DEMARC PROJECT PHASE II
May 2017-Sept 2018
**TOPIC: DIASPORA**

What is your diaspora’s role in emergency assistance/preparedness in your country of origin?

- food assistance
- advocacy and support
- raising funds
- water and medical assistance
- sending funds
- emergency assistance
Objective:

Improving Diaspora Emergency Response Capacity & Coordination with the Humanitarian System
Consortium partners

Berghof Foundation

DRC Danish Refugee Council
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Evaluation Study
Replacing mistrust with evidence on Diaspora contributions

Capacity Enhancement

World Humanitarian Summit
Follow-up

Improving links & coordination

Communication & Advocacy
Evaluation of diaspora humanitarian interventions in Nigeria, Somalia, Syria

Replacing mistrust with evidence on Diaspora contributions
Mapping and evaluating Humanitarian Diaspora Organisations

141 diaspora org, 64 INGOS mapped
3 DOs evaluated

15 diaspora org, 47 INGOS mapped
Context analysis: “DOs newcomers to humanitarian system”

62 diaspora org, 17 INGOS mapped
3 DOs evaluated
## PROFILE OF THE 3 SOMALI DIASPORA ORG.EVALUATED

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Diaspora Organisation</th>
<th>HQ</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Brief description</th>
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| **Caawi Walaal**      | Network of volunteers with an office in Mogadishu | Strong focus on social media campaigns | Deliver:  
- Food and clean water  
- Essential drugs for cholera  
- Basic medication | Caawi Walaal raised 101,000 USD to deliver clean water, essential drugs for cholera response, basic medication, food to an estimated 55,884 people in 12 regions in 2017 |
| **Somali Faces**       | UK Offices in Australia & Somalia | Strong emphasis on storytelling & fundraising |  
- Food and water relief  
- Hospitals; ambulance services  
- Awareness raising  
- Resettlement support | Somali Faces raised 124,012 USD to provide food & water to 54,300 Somalis in 12 regions in 2017 |
| **Rajo**               | Denmark | Partnership with local implementers to deliver programmes |  
- Social development projects  
- Skills trainings  
- Food delivery | Rajo secured a grant from DERF of 87,153 USD to deliver food to 4000 families in Somaliland in 2017. |
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| iDOZ | Germany, regional offices in Iraq & Syria | On the ground involvement | - Awareness raising  
- Childhood education  
- Development projects | Aims to build transnational, cross-border ‘sustainable solidarity’, and places emphasis on supporting civil society centres in northern Syria where it provides local students and children with education. |
| Homs League Abroad | Germany | Direct management (eg of safehouses) | - Vocational trainings  
- Childhood education  
- Turkish language classes | Supports some 700 widows and orphans displaced to Syria’s neighboring countries where they receive psychosocial support and shelter in centres. |
| HUMANCARE SYRIA | UK | Partnership with local implementers | - Emergency relief | Focuses on providing emergency relief in Raqqa, Aleppo, Idlib, and Homs |
DEMAC KEY LEARNING

➢ Diasporas work bottom-up responding to local needs;
➢ They are fast in responding to emergencies with rapid and impactful interventions;
➢ They have access to first-hand information from and direct links to affected populations with a high level of trust;
➢ Their approach remains consultative and reactive to local needs;
➢ They rely on local informants and structures to avoid duplicating efforts;
➢ Not being part of the humanitarian sector was noticed as an asset in gaining local trust and access;
➢ They minimize the cost of permanent structures and staff to focus on maximizing aid;
➢ They use their transnational position to respond to the growing demands for remote management and cross-border response in countries where international actors have a limited presence;
DEMAC KEY LEARNING

➢ They send skilled volunteers with local knowledge to their countries of origin;
➢ They effectively amplified voices and awareness of local situations (emotional humanitarianism);
➢ They are complementing longer-term actors rather than attempting to replicate existing structures and already-functional projects;
➢ Their added-value comes from thinking and acting differently from the formal humanitarian sector;
➢ They employ innovative and agile approaches (ex: underground hospitals in Syria)
➢ They are willing to share information through media and social media, online and mapping platforms;
➢ They are open to collaboration, learning and improving their capacity
Diasporas naturally work on both ends of the humanitarian-development nexus

Diaspora organisations that are engaged in development activities often also engage in emergency response, pending the situation in the geography they are engaging in.

During the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, knowledge of faith and traditions from the diaspora actors played a key role in initiatives that helped empower people to protect themselves. Currently, after the actual crisis, some Sierra Leonean diaspora organizations are still active in post-Ebola recovery and the support of structural developments in the health sector towards improved preparedness. Some left post-Ebola, but re-engaged in response to the mudslide in Freetown in 2017.

A poignant and representative example of diaspora commitment and engagement can be seen here. One of the prominent diaspora actors from the Ebola response was elected Mayor of Freetown in 2018, and will thus continue her engagement as an important local actor towards the development of her country.
Diasporas naturally work on both ends of the humanitarian-development nexus

The diaspora organisations evaluated have established a local footprint outside of the traditional humanitarian system and expanded their interventions into early recovery and development work:

- Recycling and waste management interventions to encourage environmental sustainability in Somaliland
- Teaching modern agricultural techniques in Syria alongside psychosocial interventions, social and economic support which are aiming for a holistic approach to rebuild livelihoods in a crisis setting.

The ease and frequency of communication between local communities and diaspora organisations means that they can be alerted in real-time, and their capacity to collect and disburse funds rapidly ensures that they unlock the first responses in crisis settings such as the 2017 attack in Mogadishu. Their support went directly to the victims, the hospitals and the ambulance services, and continued even after the end of the emergency situation (voice amplification, campaigns to support orphans after the attack)
Capacity to strengthen

While the Diaspora organisations observed generally had better access to beneficiaries than international organisations, they are financially less well endowed resulting in sporadic interventions.

- Their position can be consolidated / integrated in a community of practice
- The collection of data, sharing of data, overall monitoring and evaluation of their work and transparency need to be improved
- To engage with diaspora organisations working in the development sector
- To improve intra-diasporic coordination
Interest in Diasporas from humanitarian community

- Links with community and local partners
- Access
- Participation & Accountability to Affected populations
- Protection
- Localization of aid
- Humanitarian-development nexus
- Transfer of skills
- Advocacy

There is clearly more pressure on diasporas to fall in line with existing structures than flexibility to allow new actors with a different profile to join the humanitarian effort
CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

App. 50 Diaspora Organisations have improved technical & operational capacity to prepare and respond to humanitarian emergencies

- **239 users of DEMAC eLearning**: 10 diaspora humanitarian courses available in English and in Arabic on Kaya
- **26 diaspora humanitarian organisations** received five days training to enhance their technical and operational capacities
- **65 participants** in 2 webinars on consortium management & humanitarian data exchange
- **Mentoring and peer to peer learning opportunities arranged**
The work of DEMAC has centered around raising awareness within the institutional humanitarian sector on the work and opportunities available within diaspora organisations and actors. This has led to a collaboration initiated with the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Child Protection Area of Responsibility to include diaspora actors in their coordination structures. Interest has also been shown from the Red Cross and Save the Children to learn more and seek avenues for greater inclusion as well as with the HCT Protection Cluster Coordinator and DRC Somalia on the "Centrality of Protection" Strategy, to discuss avenues and merits of engagement with diaspora communities for protection programming.

Diaspora focal points in Syria and Somalia have been operational since March 2018 to improve humanitarian coordination and share information with diaspora actors engaged in humanitarian response.
60 participants reflected on how to enhance collaboration with diasporas in humanitarian response with the contribution of DEMAC as part of OCHA’s 2017 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week.

60 Somali & Syrian DOs participated in seven humanitarian coordination workshops in five European countries.

30 humanitarians discussed opportunities to work with diasporas in humanitarian settings during a seminar organised by DEMAC with the Global Protection Cluster Child Protection AoR and UNICEF in Geneva.
After a concerted effort **five Somali Diaspora organisations connected with DEMAC** were granted a total of **USD 620,483** from the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF) to respond to the floods in Somalia in 2018.

**Diasporas & DEMAC** mentioned in the **Somali Humanitarian Country Team “Centrality of Protection” Strategy.**

**After joint advocacy efforts,** the Global Compact on Refugees programme of action mention explicitly Diasporas as stakeholder group.
From commitments to concrete actions

DEMAC supported 15 out of 43 diaspora organisations that endorsed the Diaspora WHS commitments to enhance their current efforts and achieve the 17 commitments.

- Four diaspora organisations reported progress and achievements in three Core Responsibilities: “Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity”, “Leave No One Behind”, “Change People’s Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need”
- 12 diaspora organisations gained access to training opportunities
- Two DEMAC Sierra Leonean diaspora organisations introduced to IOM to take part in a health professional initiative
- DEMAC progress report available on Agenda for Humanity
The consistent message from all the respondents is that they are dedicated to improvement and building on areas that are in place to meet the responsibilities:

✓ **A platform to coordinate, inform and support diaspora organisations** is an essential vehicle to enhance their work and presence in the humanitarian architecture.

✓ **The identification of resources and ways to enhance diaspora capacity** in areas where they request assistance. This could for example be INGOs offering space in trainings to diaspora organisations.

✓ To provide **relevant tailored e-Learning** for diaspora organisations

✓ **Networking and experience-sharing space being created and facilitated** so diaspora, INGOs and other interested parties can communicate directly and meet. This space could contribute to joint working and to addressing challenges organisations working in the same space may be facing and which would benefit from support.
App. 70 diaspora org. are actively connected & engaged with DEMAC

1,7K users of the DEMAC Website in September 2019

473 Humanitarian recipients of DEMAC Emails

348 Humanitarians received 5 DEMAC Newsletters

70 diaspora org. & 40 local organisations registered on demac.org

DEMAC is a member of the H2H network

248 followers and 78 Friends
More information

http://www.demac.org/

https://www.facebook.com/demac.org/

https://twitter.com/demacproject
Improving Diaspora Emergency Response Capacity & Coordination

Diaspora are first responders in emergencies

Diaspora interventions complement other emergency actions

COORDINATED ACTIONS LEAD TO BETTER HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Financed by ECHO's Enhanced Response Capacity #SmarterAid – for better and faster humanitarian assistance