

SURVEY ON THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE GUINEAN DIASPORA IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND SENEGAL

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This publication was produced within the framework of the programme, Diaspora Mobilization Mechanisms for a Sustainable Contribution to the Development of Guinea (PAMMOD Guinea), which aims to facilitate the contribution of the Guinean diaspora in Africa and Europe to the socio-economic development of Guinea, by facilitating the participation of the Guinean diaspora in the sharing of its skills, support, learning and exchanges with local Guinean entrepreneurs. The research was conducted by The African Foundation for Development Europe (AFFORD EU) in partnership with GRDR Migration-Citizenship-Development, the Coordination des Associations Guinéennes de France (CAGF), the Direction Générale des Guinéens de l'Étranger (DGGE) and with funding from ENABEL.

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Confidentiality

Personal data is excluded from this report in accordance with standard data protection principles.

Warnings

This report does not claim to be exhaustive.

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Terminology

Term	Definition	Spring
African Diaspora	People of African descent living outside the continent, regardless of their citizenship and nationality, and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union. Thus, AFFORD and this survey extend the definition to people of African descent living outside their countries of origin.	African Union, 2005 Link
Diaspora Investment	<p>In exchange for the funds received from the financial transaction, the user of the funds (the beneficiary in the home country) usually provides the source of the funds (a diaspora investor) with an asset (usually a financial instrument) that gives the investor a future return on their investment.</p> <p>In the context of this survey, the investment is made in time, money, and/or skills.</p>	Gelb et al., 2021 Link

Acronyms and abbreviations

ACTOG	Association of Executives and Technicians of Guinean Origin
AFFORD Europe	African Development Foundation Europe
APIP - Guinea	Private Investment Promotion Agency - Guinea
CAGF	Coordination of Guinean Associations of France
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
DGGE	Directorate General of Guineans Abroad
ENABEL	Belgian Development Agency
IMF	International Monetary Fund
Grdr	Grdr Migration-Citizenship-Development
HCGE	High Council of Guineans Abroad
MAECIAGE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, African Integration and Guineans Abroad
MIDWA	Migration Dialogue for West Africa
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
GMO	Guinean Migration Observatory
IOM	International Organization for Migration
PAMMOD Guinea	Project on Diaspora Mobilization Mechanisms for a Sustainable Contribution to Guinea's Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
PNDES	National Economic and Social Development Program
USOM	Scientific Unit Observation of Migration

Executive summary

As part of the project on diaspora mobilization mechanisms for a sustainable contribution to the development of Guinea (PAMMOD), the African Development Foundation (AFFORD) Europe was commissioned to conduct a survey in partnership with the French association Grdr Migration-Citizenship-Development and the Coordination of Guinean Associations of France (CAGF). This survey aimed to identify the needs and expectations of the Guinean diaspora in Belgium, France, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire for the socio-economic development of Guinea.

Objectives

The overall objective associated with this survey is to identify potential investors from the Guinean diaspora based in the four countries of interest and willing to use their entrepreneurial and interpersonal skills to support Guinea's socio-economic development through a mentorship program for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) entrepreneurs in Guinea. More specifically, it is a question of identifying the needs and expectations of the Guinean diaspora in relation to its commitment in Guinea in terms of investment of time, money, and skills.

Methodology adopted

The methodology adopted is mixed, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis tools. Data were compiled through an online literature review, an online questionnaire distributed on Survey Monkey, and key informant interviews. Data analysis includes a literature review, descriptive statistics, and case studies.

Limitations

The sample of questionnaire respondents and key informants is not representative of the Guinean diaspora in the four countries of interest since the sampling was not random but convenient and snowball. Sample sizes are also limited due to time constraints and difficulties in reaching the Guinean diaspora. A total of 70 respondents responded to the questionnaire and 10 interviews were conducted. Thus, the results of the survey are not generalizable.

Main needs and expectations of the Guinean diaspora

- **A need for information:** The majority of respondents have little or no awareness of government initiatives and agencies to promote diaspora engagement
- **A need for transparency:** Respondents expressed a need for an online platform that compiles information on investment and business opportunities
- **A need for training:** Respondents expressed a need for training not only for SME entrepreneurs in Guinea, but also for members of the diaspora, including members of the Councils of Guineans Abroad
- **A need for political and economic stability:** The climate of trust between the diaspora and the government takes place in a highly politicized context, which makes potential investors worried.

Key Recommendations

Recommendations for the Promotion of Investment for Socio-Economic Development by the Diaspora

Recommendation	Country	Deadline	Responsible
Develop and improve skills at the collective level with reference to the members of the Councils of Guineans Abroad and representatives of associations) but also at the individual level in terms of investment research and project management.	All	Medium term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grr
Continue to organize open houses, meetings and forums on investment and business opportunities targeting the diaspora.	All	Short-term	APIP, DGGE, Guinean government, associations
Assess the effectiveness of government initiatives to promote diaspora investment.	All	Long-term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grdr
Support diaspora investment in agriculture and other economic sectors that align with APIP's priority investment sectors (mining, infrastructure, tourism).	All	Medium term	Guinean Government, Enabel, AFFORD, Grdr

Recommendations on migration governance in relation to the engagement of the Guinean diaspora

Recommendation	Country	Deadline	Responsible
Complement the Guinean Diaspora Engagement Policy and integrate it with other national policies and plans to ensure coherence of policies and practices.	Guinea	Medium term	DGGE, Guinean Government, Enabel, AFFORD, Grdr
Strengthen the network of Councils of Guineans Abroad and other platforms representing the diaspora by taking the example of the delegation of 14 Councils of Guineans in Europe.	Senegal, Ivory Coast	Medium term	DGGE
Encourage the establishment of and strengthen mechanisms for reporting and exchanging data on the diaspora between the DGGE and the Councils of Guineans Abroad and consular offices.	All	Medium term	DGGE
Promote the development of the skills of the diaspora, including the members of the Councils of Guineans Abroad, particularly in setting up projects and seeking funding.	All	Medium term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grdr

Build institutionalized relations between the Councils of Guineans Abroad/DGGE and associations that are underway in certain countries of interest such as France (between the CAGF and the Council of Guineans in France).	All	Medium term	DGGE, Councils of Guineans Abroad, associations
The institutionalization of relations between the Councils of Guineans Abroad and associations makes it possible to develop a permanent dialogue with members and organizations of the diaspora by establishing, for example, thematic round tables at regular intervals to exchange on good practices in governance.	All	Medium term	DGGE, Councils of Guineans Abroad, associations
Finalize the formalization of the collaboration between the DGGE and APIP – Guinea.	Guinea	Short-term	DGGE and APIP – Guinea

Recommendations for the collection and analysis of diaspora data

Recommendation	Country	Deadline	Responsible
Strengthen the technical and financial data collection capacities of public authorities at the national level, in particular the Guinean Observatory of Migration, but also at the level of the Councils of Guineans Abroad and diaspora associations in the field through investments in training	All	Medium term	Enabel, other development agencies, support from Grdr, AFFORD
Compile the initiatives taken by members of the diaspora in favour of the socio-economic development of Guinea and in particular the transfer of skills and entrepreneurship: information is available, but neither accessible, nor recorded, nor analysed in a form useful for policy-making work.	All	Short-term	Associations, Council of Guineans
Continue to collect qualitative and quantitative data through questionnaires, interviews, and regular focus groups.	All	Medium term	Government of Guinea with the support of international organizations
Mapping associations representing the Guinean diaspora	Senegal	Short-term	Council of Guineans with the support of development agencies
Conduct a census of the Guinean diaspora in the countries of interest to obtain detailed information on their demographic and socio-economic profile, needs and expectations.	All	Medium term	Associations with the Council of Guineans Abroad

Develop the technical and financial capacities of public authorities to integrate sources of information (quantitative and qualitative on the diaspora and its needs and expectations).	All	Long-term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grdr
Launch a survey on the state of knowledge on the Guinean diaspora in Côte d'Ivoire with fieldwork.	Côte d'Ivoire	Short-term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grdr
Produce and promote case studies and success stories of diaspora investors in Guinea	All	Medium term	Enabel, other development agencies, APIP, AFFORD, Grdr

Recommendations on the communication strategy

Recommendation	Country	Deadline	Responsible
Develop general and sectoral guides for doing business in Guinea including information on investment and business opportunities, laws and regulations, responsible agencies, obligations and benefits as well as procedures.	Guinea	Medium term	Government of Guinea, support for development agencies
Develop and launch an online platform or a section on a website such as APIP-Guinea or DGGE targeting the diaspora and communicating up-to-date information on sectoral investment opportunities, with their respective obligations and procedures to be undertaken.	Guinea	Long-term	Government of Guinea & APIP - Guinea
Regularly update the information on the APIP – Guinea portal for technical and informative support on investment and business projects in Guinea	Guinea	Short-term	Government of Guinea
Initiate a simplification of procedures and obligations to facilitate administrative steps for diaspora investment.	Guinea	Long-term	Government of Guinea
Continue to use social networking sites such as LinkedIn, WhatsApp, and Facebook for communication, marketing, and awareness-raising, even for public authorities. These platforms are cost-effective, low-cost tools for reaching out to members of the diaspora across borders.	All & Guinea	Short-term	Guinean Government, Associations, Development Agencies

1. Introduction

1.1 Context

The Support Project for Diaspora Mobilization Mechanisms for a Sustainable Contribution to the Development of Guinea (PAMMOD Guinea) aims to facilitate the contribution of the Guinean diaspora in Africa and Europe to the socio-economic development of Guinea, through the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate their participation in the sharing of their skills, providing support, learning and networking with local Guinean entrepreneurs.

The project is led by the Grdr Migration-Citizenship-Development (Grdr), an association under French law created in 1969 on the initiative of West African nationals living in France, in partnership with the Coordination des Associations Guinéennes de France (CAGF) and the *African Foundation for Development* (AFFORD), an international organization based in the United Kingdom.

The survey is the first step in the PAMMOD project.

1.2 Research Objectives

The general objective of the survey is to identify the needs and expectations of the Guinean diaspora based in France, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, and Senegal in relation to their commitment to the socio-economic development of Guinea. More specifically, it is a question of identifying investors and professionals from the diaspora who have an interest in investing time and money and who wish to use their skills to support and strengthen local entrepreneurship and accompany the transfer of skills and the sharing of professional experience.

Thus, the specific objectives of the survey are to:

- Developing a demographic and socio-economic profile of Guinean diaspora investors
- Gather detailed information on the current situation of the Guinean diaspora
- Identify respondents interested in skills transfer and professional experience sharing initiatives
- Identify needs to make effective the participation of the diaspora in Guinea's development, when desired
- Identify the mechanisms to be put in place to facilitate productive and solidarity-based investments by the diaspora

1.3 Structure of the report

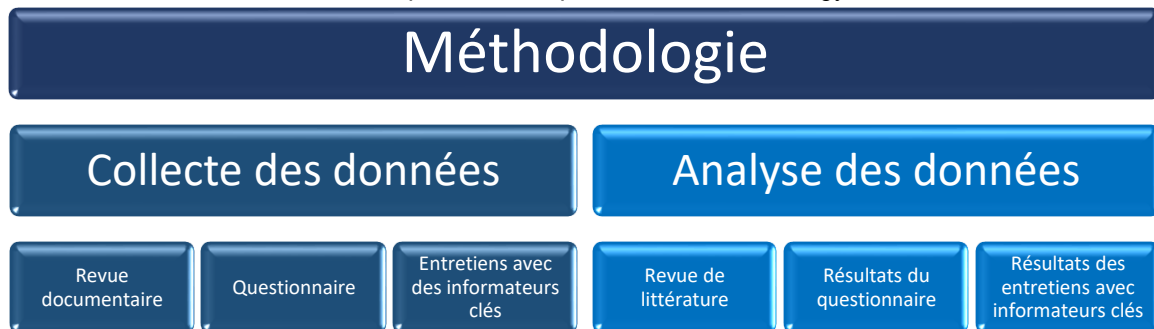
The present report is structured as follows. The following section describes the methodology used to collect and analyse the data. Section 3 reviews the literature on initiatives involving the Guinean diaspora in the four countries of interest. Section 4 presents the results of the survey questionnaire, while Section 5 describes the results of the KIIs. The final section concludes and makes recommendations to advance diaspora engagement in Guinea.

2. Methodology

2.1 Comprehensive approach

The methodology used in this project is based on a mixed-methods approach, combining elements of quantitative and qualitative research (Figure 1). Quantitative data were collected using an online literature review and questionnaire. Qualitative data were collected through key informant interviews and open-ended questions in the questionnaire. Therefore, the primary data complements the secondary data.

Graphic 1 Description of the methodology



2.2 Data collection tools

2.2.1 Literature review

An online document review was conducted to collect, collate and analyse all the necessary information. The document review was both internal to the partner organizations (AFFORD, Grdr and CAGF) and external with reference to publicly available information online.

To this end, the search process included desk search activities, such as:

- A review of publications by public authorities and agencies
- A review of United Nations reports
- A review of other reports published by international organizations
- A review of invalid documents online shared by different stakeholders

Useful references are related to:

- Guinea's economic situation
- The profile of the Guinean diaspora
- Existing initiatives of the Guinean diaspora in general and in favour of the socio-economic development of the country in particular
- The political and legal framework developed on the engagement of the Guinean diaspora
- The national context in France, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, and Senegal in relation to the Guinean diaspora

2.2.2 Survey Questionnaire

❖ Objectives

The questionnaire collects data on:

- The demographic and socio-economic profile of the Guinean diaspora

- The current situation of the Guinean diaspora
- Diaspora relations with Guinea
- The needs and expectations of the Guinean diaspora in relation to their contribution to the socio-economic development of Guinea
- Their interest in participating in a mentorship program

❖ Scope and Target Population

The questionnaire targeted the Guinean diaspora in Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, France and Belgium who:

- Demonstrated an interest in entrepreneurship and/or investment in Guinea
- Started a business and/or invested in Guinea
- Possessed soft and interpersonal skills that will support Guinea's socio-economic development

❖ Sampling strategy

In order to reach the target population, the partners (CAGF and Grdr) provided support and participated in the dissemination of the questionnaire to their network. Thus, the sampling strategy is not randomized. The networks of each Council of Guineans Abroad in the target countries were used. The support of the Directorate General of Guineans Abroad (DGGE) in this process has been important. In addition, the link to the questionnaire has been posted on international platforms such as:

- The iDiaspora platform <https://www.idiaspora.org/> and on the iDiaspora – Diaspora Engagement LinkedIn account in French and English, accessible to <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7034883724827615232/>
- The ICMPD platform and the LinkedIn account of Fanny Tittel Mosser, Knowledge Management and Research Officer, ICMPD in French and English, accessible at <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7034824281662353408/>

A total of 73 people responded to the questionnaire. Of these, 3 did not wish to give informed consent to participate in the study. Thus, 70 responses are considered in the data analysis. The initial goal was to collect 60 responses.

❖ Methods and instruments for data collection

The French-language questionnaire was administered online using SurveyMonkey. Participation was voluntary. The questionnaire available in Annex 1 contained the following modules:

- Screening Questions
- Demographic and socio-economic profile
- Relations with Guinea
- Invest in Guinea
- Fostering diaspora engagement in Guinea
- Contact details

2.2.3 *Key Informant Interviews*

❖ Key Informant Profile

Key informant interviews are interviews with experts who can give their opinion on the Guinean diaspora in the countries of interest. A total of 10 interviews were conducted between 17 February and 15 March 2023 (Table 1). The initial objective was to conduct 3 interviews.

Table 1 List of Key Informant Interviews Conducted

#	Name and surname	Position an organization	Entity	Date
1	Stanislas Agossou	Grdr	Private	17/02/2023
2	Barry Saitiou	Director, DGGE	Public	20/02/2023
3	Diallo Netty	Secretary General, CAGF	Private	21/02/2023
4	Diallo Amadou Oury Thielere	President, Council of Guineans in Senegal	Public	22/02/2023
5	Benemou Michel Kaman	President, Council of Guineans in France	Public	24/02/2023
6	Fanta Bayo - Leveque	Secretary General, ACTOG	Private	24/02/2023
7	Diallo Bassamba	President, Council of Guineans in Belgium	Public	27/02/2023
8	Alpha Ousmane Diallo	Scientific Secretary, Sonfoniah University	Public	1/03/2023
9	Fana Tolno	Director General, Guinean Migration Observatory	Public	1/03/2023
10	Fatoumata Conde	Secretary General, APIP - Guinea	Public	15/03/2023

❖ Objectives

The interviews provided in-depth qualitative information on:

- Active associations and networks
- Collecting data on the Guinean diaspora
- The demographic and socio-economic profile of the Guinean diaspora
- The situation of SMEs and the investment ecosystem for SMEs in Guinea
- Interventions by the Guinean diaspora in Guinea in general and aimed at the socio-economic development of the country in particular
- The needs and expectations of the Guinean diaspora in relation to its commitment to the socio-economic development of the country

The interviews also aimed to gain access to all necessary data, including those produced by government actors that are not yet reflected in official statistics.

❖ Sampling strategy

Key informant recruitment was done on a convenience and snowball sampling basis for practical reasons of accessibility and cost. Partners GRDR and CAFM as well as CMB contributed to the identification of key informants.

Some potential key informants could not be reached within the time limit. These include the President of the Council of Guineans in Côte d'Ivoire, Mrs. Kaba Sekou and a representative of the Agency for the Promotion of Private Investment – Guinea (APIP – Guinea).

For information gathering, the semi-structured interview technique was adopted. Thus, an interview guide (outline) developed in French and available in Appendix 2 was prepared and sent to informants prior to the interviews.

2.3 Data analysis and presentation of results

The data collected are analysed and presented in this report through the literature review and tables, graphs, and maps.

2.4 Challenges and limitations

❖ Literature review: little up-to-date information online

The first phase of the survey consisted of conducting a literature review. However, data and publications on the Guinean diaspora in the four countries of interest are limited and the websites of the Guinean authorities (ministries or departments) provide outdated or incomplete information. In order to overcome this challenge, key informant interviews provided up-to-date information on the situation in the four countries of interest in relation to the engagement of the Guinean diaspora.

❖ Questionnaire: Recruitment of a hard-to-reach population

A whole series of limitations are related to the profile of the target population, i.e. the Guinean diaspora with an interest in business and investment in Guinea. The criteria mean that the target population is not large in each country of interest. Given the tight timeline, it was difficult to identify and recruit potential respondents. The convenience and snowball methods were used to reach the target number of respondents (60). However, this sample is not representative of the population and the results obtained cannot be generalized. The results will guide subsequent analyses of the needs and expectations of the Guinean diaspora.

❖ Self-reported data

Methodological limitations relate to the data collection method adopted, i.e. the questionnaire. The questionnaires rely on self-report techniques, as respondents report directly on their own experience, perception, behaviour and/or intentions. As a result, the information collected is subject to potential biases such as social desirability, selective memory, or introspective ability. To minimize these biases, the questionnaire was reviewed, and simple, straightforward questions were used where possible. Respondents were also informed of their right to refuse to answer a question, and that the data collected was used in a generalized form as part of a scientific project.

❖ Contact details

The information that makes it possible to contact members of the Guinean diaspora in the target countries is name, surname, telephone number and email address. In a number of cases, potential respondents to the questionnaire do not have an e-mail address. To counter this limitation, social networks such as LinkedIn and Facebook have been used.

❖ Conducting Key Informant Interviews

Key informant identification was done using the snowball method in an informal manner. The contact details most of the time consisted of a name, a first name, and a phone number, often valid on the WhatsApp application. Rarely, key informants had or used an email address. To facilitate the process, the exchanges took place mainly on WhatsApp and the interviews were conducted mostly by telephone.

❖ Case Studies

It was originally planned to include case studies in the report. These cases reportedly involved investments made by members of the diaspora. However, time constraints as well as the limited ability of interlocutors to identify initiatives did not allow for the production of such case studies.

❖ Access to the Guinean diaspora in Côte d'Ivoire

Significant difficulties have been encountered in contacting the Guinean diaspora in Côte d'Ivoire. Although the most important of the four countries of interest, it has not been easy or impossible to achieve it. The DGGE network did not allow representatives of the Council of Guineans in Côte d'Ivoire to be contacted. Similarly, the CAGF network does not extend to Côte d'Ivoire. Additional efforts have been made to identify groups representing the Guinean diaspora in Côte d'Ivoire on social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn. These efforts have not yielded conclusive results. It is therefore necessary to understand the reasons for these difficulties.

3. Literature review

3.1 Economic context and business climate

❖ Macroeconomic situation

Economic growth. The country was the most resilient country in West Africa in the face of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020. Thanks to an increase in mining activities in particular, real GDP growth was 4.3% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022. The country's economic growth has been driven by services and industry, including mining since 2017. Real GDP growth is forecast to reach 5.7% in 2023 (4.2% in West Africa).

Inflation and unemployment rates. The inflation rate was 9.4% in 2013-2019 (9.3% in West Africa), 10.6% in 2020 (10.2% in West Africa), and 11.6% in 2021 (12.7% in West Africa). Inflation is driven by rising freight and fuel costs and inflation in imports of consumer goods. The unemployment rate reached 6.3% in 2021 following a bell curve, increasing since 2018 (4.8%).

Public Finance. The budget deficit reached 2.3% of GDP in 2021, an improvement compared to 2020 (2.9%). Public debt stabilised at 43.3% of GDP in 2021 from 43.4% in 2020. The current account deficit narrowed significantly in 2021 from 13.7% of GDP in 2020 to 4% of GDP in 2021.

The country is also characterized by a related deterioration in security and political uncertainty due to recent coups.

❖ Business climate

The business climate is positive and dynamic. According to the latest data from APIP – Guinea, in 2018-2019, about 8,000 businesses were created on average each year. In 2022, the number of new businesses created increased to 16,000. A recent report by UNDP and APIP – Guinea (2020) indicates a business mortality comparable to the average in the region (75%) and identifies the main causes which include lack of access to information and lack of access to finance. Another cause is related to the mismatch of the company's skills compared to those required in the industry.

The priority investment sectors identified by APIP – Guinea are:

- Mining and Mining Subcontracting
- Agriculture and processing
- Infrastructure (construction, social housing)
- Tourism

SMEs represent a significant part of Guinea's economy, accounting for about 90% of all businesses in the country. The majority of SMEs in Guinea are micro-enterprises, with fewer than 10 employees. The informal sector is predominant in Guinea, with many SMEs operating outside the formal economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on SMEs in Guinea, many of which are facing reduced demand, disrupted supply chains, and financial constraints.

In addition, Guinean SMEs often face difficulties in accessing markets due to insufficient infrastructure and transport networks (Arieff, 2021). There is also a lack of support services, such as business incubators, accelerators, and mentorship programs, that can help small businesses grow and succeed (IFC, 2020). Finally, corruption is a significant challenge in Guinea, and SMEs should take steps to protect themselves from bribery and extortion. SMEs should work with reputable partners and seek legal advice to ensure compliance with local laws and regulations. In addition, SMEs can join local business

associations and chambers of commerce to gain access to networks and resources that can help them navigate the local business environment.

❖ The skills challenge in Guinea's labour market

The Guinean labour market faces several skills-related challenges, which can be a significant issue for SMEs. Here are some of the key factors:

- Education and training: The quality of education in Guinea is poor and many young people lack the necessary skills to enter the labour market. According to the World Bank, the literacy rate in Guinea is only about 33%, and the country has one of the lowest school enrolment rates in the world. In addition, vocational and technical training programmes are limited, which can leave many young people without the necessary skills to take up skilled jobs in the SME sector.
- Brain drain: Many highly skilled workers in Guinea are leaving the country to seek better opportunities abroad. This brain drain can lead to a shortage of skilled workers in key sectors of the economy, which can be a particular challenge for SMEs.
- Informal economy: The informal economy is widespread in Guinea, with many workers employed in low-skilled, low-paid jobs. This can limit the availability of skilled workers for SMEs, as workers may not have the training or experience needed for more specialized roles.
- Language barriers: Guinea is a multilingual country, with over 40 different languages spoken. This can create language barriers in the labour market, which can limit SMEs' ability to attract and retain skilled workers.
- Limited access to training and development: Guinean SMEs may struggle to provide training and development opportunities for their employees, due to limited resources or a lack of available training programs. This can limit the ability of SMEs to build a skilled workforce and adapt to changing market conditions.

There are various initiatives aimed at developing the skills of entrepreneurs and young people in Guinea. Here are a few examples:

- Vocational training programs: The Guinean government has launched various vocational training programs to provide young people with the skills needed for the labour market.
- Women's Empowerment Programs: The Young Women Entrepreneurs Network in Guinea provides training, mentorship, and access to finance for women entrepreneurs.
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises: The Guinean Chamber of Commerce provides training and networking opportunities for SMEs, according to its website. The African Development Bank can provide financing and technical assistance to SMEs.

❖ Initiatives to support the improvement of the business climate

The government has recently implemented reforms to improve the business environment and attract more foreign investment (World Bank, 2021). The National Economic and Social Development Program (PNDES) is based on various strategies to improve the business environment (International Monetary Fund, IMF, 2018):

- The Private Sector Development Strategy
- Investment promotion strategy
- The National SME Policy Letter
- Policy options underpinning structural reforms, including the promotion of the private sector

Thus, the priority actions identified by the Guinean government are in particular (IMF, 2018):

- Improving access to diversified bank credit and financial services adapted to the needs of the private sector
- Simplification of the Guinean tax system in general, and the tax regime for SMEs in particular
- Simplification of procedures for construction, transfer of ownership and access to water and electricity
- Private Sector Capacity Building
- Formalization of Guinea's private sector

In addition, there are several initiatives to support SMEs, such as APIP – Guinea and the Guinean Business Forum. APIP - Guinea is a public administrative institution with legal personality, financial and management autonomy.¹ It is a one-stop shop for business creation and the promotion of private investment in Guinea. With six local agencies and the main agency in Conakry, APIP-Guinea's mission is to promote private investment and implement the government's policy on the development of foreign private investment. It provides services in three areas:

- Creation and development of companies and facilitation of the benefits of the investment code through the Investor's Single Window
- Investment promotion and investor support including contact with the public administration, contact with private companies for partnerships or joint ventures
- Business support and technical assistance and follow-up through advice and training to national and international investors and support to Guineans abroad.

According to the World Bank report (2021), the establishment of the one-stop shop in Conakry has reduced the costs and time it takes for small businesses to register. For example, Guinea's Doing Business indicator on business start-ups has steadily improved, from 158 in 2013 to 133 in 2017 and 122 in 2020. However, the Single Window is not fully operational in other parts of the country, adds the World Bank report (2021).

For the past three years, the *Guinean Business Forum* has been organized by APIP – Guinea. It provides a platform for entrepreneurs to exchange ideas and seek investment opportunities. In 2021, the event took place in Conakry with more than 2,000 participants including 1,000 online and in 2021, the event took place in Dubai (1,400 participants including 1,000 online). A third forum will take place in February 2024. These forums not only provide up-to-date and adequate information on the cost of setting up a business and investment procedures in Guinea, but also have a transactional component during which contracts can be signed.

3.2 Guinean diaspora: state of play

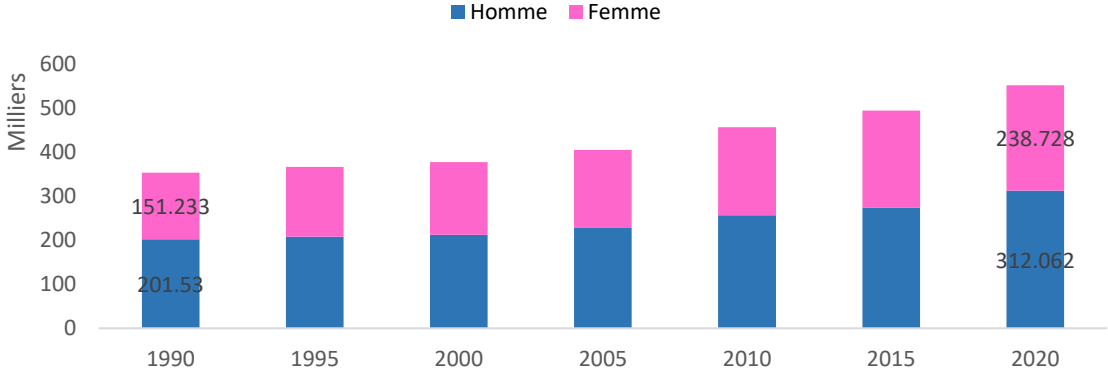
❖ Size and location of the Guinean diaspora

Guinea is a country of net emigration. Since 1996, the net migration rate has been negative, which means that every year more people – citizens and non-citizens – leave the country than come to Guinea.

¹ See the <https://www.invest.gov.gn/page/structure-d-appui-et-de-promotion?onglet=la-promotion-des-investissements-en-guinee> website.

According to the most recent data from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2020), as of mid-2020, 550,790 Guineans were living abroad (56.7% were men). This represented an overall increase of 56% compared to 1990 (352,763 people, of whom 57% were men). Figure 2 shows the evolution of the number of Guineans living abroad by sex between 1990 and 2020.

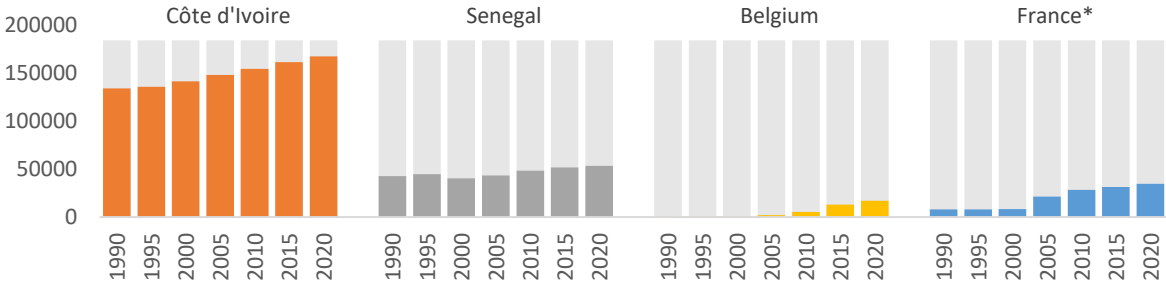
Graphic 2 Stock of Guinean international migrants, mid-year and by sex (1990-2020)



Source: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (2020).

Guinean migrants have mainly moved within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to other countries in West and North Africa, including Côte d'Ivoire (167,516 in 2020) and Senegal (53,430). They have also moved to a lesser extent and more recently to European countries. In 2020, there were 34,557 Guineans in France and 18,142 Guineans in Belgium. In 2020, 49.7% of Guineans living abroad (550,760 people) were based in Côte d'Ivoire (30.4%), Senegal (9.7%), France (6.3%) or Belgium (3.3%). The evolution between 1990 and 2020 of the number of Guineans living in the four countries of interest is presented in Figure 3.

Graphic 3 Number of Guinean migrants at mid-year in Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Belgium and France, 1990-2020



Source: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (2020).

Given the different waves of migration and the diversity of motivations, intentions and length of residence of Guinean migrants in destination countries, the Guinean diaspora is not a homogeneous group.

The data compiled by the United Nations suffers from some limitations when it comes to estimating the size of the Guinean diaspora. Indeed, they do not take into account irregular migrants, naturalized migrants who do not have Guinean passports, and those who belong to a multigenerational diaspora. As a result, data can vary significantly from one source to another. For example, other sources estimate the number of Guineans living in Senegal at between 500,000 and 1 million (International Organization for Migration, IOM, 2020) and at least 50,000 in France.

❖ Demographic and socio-economic profile of the Guinean diaspora in Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, France and Senegal

Information on the demographic and socio-economic profile of the Guinean diaspora is scarce. The data are compiled in Table 2.

Table 2 Demographic and socio-economic profile of the Guinean diaspora in Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, France and Senegal (2020)

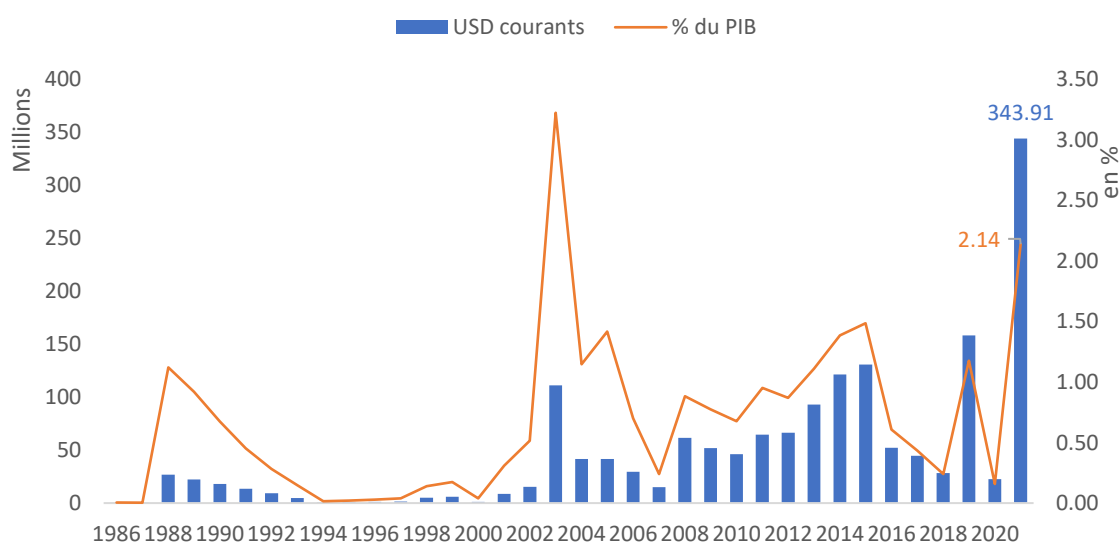
	Belgium	Cote d'Ivoire	France	Senegal
The diaspora in 2020 (ONE DAES)	18142	167516	34557	53430
Rank of diaspora in the country (size)	2nd after Congo	3rd after Burkina Faso and Mali	Top 15	1
Refugees (2021)*	3 656	0	19 979	0
Asylum seekers (2021)*	1 050	5	3 216	135
Nationality			1/3 with French nationality	
Proportion of men	51%	54%	52%	64%
Age				
Education Level**	Low, high level of illiteracy, 12% with tertiary level		High, 23% with tertiary level	
Majority Ethnicity	Fulah		Diakhanké	Fulah
Profile***	Mostly entrepreneurs	Agricultural activities		Commerce, transport

Sources: *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (n.d.) **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ***IOM (2020)

❖ Remittances

Remittances are defined as personal, cross-border or intra-country cash transfers made by migrants to individuals or communities with whom the migrant has connections (IOM, 2019). The Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea collects data on remittances. World Bank staff produces estimates of personal remittances based on IMF balance of payments data. Figure 4 shows the evolution of personal remittances received in Guinea in current USD and as a percentage of GDP between 1986 and 2021.

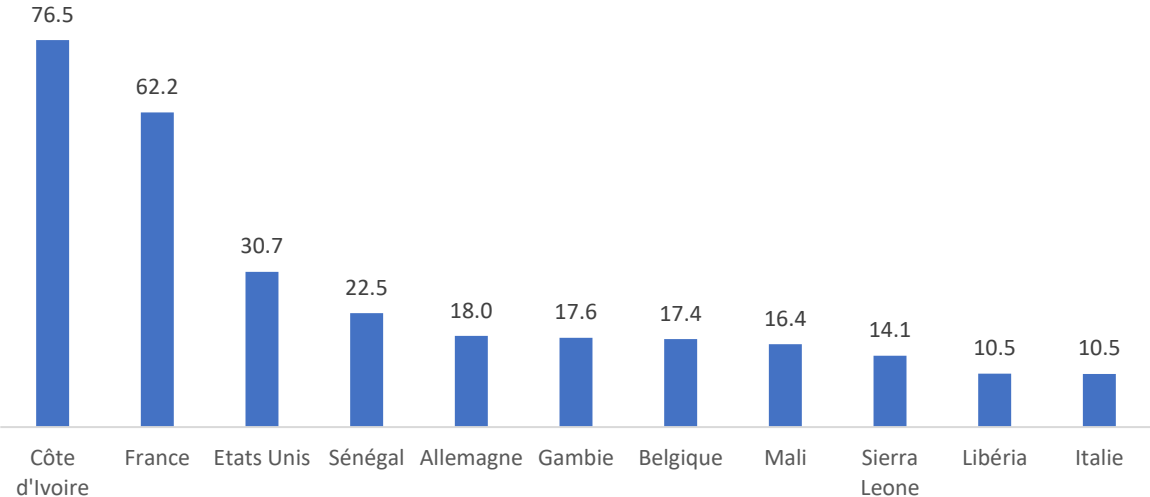
Graphic 4 Personal remittances received in Guinea (current USD and % of GDP), 1986-2021



Source: World Bank (n.d.)

Estimates of bilateral remittances are available for 2021. Based on the methodology developed by Ratha and Shaw (2007), bilateral remittances are disaggregated using host and origin country incomes and migrant stocks estimated from 2021 onwards. Figure 5 shows the main countries of remittances to Guinea. The first is Côte d'Ivoire with USD 76.5 million sent in 2021, followed by France (USD 62.2 million), the United States (USD 30.7 million). Senegal is the fourth largest remittance country with USD 22.5 million and Belgium is the seventh with USD 16.4 million.

Graphic 5 Top 10 source countries for remittances to Guinea in 2021



Source: KNOMAD Bilateral Remittance Matrix. See <https://www.knomad.org/data/remittances>.

There are several caveats regarding data on bilateral remittances. First, the bilateral matrix presented is an analytical estimate derived from an overall estimate of bilateral matrix flows. Estimation is simply that, an estimate based on methodology and logical assumptions. The caveats attached to this estimate are as follows: (a) Data on migrant stocks are taken from the Bilateral Migration Matrix, which is based on data from the United Nations Population Division and National Census. These are inherently rarely updated and may not adequately reflect sudden changes in the migrant stock; (b) The earnings of migrants abroad (Ratha and Shaw, 2007). There are several caveats regarding data on bilateral remittances. First, the bilateral matrix presented is an analytical estimate derived from an overall estimate of bilateral matrix flows. Estimation is simply that, an estimate based on methodology and logical assumptions. The caveats attached to this estimate are as follows: (a) Data on migrant stocks are taken from the Bilateral Migration Matrix, which is based on data from the United Nations Population Division and National Census. These are inherently rarely updated and may not adequately reflect sudden changes in the migrant stock; (b) The earnings of migrants abroad (Ratha and Shaw, 2007).

Remittances averaged 0.68% of GDP over the period 1986-2021, and 2.14% in 2021 (USD 341,610). The average in West and Central Africa was 4% in 2021. In comparison, the contribution of remittances to The Gambia's GDP was 26.8% in 2021. Information on the transaction costs of remittances to Guinea is not available.² In addition, information on the impact of migration and remittances on the labour market, entrepreneurship, or investment is not available.

In addition to sending remittances, the Guinean diaspora has been involved in socio-economic development through various diaspora organizations.

² See the World Bank's database on remittance prices <https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/>.

- ❖ Associations representing the Guinean diaspora in France, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium and Senegal

The associations representing the Guinean diaspora in France in the countries of interest are listed in a non-exhaustive manner in Table 3. The CAGF has nearly 50 member associations.

Table 3 Non-exhaustive list of associations representing the Guinean diaspora in France

#	Name
1	Association for the Development of Timbi Tounni in France (ADTTF)
2	Association des Jeunes Guinéens de France (AJGF)
3	Association FASSO DEME
4	Federation of Guinean Associations in Haut-de-France (FAG-HDF)
5	Association Massif du Tangué in France (AMTF)
6	Rio Nunez
7	Guinean students at the University of Paris-Est Créteil (EGUPEC)
8	United Women for the Development of Guinea and Africa (FUDGA)
9	Solidarity Guinea
10	ADSVCG
11	Association de Korbe
12	Pellel Bantan Diaspora in Europe (DPBE)
13	Sombouyanaise
14	Club Demain La Guinée (DLG)
15	Association du DARALABE – Entente Progrès et Solidarité (ADEPS)

The indicative list of associations representing Guineans in Belgium is available at the Council of Guineans in Belgium. The mapping presented in Table 4 relates only to those that participated in the vote of the Bureau of the Council in October 2022.

Table 4 Non-exhaustive list of associations representing the Guinean diaspora in Belgium

#	Name
1	Association of Women of Labé in Belgium
2	Association of Nationals of the Prefecture of Lelouma in Belgium
3	Diawaad Asbl
4	Abmes Asbl
5	Association for the Development of Gaoual (ADG)
6	Coordination Haali-Pular Asbl
7	Pottal Guibel Asbl
8	Guinean Community of Flanders
9	Fouta Fotti Dolé Hebhiké Asbl
10	Association of Tougué Nationals and Friends
11	Guinea Sport Plus
12	Together for the Renewal of Guinea
13	Development Cooperation in Dalaba
14	Association Wallidiral Bhe Wouro
15	Tidjaniya Association of Guineans in Belgium
16	Association of Nationals of Mali in Belgium
17	Dinguiraye Solidarity

18	Kindia Asbl
19	Association of Guinean Women in Belgium
20	Association of Nationals and Sympathizers of Mamou Asbl
21	Guinean Association for Culture and Tolerance Asbl
22	Association of Guineans and Sympathizers of Charleroi
23	The Friends of Pita and Sympathisants Asbl
24	Entraide NORD-SUD Asbl
25	Association for the Development of Timbi Touni Asbl
26	Habib Couture Asbl
27	ARTAB Asbl
28	FGFA Asbl
29	Diwal Labé Belgium Asbl
30	Moussidal Dara Labé and friends Asbl
31	Collective of Guineans against Repression Asbl
32	Union de la Jeunesse de Ninguelande, Debeya and Timbi Madina living in Belgium
33	Dodgol-Touma
35	School for Development Assistance in Guinea
36	Association of Nationals of Hamdallaye Asbl
37	Al Jannah family Belgique
38	Houwodhiral of the Guineans of Flanders
39	Union of Nationals of the Sub-Prefecture of Bantignel
40	Afrique Continentale Asbl
41	Miroir d'actions cercle d'intégration MACI Asbl
42	Association of Gongoré Nationals and Sympathizers
43	The Highlands of Fouta Asbl
44	Al Moushsinine Asbl
46	CCGAM
47	Wallindiral fii Bhundou Paraadji
48	Giri & Brothers sprl

Source: Council of Guineans in Belgium

The mapping of associations representing the Guinean diaspora in Senegal is underway. As for that of the Guinean diaspora in Côte d'Ivoire, no updated information could be compiled.

3.3 Evolution of the policy framework on the engagement of the Guinean diaspora

❖ An adapted international framework

Guinea is a member of several regional and international initiatives that contribute to the development of a diaspora engagement policy. These include:

- Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) which aims to encourage member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to discuss migration issues such as diaspora.
- Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development within the framework of the Rabat Process which brings together European and African countries, the European Commission and ECOWAS, with a view to organizing migration in relation to development areas.
- Dialogue between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union on Migration and Development.

- Africa-European Union Partnership, which provides a formal framework for dialogue, work and cooperation.

❖ Migration Governance

According to IOM (2021), diaspora governance in Guinea is a well-developed area and engagement with partners is an area with significant development potential. The government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, African Integration and Guineans Abroad (MAECIAGE) has made efforts to improve the governance of migration in the Republic of Guinea. Several initiatives and projects have recently been launched to facilitate the mobilization of the Guinean diaspora for the benefit of the country's socio-economic development.

The DGGE, under the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is the national institution in charge of designing, developing and implementing policy on the management and promotion of Guineans abroad, as well as its monitoring. The DGGE is responsible for the management of migration in Guinea in collaboration with the relevant organisations, institutions and departments. This is the case of the High Council of Guineans Abroad (HCGE), which is regularly consulted on all issues concerning the diaspora. Thus, it is the institutional structure of coordination, support and interface for the mobilization of the Guinean diaspora.

In collaboration with APIP -³ Guinea, which implements the government's policy on the promotion and development of domestic and foreign private investment, the DGGE regularly organizes open days and economic missions that aim to present investment and business creation opportunities in Guinea.

The evolution of governance related to the Guinean diaspora is presented in Table 5.

Table 5 Evolution of governance linked to the engagement of the Guinean diaspora

Year	Glimpse	Details
Since 2012	Talents Guinée Project	Led by the Ministry of Youth and Youth Employment, it aims to foster links between members of the diaspora and the entrepreneurship project in Guinea.
2016	Guinea's National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES I 2016-2019)	There are some references to the diaspora. In particular, it highlights the lack of a mechanism that could promote remittances to Guinea and argues that this is detrimental to the country's socio-economic development.
2017	Advice from Guineans abroad	Several Councils have been established in destination countries such as Belgium with the aim of strengthening transnational cooperation between Guinean authorities and diaspora groups.
2018	Investment Forum, Brussels, Belgium (14 June)	
2018	Diaspora Forum (19-20 December), Conakry, Guinea	Organized by MAECIAGE and APIP - Guinea, it aims to promote investment by Guineans abroad and increase their contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.
2018	High Council of Guineans Abroad (HCGA)	Created by MAECIAGE, it represents the Guinean diaspora as a whole, bringing together the councils of Guineans abroad and serving as a bridge between the diaspora and government officials

³ See <https://apip.gov.gn/A-propos>.

2018-2022	Programme INTEGRA	It supports the socio-economic integration of young people targeting returnees and members of the Guinean diaspora.
2018	Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA)	Developed by the African Union, it contains a pillar on diaspora engagement.
2020	National Migration Policy (December)	Led by DFAIT with the collaboration of other ministries, it defines five strategic priorities, including migration and development. It includes a strategy for diaspora engagement.
2020	Guinean Migration Observatory	Launch of the process of creating the Observatory which will assist in the development of specific policies and actions.
2021	PNDES II	Launch of the consultative process for the elaboration of PNDES II.
2023	Open Days in North America organized by PIPA Guinea (October 2023)	
2023	Open days in France organized by PIPA Guinea (19 and 20 December 2023)	

Notes: MAECIAGE = Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, African Integration and Guineans Abroad. APIP - Guinea = Agency for the Promotion of Private Investments in Guinea.

❖ Towards a Diaspora Engagement Strategy

The government recognizes the central role of diaspora engagement in defining and implementing development policy. Diaspora engagement policies aim to create jobs and improve the employment rate, especially for young people, but also to discourage irregular migration (Mazzilli et al., 2022).

Currently, an engagement strategy for the Guinean diaspora and returnees is being developed as part of the national migration policy. Four main axes will shape the strategy (Mazzilli et al., 2022):

- Communicate and strengthen collaboration between associations and structures of the Guinean diaspora and the government.
- Facilitate the establishment of a legislative and regulatory framework for the civic and civic involvement of the Guinean diaspora and returnees.
- Facilitate the transfer of financial resources from the diaspora.
- Enhance the skills of the diaspora through the transfer of knowledge and skills, in particular to strengthen key sectors such as the health system and through capacity building of the DGGE.

Mazzilli et al. (2022) found that some diaspora delegations were actively involved in drafting a memorandum on diaspora engagement policies – part of the diaspora engagement strategy.

According to Mazzilli et al. (2022), other activities planned by the government include:

- Launch of a new module in the Census to take stock of Guineans abroad and in turn, to understand how the diaspora could increase its contribution to Guinea's socio-economic development
- Launch of a website identifying opportunities in Guinea
- Establishment of a low-cost transfer mechanism for diaspora remittances via the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea and within the framework of the new national monetary policy

❖ Challenges and obstacles

There are a range of challenges or barriers that can hinder the implementation of initiatives related to diaspora engagement:

- General lack of data on the profile of the Guinean diaspora (GMDAC, 2022)
- Policy incoherence and lack of capacity and coordination among government actors
- Political instability
- Divergence of interests between diaspora groups and the government (Harley, 2020)
- Limited human, institutional and operational capacities of the DGGE to respond to the needs and expectations of the diaspora (Enabel, 2022)
- Low level of contact and connection with the diaspora (Enabel, 2022)
- Lack of incentives or support (Enabel, 2022)

3.4 Business Initiatives and Investments in Guinea

The contribution of the Guinean diaspora to socio-economic development in Guinea is recent and is not monitored at the national level. Information on initiatives is scarce and not widely available online.

4. Presentation and analysis of the results of the online survey

4.1 Belonging to the diaspora

Of the 70 respondents, 92% of them (57 respondents) consider themselves to be a member of the African diaspora in reference to a person of African descent living outside their country of origin, regardless of their citizenship and nationality, and who wishes to contribute to the development of the continent and the construction of the African Union (Figure 6). In addition, 96% of respondents (51 people) are of Guinean origin. Respondents who are not of Guinean origin specified mixed origins, such as Guinean mothers and European fathers (Chart 6).

Graphic 6 Proportions of respondents belonging to the African diaspora (left) and the Guinean diaspora (right)



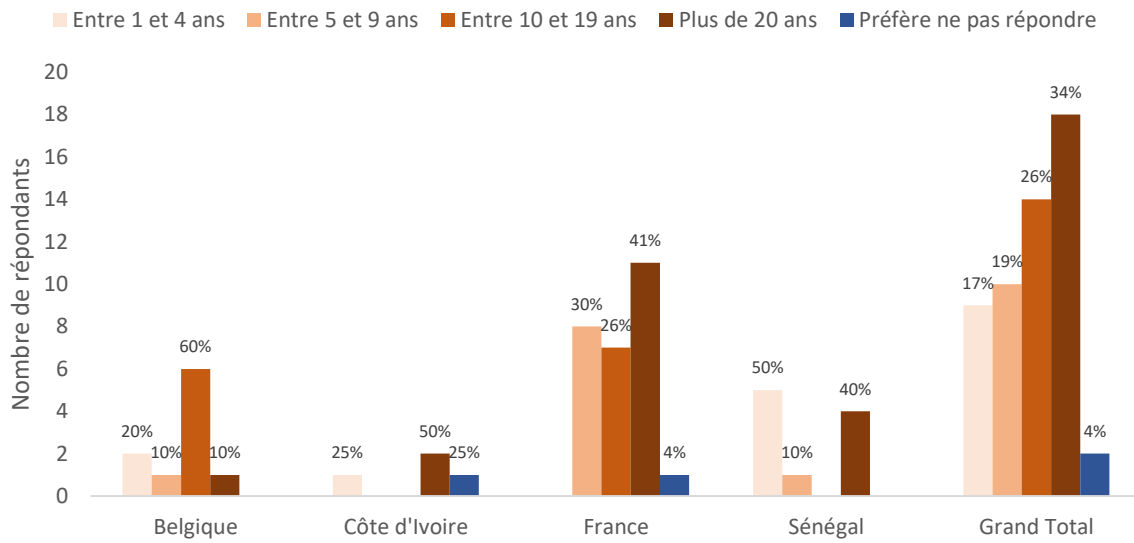
The distribution of respondents by country of residence is shown in Figure 7. A majority (51%, 27 people) reside in France, followed by Belgium (19%, 10 people) and Senegal (19%, 10 people), and Côte d'Ivoire (8%, 4 people). This distribution is not representative of the distribution of members of the Guinean diaspora in the four countries, since the largest diaspora is in Côte d'Ivoire. Two respondents mentioned another country of residence, namely Northern Cyprus and Portugal.

Graphic 7 Distribution of respondents by country (53 respondents)



The distribution of respondents by number of years spent in the country of residence is shown in Chart 8. In total, 50% of respondents have spent at least 10 years in the country of residence. There are notable variations by country. Thus, 10% of respondents in Belgium have spent more than 20 years in the country, while they are 41% and 40% for respondents in France and Senegal, respectively. Similarly, 50% of respondents in Guinea have spent at least 20 years in the country. These statistics confirm the fact that the Guinean diasporas in Côte d'Ivoire, France and Senegal are older than those in Belgium.

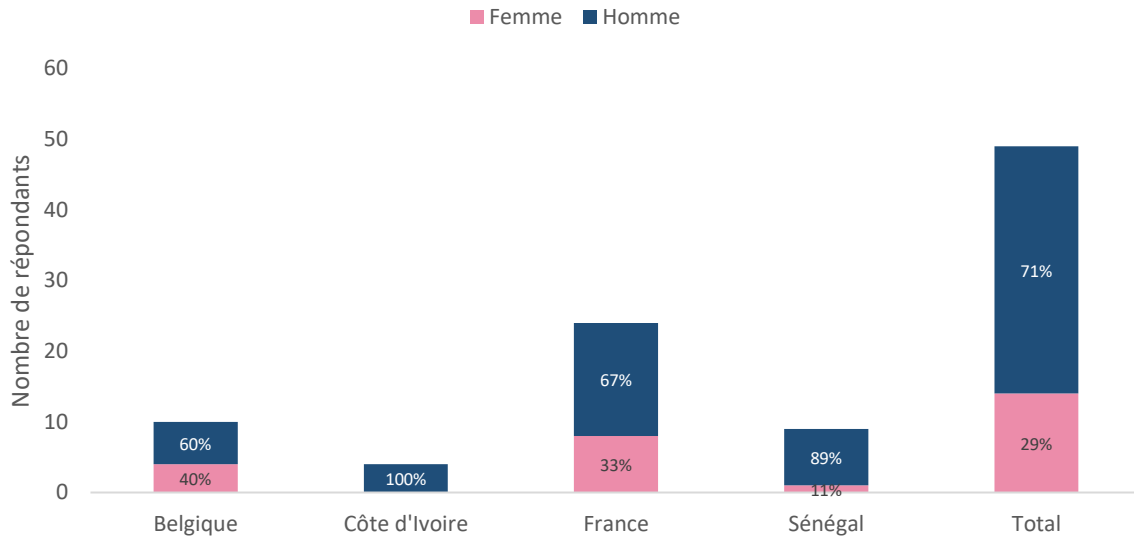
Graphic 8 Number of years spent in country of residence, by country of residence (53 respondents)



4.2 Demographic and socio-economic profile

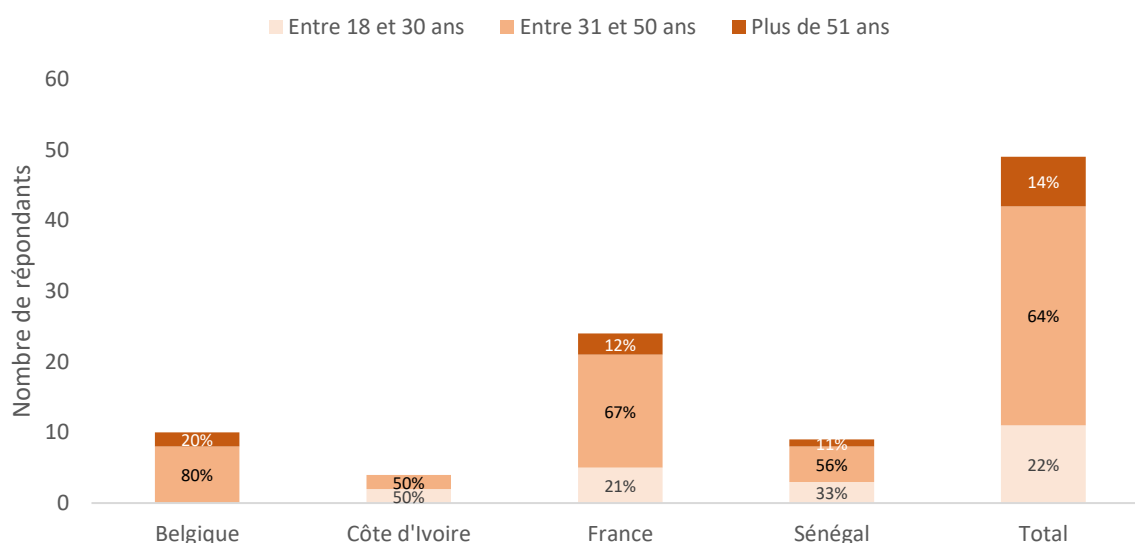
As shown in Figure 9, the majority of respondents are men (71%). All respondents from Côte d'Ivoire are men. The rate is also higher than the total average among respondents in Senegal (89%). Men represent 67% and 60% of respondents from France and Belgium, respectively.

Graphic 9 Distribution of respondents by gender and country of residence (49 respondents)



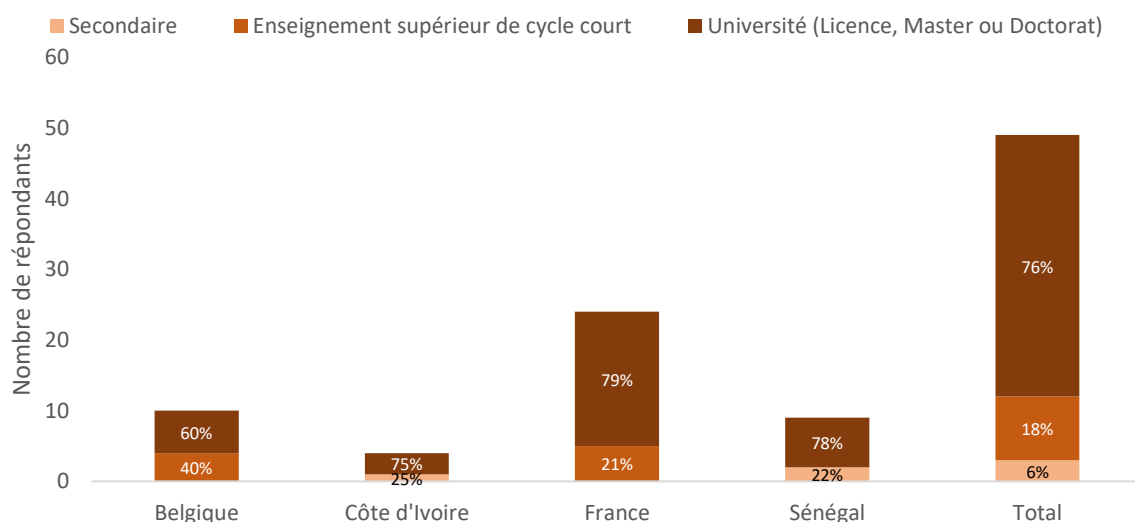
The distribution of respondents by age group is shown in Figure 10. The majority (63%) of respondents are between the ages of 31 and 50. The 18-30 age group represents 22% of the total, while the over-51s represent 14%. By country of residence, it should be noted that 100% of respondents in Belgium are over 31 years old. Half of the respondents in Côte d'Ivoire are between 18 and 30 years old. This proportion rises to 33% and 21% respectively for respondents from Senegal and France.

Graphic 10 Distribution of respondents by age group and country of residence (49 respondents)



The highest level of education attained disaggregated by country of residence is given in Figure 11. None of the respondents mentioned a lower level of education than a short-cycle tertiary education. The majority (76%) of respondents reported having a university level (Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD). 18% reported having a short-cycle tertiary level and 6% a secondary level. The responses given by respondents from Belgium indicate that the average level is lower than that of respondents from other countries. Thus, 60% of respondents in Belgium indicated having a university level compared to 79%, 78%, and 75% of those in France, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire, respectively.

Graphic 11 Distribution of respondents by highest level of education attained and country of residence (49 respondents)



The distribution of respondents by nationality is shown in Figure 12. Of the 49 respondents, 88% (43 people) have Guinean nationality. In addition, 59% (29 people) have dual citizenship. 41% (20 people) have French nationality. Of these, only three have French nationality. The other 17 are Franco-Guinean. 12% of respondents have Belgian nationality. Of the 10 people based in Belgium, 6 have Belgian nationality. All of them have dual nationality. Of the respondents in Senegal (10 people), 3 have

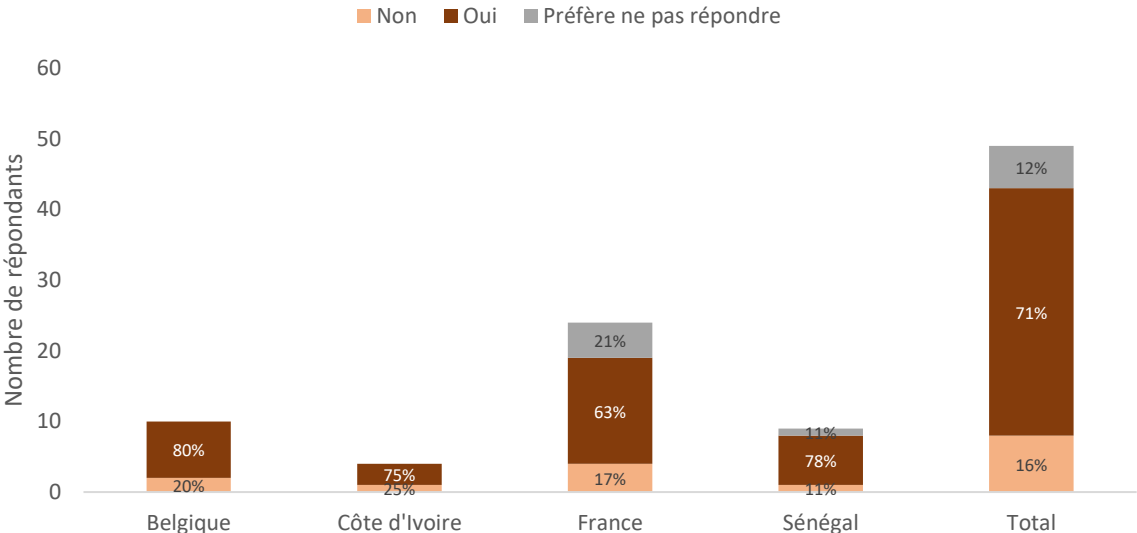
Senegalese nationality. Finally, 4 respondents from Côte d'Ivoire have Ivorian nationality and 75% of them have dual nationality. The other nationalities represented in the sample are Dutch nationality.

Graphic 12 Nationality of respondents (49 respondents)



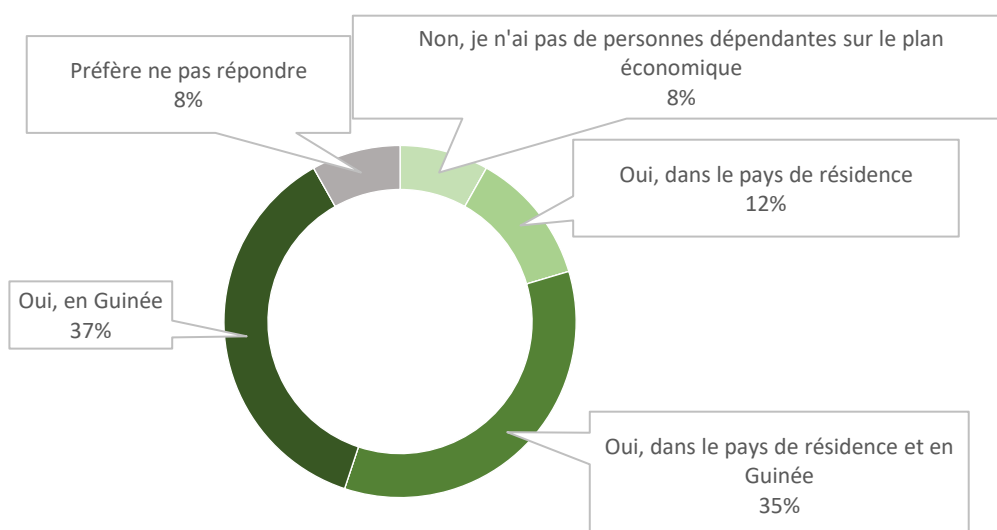
To the question "Are you the head of the family?", 12% wished not to answer with a rate of 21% among respondents in France (Figure 13). In the majority of cases (71%), respondents specified that they were the head of the household. This is without much variation between countries of residence.

Graphic 13 Head of household respondent, by country of residence (49 respondents)



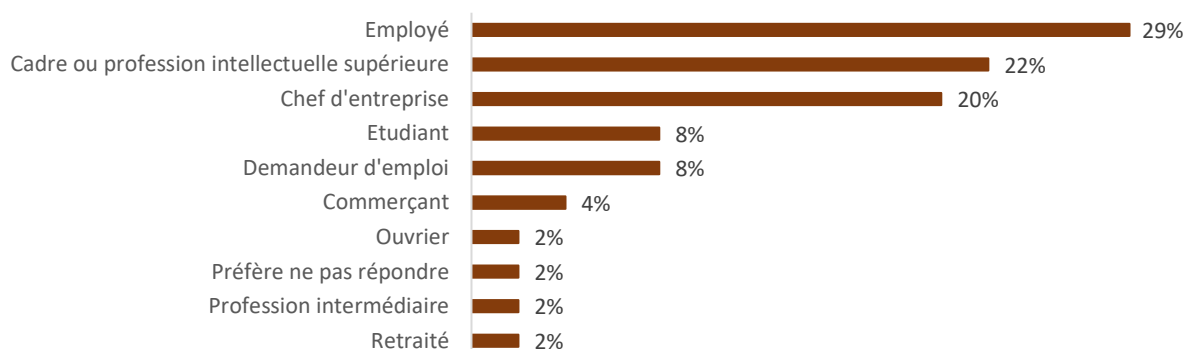
When asked about the existence of dependent persons by country of residence, 84% of respondents indicated that they had at least one, 8% indicated that they did not have one and 8% preferred not to answer (Figure 14).

Graphic 14 Presence of dependents in respondents' household (49 respondents)



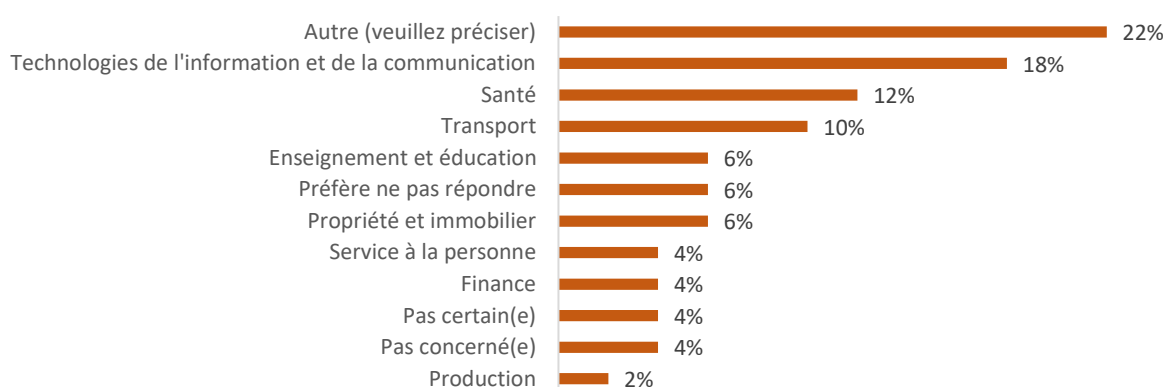
The most represented socio-professional category in the sample is that of female employee (29%), followed by manager or higher intellectual profession (22%) and entrepreneur (20%) (Figure 15). These three categories alone account for 71% of respondents.

Graphic 15 Socio-professional category of respondents (49 respondents)



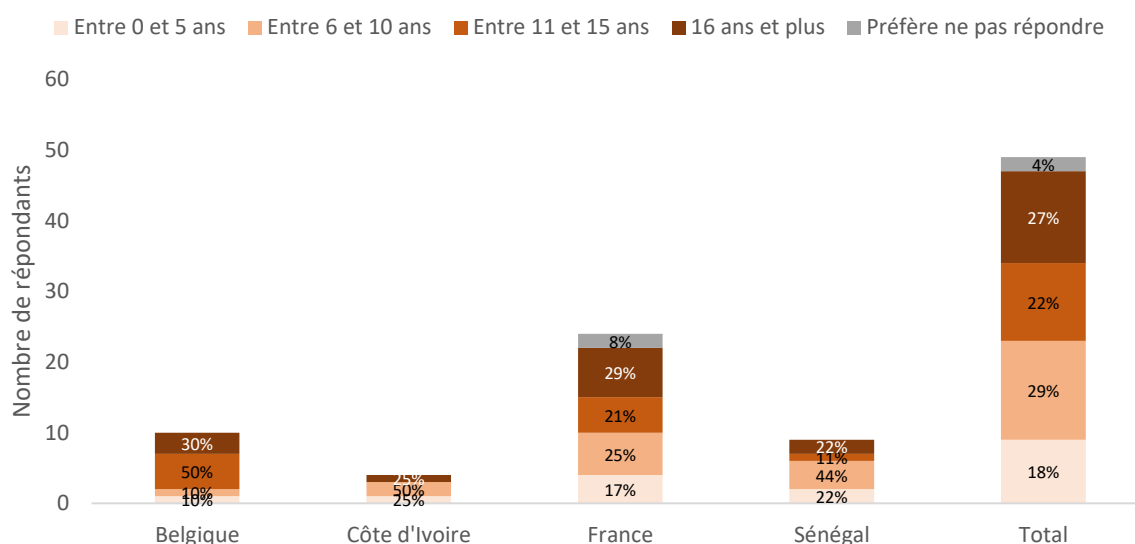
The respondents' sectors of professional activity are listed in Figure 16. Most (22%) cited a sector not mentioned in the questionnaire, such as the tourism sector. 18% of respondents work in the information and communication technology sector. The other most represented sectors are health (12% of respondents) and transport (10%).

Graphic 16 Sector of professional activity (49 respondents)



Finally, the last question on employment status concerns the number of years of professional experience of respondents (Chart 17). A total of 49% of respondents have at least 11 years of work experience, 47% have 10 years or less of work experience, and 4% preferred not to answer. The differences between countries of residence are notable. Thus, the proportion of the most experienced is in Belgium (80% with at least 11 years of experience) while only 33% of respondents in Senegal have such experience.

Graphic 17 Work experience, in year (49 respondents)

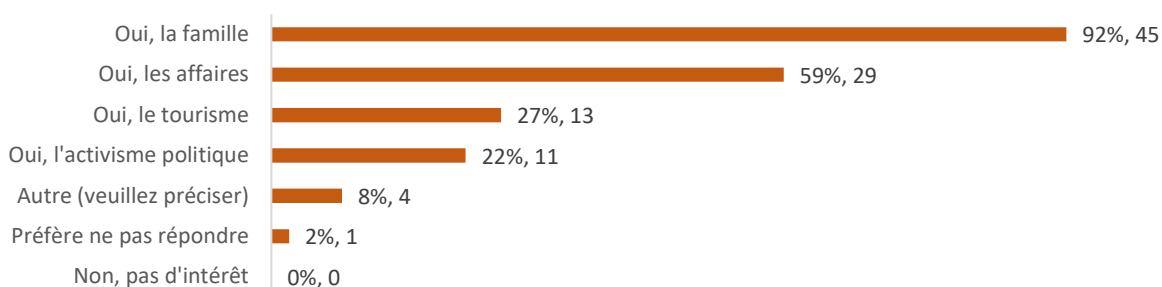


4.3 Relations with Guinea

❖ Special interest and connection with Guinea

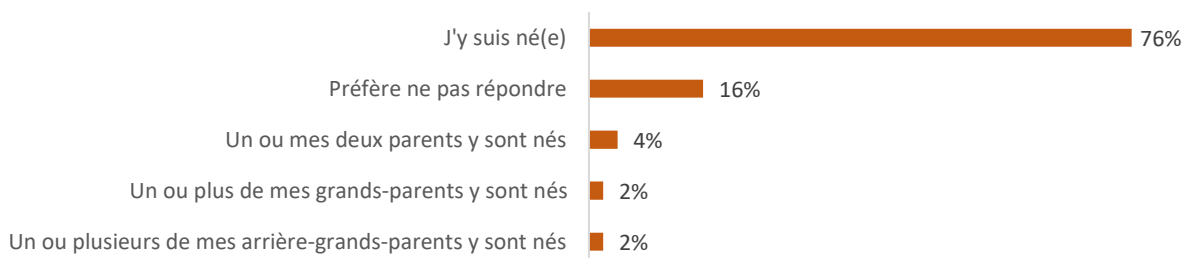
Among special interests with Guinea, family is the most popular response (92%), followed by business (59%) (Figure 18). The interests mentioned by about a quarter of respondents are tourism (27%) and political activism (22%).

Graphic 18 Existence of special interests with Guinea (49 respondents) (multi-selection)



A majority (76%) of respondents were actually born in Guinea (Figure 19). Most are based in France (51%). A significant proportion preferred not to answer the question (16%). These statistics indicate that the sample consists mainly of first-generation Guineans.

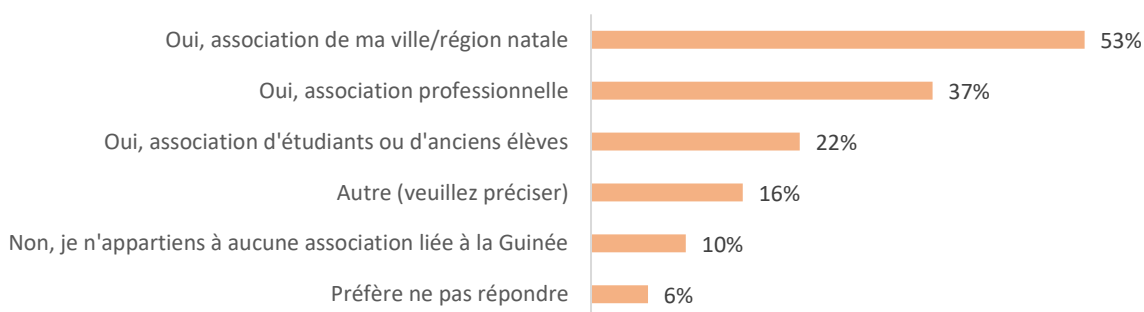
Graphic 19 Connection with Guinea (49 respondents)



Most respondents belong to at least one association linked to Guinea (Chart 20). Only 10% said they did not belong to any association and 6% preferred not to answer. The most frequent associations are those linked to the city or region of origin (53%), followed by professional associations (37%) and, to a lesser extent, student or alumni associations. 16% of respondents mentioned other associations. This included, but was not limited to:

- Association of Guinean Nationals in Côte d'Ivoire
- High Council of Guineans Abroad
- International Association for Capacity Building Health, Research, Training, Entrepreneurship and Diaspora Participation in Guinea's Development

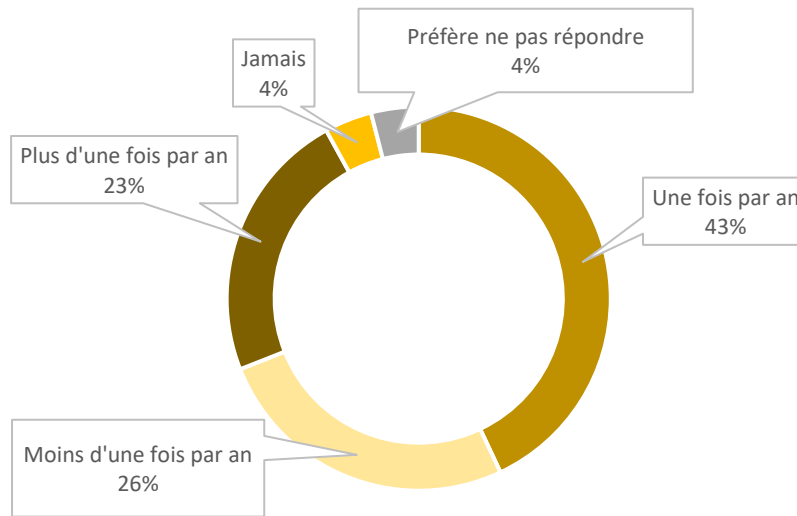
Graphic 20 Membership of an association linked to Guinea (49 respondents)



❖ Visit to Guinea and intentions to return

The frequency of visits to Guinea most frequently cited by respondents is once a year (43%) (Figure 21). A quarter reported visiting Guinea less than once a year (26%) and more than once a year (23%).

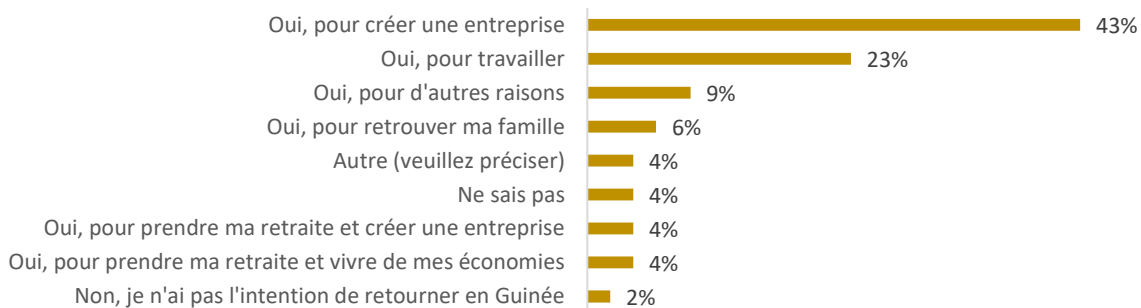
Graphic 21 Frequency of visits to Guinea (49 respondents)



On average, visits to Guinea last less than a month for half of respondents (51%) and last between 1 and 3 months for a third (34%).

To the question "Do you intend to return to Guinea in the long term?", a majority (90%) answered yes (Figure 22). The reasons are varied. 43% intend to return to Guinea to start a business, 23% to work, 9% for other reasons and 6% to reunite with family.

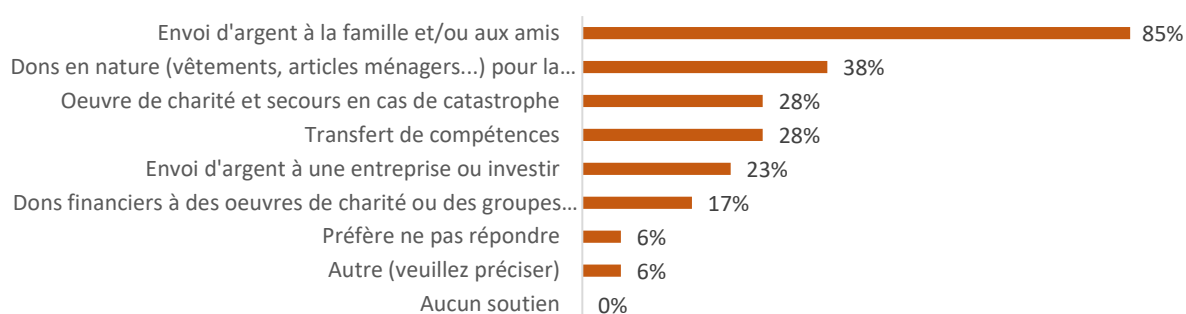
Graphic 22 Intentions to return permanently to Guinea (49 respondents)



❖ Support for Guinea

All respondents reported having supported Guinea in some way (Chart 23). Only 6% preferred not to answer. Sending remittances to family and/or friends is the most common response (85%). Other forms of support include in-kind donations (clothing, household items) for family and/or friends (38%), charities and disaster relief (28%), skills transfers (28%) and sending money to a company or invest (23%).

Graphic 23 Support to Guinea (49 respondents) (multi-selection)



4.4 Invest in Guinea

❖ Activity and sector

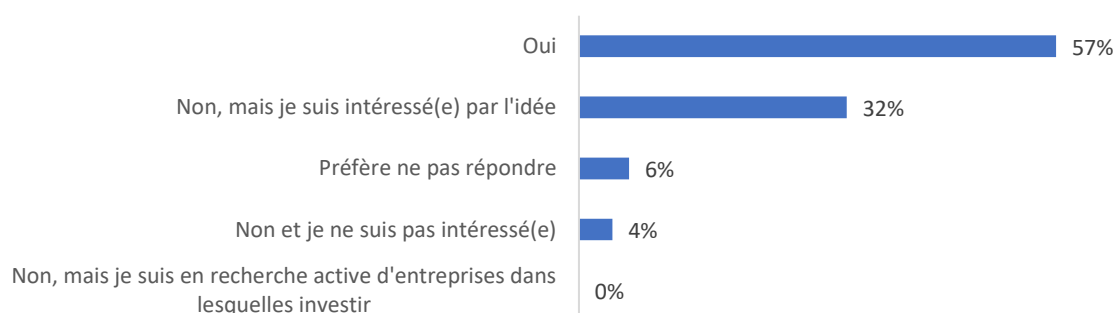
Most respondents have a business idea to start in Guinea (45%) (Figure 24). Nearly 17% have already made an initial investment and 13% have started a business in Guinea. Only 6% of respondents do not plan to start their own business in Guinea.

Graphic 24 Entrepreneurial activity in Guinea (47 respondents)



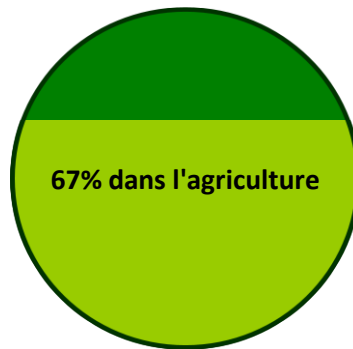
More than half (57%) of respondents have already invested to finance a business or family project in Guinea (Figure 25). A third (32%) indicated they were interested in the idea and two people (4%) were not interested. None of the respondents were actively looking for companies to invest in at the time of the questionnaire.

Graphic 25 Investment to finance a business or family project in Guinea (47 respondents)



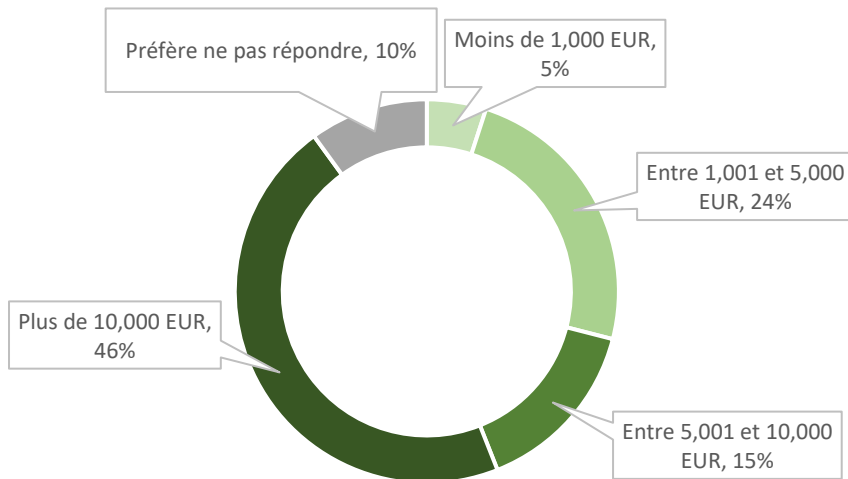
Among the potential sectors for investment, agriculture is among the most frequently cited by respondents (68%) (Figure 26). Far behind are health (11%) and ICT (11%). Other sectors mentioned by 15% of respondents

Graphic 26 Preferred investment industry: agriculture (41 respondents)



Of those interested in investing in Guinea (41 respondents), 46% indicated a potential investment amount of more than EUR 10,000 (Figure 27). A quarter (24%) indicated an amount between EUR 1,001 and EUR 5,000 and around 15% mentioned an amount between EUR 5,001 and EUR 10,000.

Graphic 27 Potential amount of investment in Guinea (41 respondents)



❖ Barriers to investment

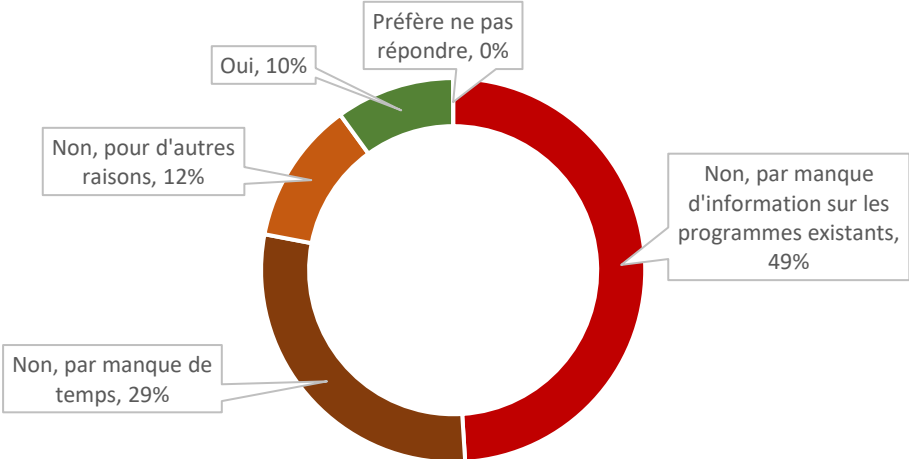
Only one respondent responded to the question on potential barriers to investment in Guinea. This person replied, "Don't know." Among the barriers identified and listed in the question were:

- Insufficient funds
- Invested in another country
- Poor infrastructure in Guinea (energy, telecommunications, etc.)
- Excessive formalities and requirements
- Cost of investment in Guinea
- Lack of government support
- Lack of information on investment procedures
- No Trustworthy Partner in Guinea
- Lack or absence of trust in Guinean institutions

❖ Skills and skills transfer

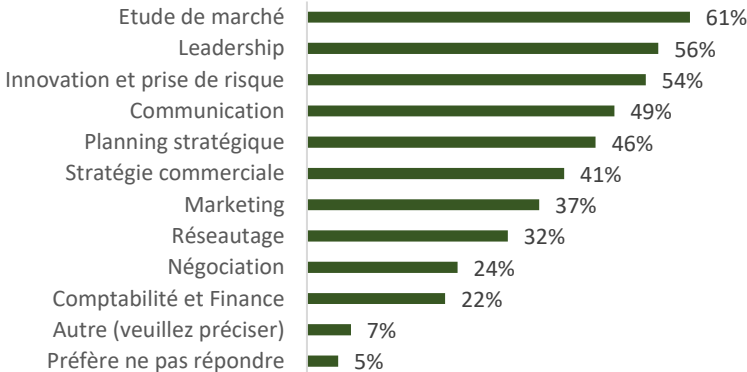
Of the 41 respondents, 10% mentioned having participated in a skills-sharing program with entrepreneurs in Guinea in the past (Figure 28). Those who had never participated in such a program cited reasons related to lack of information about existing programs (49%), lack of time (29%), and other unidentified reasons (12%).

Graphic 28 Participation in skill-sharing programs with entrepreneurs in Guinea (41 respondents)



According to respondents, the most important entrepreneurial skills to be developed among SME entrepreneurs in Guinea are market research (61%), leadership (56%) and innovation and risk-taking (54%) (Figure 29). Also frequently cited are skills related to communication (49%), strategic planning (46%), business strategy (41%) and marketing (37%).

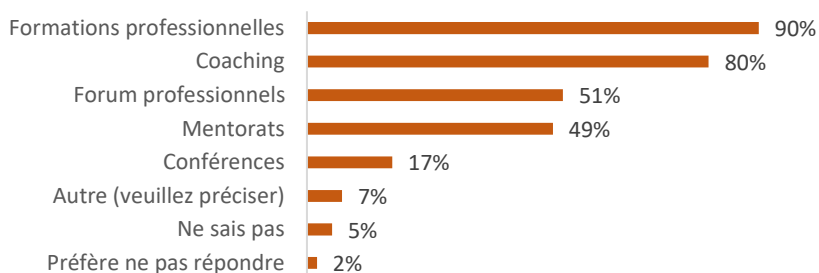
Graphic 29 Priority entrepreneurial skills among SME entrepreneurs in Guinea (41 respondents) (multi-selection)



According to Figure 30, to transfer and/or strengthen the skills of SME entrepreneurs in Guinea, the majority of respondents mentioned vocational training (90%) and coaching (80%). Mentoring is cited in 49% of cases.

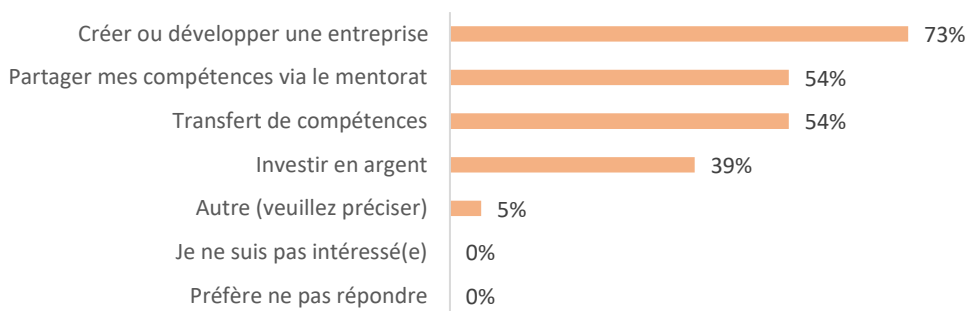
Among the entrepreneurial and interpersonal skills that respondents can transfer, the top-5 are leadership, market research, communication, strategy, and marketing.

Graphic 30 Most appropriate forms to develop and/or strengthen the skills of entrepreneurs in Guinea (41 respondents) (multi-selection)



When respondents are asked about the preferred form of contribution to Guinea's socio-economic development, 73% cite the creation or development of a business, 54% cite the sharing of skills through mentoring and 54% cite the transfer of skills (Figure 31). More than a third (39%) mentioned investing in money.

Graphic 31 Preferred form of engagement for Guinea's socio-economic development (41 responses) (multi-selection)

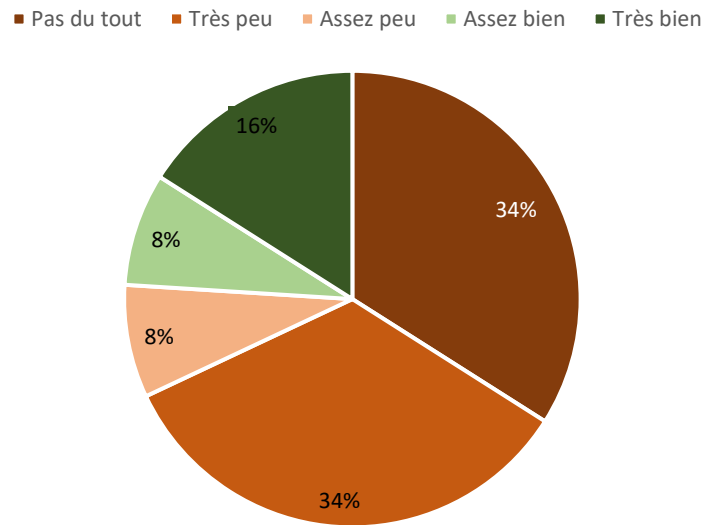


4.5 Fostering diaspora engagement in Guinea

❖ Knowledge of government initiatives in Guinea

When asked to what extent respondents are aware of government initiatives in Guinea to encourage the engagement of the Guinean diaspora in Guinea, the majority (76%) show a lack of awareness (Figure 32).

Graphic 32 Knowledge of government initiatives for the engagement of the Guinean diaspora (49 respondents)

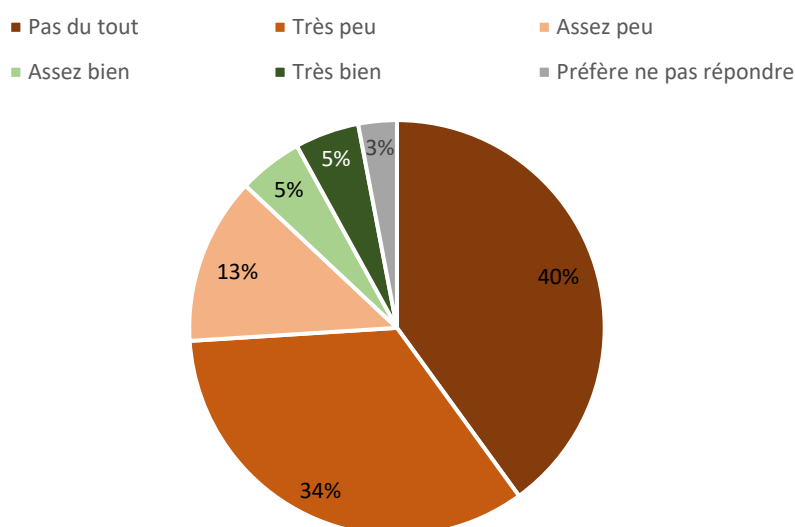


79% reported not knowing about any government initiatives. Eight respondents suggested government initiatives they were aware of:

- The ability of both private and public operators to promote the combination of appropriate financial tools and structured projects is one of the main levers for capturing the savings of the diaspora
- Security
- Recruitment of experts from the diaspora for capacity building in training in universities
- APIP - Guinea
- The establishment of Councils of Guineans Abroad
- Mobilizing the Diaspora in the Context of the Political Transition
- The proposal of Guinean skills in Senegal who wish to return to work in Guinea will be integrated into the civil service

Knowledge of government agencies in Guinea aimed at supporting Guinean diaspora engagement is not more extensive among respondents (Figure 33). 87% of them do not have certain knowledge. 82% reported not knowing any government agencies. Among the examples cited by respondents with knowledge of the agencies are APIP - Guinea, DGGE, and AGUIPE.

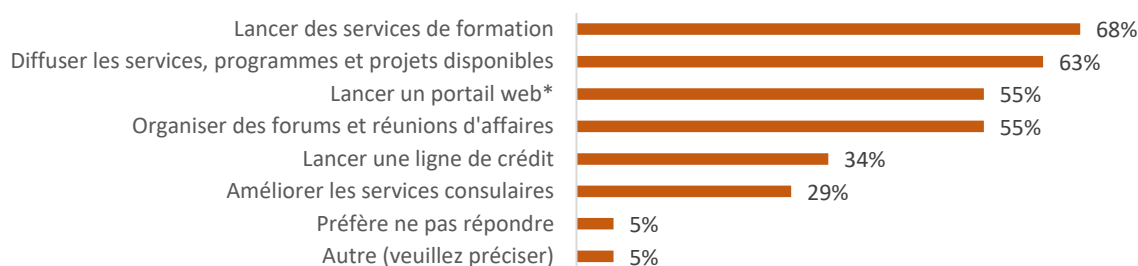
Graphic 33 Knowledge of government agencies (49 respondents)



❖ Incentive needs

Among the measures that could encourage respondents to invest their time, skills, or money in Guinea are the launch of training services (68%), the dissemination of available services, programs, and projects (63%), the launch of a centralized web portal publishing business and investment opportunities (55%), and the organization of business forums and meetings (55%) (Figure 34). The launch of a line of credit is mentioned by 34% of respondents and the improvement of consular services by 29% of them.

Graphic 34 Incentive needs to invest in Guinea (49 respondents) (multi-selection)

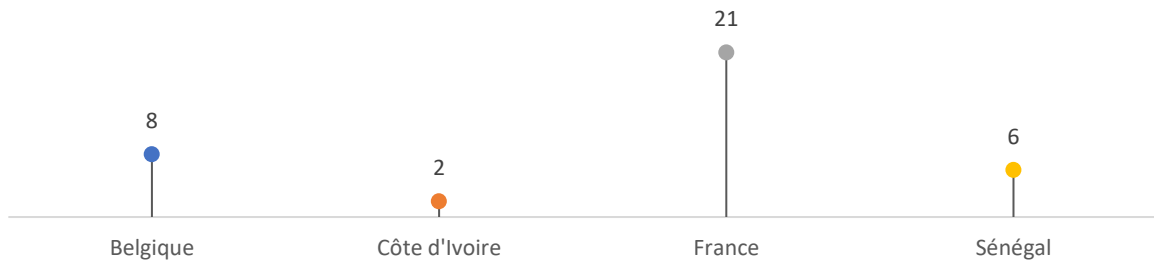


Note: *Launch a centralized web portal publishing investment and business opportunities.

4.6 Contact details

A total of 37 respondents shared their contact information and expressed an interest in the mentorship initiative. The distribution of potential participants is shown in Figure 35. In addition, 10 out of 37 are women.

Graphic 35 Distribution of Potential Mentoring Participants by Country of Residence (37 respondents)



5. Key Lessons Learned from the Online Questionnaire on Respondents' Needs and Expectations

5.1 Invest in Guinea

In relation to investment in Guinea, the analysis of respondents' responses indicated:

- An intention to return to Guinea in the long term to set up a business

A number of respondents (43%) indicated that they intended to return to Guinea in the future to start or develop a business. In addition, 4% expressed the intention to retire and start a business in Guinea.

- Investing in the creation or development of a business, the first form of respondents' commitment

Among the forms of commitment of respondents to Guinea's socio-economic development, investment for the creation or development of a business is the most cited by respondents (73%). Investing in money only appears in fourth place (39%) after skill sharing and mentoring.

- Investing in micro-projects

Of those interested in investing in Guinea, almost half (45%) intend to invest a maximum of EUR 10,000 corresponding to micro-projects. Another half (46%) say they are willing to invest amounts in excess of EUR 10,000.

- Barriers to investment

Respondents did not wish to share their views on barriers to investment. In order to better understand the reasons, individual interviews or focus groups with members of the diaspora could be arranged.

5.2 Skills transfer

Analysis of respondents' responses to skills transfers indicated:

- A need to formalize skills transfer initiatives

More than a quarter (28%) of respondents have already participated in skills transfers, but probably informally and not institutionally. There is a need for formal and institutionalized initiatives.

- A need for information on mentoring and skills transfer programs

Almost half (49%) of respondents who have never participated in mentoring or skills transfer programs explain this by a lack of information about existing initiatives.

- A need to develop and strengthen specific skills

A majority of respondents identified skills related to market research, leadership, innovation and risk-taking, as well as communication and strategic planning as priorities.

- A need for vocational training

Among the different forms of skills transfer, the most cited are vocational training (90% of respondents) and coaching (80%). Less frequently were professional forums (51%) and mentoring (49%).

- Sharing skills, a preferred form of respondent engagement

Among the forms of engagement of respondents to Guinea's socio-economic development is the transfer of skills, cited by 54% of them, and mentoring, also cited by 54% of them.

5.3 Governance on Migration and the Engagement of the Guinean Diaspora

In terms of governance on migration and the engagement of the Guinean diaspora for Guinea's socio-economic development, the questionnaire revealed:

- A need for information on the government's actions

The results showed a significant lack of awareness by respondents of government initiatives in Guinea to encourage the engagement of the Guinean diaspora in Guinea. 79% reported not knowing about any government initiatives.

Similarly, respondents' knowledge of government agencies aimed at supporting Guinean diaspora engagement is very limited. 82% reported not knowing any government agencies. The agencies known to a minority of respondents are APIP - Guinea and DGGE.

- A need for training in the diaspora

To invest money, time, and/or skills in Guinea, a majority of respondents prioritized launching training services. 79% cited it to the question "What initiatives could encourage you to invest your time, skills or money in Guinea?"

6. Key Lessons Learned from Key Informant Interviews

6.1 Rapid Evolution of Governance on Migration and Guinean Diaspora Engagement

Governance on migration and the engagement of the Guinean diaspora has evolved significantly in the last six months (since August 2022). For example, one informant indicated the need to reinvigorate the existing system.

❖ Council of Guineans Abroad

One informant noted that the Councils of Guineans Abroad were not working as hoped, and that they were not working as hoped. The government has begun to update the offices of the Councils in many countries. For example, the Bureau of the Council of Guineans in France was elected in September 2022 and the Bureau in Senegal and Belgium were elected in October 2022. Registered associations vote on the principle of one association = one vote.

One of the responsibilities of each board is to develop action plans with a strong operationality. At the time of the investigation, only the Council of Guineans in Belgium had submitted the multi-year plan to the Guinean embassy in Belgium. Among the short-term actions, the council specified a need for training for board members and Guineans in Belgium. These training needs include project management and seeking project funding. As for the Council of Guineans in France, the key informant mentioned some fundamental actions such as the census through associations and their networks on the ground of Guineans in France.

❖ Coordination between the Councils of Guineans Abroad and the associative fabric

Several key informants from the associative fabric indicated that they collaborate with the Councils of Guineans Abroad in the country of interest. However, relationships are not formalized. There are no partnerships or shared roadmaps. A key informant in France explained that the willingness to take steps to formalize these relations was evident among the CAGF and the Council of Guineans of France.

❖ Ongoing partnership with APIP - Guinea

According to an informant, the development of a partnership between DGGE and APIP - Guinea is underway. The information shared by the key informant confirmed the analysis developed on APIP – Guinea in a recent World Bank report (2021) which indicates that the agency does not have the capacity to monitor and track the volume of investments. Other factors identified are related to heavy bureaucracy and the lack of clear guidelines in important areas such as tax payment and land registration that have discouraged foreign investors from investing in Guinea.

❖ Guinean Migration Observatory

The Guinean Migration Observatory (OGM) led by the DGGE was launched in February 2022 by decree. Based in Conakry, OGM has several missions:

- Collecting, analysing, centralizing, and disseminating data on irregular and regular migration
- Research and design a migration data collection tool
- Set up an online dashboard
- Set up a data centralization system
- Follow up on opinion polls, studies, and surveys related to migration
- Guiding government actions

- Organize information, awareness-raising and communication campaigns related to migration, particularly irregular migration
- Promote cooperation with technical and financial partners
- Develop national and international partnerships

As of 1 March 2023, 23 focal points were deployed on the national territory. The priority in 2023 is to seek funding to continue the deployment of focal points in the territory in the first phase and in embassies and consulates in a second phase. Until then, this data had been sparse, according to a key informant.

❖ Scientific Unit Observation of Migration (USOM)

At the General Lansana Conté University of Sonfonia, the research laboratory called the Research Laboratory of Society, Democracy and Sustainable Development (LARSODED) has recently launched a Scientific Unit for the Observation of Migration (USOM). This launch was born out of an observation: solid data on both irregular and regular migration are lacking in the country and come mainly from external actors such as IOM. As one key informant noted, one of the objectives of this unit is to produce and collate scientifically sound migration data. This effort is accompanied by two components: data on skilled Guinean migration and data on irregular and less skilled migration. The data collected is made available to public authorities and researchers.

The launch of the GMO was technically supported by a delegation from a group of scientists from the university. In 2022/2023, OGM commissioned the research laboratory to map the actors in Guinea directly or indirectly concerned by the issue of migration and thus likely to contribute to the development of the sustainable commitment of the Guinean diaspora to the socio-economic development of Guinea.

6.2 Data on the diaspora, its profile, expectations, and initiatives

All key informants mentioned challenges and opportunities related to the collection or analysis of data related to the diaspora, its demographic and socio-economic profile, initiatives, needs and expectations.

❖ Diaspora Profile Information

In the four countries of interest, key informants confirmed the lack of up-to-date and quality data on the number of Guineans, their demographic and socio-economic profile. Progress in information collection differs from country to country. Thus, in France, a key informant announced the upcoming launch of the census of Guineans in France with the support of associations.

❖ Mapping of associations representing the Guinean diaspora

The associative fabric representing the Guinean diaspora is well known in France thanks to the CAGF and in Belgium. Up-to-date maps are available. On the contrary, one key informant explained that this mapping was underway in Senegal. No information has been collected on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

❖ Diaspora Initiatives for the Socio-Economic Development of Guinea

Several key informants said that diaspora initiatives in countries of interest, such as starting businesses in Guinea, were not listed. Also, a key informant added the fact that the projects coordinated by APIP - Guinea had not been listed. A new governance between the DGGE and APIP - Guinea seems to be emerging.

6.3 Views on the SME ecosystem in Guinea

Key informants expressed their views on the SME ecosystem in Guinea, barriers to entrepreneurship and micro-projects, and investment opportunities in Guinea.

According to an informant, the SME ecosystem in Guinea is made up of many SMEs but whose activities remain poorly supervised and in the informal sector. The setting is dynamic and makes many companies created.

The barriers to entrepreneurship identified by most informants are, in descending order:

- Access to financing and high borrowing rates
- The lengthy process has resulted in a mainly informal ecosystem
- Lack of training for members of the diaspora and entrepreneurs in Guinea
- Political instability in the country

In 2021, the General Lansana Conté University of Sonfonia launched a Master's degree in Migration Cooperation and Local Development. The two-year Master's degree consists of a first year of courses and a second year of support for the creation of micro-projects funded by IOM. The launch of the Master's degree was based on an observation: many young Guinean graduates embark on the route of irregular migration and return. The Master's degree is thus intended to train Guineans returning from migration in entrepreneurship.

According to a key informant, the first cohort of 25 students led to the launch of 5 IOM-funded micro-projects:

- Catering: A chain of five restaurants has been launched employing a dozen people.
- Leather goods: Three leather goods workshops have opened employing 15 people.
- Agriculture: Two agricultural farms in different localities have been established (20,000 laying hens) employing 40 people
- Beauty: Hair salons opened employing eight girls

A total of 57 people are employed, including 27 returnees and 30 potential irregular migrants.

The Master is currently experiencing funding problems and the team has not been able to repeat the experience with a second cohort. In addition, the lack of IT resources does not allow these initiatives to be put online.

One informant explained that the number of projects initiated by members of the diaspora was numerous but not recorded. According to him, these micro-projects are mainly oriented towards humanitarian, health and education. For example, the Association of Guinean Nationals in Belgium has contributed to the small-scale financing of the renovation of schools and clinics and the purchase of school supplies. Another informant explained that the support of the State in accompanying the diaspora to development was fundamental.

Potential sectors for diaspora investment include:

- Pastry and bakery
- Agriculture
- Real Estate
- Web 3.0 (blockchain in particular)

6.4 Investments by the Guinean diaspora

The information shared by the key informant representing APIP – Guinea confirmed the absence for the moment of an action plan to define a strategy to be applied to promote investment by the Guinean diaspora. Until now, ad hoc activities to promote Guinea to private investors and to disseminate information on investment procedures in Guinea have been organized, sometimes in collaboration with the DGGE and/or in partnership with diplomatic missions and Councils of Guineans Abroad. Open days were held in Canada, France and Belgium.

The key informant confirmed the fact that there is no specific investment legislation in relation to the Guinean diaspora. The rights, benefits and obligations are the same for every investor. As certain sectors are regulated, such as fishing and the media, non-Guinean foreign investors need to find Guinean partners.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

The survey was launched by the African Development Foundation (AFFORD) in partnership with Grdr and CAGF. Its main objective was to collect information on the Guinean diaspora in Belgium, France, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, its demographic and socio-economic characteristics, needs and expectations to contribute to the socio-economic development of Guinea.

The analysis of the data collected through a questionnaire administered to members of the diaspora in the four countries of interest and interviews with key informants led to the formulation of a series of recommendations organized around themes.

7.1 Recommendations for the Promotion of Investment in Socio-Economic Development by the Diaspora

In order to transform the intentions into investments of diaspora members into action, a climate of trust and dialogue must be established through the development of skills, the evaluation of the initiatives taken, and the listening to the needs and expectations of the diaspora.

Recommendation	Country	Deadline	Responsible
Develop and improve skills at the collective level with reference to the members of the Councils of Guineans Abroad and representatives of associations) but also at the individual level in terms of investment research and project management.	All	Medium term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grr
Continue to organize open houses, meetings and forums on investment and business opportunities targeting the diaspora.	All	Short-term	APIP, DGGE, Guinean government, associations
Assess the effectiveness of government initiatives to promote diaspora investment.	All	Long-term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grdr
Support diaspora investment in agriculture and other economic sectors that align with APIP's priority investment sectors (mining, infrastructure, tourism).	All	Medium term	Guinean Government, Enabel, AFFORD, Grdr

7.2 Recommendations on migration governance in relation to the engagement of the Guinean diaspora

Governance refers to the set of legal norms, policies, institutions and processes that determine and regulate how states approach migration and in this case diaspora engagement. The relationships between the various actors must be formalized with defined specifications.

Recommendation	Country	Deadline	Responsible
Complement the Guinean Diaspora Engagement Policy and integrate it with other national policies and plans to ensure coherence of policies and practices.	Guinea	Medium term	DGGE, Guinean Government,

			Enabel, AFFORD, Grdr
Strengthen the network of Councils of Guineans Abroad and other platforms representing the diaspora by taking the example of the delegation of 14 Councils of Guineans in Europe.	Senegal, Ivory Coast	Medium term	DGGE
Encourage the establishment of and strengthen mechanisms for reporting and exchanging data on the diaspora between the DGGE and the Councils of Guineans Abroad and consular offices.	All	Medium term	DGGE
Promote the development of the skills of the diaspora, including the members of the Councils of Guineans Abroad, particularly in setting up projects and seeking funding.	All	Medium term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grdr
Build institutionalized relations between the Councils of Guineans Abroad/DGGE and associations that are underway in certain countries of interest such as France (between the CAGF and the Council of Guineans in France).	All	Medium term	DGGE, Councils of Guineans Abroad, associations
The institutionalization of relations between the Councils of Guineans Abroad and associations makes it possible to develop a permanent dialogue with members and organizations of the diaspora by establishing, for example, thematic round tables at regular intervals to exchange on good practices in governance.	All	Medium term	DGGE, Councils of Guineans Abroad, associations
Finalize the formalization of the collaboration between the DGGE and APIP – Guinea.	Guinea	Short-term	DGGE and APIP - Guinea

7.3 Recommendations for the collection and analysis of diaspora data

It is fundamental to know the diaspora. This knowledge is a prerequisite for the development of any engagement policy. Thus, the collection and analysis of data on development characteristics, contributions, needs and expectations need to be strengthened. This data will then be used to develop a successful engagement policy. It involves collecting and analysing both quantitative and qualitative data.

Recommendation	Country	Deadline	Responsible
Strengthen the technical and financial data collection capacities of public authorities at the national level, in particular the Guinean Observatory of Migration, but also at the level of the Councils of Guineans Abroad and diaspora associations in the field through investments in training	All	Medium term	Enabel, other development agencies, support from Grdr, AFFORD

Compile the initiatives taken by members of the diaspora in favour of the socio-economic development of Guinea and in particular the transfer of skills and entrepreneurship: information is available, but neither accessible, nor recorded, nor analysed in a form useful for policy-making work.	All	Short-term	Associations, Council of Guineans
Continue to collect qualitative and quantitative data through questionnaires, interviews, and regular focus groups.	All	Medium term	Government of Guinea with the support of international organizations
Mapping associations representing the Guinean diaspora	Senegal	Short-term	Council of Guineans with the support of development agencies
Conduct a census of the Guinean diaspora in the countries of interest to obtain detailed information on their demographic and socio-economic profile, needs and expectations.	All	Medium term	Associations with the Council of Guineans Abroad
Develop the technical and financial capacities of public authorities to integrate sources of information (quantitative and qualitative on the diaspora and its needs and expectations).	All	Long-term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grdr
Launch a survey on the state of knowledge on the Guinean diaspora in Côte d'Ivoire with fieldwork.	Côte d'Ivoire	Short-term	Enabel, other development agencies, AFFORD, Grdr
Produce and promote case studies and success stories of diaspora investors in Guinea	All	Medium term	Enabel, other development agencies, APIP, AFFORD, Grdr

7.4 Recommendations on the communication strategy

A whole series of initiatives need to be taken to promote the dissemination of up-to-date information on the procedures for making investments and launching business in Guinea, and on investment and business opportunities in the country. Communicating virtually, face-to-face, or hybrid will allow for the flow of information and effective dialogue.

Recommendation	Country	Deadline	Responsible
Develop general and sectoral guides for doing business in Guinea including information on investment and business opportunities, laws and regulations, responsible agencies, obligations and benefits as well as procedures.	Guinea	Medium term	Government of Guinea, support for development agencies

Develop and launch an online platform or a section on a website such as APIP-Guinea or DGGE targeting the diaspora and communicating up-to-date information on sectoral investment opportunities, with their respective obligations and procedures to be undertaken.	Guinea	Long-term	Government of Guinea & APIP - Guinea
Regularly update the information on the APIP – Guinea portal for technical and informative support on investment and business projects in Guinea	Guinea	Short-term	Government of Guinea
Initiate a simplification of procedures and obligations to facilitate administrative steps for diaspora investment.	Guinea	Long-term	Government of Guinea
Continue to use social networking sites such as LinkedIn, WhatsApp, and Facebook for communication, marketing, and awareness-raising, even for public authorities. These platforms are cost-effective, low-cost tools for reaching out to members of the diaspora across borders.	All & Guinea	Short-term	Guinean Government, Associations, Development Agencies

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Annexes

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

The survey is being launched by the African Development Foundation (AFFORD). It aims to collect information on the Guinean diaspora, its demographic and socio-economic characteristics, needs and expectations to contribute to Guinea's development. Your participation in the survey counts. It will take you 9 minutes of your time to complete it.

Please note that your participation in the survey is completely voluntary and you can end it at any time. If there are questions you don't want to answer, you can choose the I don't want to answer option. The information you share is kept anonymous and your participation in the study is and will remain anonymous.

If you have any concerns or would like more details about the survey, please contact Principal Investigator Helene Syed Zwick at helene.zwick@orange.fr

Screening Questions

Are you a member of the African diaspora?
Yes/No - Not Qualified

Are you of Guinean origin?
Yes/No-If no, please specify

What country do you currently live in?
Belgium/Côte d'Ivoire/France/Senegal/Other -not qualified

In what year did you arrive in your country of residence to live (and not to visit for a vacation)?
2015-2022/2010-2014/2000-2009/1990-1999/1980-1989/before 1980

Section 1: Demographics and Socio-Economic Profile

Q1.1 - Gender
Male/Female/Other/Prefer not to say

Q1.2-Age range
Less than 18/18-24/25-34/35-44/45-54/55-64/65+
Less than 18/18-30/50-51 or older/Prefer not to say

Q1.3 - Highest level of education
Diploma/Diploma/Bachelor's/Master's/Doctorate/Other/I prefer not to say
None/Basic (1-9 years old) / Intermediate (10-12 years) / University (13 years or older) / Prefer not to say

Q1. 4-Nationality (more than one option possible)
Guinean/French/Belgian/Senegalese/Ivorian/Other: please specify

Q1.5-Are you the head of the household?
Yes/No

Q1.6- How many economic dependents do you have in your current country of residence?
0/1/2/3/4/5+

Q1.7-How many economically dependent people do you have in Guinea?
0/1/2/3/4/5+

Q1. 8-What is the sector of activity?

Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries/Production/Construction/ICT/Finance/Property & Real Estate/Education & Training/Health/Business Administration & Support Services/Retail/Transport/Not Secure

Q1. 9-What is your employment status?

Self-employed/Full-time employee/Part-time employee/Unemployed/Full-time student/Retired/Other: please specify

Q1. 10-How many years of work experience do you have?

0-5 years/6-10 years/11-15 years/16 years or older

Q1.11-Have you ever worked in Guinea?

Yes/No

Section 2: Relations with Guinea

Q2.1-Do you have a special interest in Guinea? Please elaborate.

Business/Family/Tourism/Political Activism/Other

Q2.2-How are you connected with Guinea?

I was born there/One, or both of my parents were born there/One or more of my grandparents were born there/One or more of my great-grandparents were born there

Q2.3-Do you belong to associations related to Guinea? Please specify

Professional Association/Student/Alumni Group/Other

Q2.4-How often do you travel to Guinea?

Never/Less than once a year/Once a year/More than once a year

Q2.5-How long do you stay on average?

Less than a month/Between 1 and 3 months/Between 3 and 6 months/Other

Q2.6-Do you intend to return to Guinea? If so, what is the main reason?

No/Yes, starting a business/Yes, retiring and living off your savings/Yes, retiring and starting a business/Yes, getting together with family/Yes, working/Yes, for other reasons

Q2.7-How have you supported Guinea over the past year?

Sending money to family/friends/In-kind donations (clothing, household items) for family, charity, or disaster relief/Financial donations to charities or religious groups/None/Other: please specify

Section 3: Doing Business and Investing in Guinea

Q3.1-Do you currently have a business/project in Guinea, or have you had one in the past?

Yes/No

If not, are you planning to start your own business in Guinea?

Yes/No

If so, where are you in your project?

I have the idea/I've started a market study/I've applied for financing/I've made an initial investment and/or started the business

Q3.2-Have you ever invested money to finance a business or family project in Guinea?

Yes/No

If so, what did you invest money in?

Agriculture & Agribusiness/Trade/Business Support/Travel & Tourism/Education & Training/Housing & Real Estate/Health/Construction/Water & Waste Management/Solidarity Activities/Other: please specify

If not, are you...

Interested in the idea / Active looking for companies to invest in / Not interested at all

Q3.3-If not (no investment, no entrepreneurship), what are the reasons?

Insufficient Funds/Invested in Another Country/Poor Infrastructure (Energy, Telecommunications, etc.) / Excessive Formalities and Requirements / Investment Costs in Guinea / Lack of Government Support / Lack of Information on Investment Procedures / No Trusted Partner in Guinea / Little or No Trust in Guinean Institutions / Other: Please Specify

Q3.4-If you had money to invest in Guinea, which of the following sectors would you be interested in?

Agriculture & Agribusiness/Trade/Business Support/Travel & Tourism/Education & Training/Housing & Real Estate/Health/Construction/Water & Waste Management/Solidarity Activities/Other: please specify

Section 4: Engagement in Guinea

Q4.1-How do you prefer to contribute to the socio-economic development of Guinea?

To start or grow a business/To share my skills through mentoring/To donate my personal time and volunteer/Other: please specify

Q4.2-Are you currently aware of the incentives to encourage diaspora investment in Guinea?

Yes/No

Q4.3-Do you know of any key government agencies aimed at supporting diaspora investments in Guinea?

Yes/No

If so, please provide some examples.

T4. 4-What initiatives could potentially make you invest in Guinea?

Line of Credit/Providing Training Services/Disseminating Available Services, Programs and Projects/Improving Consular Services/Centralized Web Portal Announcing Business and Investment Opportunities/Organizing Business Meetings and Forums/Other: Please specify

Section 5: Contact Information

We may want to follow up with you to participate in focus groups that will allow us to develop your responses. If you are interested, please provide your contact details.

Not Interested/Email Address/Phone Number

Appendix 2: Interview Guidelines

Q1-What is your position in the organization?

Q2-What is the size and composition of the organization's membership? Is there data and information available on the number of diaspora members, location in the country, demographics, skills and financial capabilities)?

Index: people born in Guinea/first generation of migrants/second generation of migrants, man/woman, entrepreneurs...

Q3-In your opinion, what are the sectors of potential interest for the diaspora for their projects and/or investments?

Tip: Agriculture & Agribusiness/Trade/Entrepreneur Support/Travel & Tourism/Education & Training/Housing & Real Estate/Health/Construction/Water & Waste Management/Solidarity Activities/Other: Please specify

Q4-In your opinion, what are the geographical investment preferences of Guineans in diaspora?

Index: Maritime Guinea, Middle Guinea, Upper Guinea, Woodland Guinea, any region

Q5-In your opinion, what is the preferred level of intervention?

Index: country level, region, city, town, any area

Q6-Has your organization already implemented or is in the process of implementing a project (business project or support for entrepreneurs) in Guinea?

Q7-If you have already implemented or are in the process of implementing a project in Guinea, could you tell us about it? What type of financing (self-financing)? What type of project (theme, solving a specific problem)? Have you had access to technical partners in Guinea (to coordinate locally and mobilize technical skills)?

Q8-In your opinion, what are the main obstacles to investment in Guinea?

Index: Lack of incentives, difficult access to financing, bureaucracy, lack of information on projects, difficult access to bank financing

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