

MOBILIZING THE MENA DIASPORA FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Results of a large scale survey of diaspora and
focus group consultations



WORLD BANK GROUP

Trade & Competitiveness

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BBL at the World Bank

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Mobilizing the Middle East and North Africa Diaspora for Economic Integration and Entrepreneurship

Outline

1. Context
2. Main results
3. Recommendations



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CONTEXT

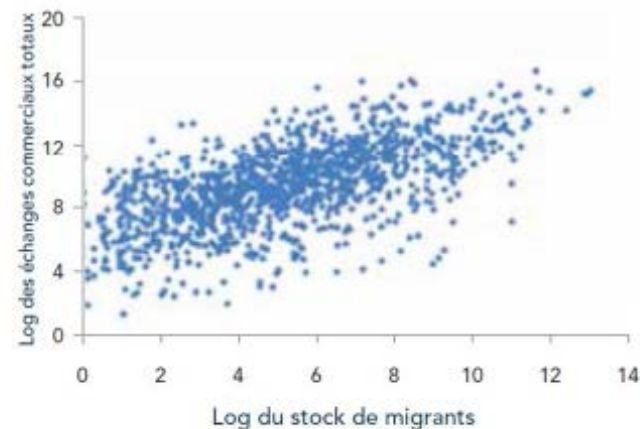
Context

1. MENA region is among the least integrated in the world
2. Low private investment and high unemployment
3. Governments in transition with challenging reform agenda
4. Nascent democracies with more space for civil society and non-government players
5. Interest for diaspora bonds

Empirical studies and anecdotal evidence

1. Studies shows that bilateral investment and trade are more important when there is an active diaspora
2. Diaspora funds development projects such as hospitals, roads...
3. Knowledge circulates when people move

Figure 1C : Les migrations et le commerce vont de pair

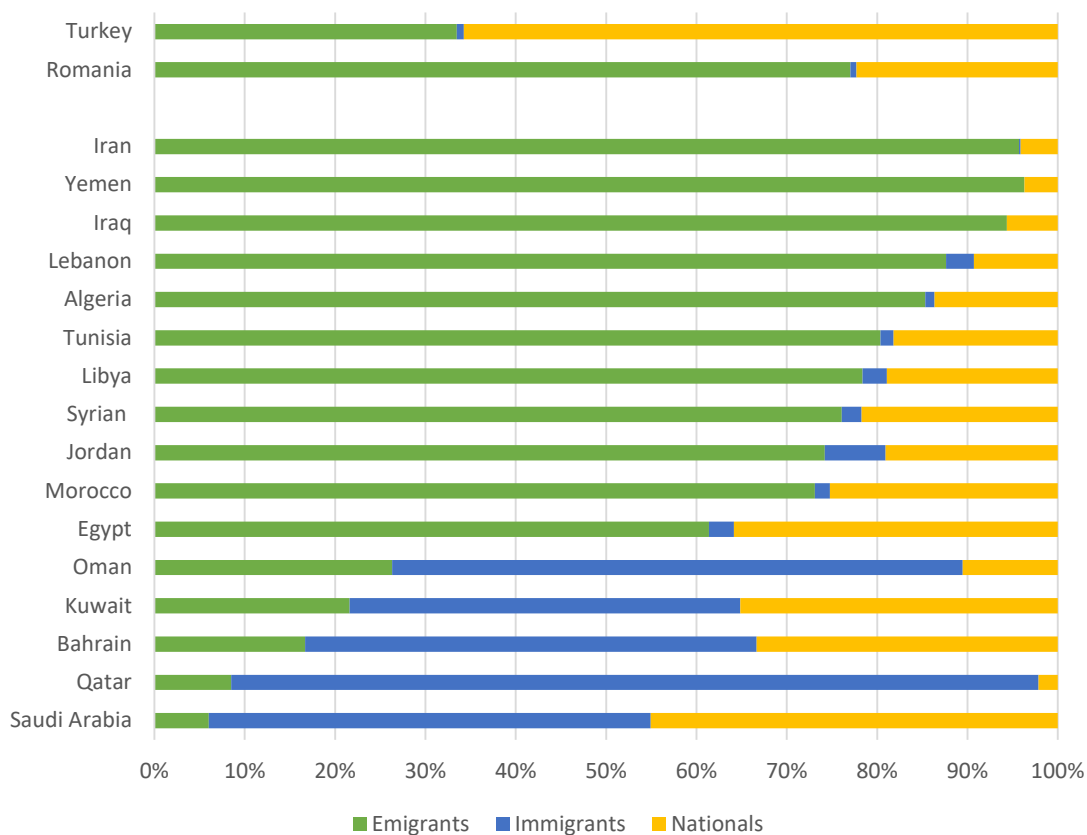


Commerce bilatéral (2007) et migration de populations (2010) entre l'OCDE et l'Afrique. Chaque point représente un couloir de migration (Kenya-Royaume-Uni, Maroc-France, etc.)

Source : Ratha et al (2011), et Hirschman et al (2009)

Diaspora innovates

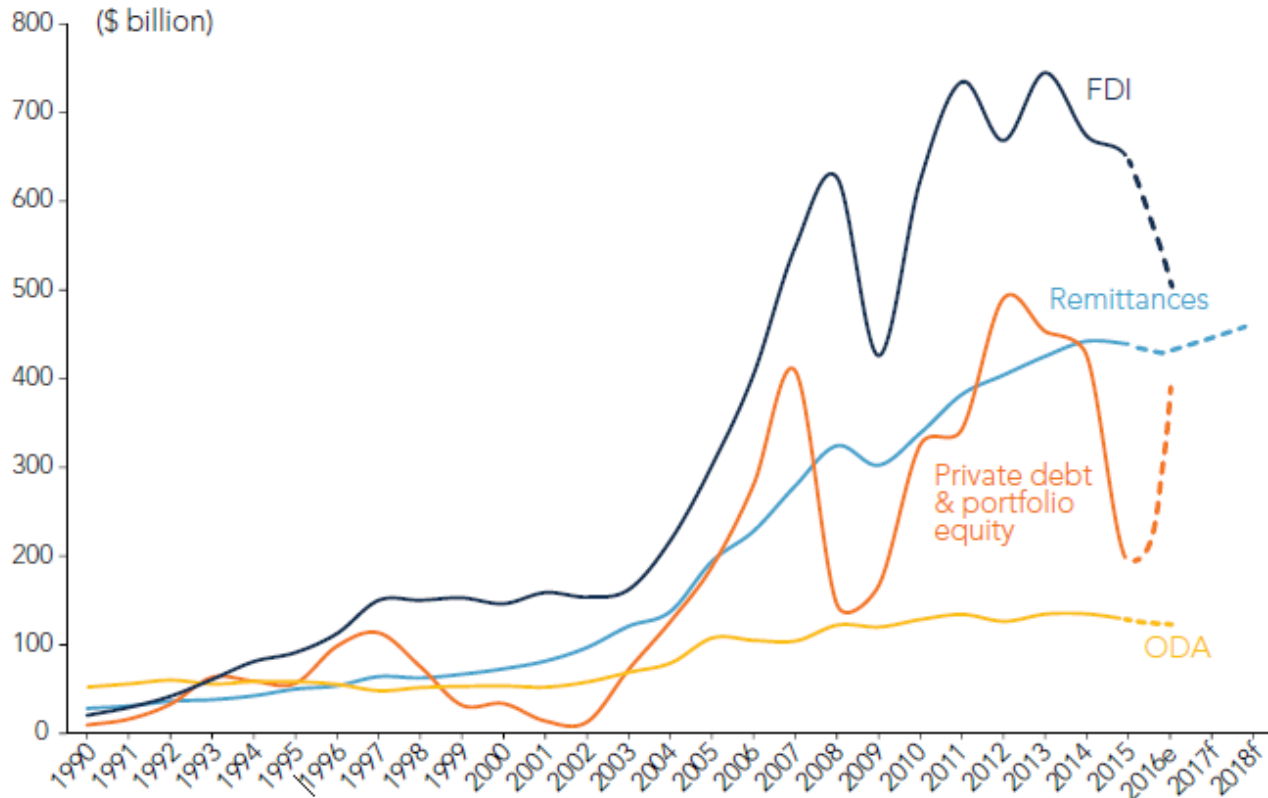
Proportion of patents registered by emigrants, immigrants, and nationals



Source: Authors using World Intellectual Property Organization data

Remittance flows are large and growing

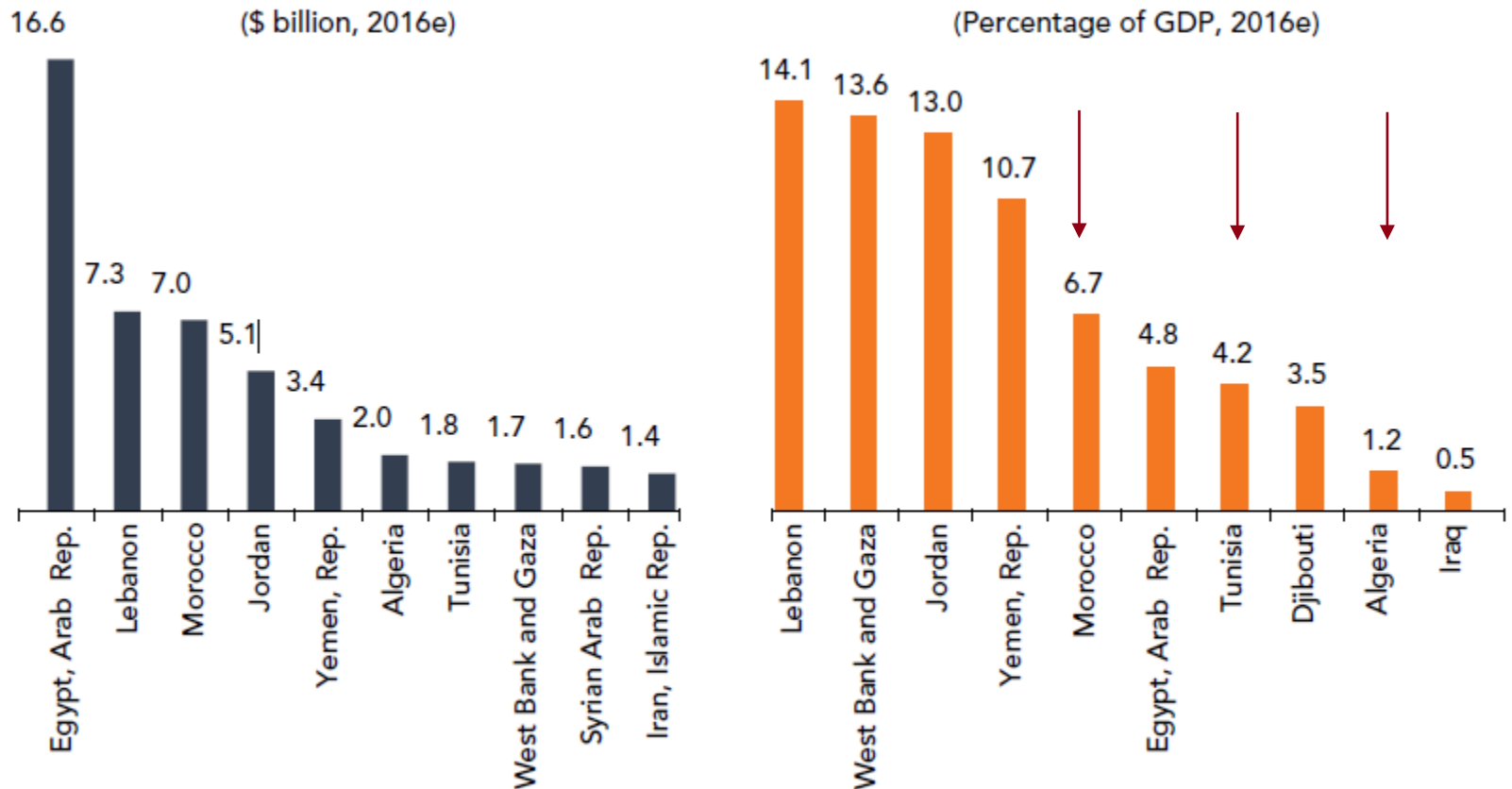
FIGURE 1.1. Remittance Flows to Developing Countries Are Larger Than Official Development Assistance and More Stable Than Private Capital Flows



Sources: World Bank staff estimates; World Development Indicators. See annex A for data and forecast methods. Note: FDI=foreign direct investment; ODA=official development assistance.

Remittance flows in MENA

FIGURE A.4. Impact of the Decline in Remittances from Gulf Cooperation Council Countries

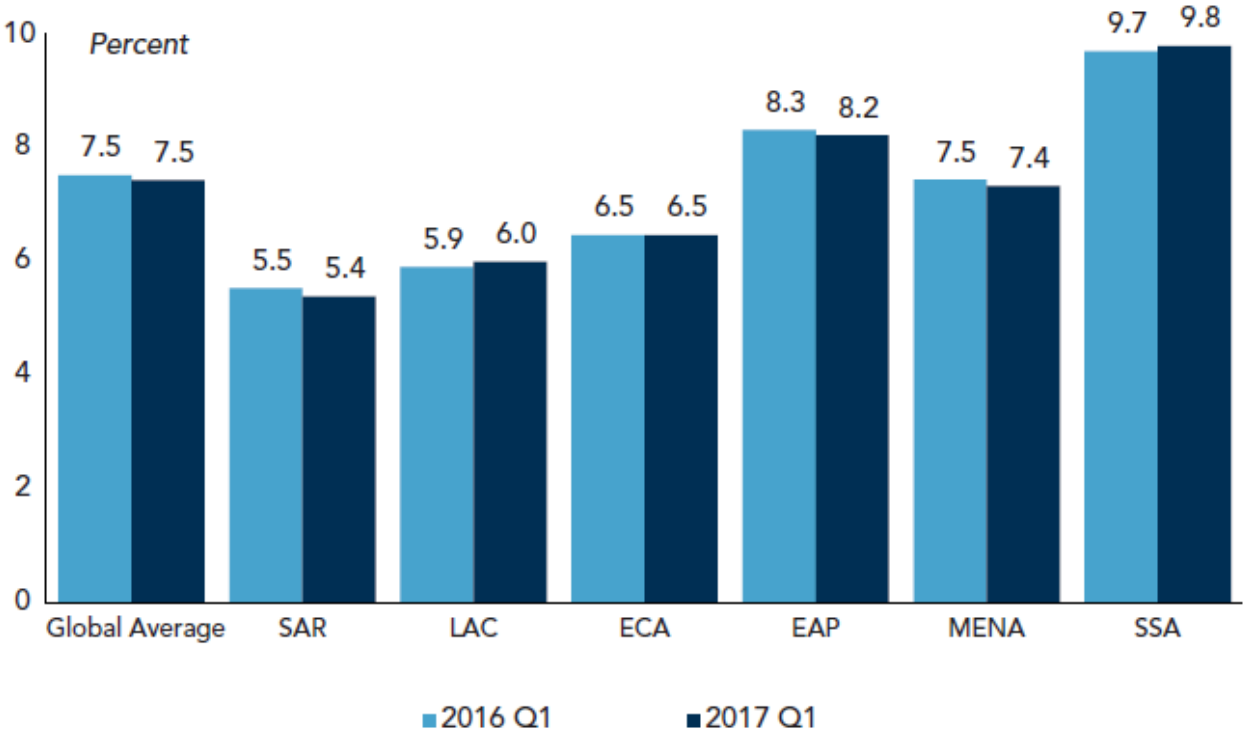


Sources: International Monetary Fund; World Bank World Development Indicators; staff estimates.

Note: e = estimate.

Cost of sending money remains high

FIGURE 1.4. Sub-Saharan Africa Continues to Have the Highest Cost of Sending \$200



Source: Remittance Prices Worldwide, World Bank..

Note: EAP = East Asia and Pacific; ECA = Europe and Central Asia; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA = Middle East and North Africa; SAR = South Asia region; SSA = Sub-Saharan Africa.

Survey results

Consultation with the MENA diaspora

CONSULTATION DIASPORA MENA



Online survey
For all Diaspora
members, collecting
1000 responses,
827 retained



Focus groups
~150 insights from
Diaspora members



one-on-one
interviews
business and
opinion leaders from
MENA



Profile of respondents

Mostly from the Maghreb...

FIGURE 2B: MENA survey respondents resided mostly in France and the United States

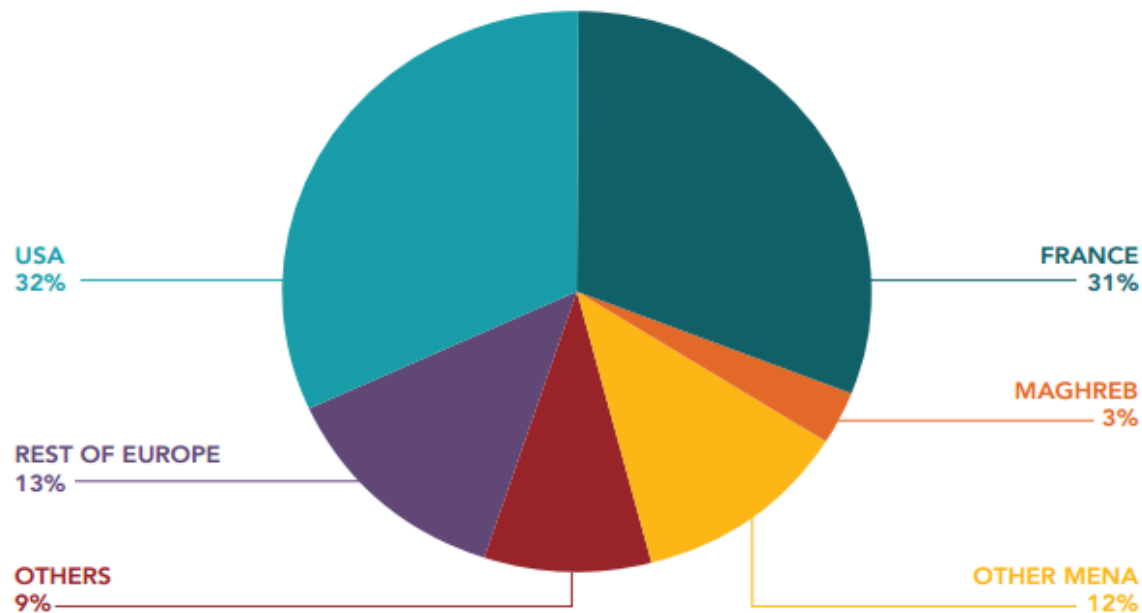


FIGURE 2C AND 2D: MENA diaspora profile, age and gender

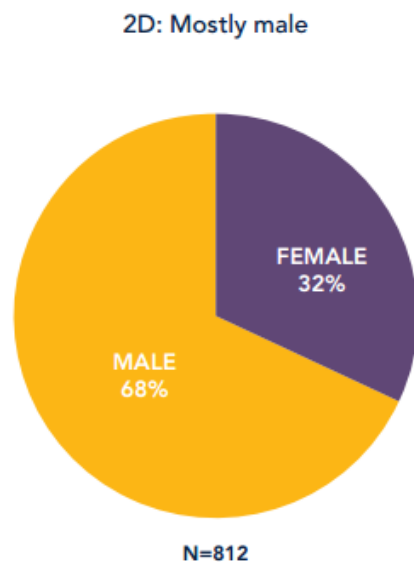
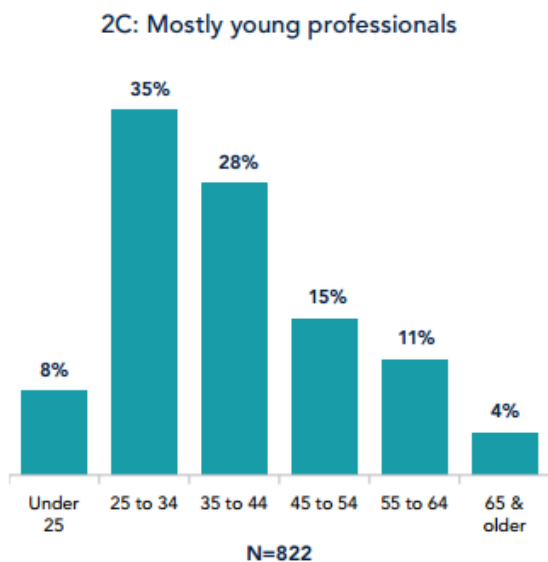
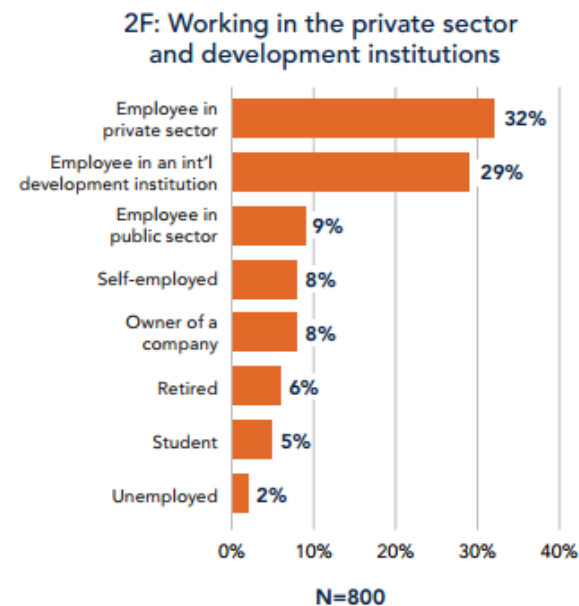
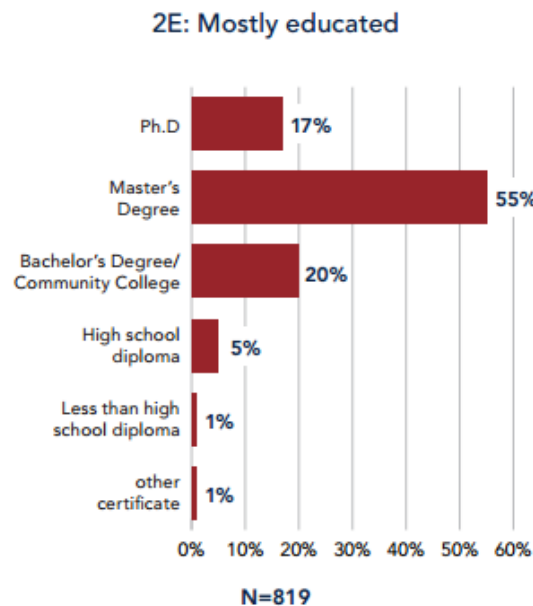


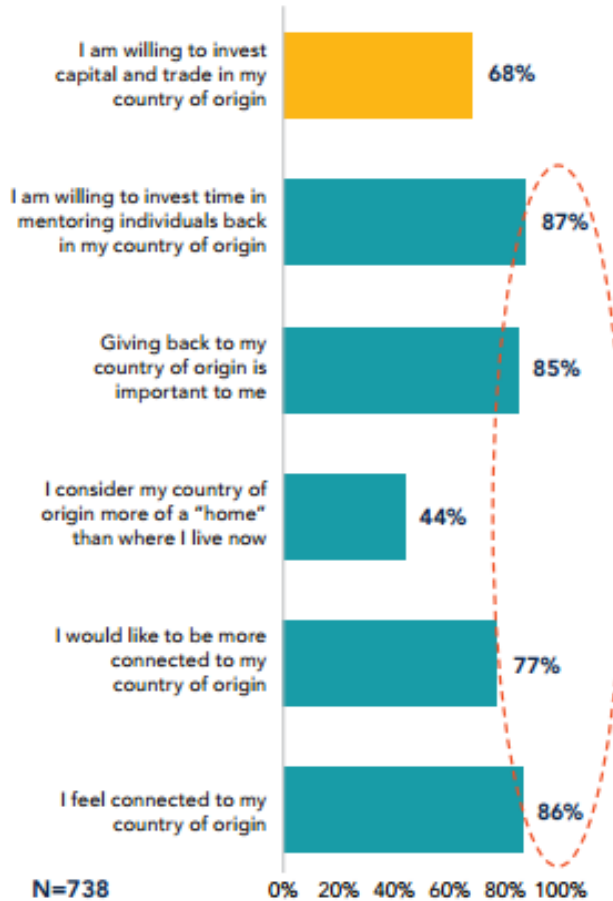
FIGURE 2E AND 2F: MENA diaspora respondent profile: education and jobs



A strong connection with home country

FIGURE 3A: MENA diaspora feels strongly connected to home country

Do you agree with the following statements?

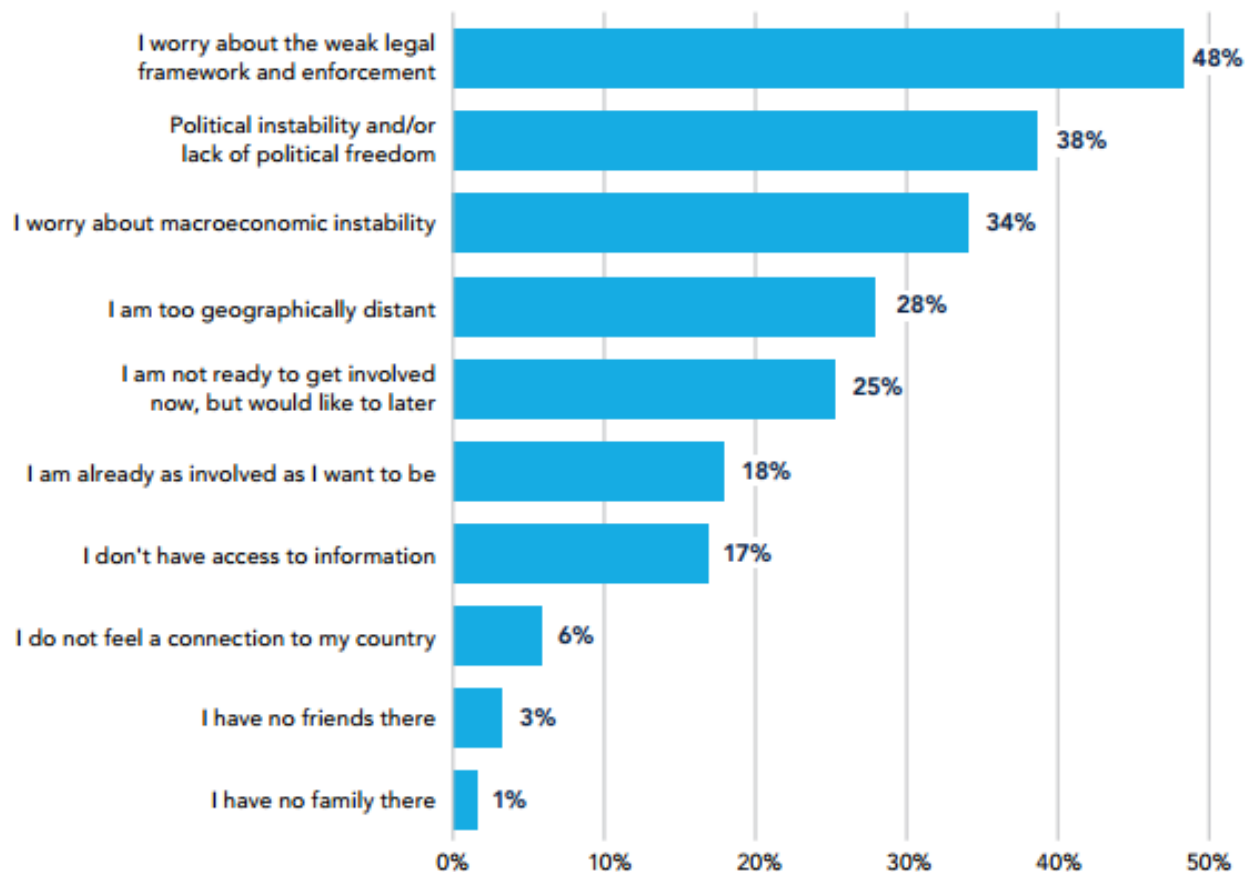


How do you engage with your community?



Lack of trust in governments

FIGURE 3C: Lack of trust in government policies and institutions

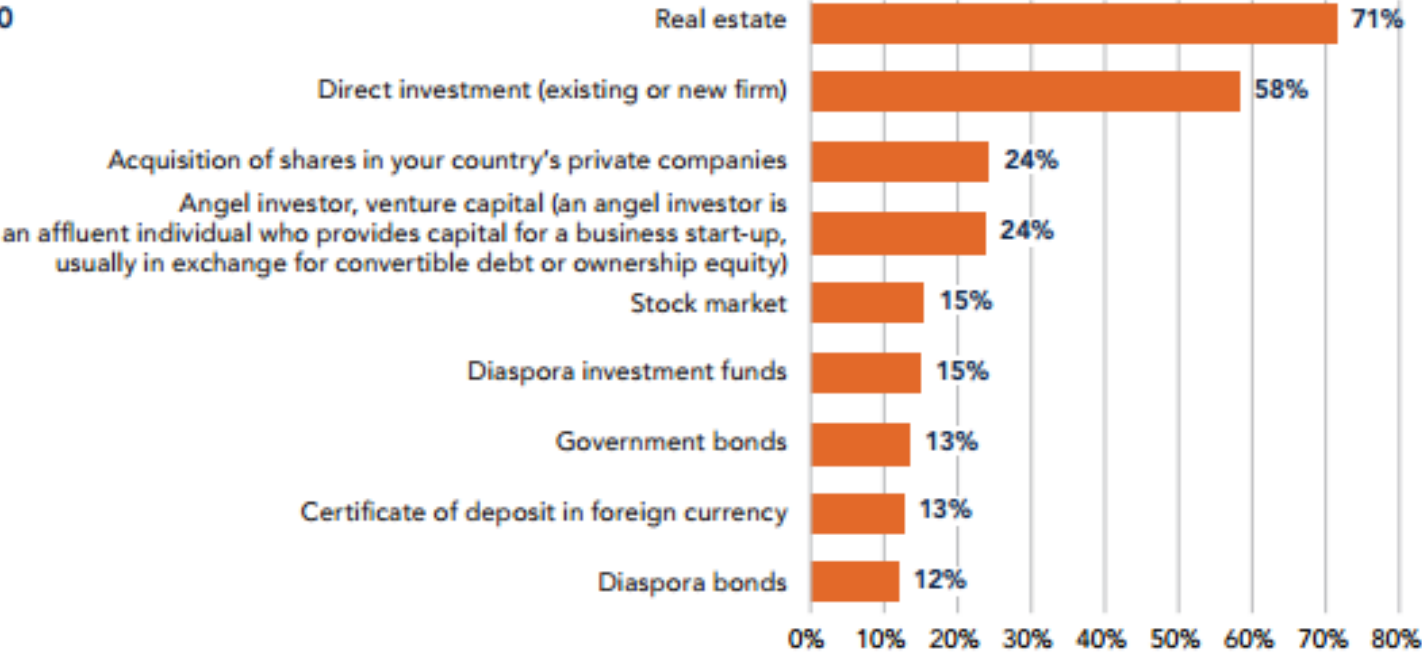


Investment and Economic Integration

Strong preference for real estate and direct investment

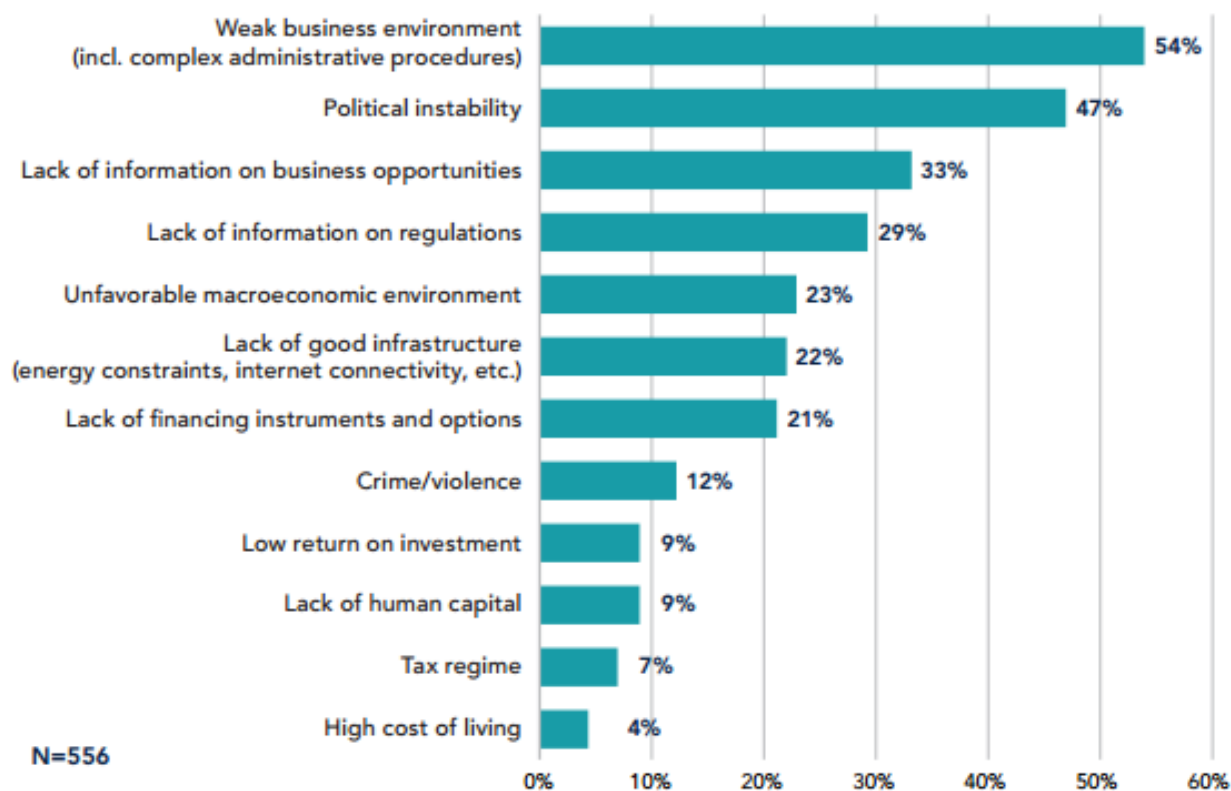
FIGURE 4A: Investment instruments in order of preference

N=560



Obstacles to Investment

FIGURE 4F: Obstacles to investing

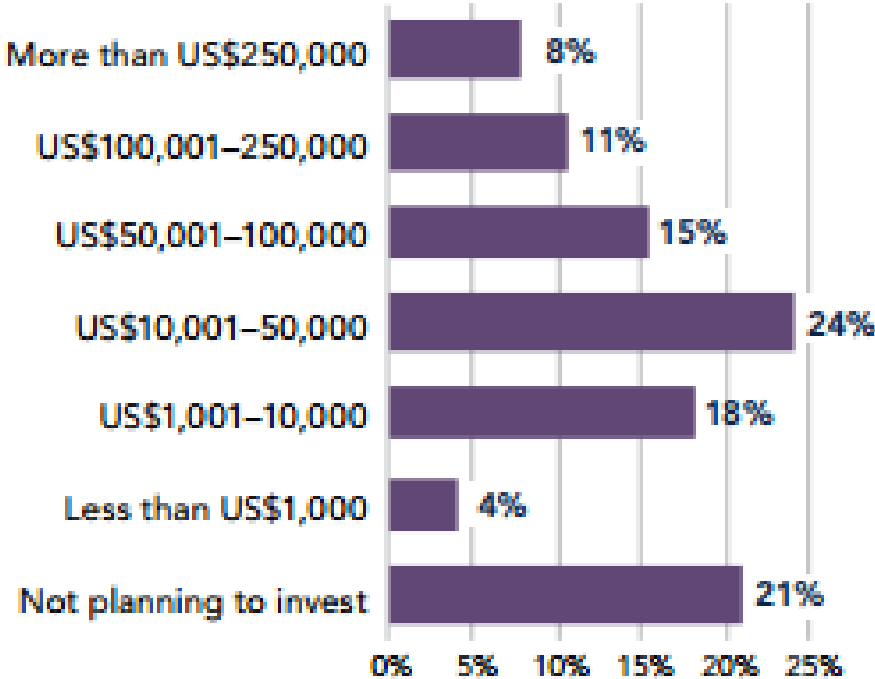


Investment flows are different from remittances!

SIZE OF INVESTMENT ARE BIGGER

4B: Size of Projected Investment

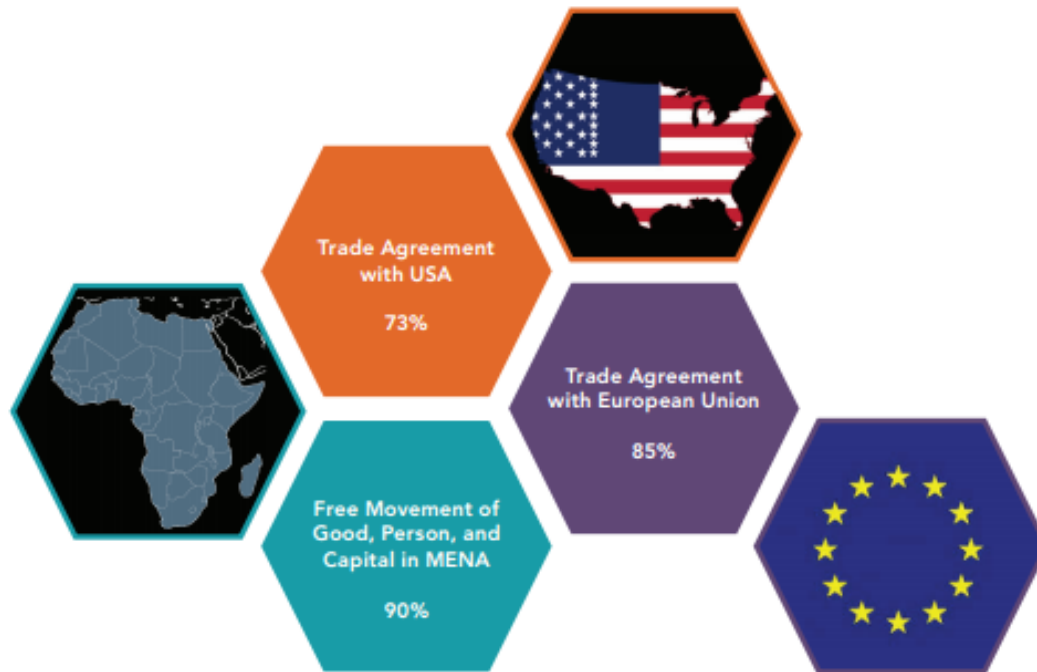
N=626



Diaspora supports economic integration

FIGURE 5A: Diaspora is supportive of trade agreements

Do you think that a Free Trade Agreement with the US/EU/MENA will increase *business opportunities* in your country of origin?



Governments and IFIs

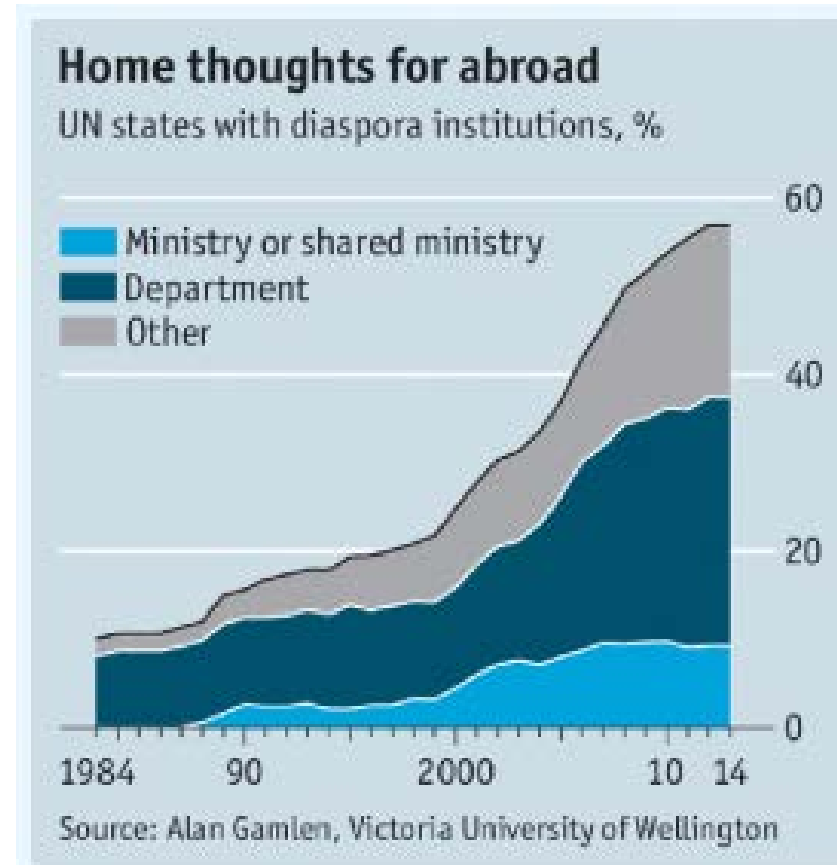
Governments and the diaspora

1. An increasing interest worldwide
2. Different approaches:
 - Institutional set-up
 - Development plans
 - Specific programs

VISION

COORDINATION

FOLLOW-UP



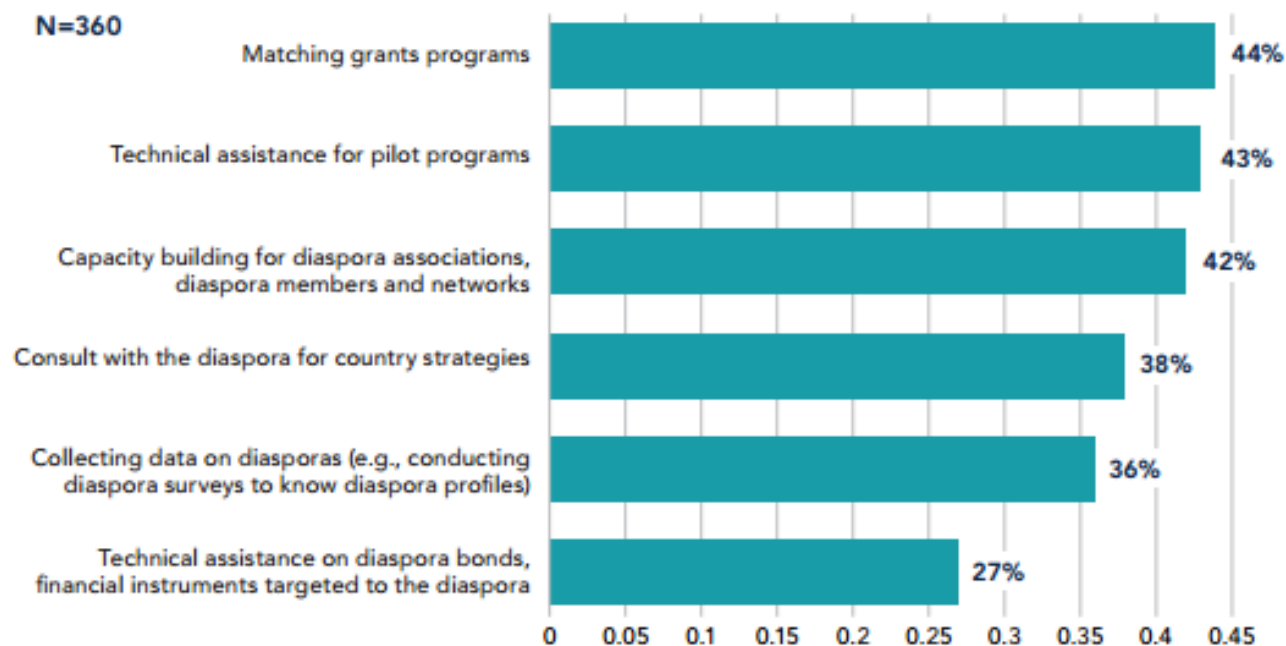
Diaspora's Expectations vis-à-vis Governments

FIGURE 6A: The MENA diaspora's expectations of governments



Diaspora's Expectations vis-à-vis IFIs

FIGURE 6C: Services in demand from institutions—such as the World Bank



4 main ideas

1. Need to be recognized
2. Potential for large contribution of diaspora
3. Decentralized approach
4. The action of a few can make a difference

The action of a few can make a difference



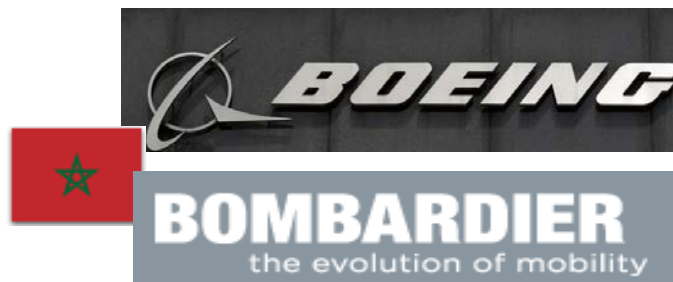
Fondation **R**ambourg Tunisie



L'ÉVEIL D'UNE NATION EXPOSITION DU
(27-11-2016 AU 01-03-2017)



La "Dame aux acacias"



Possible ways forward

TA to governments

- Strategy toward diaspora
- Design of targeted programs

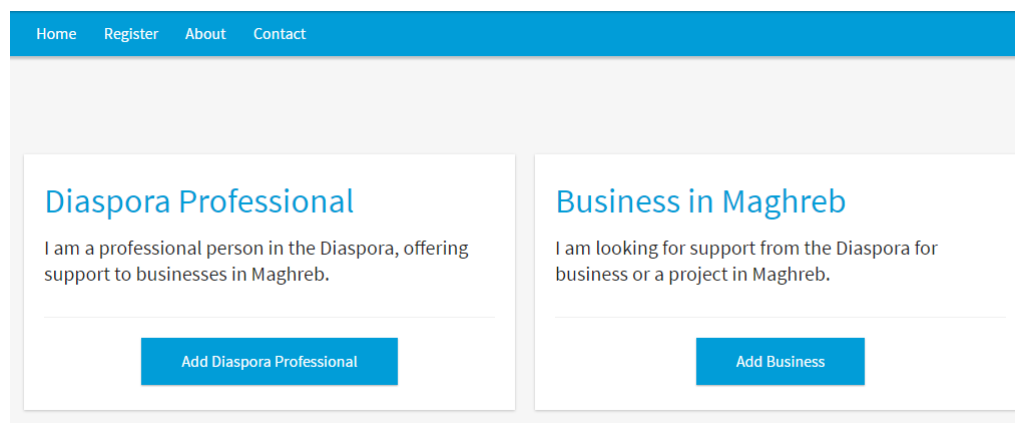
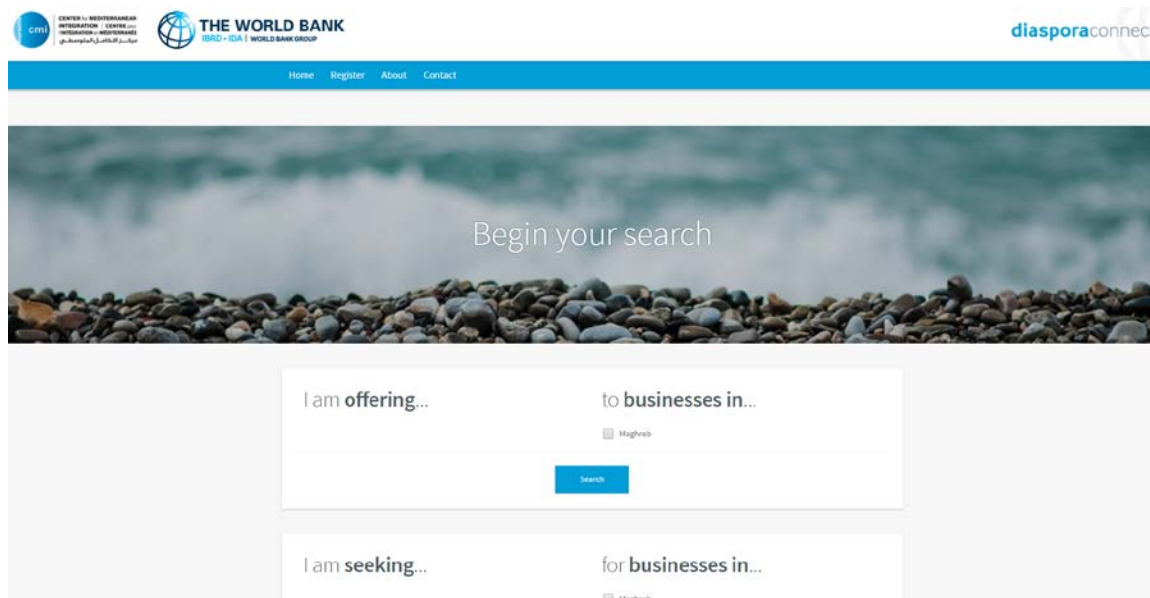
Channel diaspora's finance

- Banking accounts
- Diaspora bond
- Business competition

Role for IFIs

- Improve access to information: Online platform connecting diaspora and entrepreneurs; listing projects for diaspora and other investors
- Fostering networking and knowledge exchange: Diaspora – governments and among diaspora (regional/global)
- Promote sustainability of diaspora associations / success stories

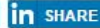
“DiasporaConnect” pilot platform



Profiles of the Diaspora: Selma Turki



SUBMITTED BY WEB TEAM ON FRI, 04/07/2017



Also available in: العربية | Français



Born in Tunisia, Selma Turki left her native country for France when she was two. She returned to Tunisia for high school and to pass her *Baccalaureate*. She studied architecture for two years at the Paris *Ecole des Beaux Arts* before moving to Canada to pursue her studies in computer science. She also accomplished leadership and management education at Henley Business School (UK) and Berkeley (US).

[Read more »](#)

Tags: | **Profiles of the Diaspora** | Social Development | Migration and Remittances | Middle East and North Africa | Yemen, Republic of | West Bank and Gaza | United Arab Emirates | Tunisia | Saudi Arabia | Qatar | Oman | Morocco | Lebanon | Kuwait | Jordan | Iraq | Iran, Islamic Republic of | Egypt, Arab Republic of | Djibouti | Bahrain | Algeria

Profiles of the Diaspora: Riad Hartani

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/category/tags/profiles-diaspora>

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