



Expatriate Engagement



DIASPORA

IOM working definition: *emigrants and their descendants who live outside the country of their birth or ancestry, either on a temporary basis or permanent basis, yet still maintain affective and material ties to their country of origin.* [Read more.](#)



EXPATRIATE

A person who lives outside their country of origin.



While the two terms are interchangeable in most cases, "expatriates" is preferable in the Egyptian context.

DID YOU KNOW?

After Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines in 2013, its expatriate communities around the world rallied to contribute, in a tangible example of positive transnational cooperation. Filipino expatriates mobilized financial and human capital. Communities around the world raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, and [increased their remittances](#). In the US, civil society organizations such as nurses' unions called out for volunteers to go to the Philippines and [act as/join the work of first responders](#).

MORE INFO

On Typhoon Haiyan and IOM's Response: [Portraits of Recovery](#).



EGYPT FOCUS

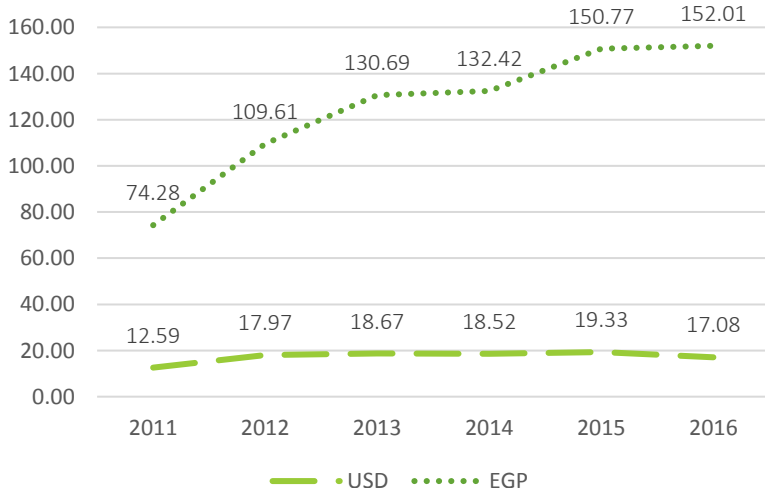
IOM Egypt similarly attempted to engage Egyptian expatriates when [a boat carrying 600 migrants capsized off the coast of Egypt in 2016](#).



REMITTANCES

Money earned or acquired by non-nationals transferred back to their country of origin, usually as financial support for relatives. ([IOM Glossary](#))

Egypt: Yearly Remittances (Billions)



NB: In 2017 the trend is expected to continue with a high increase (EGP), given the current exchange rate.

#7

Egypt's global rank, as recipient of remittances sent by Egyptians living and working abroad. It is behind India (\$72.2bn), China (\$63.9bn), the Philippines (\$29.7bn), Mexico (\$25.7bn), and Nigeria (\$20.8bn).

Source: Central Bank of Egypt [World Bank](#)

STUDY



VIDEO



REPORT





Brain Drain

Emigration of trained and talented individuals from the country of origin to another country resulting in a depletion of skills resources in the former. (IOM Glossary)



Brain Gain

Immigration of trained and talented individuals into the destination country. Also called "reverse brain drain". (IOM Glossary)



Brain Circulation

Return - sometimes temporary, e.g. in cases of circular migration - of emigrants to their country of origin, with added experiences and skills. This has become the preferred concept, as it highlights the circularity of contemporary migratory flows. Words from our DG.

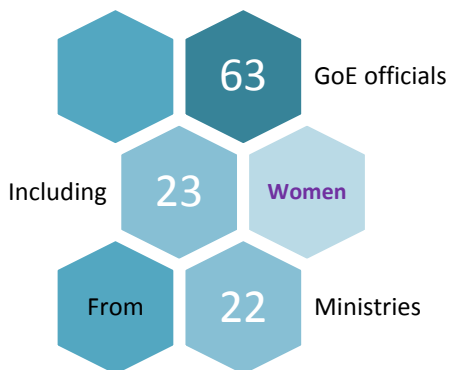
Highlight

To build the capacity of the GoE engaging its expatriate communities, LHD trains GoE officials in expatriate engagement.

In September, LHD trained 32 GoE officials.

Recent Events

In 2017, LHD activities included



LHD Training

September 2017

On engaging Egyptian expatriates in Egypt's development and adopting a whole-of-government approach



Roundtable

August 2017

On developing a national strategy for governing emigration and Egyptian expatriate affairs



Speech by Head of Office

February 2017

On the occasion of the promotion of initiatives that enable, empower and engage Egyptian expatriates

Enabled. Empowered. Engaged.

Our Colleague, an Expatriate in the Making

Yasmin Malak currently works for IOM as a caseworker. "My responsibilities include managing sensitive cases referred by embassies, UN Agencies and community by ensuring immediate screenings to determine the type of services required, interviewing migrants to determine their eligibility for assistance and providing basic counselling."

On top of her professional responsibilities, Yasmin is involved in several initiatives in the community, including Cairo Runners, where she organizes CSR initiatives in marginalized areas in Egypt for less fortunate children. "Last but not least, I also volunteer to work for Utopia Academy as a mentor for adolescents."

This is her reality. **But it is about to change.**

Yasmin is scheduled to leave for Australia in December, where she will be looking to work with refugees. A timely decision, given Australia's 2016 announcement to increase its refugee intake. In the meantime, she plans on volunteering in local communities, and will be seeking a Masters in counselling psychology.