



European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid



## DEMAC Phase I – Key Outcomes

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The Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination (DEMAC) is a Consortium consisting of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) and Berghof Foundation. **The DEMAC project evolves around two central themes: diaspora and humanitarianism & offers a space to link diaspora organisations with the traditional humanitarian system for the benefit of affected communities. DEMAC Phase I** was a wide-ranging project spanning from Sierra Leonean, Somali and Syrian diaspora-based relief organisations and initiatives based in the UK, Germany and Denmark. DEMAC Phase I sought to contribute to communication, coordination and coherence between conventional and diaspora-led humanitarian actions. **In its first phase, DEMAC achieved overall objectives around:**

- Acting as the **go-to place** for humanitarian actors and agencies interested in including diasporas.
- **A research report on Diaspora Humanitarianism** outlining features of formalized collective interventions by Sierra Leonean, Somali and Syrian diaspora-based relief organisations and initiatives to the humanitarian crises in their countries of origin/heritage and neighbouring countries.
- **A research report on Diaspora Drought Response** providing findings on the Somali diaspora response to the regional drought/crisis that affected Somaliland and Puntland in early 2016.
- **Three successful thematic humanitarian workshops and consultation meetings, and six community workshops** were held in London, Copenhagen and Berlin involving **170 implementation-level actors** from diaspora organisations, UN agencies and INGOs.
- **An improved common understanding to work towards a common ground** including diasporas in several other working groups– such as the IASC Task Team for Accountability for Affected People.
- Profiling the role of diaspora on the ground, with the **vocal participation of 18 diasporas from DEMAC & 5 diaspora speakers at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)** and in the localization of aid discussion.
- **Increased trust between diaspora, DEMAC and other humanitarian agencies**, by facilitating open dialogue around issues of neutrality and impartiality.
- Advocating for a strengthened collaboration in operations, leading for instance to the **creation of an OCHA diaspora liaison officer in Mogadishu.**
- **The final conference in Copenhagen, October 2016: *A Missing Link? Diaspora's Place in an Enhanced International Humanitarian System*** brought together **110 participants** from EU and international representatives from government, civil society, diaspora organisations, humanitarian organisations and research institutes to discuss and explore opportunities and strengths related to diaspora humanitarianism.
- The conference results, along with the learning from all other deliverables were incorporated into **the final report**, published in December 2016, which outlined all **findings and recommendations**. Alongside the final report, **a checklist was produced as a practical tool** for diaspora organisations and actors in the formal humanitarian system designed to improve operational and strategic communication and coordination