here too, there seem to be problems with the definition and transparency of this payment. The customs clearance procedure requires three professionals to accompany the process and some diaspora organisations have been asked to pay for a fourth person;
- iii. That there is a cost for every day that the container is in the port of Bissau. This last issue creates huge problems for organisations, because in addition to the transport costs, they have to pay taxes and the late removal of the goods from the port. In some situations, the final bill is so high that organisations are unable to clear the container through customs and their goods go to auction. In other situations, organisations manage to pay the associated costs, but the final balance is not positive because the material sent is worth less than the costs involved. One of the organisations interviewed paid around 2 million CFA francs to clear the material sent, after having the container in port for 11 months.

These situations occur when organisations don't resort, because of the associated costs, to carriers or official brokers who quote for the whole procedure of clearing goods at the port of Bissau from the outset.

According to the interviewees, the majority of situations at customs were resolved through the intermediation of someone connected to or influential in the political circle. As a general rule, the beneficiary organisation is not involved in resolving these disputes.

Diaspora organisations are calling for total exemption from paying taxes or additional fees and for the legalisation process to be made easier in Guinea-Bissau (which is bureaucratic and time-consuming and can take up to a year) in order to prove that it is a charitable contribution. The animosity of diaspora organisations towards customs is such that some say that "customs wants you to leave your goods at the port so that they can take them to auction or dispose of the material in their offices". For their part, several members of the diaspora recognise that the negative experiences they have had in the customs clearance process discourage them from sending goods to Guinea Bissau in the future. The most obvious expression of this was that of one of the interviewees who said "we have more goods in the association, but I'm afraid to send the material to Guinea-Bissau again".

Several diaspora organisations referred to the difficulty of identifying and/or finding reliable partners in Guinea-Bissau. Both the community members interviewed in Guinea-Bissau and in the diaspora tended to say that communication between the parties was unhindered. Virtual media, such as *WhatsApp*, *Zoom* or *Teams*, are very frequently used to facilitate contact. The phase of identifying needs at source and discussing how to prioritise them does not seem to be problematic (a difficulty identified by only seven initiatives). The challenges seem to arise more at the level of implementing and monitoring the initiatives and reporting on their results. Several organisations said it was difficult to find organisations with a level of experience and professionalism that generates trust. In other words, as the figures show, the issue doesn't seem to lie in the involvement of the community and volunteers at the origin, but rather in terms of their fragile capacity or technical knowledge. It is therefore, in the words of one of the interviewees, "essential to first study the project, secondly identify which partner is right to do this work and finally find someone to be responsible for the project in Guinea and monitor the whole process".

At the same time, throughout the interviews, past issues and experiences (lived or reported) of embezzlement and corruption in Guinea-Bissau undermine the confidence of members of the diaspora. This point of trust and transparency is particularly important to work on in order to continue encouraging this solidarity contribution from the diaspora organised into collectives. In fact, as we have seen, one of the roots of the difficulty in raising funds is the perception of insecurity and lack of trust in the application of donated funds. In the words of one of those interviewed in the diaspora, "being at a distance, you have to trust people a lot" but, as another member put it, "when you ask, you have to show the result. That's why we had a *live stream* and published a daily bulletin to provide accounts, with accompanying photographs of the deliveries to prove it."

Moreover, the challenge of mobilising volunteers is greater in the diaspora than in Guinea-Bissau. The work of preparation, direct or indirect support for implementation, monitoring and reporting on the money raised and the results obtained is very demanding in terms of time. Bearing in mind that the vast majority of diaspora organisations have no paid staff, all this work falls to a small group of volunteers. Even when it's a medium or large organisation (measured by the number of members), the operationalisation of initiatives is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals, often "with a lot of sacrifice" or "with little time left for free time", according to the interviewees.

The lack of technical knowledge on the part of diaspora organisations and, as we have seen, also their partners or communities in Guinea-Bissau is one of the aspects most frequently mentioned during the interviews. There is therefore a strong awareness of the limitations that members of the organisations have in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development support initiatives. The vast majority of the organisations' members have professional roles that are not related to international cooperation work, nor do they have technical training in this area. In short, there is a lack of qualified human resources in diaspora organisations¹⁵.

From another point of view, and as presented in the section on partnerships, several diaspora organisations referred to the difficulty of involving and creating partnerships with the authorities in Guinea-Bissau. In this regard, the aforementioned problems with the General Directorate of Customs stand out, but also with the Secretary of State for Communities or the Regional Directorates of the sectoral areas relevant to the implementation of the initiatives. Moreover, the results of the initiatives and the very motivation to do more on the part of the diaspora is limited by the lack of support from the public administration at central and local level. The first steps are beginning to be taken towards having the General Directorate of Communities as a government institution and coordinator of a public policy that works to strengthen diaspora associations and their connection to development in Guinea-Bissau. In this light, it is worth highlighting the work done by the government of Guinea-Bissau, which, with the support of the IOM, has developed the National Diaspora Engagement Strategy (2021) which, among other objectives, sets out to "Support local development projects promoted by the Diaspora", through the following range of actions:

- Working with representatives of the diaspora and civil society to promote collaboration between the diaspora and local development organisations, in particular supporting the diaspora in implementing local development projects;
- Promoting collaboration between civil society organisations based in Bissau and organisations in the diaspora;
- Encourage, in partnership with international and diaspora partners, local diaspora development projects and facilitate their implementation in Guinea-Bissau;
- Hold celebrations to present projects promoted by the diaspora to benefit the local community and reward the most impactful ones;
- Promoting investment platforms, particularly *crowd-funding* platforms that can channel funds from the diaspora into investments and philanthropy.

¹⁵According to Sangreman et al. (2012), associations in Portugal were set up largely as a result of the predominantly labour and less qualified migration of the 1980s and 1990s, while the older origins of Guinean migration to France have already allowed younger generations, socialised in France and more qualified, to become involved in associations in their French homeland. The recent assumption of managerial responsibilities by this new generation has been associated with a desire to transform the practices adopted, towards greater formalisation and "professionalisation" of procedures.

It would be useful to integrate the capacity-building work of Guinea-Bissau's migrant associations, especially with regard to their initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau, into the strategies of the diplomatic missions. By way of example, it could be useful for diaspora organisations to make use of the services of the Institute for the Coordination of Non-Governmental Action, especially in terms of guidance and support for their formal establishment in Guinea-Bissau, knowledge about partners, funding opportunities and support for project development. It should be noted that emigrants and their representative organisations generally have greater difficulties in handling bureaucracy between state institutions, so information must be clear and services provided as quickly as possible when they travel and stay in Guinea-Bissau.

Although it is not one of the main problems mentioned, there are members of the diaspora who would like to see greater collaboration from the communities of origin, less dependence and greater proactivity in identifying solutions to development problems. In fact, interviews with the diaspora suggested that the local community should contribute to funding the initiative, "since the diaspora can't be in charge of everything". In this sense, it is worth mentioning the good example of those in Guinea-Bissau who only go ahead with requesting support from diaspora organisations after doing this preparatory work, "first giving a sign of our contribution and only then asking the diaspora".

No difficulties in terms of the mobility (resulting from the cancellation of visas for citizens with dual nationality or visa applications with a positive response, when necessary) of members of the diaspora to Guinea-Bissau were shared when organising training initiatives or monitoring the implementation of initiatives.

Example of Good Planning Practice

Responsible Organisation: Association of Children and Friends of Dara

Country of Diaspora: Germany, France, Senegal and Portugal

Destination in Guinea-Bissau: Gabú

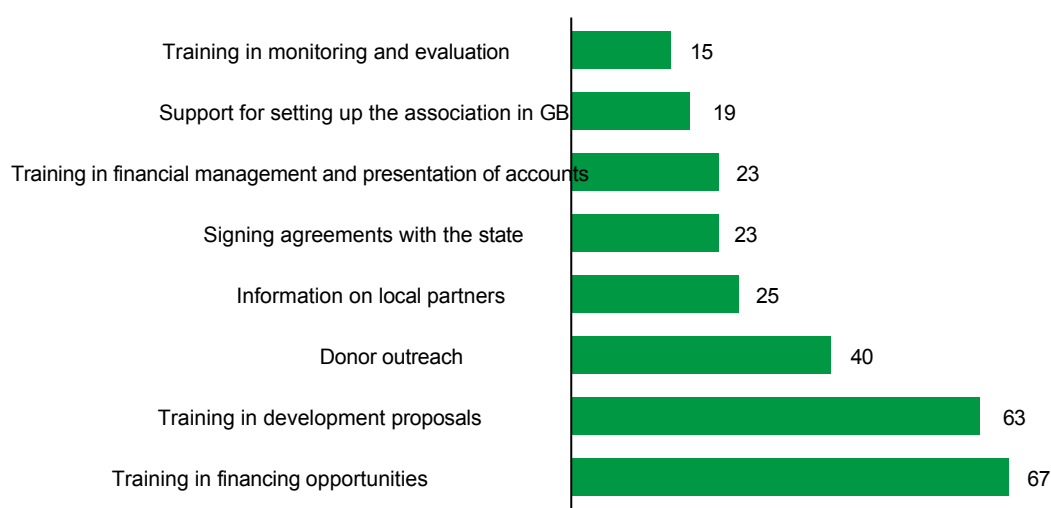
Description: Construction of a school pavilion (1 classroom+ 1 teachers' room) + purchase of school materials for the 400 or so students. Budgeting the work with the support of an engineer + organising workers in the community + direct communication with the diaspora to send funding+ presentation of accounts (incoming donations and purchases of building materials)

WHAT REINFORCEMENTS ARE REQUIRED

The diaspora organisations were asked what kind of technical reinforcements they could use to continue playing their role as local development actors in Guinea-Bissau.

Thus, and in line with the difficulties previously identified by the organisations, the most requested reinforcements are related to access to funding, namely training in funding opportunities, capacity building in proposal development and approaching donors. In fact, there is a recognition on the part of the organisations' leaders that there is a clear need to strengthen the technical skills of human resources and adapt to a language closer to that of international cooperation. Knowing more about the lines of funding available and their requirements, potential donors, strategies for contacting funders and project design are fundamental elements in deepening the work of diaspora organisations.

Figure 15: Technical Reinforcements Identified by and for the Diaspora Organisations Identified (%)



Source: Semi-structured interviews with diaspora organisations carried out for this study.

A second block of needs is the request for support related to relations and partnerships with third parties, especially in identifying local partners and signing agreements with the state. At this point, the data collected seems to indicate the need to "bridge the gap" to Guinea-Bissau, in other words, to have organisations on the ground that can implement or facilitate diaspora initiatives. As seen above, diaspora organisations ask for support in signing partnerships with the Guinean state, both with the institutions that can mediate and facilitate the contribution (namely the General Directorate of Planning, the General Directorate of Communities and the General Directorate of Customs) and with the public institutions that oversee development contributions (namely the Regional Directorate of Education and Planning). Information on the procedures to follow, possible support or exemptions and state ownership of initiatives are all elements to be strengthened in the link between the diaspora organised into groups of citizens and the development of their country of origin.

There is also a need for more in-depth knowledge of financial management and the presentation of accounts. Both support for setting up a formal association in Guinea-Bissau and training in monitoring and evaluating results appear to be the elements least requested by diaspora organisations, even though they are extremely important. It should be noted that the prior existence of the organisation's formal constitution is one of the requirements for obtaining a declaration of partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, as a result, being able to benefit from tax exemptions on donated goods. In turn, without addressing one of the weaknesses of development initiatives - the lack of capacity to plan and present results, adjusting activities to the evolving context - it will be more challenging to generate the trust of other potential donors and maintain credibility with the initiatives' current associates and primary funders.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The **diaspora organisations** that are contributing to Guinea-Bissau's development in the timeframe under analysis (2016-2021) **are based in a wide range of countries, concentrated in Europe, particularly Portugal and France.** There are also organisations in Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Even smaller emigrant communities, such as Brazil and Cape Verde, have also organised initiatives that benefit communities in Guinea-Bissau.

This support for development in Guinea-Bissau has organisations of various kinds at **the** forefront, with **hometown organisations clearly standing out.** There are no global initiatives that bring together the dispersed members of the diaspora. On the other hand, with the exception of Cacheu and the federations of organisations that exist there, there is little sharing of responsibility and resources between diaspora groups.

The degree of involvement of diaspora organisations in the development **of** their country varies significantly from region to region, **due to the importance and size of emigration** at community level. **Cacheu stands out as a beneficiary region, followed by Bafatá and Gabú.** However, it should **be** noted that the **contribution of diaspora organisations cuts across all regions of Guinea-Bissau and the Autonomous Sector of Bissau.** In other words, even territories with very low or zero emigration rates, such as Bolama/Bijagós, are benefiting from the solidarity and initiative of the diaspora organised into collectives.

Diaspora organisations' initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau are discussed and agreed with the recipient communities/entities, either through discussions within the community itself or through talks between diaspora organisations and local organisations.

The identification of priorities has fallen mainly on the education and health sectors. It should be noted that if we didn't take into account the many initiatives to support the fight against the harmful effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, it could be assumed that the education sector has benefited the most (at least in terms of the number of initiatives) from the contribution of diaspora organisations. **Different types of initiatives promoted by migrants have** been identified, **including building schools, donating school supplies, building health centres and reinforcing them with equipment and various materials.** Diaspora organisations **have also done a lot of work on food security, especially with the distribution of basic food items to various families throughout the country.** This is a point worth emphasising, as we know that particular care has been taken to ensure the well-being of non-migrant families, given that individual remittances from Guinean emigrants are mainly used to buy food (UNDP and IOM, 2020). There are fewer examples of community members increasing their skills in horticulture and agriculture. Support for community income-generating activities is occasional and could be targeted in the future.

The way in which diaspora organisations contribute to development is mainly by providing material. There are, however, many examples of organisations contributing by building infrastructure. Last but not least, diaspora organisations have focused on capacity-building initiatives. In fact, there are few examples of diaspora organisations capitalising on and transferring the knowledge and technical skills of Guinean emigrants or other professionals mobilised by them to public bodies/services/communities in Guinea-Bissau. This may be due to **the fact that diaspora organisations focus on initiatives that solve the basic needs of the population, are the result of community demand and are visible to all.**

The logic of the diaspora's contribution, organised as a collective, seems to replicate the model used by emigrants to support their families back home, i.e. sending remittances (whether financial or in goods). **It also seems necessary to recognise the qualifications that the diaspora has and open the way to mobilising their skills in key areas for Guinea-Bissau's development.**

The data obtained shows that initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau **have been carried out through partnerships, in which the role of local communities or associations similar to those in the diaspora as implementing agents stands out. Foundations and Non-Governmental Organisations in the diaspora's countries of residence also appear as important partners for diaspora organisations** - for example, by donating material or facilitating the transport of goods with their own means to Guinea-Bissau. In contrast, public entities in the countries of residence and in Guinea-Bissau do not appear as key partners in these collective contributions from the diaspora. It is important to note that **the Guinea-Bissau state is, in fact, according to the figures and speeches of the leaders of diaspora organisations, an element that is potentially quite relevant, but which has so far been practically absent.** Moreover, interviews with public institutions responsible for emigrant communities, development planning and the coordination of non-governmental action reveal a general lack of knowledge about who diaspora organisations are and what they do in Guinea-Bissau. Diaspora organisations do not rely on state institutions in Guinea-Bissau or diplomatic missions to make their contributions, and generally do not consider them to be able or willing to provide support. Finally, **several diaspora organisations referred to the difficulty of identifying and/or finding reliable partners in Guinea-Bissau.**

In terms of funding, diaspora organisations show a solid capacity to build up their own resource base to carry out their initiatives to support development in Guinea-Bissau. Around 6 out of 10 initiatives are carried out with the **organisations' own funding, which comes mainly from internal membership fees. Where external funding is obtained, most initiatives are financed by foundations in the diaspora organisations' countries of residence. Local authorities are the second most frequent provider of funding.** Once again, the absence of the Guinea-Bissau state as an agent facilitating the contribution of diaspora organisations should be noted. On the one hand, the state could, through its **diplomatic representations, make the work of many diaspora organisations visible to cooperation institutions in the respective diaspora countries** and thus support their access to funding. On the other hand, the **state could co-fund the initiatives of diaspora organisations in Guinea-Bissau.** In this sense, it would be useful to create funding lines open to and/or aimed at diaspora organisations.

Although the **financial autonomy** of diaspora organisations allows them total independence in defining the priorities for action in their country of origin, from another perspective, it **may be conditioning the size and scope of their results (the organisations have few members who pay their dues on an ongoing basis, due to the socio-economic difficulties they face in their countries of residence) and reflects the lack of capacity to attract external funding.** In fact, 7 out of 10 initiatives face the challenge of raising the funds needed to fulfil the development needs identified in the communities in Guinea Bissau. **Access to funding for diaspora organisations is identified by them as the main difficulty they face.** In order to do this, it would be necessary to **make funding lines available for the initiatives of diaspora organisations, as we have seen, and, on the other hand, to improve their level of professionalism so that they can develop rigorous and detailed proposals and demonstrate the results obtained, in order to generate greater confidence in a wider group of potential funders** (even at the level of personal contributions).

The **results achieved** by diaspora organisations in their development support work **are diverse, reflecting the heterogeneity of the initiatives. In the vast majority of situations, existing reporting is limited to checking whether or not the planned activities have taken place. Accounting for their effects and impact is generally absent from the organisations' procedures,** except in the case of non-governmental organisations whose level of professionalism requires them to present this data. In turn, there is a tendency **for annual activity, financial and audit reports not to exist or not to be made public.** This seems to be due, on the one hand, to a lack of technical capacity to do so, both because **there are no dedicated human resources with the necessary knowledge to quantify and qualify them,** and because there is no apparent requirement for accountability on the part of their funders (most of whom are partners in the organisations). It should be noted that these **initiatives are mostly implemented by volunteers, both in the diaspora and in Guinea-Bissau, and their technical training seems to need to be clearly reinforced in these areas.** This shortcoming in terms of monitoring and evaluating and reporting on results may be contributing to **distrust on the part of the diaspora in the use of donations, an aspect mentioned at various times by the leaders of the organisations,** which also conditions the raising of funding from emigrants.

Although there **are problems with the planning, budgeting and sustainability of some of the initiatives,** also due to the weak involvement of state authorities, both in the continuity of **the effects over time and in facilitating their contribution** (there is little information provided to organisations or incentives/tax exemptions), **the contribution of diaspora organisations is central to the well-being of the populations benefiting from them, as they are covering the basic needs of the population, particularly in terms of health, education and access to water.** It can be said, for example, that **there would be many more children without access to school without the contribution of diaspora organisations, which not only build or rehabilitate infrastructure but also co-finance the payment of teachers' salaries.** The **testimonies of those in the communities in Guinea-Bissau who recognise the "enormous help" and "solution" that the diaspora collectives represent in alleviating their difficulties** are indicative of this support.

What's more, diaspora organisations **are contributing to locations and initiatives that are not covered by the Guinea-Bissau state or other development agents**, such as non-governmental organisations. This commitment is all the more commendable and reveals a remarkable identity and emotional attachment to their country of origin, given that most diaspora organisations do not have permanent or paid staff.

With regard to difficulties, in addition to access to funding, it is important to mention the **enormous challenges that diaspora organisations have faced in clearing goods through customs at the port of Bissau**. In addition to cases in which **goods disappear from containers**, organisations often have to **pay large sums of money that they hadn't anticipated**. There is therefore a **great deal of misinformation among diaspora organisations about the container customs clearance process, not least because the procedure is not properly explained ("step by step") by the state**. Many organisations are unaware of the possibility of obtaining tax exemptions because it is a charitable contribution (but in order to do so they need to be formally constituted in Guinea-Bissau and have a declaration of partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Planning) and that even if they have the tax exemption there are associated costs, i.e. that the **process is not free because it is a donation**. We suggest creating and distributing pamphlets among diaspora organisations with detailed explanations of the processes for clearing goods through customs in Guinea-Bissau (as presented in the recommendations). It is also up to the Directorate General for Communities, through its Emigrant Support Office, to play a more proactive role in liaising, contacting, supporting and clarifying doubts with diaspora organisations.

Thus, and in line with the difficulties previously identified by the organisations, **the most requested reinforcements are related to access to funding, namely training in funding opportunities, capacity building in proposal development and approaching donors**. It is therefore imperative that non-profit organisations **manage to professionalise their governance models** based on principles such as fairness, transparency, responsibility and accountability, creating structures that allow **them to establish their objectives and ways of achieving them and monitoring their performance**.

Along these lines of professionalisation (and even fundraising training), it would be interesting to work towards **closer ties between diaspora organisations and Guinean NGOs in Guinea-Bissau that have extensive experience of working on and managing projects/funds, with a view to peer learning and fostering the establishment of partnership relations** between them.

In order to **boost the current and future contribution of diaspora organisations to Guinea-Bissau's development, greater collaboration and facilitation of this process by the state is essential**. This means a strong political will and commitment to understand the diaspora's associative movement as one of the partners in development and to put in place more means to facilitate their work on national territory.

With this in mind, and based on the diagnosis previously presented, here is a set of recommendations for actions that contribute to five main objectives, set out below. The recommendations do not have a specific addressee for two main reasons: 1) it is necessary to analyse with the various interlocutors which institution is best placed to carry out the improvement actions in practice; 2) they are aimed at anyone who wants to work on this issue of increasing the contribution of diaspora organisations to Guinea Bissau's development, whether it be NGOs (as IMVF is doing), the United Nations, the government, foundations and/or the diaspora organisations themselves. Here are the five main areas of the recommendations:

- i) Bringing the state closer to diaspora organisations and strengthening bonds of trust through consultation and dialogue processes;
- ii) Generating an environment conducive to the contribution of diaspora organisations, through institutional reforms in the state and making information available in various media and languages;
- iii) Strengthen the capacities of diaspora organisations to access various types of funding, identify opportunities, be accountable, monitor and disseminate results, through continuous training actions;
- iv) Expanding multiple partnerships, particularly between organisations of the diaspora and development agents in Guinea-Bissau, by identifying useful contacts between them;
- v) Encouraging cooperation and coordination between diaspora organisations by sharing knowledge between them.

We now present the range of activities in each of these major objectives:

- **Bringing the state closer to diaspora organisations and strengthening bonds of trust through consultation and dialogue processes**
 - Continue to identify and **consolidate knowledge about diaspora organisations in different countries and regions** of the world (mapping organisations, their field of action, financial capacities, expertise and main results) - update the current study and mapping in 5 years' time, using the same data collection tools;
 - **Establish a regular consultation mechanism with diaspora organisations** to identify the needs and problems they face, discuss agendas and visions for their relationship with Guinea-Bissau; monitor the state support granted and publicise existing opportunities/lines of technical support or funding; with the diaspora organisations identified by the diplomatic and consular network, set up virtual meetings under the remit of the Directorate General for Communities on a quarterly or biannual basis. Each meeting could address a specific topic of interest to the diaspora, so prior consultation with diaspora organisations to define the agenda would already be part of the consultation process. This frequency and dynamic of inter-knowledge between the interested parties is essential for creating a network of work and trust;

- **Involving the diaspora in exercises to formulate development policies and strategies in key sectors of its previous intervention (namely education and health)**
 - organising virtual meetings with diaspora organisations or members who are experts in the subjects under discussion in the plans and strategies. Diplomatic networks can serve as a concentration point for members of the diaspora to hold the meeting, or meetings can be created entirely in virtual format;
 - **Provide sufficient human resources, increase institutional capacity, allocate adequate and sustainable funding, to improve coordination and collaboration across government to engage with the diaspora.**
- **Generating an environment conducive to the contribution of diaspora organisations, through institutional reforms in the state and making information available in various media and languages**
 - **Inform the diaspora, in a simple way, about the functions and contacts of the government departments that are useful in their work of contributing to solidarity** (namely the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communities, the Institute for the Coordination of Non-Governmental Action, the Regional Directorates for Planning, Health, Education, among others) - create information leaflets about each of these organisations (ideally also translated into English and French) and publicise them through *emails*, social networks and Guinea-Bissau's diplomatic missions;
 - **Strengthen the role of diplomatic missions and empower diplomatic staff to play an interface role with diaspora organisations** - create a training and/or information package on how they can support diaspora organisations and which institutions they should refer them to in Guinea-Bissau depending on the issues; designate a focal point in each embassy for associative work and for approaching and getting to know diaspora organisations;
 - **Ensure the predictability and transparency of administrative procedures and simplify the administrative process of getting goods from abroad through customs, reducing arbitrariness and waiting times and, ideally, exempting diaspora organisations from paying customs duties when the goods are not for commercial purposes¹⁶**- publish an information leaflet on the legal provisions and step-by-step procedures, as well as a contact line for questions and support in resolving incidents;
 - **Informing the diaspora, through different channels** (brochures, organisations' social networks, *websites*), **in a clear and step-by-step manner, about the process of clearing goods through the port of Bissau;**
 - **Simplifying the procedures for registering non-profit legal persons in Guinea-Bissau**, as well as providing an information brochure explaining the steps to overcome bureaucracy;

¹⁶This had already been recommended in a previous study (Sangreman et al., 2012).

- **Create a bank of projects to be supported (also) by diaspora organisations, also with a view to decentralising the contribution of emigration across the territory** - create a virtual *fundraising* platform in which each project in Guinea-Bissau is presented and with a technological solution that allows the diaspora to donate funds directly. There are organisations and various members of the diaspora who already contribute to civil society organisations - others could do so if there were more information about who does it, where they do it and how they do it;
- **Recognise the achievements of diaspora individuals and organisations through awards** (as committed to in the Diaspora Engagement Strategy). These initiatives can contribute not only to building trust, but also to identifying members of the diaspora who have the potential and desire to contribute through investment, skills transfer, or other means.
- **Strengthen the capacities of diaspora organisations to access various types of funding, identify opportunities, be accountable, monitor and disseminate results, through ongoing training activities.**
 - Develop a **specific training package** for Guinea-Bissau diaspora organisations, with the possibility of being virtual, based on a prior needs assessment. This training should contain a theoretical part and a practical simulation part with exercises (particularly in groups and between diaspora organisations). **A mentor could be assigned to each organisation to accompany the work on the ground.** In addition to the core content package, specific sessions could be organised with the participation of experts, particularly in *crowdfunding*;
 - **Support the clear definition of responsibilities and tasks** and the availability of human resources with the necessary qualifications and experience;
 - Investing in **skills development, particularly in terms of planning, budgeting, accounting and fund management**;
 - Dedicate training hours to **preparing projects and publicising existing funding lines** and application requirements;
 - Investing in **monitoring and evaluation** actions, using quantitative and qualitative analyses to correct ongoing trajectories and formulate future initiatives;
 - **Promoting the transfer of skills** in the development initiatives of **diaspora** organisations, mapping the skills pool in the diaspora and the training needs in key development sectors¹⁷;
 - Familiarise diaspora organisations with a diverse range of funding sources and **provide guidance on how to establish successful fundraising mechanisms** and access opportunities to diversify funding sources (using, for example, the *Fundraising Toolkit for Diaspora Organisations*¹⁸). Innovative systems such as project funding through *online* platforms, whether as micro-credit or donations (*crowdfunding*¹⁹) stand out;

¹⁷With a view to finding ways of identifying, capturing and sustainably utilising the panoply of knowledge, skills, technical, scientific, cultural, business, financial and political capacities, ideas and networks that emigrant Guineans represent in strengthening institutional capacities and empowering people in Guinea-Bissau.

¹⁸[Fundraising Toolkit for Diaspora Organisations | iDiaspora](#). More useful information for diaspora organisations can be found at [Intro to Finding Grants for Diaspora Organisations | iDiaspora](#).

¹⁹For example, the *landa Guinea!* initiative to raise funds from the diaspora - <https://diasporagb.org/apoiar/>.

- **Improving the internal governance** and functioning of organisations by encouraging their legalisation, training governing bodies, drawing up strategic plans, drafting and publishing statutes, organising general meetings).
- **Expanding multiple partnerships, particularly between diaspora organisations and development agents in Guinea-Bissau, by identifying useful contacts and knowledge between them.**
 - **Creating a public database on the initiatives of diaspora organisations in Guinea-Bissau**, in order to publicise what they are doing and facilitate the identification of partnerships, continuing this component carried out by the *landa Guinea! Djuntu project*;
 - **Identify partners, namely national and foreign civil society organisations with experience in the areas in which diaspora organisations are (or will be) active.**
- **Encouraging cooperation and coordination between diaspora organisations, through contact and knowledge-sharing events.**
 - **Create mechanisms**, especially conferences using information and communication technologies or face-to-face meetings, **to bring diaspora organisations into dialogue with each other in order to get to know each other, exchange experiences and mobilise partnerships and exchanges**, continuing the *landa Guiné! Djuntu project* of the IMVF;
 - Organising **training sessions in which different diaspora organisations are the training providers to present their work**, as well as exchanging experiences and lessons learned between diaspora organisations;
 - **Supporting the effort to set up and consolidate federative structures for diaspora organisations or joint actions between organisations with a view to increasing the communities' ability to make their voices heard with official interlocutors and achieving efficiency gains in terms of the projects developed** - identifying which organisations are interested in coming together through direct consultations with the organisations themselves; defining the federation's mandate and responsibilities; writing its statutes and supporting the first steps towards making it more dynamic (organising specific activities and drawing up an action plan).

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Semi-structured Interview Guide for Key Informants in Guinea-Bissau

- Institution
- Name and position of person interviewed
- Contact of the person interviewed

1. How does your institution/organisation collaborate with diaspora organisations?
2. What initiatives do you know of from diaspora organisations involved in local or national development in Guinea-Bissau (from 2016 to 2021)?

Initiative Geographical area of intervention in Guinea-Bissau Name and contact details of diaspora organisation Name of partner organisation in Guinea-Bissau Contact details in Guinea-Bissau
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3. What is your assessment of the contribution of diaspora organisations?
4. In your opinion, what are the main assets of diaspora organisations in community/national development?
5. What are the main obstacles to intervention and contribution by diaspora organisations?
6. How could these obstacles be overcome?
7. Do you think there are any practices on the part of diaspora organisations that could be improved to increase the impact of their interventions?
8. What state policies are in place to encourage diaspora associations to contribute to Guinea-Bissau's development? Any future recommendations?

Semi-structured Interview Guide for the Focal Points of Diaspora Organisations in Guinea-Bissau

1. What initiatives are you aware of by or with the support of diaspora organisations between 2016 and 2021?
2. By whom and how are local needs identified?
3. Do the sector and areas of work of these initiatives correspond to the main needs?
4. Have partnerships been formed with local associations to implement these initiatives?
How do you evaluate this collaborative work?
5. What are the results of these initiatives?
6. Are the results sustainable?
7. What are the main difficulties in implementing the initiatives?
8. What could be done/what concrete measures would solve these problems?
9. What could the Guinean state do to help maximise the impact of these projects and initiatives?

Semi-structured Interview Guide for Diaspora Organisations

1. Name of Organisation/Sign:

2. Type of Organisation:

- Mixed Association
- NGO
- Youth Association
- Women's Association
- Association of natives and children of...
- Network
- Federation
- Other - Specify

3. Year the organisation was created:

4. Is the organisation legalised in the country of residence? No/ Yes. Year of legalisation:

5. Country:

6. Address:

7. Telephone:

8. *Email*:

9. *Website*:

10. Social media:

11. Name of person in charge:

12. Telephone:

13. *Email*:

Initiative 1 Intervention in Guinea-Bissau (between 2016 and 2021)

14. Region and Sector of Intervention:

15. Tabanca/Intervention Neighbourhood:

16. Area of intervention: Rural / Urban

17. Implementation period:

18. Main partners: NGO in country of residence / NGO in GB /International organisations / Public body in country of residence / Public body in GB / Private sector / Other. Please specify: _____

19. Main Financing Source:

- External funding. Specify: Private sector / Cooperation agencies / United Nations / EU / Local councils in diaspora countries / Foundations / NGOs or other social sector organisations
- Internal member financing
- Donations from citizens
- No funding

20. Secondary Funding Source:

- External funding. Specify: Private sector / Cooperation agencies / United Nations / EU / Local councils in diaspora countries / Foundations / NGOs or other social sector organisations
- Internal member financing
- Donations from citizens
- No funding

21. Total amount of the Initiative (indicate the currency used):

22. % of the Initiative's own funds:

23. Number of Direct Beneficiaries:

24. Target audience:

25. What are the Initiative's objectives?

26. Main Area of Intervention (choose a maximum of two):

- Education and Training
- Gender
- Migration and Diaspora
- Health
- Food safety
- Social Communication
- Justice and Security
- Human Rights
- Labour rights
- Culture
- Environment, Water and Sanitation
- Energy
- Sport
- Science
- Youth
- Income Generating Activities
- Microfinance
- Public Policy

27. Secondary Intervention Area (choose only one):

- Education and Training
- Gender
- Migration and Diaspora
- Health
- Food safety
- Social Communication
- Justice and Security
- Human Rights
- Labour rights
- Culture
- Environment, Water and Sanitation
- Energy
- Sports
- Science
- Youth
- Income Generating Activities
- Microfinance
- Public Policy

28. What does the association's initiative consist of?

28.1. Based on the previous answer, tick the Purpose of the Intervention:

- Construction of Infrastructure or Services. Specify: Kindergarten / Primary School / Secondary School / Well / Health Centre / Sports Pavilion / Other Space for Community Use / Other. Please specify _____
- Reinforcement of Infrastructures or Services. Specify: Kindergarten/ Primary School /Basic school/Secondary school/Well/Health centre/Sports pavilion/Other space for community use/Other. Please specify _____
- Promotion of Income Generating Activities.
- Encouraging Cultural and Leisure Activities
- Community sensitisation/advocacy on key issues.

29. How has the initiative supported development in Guinea-Bissau?

29.1. Based on the previous answer, tick the Type of Support:

- Sending materials. Specify: School supplies / Medicines / Equipment / Clothing and footwear / Play equipment / Other. Please specify _____
- Sending cash
- Sending Professionals. Specify: Teachers, doctors, others. Which professionals?
- Other. Please specify: _____

30. What Results were Achieved (quantification)?

Result 1

Result 2

Result 3

31. What were the main difficulties in implementation? _____

31.1. Based on the previous answer, tick the Main Difficulties in Implementation (list the 3 most relevant):

- No legal personality in Guinea-Bissau
- Identify needs in the community/neighbourhood
- Raising the necessary funding
- No technical expertise in the area of intervention on the part of the organisation's members
- Finding a suitable local civil society partner in Guinea-Bissau
- Finding a suitable local private sector partner in Guinea-Bissau
- Collaborates with grassroots organisations in Guinea-Bissau, used to provide services and organise beneficiaries
- Managing emerging conflicts within the community(ies) in Guinea-Bissau
- Mobilising volunteers in the diaspora
- Mobilising volunteers within the community(ies) in Guinea-Bissau
- Collaborate with or involve the relevant state authorities in Guinea-Bissau
- Clear customs of goods/materials sent to Guinea-Bissau
- Obtaining visas for volunteers/professionals to enter Guinea-Bissau

32. How could your association be supported in future actions? _____

32.1. Based on the previous answer, tick the main reinforcements needed in future actions (list the 3 most relevant):

- Support for setting up an association in Guinea-Bissau
- Training on funding opportunities
- Support in approaching and establishing relationships with donors
- Training for submitting project proposals to donors
- Training on monitoring and evaluating results
- Training in financial management and presentation of accounts
- Information on state support institutions
- Information on local implementation partners
- Signing agreements with state organisations

LIST OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED FOR THE STUDY

ORGANISATIONS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

1. Salomé Allouche - Secretary of State for the Communities of Guinea-Bissau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities
2. Braima Mane - Director General of Communities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities
3. Flávio Pedro Sá - Service Director, Emigrant Support Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities
4. Elisa Pinto - Director General, Institute for the Coordination of Non-Governmental Aid
5. Eduardo Seco Nhaga - Technical Assistant, Institute for the Coordination of Non-Governmental Aid
6. Fode Sanha - President, National Civil Society Movement for Peace, Democracy and Development of Guinea-Bissau
7. Issa Jandi - Director General of the Plan, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration
8. Edson Maciste Sousa Soares - Director Anti-Fraud Service, Directorate General of Customs
9. Gregório Embana - Director of Technical Services, Directorate General of Customs
10. Cristina Mango - Customs technician at the Registry Office, Directorate-General for Customs
11. Aerton Djompi - Customs technician at the Registry Office, Directorate General of Customs
12. Carlos Barbosa de Andrade - Former Director General of Customs, Ministry of Finance
13. Marisa Delgado Barbosa - Technician in the Finance Minister's Office and member of the Exemptions Committee
14. Adulai Sanhã - Official Dispatcher
15. Iafai Sani - Member of the National Assembly for the Diaspora Circle
16. Paula Leite - Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Guinea-Bissau
17. David Lamine Fati - Project Coordinator, International Organisation for Migration
18. Clemento Mendes - Project Assistant, International Organisation for Migration

BAFATÁ

19. Adama Seide - Regional Education Delegate
20. Armino Comando Sanha - Regional Health Delegate
21. Braima Darame - President, Civil Society Movement
22. Jose Aladje Balde - Vice-President, Association of Natives and Friends of the Bafatá Region
23. Mamadu Fati - Member, Association of Sons and Friends for the Integrated Development of the Bafatá Region
24. Idrissa Djalo - President, Association of Sons and Friends for the Integrated Development of the Bafatá Region
25. Sadjá Camara - Member, Association of Sons and Friends of Contuboel
26. Issa Balde - Member, Association of Sons and Friends of Contuboel
27. Bunca Djau - Member, Bafata Terra Sabi
28. Braima Embalo - Member, Bafata No Coraçon
29. Mamcani Fati - Member, Association of Sons and Friends of Djabicunda
30. Bubacar Jalo - Member, Community Support
31. Sadjá Darame - Member, Bafata Nha Terra
32. Ibraima Sumase - Member, Sumpou do Khati
33. Mamadu Alfa Djalo - Member, United Sons of Patisude Association

BIOMBO

34. Nino Vieira Té - Regional Education Delegate
35. Nogueira Bangurá - Deputy Regional Health Delegate
36. Germana Gomes - Regional Delegate for the Plan
37. Joãozinho Nanque - Member, Futebol Clube de Safim
38. Nicxon da Silva - Member, Prabis na Corçon
39. Mário Bai Indi - Bigimita Health Centre
40. Filipa de Lencastre da Silva Comba - Nurse at the Bigimita Health Centre
41. Malam da Costa - Member, Desafio Joven mental treatment centre - N'DELUGAN
42. Felizberto Bernardo da Silva - Focal point in Guinea-Bissau, Association of Sons and Friends of Prabis

BOLAMA/BIJAGÓS

43. Biussum Nadjé - Bubaque Regional Education Delegate
44. José Nakutóh - Sub-regional Health Director of Bubaque
45. Ivone Oliveira Sanca - President, Bijagós Women's Association
46. Dionísio Gomes - Focal Point, Association Serving Other People with Love
47. Herculano Preto da Silva - Vice-coordinator, TEBANKI Association
48. Mussa Balde - Vice-President, Humanitarian Association of Young People United for the Development of the Island of Bubaque
49. Ertumilo Alves Tepanhe - Vice-President, Association of Young Volunteers Collective
50. Vítor Queba Sintra - President, United Youth Development Association for Canhabaque Island
51. Inês Isidoro Alves - Focal Point, Association of Women Environmental Horticulturists of Orango Grande Island
52. Luis Ie - 2nd Member, Civil Society Movement
53. Lassana Djassi - Principal Imam, Bubaque Mosque
54. Sete Gomes Ie - Pastor, Evangelical Church

CACHEU

55. Ernesto Mendes - Regional Director of Education in Cacheu
56. Herculano Biaguê - Regional Health Administrator
57. Carlos Alberto Dacona - Head Nurse, Canchungo Regional Hospital
58. Braima Camará - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Bigene Unida
59. Herikson Oliveira Sampa - Coordinator in Guinea-Bissau, Association of United Youth of Bula in the Diaspora
60. Bagaque Mendes - Member, Association for the Development of Cabienque
61. Manuel Nhabo - Member, Association of the Sons and Friends of Canhobe
62. Mamu Mendes - Vice-President of the Assembly, Balole Association
63. Benedito Gomes - Secretary, Association of Sons and Friends of Canchungo
64. Assane Coly - Coordinator at Canchungo, Research and Realisation Group for Rural Development
65. Vicente Cachia - President, Association of the Sons and Friends of Tame
66. Nelson Mamadu - Member, Association of the Sons and Friends of Batucar
67. Neio Joaquim Namuã - Vice-President of the Bissau delegation, Association of the Sons and Friends of Batucar
68. Tiago Seide - President, Onenoral Association of the Sons and Friends of Suzana Section
69. Infali Donque - President, Association of the Sons and Friends of Pelundo
70. Ricardo Gomes - President, Association of the Sons and Friends of Bara Mama

- 71. Igidio Pereira - President, Federation of Associations and Friends of the Calequisse Sector in Guinea-Bissau
- 72. Cristiano Afonso Ajupesilha - Member, APPRENDA
- 73. Fernando Gomes - Focal point in Guinea-Bissau, APPRENDA
- 74. Labi Mendes - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Binhante

GABÚ

- 75. Amadu Balde - Plano Regional Delegate
- 76. Malam Opa Djaura - Regional Education Delegate
- 77. Iamta Naijna - Regional Health Delegate
- 78. Dinis Mamadja Djalo - Member, Solidarity Association of the Sons and Friends of the Gabú Region
- 79. Sori Sidibé - Member, Association of the Sons and Friends of Pitche in Hamburg
- 80. Umara Mama Embalo - Member, Association of Sons and Friends of the Dara Section
- 81. Alfa Balde - Member, Association of Sons and Friends of the Dara Section
- 82. Papa Barbosa - Member, Association of children and friends of Sonaco Sector in the Diaspora
- 83. Caetano Barbosa - Representative, Association of sons and friends of Sonaco Sector in the Diaspora
- 84. Odete Aua Sy - Member, Community Support
- 85. Francisco Ansumane Mane - Member, Alcausara Association
- 86. Amadu Fofona - Member, Association of the Sons and Friends of Gadha Cuntimbo
- 87. Ussumane Baldé - Member, United Alliance of the Sons of Mafanco in the Diaspora
- 88. Coreiano Braima Djau - Member, Association of Children and Friends of the Pirada Sector

OIO

- 89. João de Deus Rodrigues da Fonseca - Regional Education Delegate Oio, Farim
- 90. Aliu Wague - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Nhacra Unidos
- 91. Ricardinho Quemo Imbadji - Member, Association of Sons and Friends of Mansoa in the Diaspora
- 92. Adulai Seidi - Member, Sons and Friends of Demba-Só Association
- 93. Justino Alexandre Lopes - Member, Associação Bafumba Megssa Encheia
- 94. Sama Sanhá - President, Network of Associations of the Sons and Friends of Farim
- 95. Malam Fati - President, Association of Men and Women in the Economic Activity of the Farim Sector

SAB

- 96. Gimaél Gaspar Rodrigues - Regional Director of Education
- 97. Beto Gomes Lopes Embassa - General Director of Unified Basic Education
- 98. Raina Moura N'Teck Danfa - Director of the Development Department, Directorate-General for Planning and Statistics
- 99. Júlio João dos Santos - Regional Health Director
- 100. Mussa Sisse - Accountant, Guinean Association for the Rehabilitation and Integration of the Blind
- 101. Arafan Sandé - Human Resources Manager/Children's Nest Coordinator
- 102. Saturnino de Oliveira - Member, Tadjá Fome
- 103. Aladji Indjai - Member, Amedalai Youth Association

QUINARA

104. Valia Silla Correia - Delegate for Planning and Statistics in Quinara
105. Mário Mussa Cassama - Quinara Education Delegate
106. Patrício Sanha - Quinara Regional Health Delegate
107. Amarildo Júlio Pereira - Former head of Tite's health department, Tite Hospital
108. Agostinho Quimbanda - Administrative Secretary and interim administrator, Buba Sector Administration
109. Aruna Cunate - Buba's administration
110. Justo Braima Camará - President, Regional Civil Society Movement
111. Abu Mane - Vice-President, Regional Civil Society Movement
112. Alanso Fati - President, para-ka-tem Association
113. Carlos Aliu Cande - President, Association for Sustainable Development
114. Suleimane Indjai - President, KAMBENDU - Ga Ture
115. Lassana Mane - President, Association of the Sons and Friends of the Bacar Conte Section
116. Secuna Biai - First Secretary, AFAN NAFA SOBIA -Ntughane
117. Rui Te - President, No Djunta Mon - Lower Madinah
118. Binhere Dabo - President, NAFI - Fulacunda
119. Domingos Bedamatcha - Coordinator of Action in Guinea-Bissau, Multicultural Association for Development
120. Domingos Bedamatcha - President, Association of Tite's Sons and Friends

TOMBALI

121. Albino Kabi - Director of the Quebo Health Centre, Tombali

ORGANISATIONS IN THE DIASPORA

GERMANY

1. Mali Seidi - President, Association of Sons and Friends of the Dara Section
2. Mali Seidi - President, Pitche Sector Association
3. Saliha Sanca - President, No Lanta Djuntu

BELGIUM

4. Djabu Mané - President, Action Multiculturelle pour le Developpement de Quinara
5. Nina Horta - President, Bantaba de Esperança

BRAZIL

6. Braima Mané - Deputy Coordinator, Beating Covid-19 on All Fronts
7. Nkanande Ka - President, Association of Guinea-Bissau Students in the State of Ceará
8. Maurício Wilson - Responsible for Foreign Relations, Association of Guinean Students and Community in the State of Rio de Janeiro
9. Seco Caramó - President, Forum of Guineans in São Francisco do Conde/Bahia
10. Apolinário Da Silva - President, Koinonia Organisation for Immigrants and Refugees (OKOIER)
11. Sumbunhe N'fanda - President, School Project "Tabanka di Sintcham"/PETS

GREEN CAPE

12. Idrissa Djoló - President, Bafatá XXI

SPAIN

13. Bala Joaquim Namoa - General Coordinator, Associação de Filhos de Batucar
14. Guelage Gano - President, Association Cultural Coletivo de los Emigrantes de las Islas Canarias

FRANCE

15. Cacarné Dadioucoumé - President, APPRENDA
16. Mama Gomes - President, Association Culturelle et d'Entraide Binhante
17. Bernard Sylva - President, Association Avenir Kadjindiassa
18. Louis Sylva - President, Place Petabe Bra Committee
19. Eleonore Gomis - President, Association Djukanin Mandjaku
20. Ana Mendes Correia - President, Associação Baboque/ Associação de Amigos de Canchungo

ITALY

21. Intunda Na Montche - President, Sol Mansi Onlus

LUXEMBOURG

22. Iero Balde - President, Guinea Gastronomy Association - servisse Luxembourg
23. Genabu Djaló - President, Heart of Guinea-Bissau Association
24. Fernando Mendes - President, Association Guineenne de Cabienque au Luxembourg

PORTUGAL

25. Mamadu Lamine - Representative, Association of Sons and Friends of Djabicunda
26. Pate Cabral - President, Matosinhos/Mansoa Friendship Association
27. Manuel da Costa Mendes - President, Union of Baboque Associations
28. Vensã Mendes - President, Association of the Sons and Friends of Tchantum
29. Vensã Mendes - President, Federations of Calequisse Associations
30. Vensã Mendes - Secretary of the Board, Association of the Sons and Friends of Bassarel
31. Joaquim Pereira - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Bachil
32. Nicandro lê - President, Association of Guinean Students in Lisbon
33. Soares Parente - President, Casa da Guiné
34. Bubacar Djalo - Head of Bafata Terra Sabi
35. Messias Djo - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Prabís in Guinea-Bissau
36. Domingos da Silva - President, Balole Association
37. Diamantino Carlos Indi - President, Bula United Youth Association
38. Filinto Mendes - Secretary General, Association of Children of Bara Mama
39. Seco Fati - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Gabú
40. Eduardo Jalo - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Common Farms
41. Ussumane Mandjam - Treasurer, Association of Sons and Friends of Farim Comuns
42. Julinho Cá - Founding member, Association of Sons and Friends of Bigimita
43. Ivandro Cardoso - Responsible, Tadjá Fome
44. Andoé Nanque - President, Association of Children and Friends of the Biombo Region
N'dja lel' Fã
45. Samuel Djedjo - President, Onenoral Association of the Sons and Friends of Suzana
Section
46. Djibril Cassama - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Amedalai
47. Malam Gomes - President, Association of Pelundians Residing in Portugal
48. Fortunato Barros - President, NGO Saúde Sabe Tene
49. Camilo Iero Balde - President, Patchara Association
50. Augusto Mansoa - President, Federation of Guinea-Bissau Associations in Portugal
51. Augusto Mansoa - President, Associação Cultural e Recreativa dos Naturais e Amigos
do Oio
52. Marsiano Mendes - President, Guinean Association of Descendants and Friends of
Pecixe
53. Nicante Santos - President, Association of the Sons and Friends of Jeta Island
54. Djarga Seidi - President, Balodiren Association
55. Dulcineia Semedo - Technician, Association of Africans in the Municipality of Vila
Franca de Xira
56. Augusto Mane - Member of the Supervisory Board, MON NA MON - Association of
Children and Friends of Guinea-Bissau
57. Valerio Monteiro - President, Youth Centre of the Association of Sons and Friends of
Pelundo Resident in Portugal
58. Domingos da Silva - President, Emigrant Association of Tame, Portugal

UNITED KINGDOM

- 59. Jairson Indequi - President, Association of Sons and Friends of Guinea-Bissau in Newcastle
- 60. Jacinto de Carvalho - President, Bafatá na Corçon
- 61. Umaru Baldé - President, Association of the Sons and Friends of Canhamina

SENEGAL

- 62. Baciro Indjai - Member, Association of Guinea-Bissau Students in Senegal
- 63. Abulai Kau - Member, Farah Association na thiagateu naba boukoul naba baboul, kao teckathie
- 64. Gilbert Gomis - President, Association des Jeunes de Bara Mama/Ziguinchor

SWITZERLAND

- 65. Adalgisa Lopes - President, Association Suisse d'Aide aux Personnes Diabétiques en Guinée-Bissau
- 66. Balanto Baio - President of the General Assembly, Guinea Bissau Solidarity Association Switzerland



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