

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT ON SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Introduction

Ethiopia is implementing transformative changes in key sectors such as higher education, health, and agriculture. The transformation process is not free of critical gaps, in skills, knowledge, technology transfer, and institutional capacity. These challenges to sustainable development process can not be mitigated only by government. Addressing these gaps therefore, requires strong collaboration between local institutions and Ethiopians living abroad, as well as friends of Ethiopia who are willing to contribute their expertise.

The Ethiopian Diaspora community possesses valuable professional experience, technical skills, research capacity, and global exposure that can help to succeed in the transformative agenda of the country. No other external actors would replace the role the Ethiopian diaspora in strengthening the national development efforts. Through structured and coordinated engagement, diaspora professionals are expected to contribute in knowledge transfer and skills sharing, either virtually or in person.

In view of this, the Ethiopian Diaspora Service has identified specific sector-based skill and knowledge gaps that require support. These gaps can be addressed through professional services, financial support (in cash), and material or technical assistance (in kind). The priority areas are categorized as follows:

1. **Higher Education Sector**
2. **Health Sector**
3. **Agriculture Sector**

The initiative aims to create a coordinated platform that connects willing professionals with institutions in need. The effort to garner diaspora contribution aims to yield impactful and sustainable, outcomes aligned with national development priorities.

Lists of activities and initiatives on which the Ethiopian Diaspora in the BENELUX can contribute their expertise and resources are provided below.

1. Higher Education,

- ✚ Support for Universities to connect with and/or become member of Globally renowned University associations and consortiums,
- ✚ Cooperation for Technician development workshops, laboratories and libraries,
- ✚ Participate in Teaching and training in referral hospitals,
- ✚ Help with identification of international funding opportunities,
- ✚ Facilitate opportunities for competitive funding(national and international),
- ✚ Supporting journals to achieve international indexation,
- ✚ Designing impactful Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- ✚ Encourage alumni led community initiatives,
- ✚ Creating pathways for patents, licensing, and commercialization of researches,
- ✚ Supporting the establishment and growth of University incubators and accelerators,
- ✚ Fostering student and faculty mobility, exchange and entrepreneurship,
- ✚ Facilitating startup creation and spin - off companies from researches,
- ✚ Facilitate formation of Diaspora Expert Councils,
- ✚ Negotiating and managing international research partnerships agreements.

2. HEALTH

- ✚ Help in the expansion of domestic production, essential items such as blood collection tubes, urine cups, and sample containers,
- ✚ Supporting local production of medical equipment ,
- ✚ Investing and co-investing in pharmaceutical production and medical supplies
- ✚ Establishing private or public private partnership hospitals, clinics , and diagnostic centres,
- ✚ Set up dialysis centres, cancer treatment units, and rehabilitation centres,

- ✦ Facilitate access to technologies, and innovations that improve production efficiency and quality,
- ✦ Assist by Supervising MSC, PhD, and residency research,
- ✦ Help to introduce clinical trials and operational research
- ✦ Organize medical missions to different regions Ethiopia,
- ✦ Link Ethiopian hospitals with Foreign universities and hospitals,
- ✦ Facilitate planned donations of equipment by avoiding random ,uncoordinated donations.

3. AGRICULTURE

- ✦ Support establishment of crops data base in line with home grown knowledge,
- ✦ Assist enhancing Plant Health Rules, Quarantines, and Biosecurity Systems,
- ✦ Support programmes for digital system, mappings and GIS information in the Agricultural sector,
- ✦ Organizing and disseminating agricultural research data through digital means,
- ✦ Support modern practices that enhance animal husbandry and productivity,
- ✦ Explore foreign markets for domestic agricultural products,
- ✦ Provide weather information and agricultural advises to users on the ground,
- ✦ Support the solar-powered water pumps, drip irrigation systems, and climate-resilient water harvesting technologies,
- ✦ Familiarize modern irrigation techniques and water management methods.