



# 2026 **AFRICAN** DIASPORA REPORT

*A Pilot Study on Engagement and Influence*

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A first step toward understanding and positioning the African diaspora as an active actor shaping Türkiye–Africa cooperation.

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**Bizim Afrika**

For The African People in Türkiye  
Pour Les Peuples Africains en Türkiye  
للاجل الأفارقة المقيمين في تركيا



# 2026

## AFRICAN

# DIASPORA REPORT

*A Pilot Study on Engagement and Influence*

An Initiative of



**Bizim Afrika**

For The African People in Türkiye  
Pour Les Peuples Africains en Türkiye  
لنجل الأفارقة المقيمين في تركيا

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## FOREWORD

*Over the past two decades, Türkiye–Africa relations have evolved from a policy ambition into a multidimensional partnership shaped by diplomacy, trade, education, and cultural exchange. At the heart of this transformation stands a growing African diaspora, students, professionals, entrepreneurs, and community leaders, whose presence reflects both the depth of this engagement and its human dimension.*



**Faroukou Mintoiba**

**Founder & Chairman | Bizim Afrika**

Yet, despite this expanding reality, the lived experiences, challenges, and contributions of the African diaspora in Türkiye have remained insufficiently documented. Too often, the diaspora is spoken about, rather than spoken with.

This publication, the 2026 African Diaspora Report, emerges from a simple but urgent conviction: that meaningful cooperation cannot be built without understanding the people who embody it. It represents Bizim Afrika’s inaugural effort to move beyond anecdotal narratives and toward a structured, evidence-based reflection on the conditions and aspirations of Africans living in Türkiye.

Conceived as an inaugural pilot study, this report draws on the expertise of a dedicated taskforce of researchers and PhD candidates from leading Turkish and international institutions. By centering on a diverse cross-section of 54 respondents representing 25 African nations, we have sought to capture a continental pulse, prioritizing geographic and qualitative depth to establish a baseline for future large-scale research.

The findings presented here offer important insights into patterns of engagement, the limits of institutional inclusion, and the structural barriers that shape everyday life. At the same time, they point to a broader reality: that the African diaspora is not merely a beneficiary of Türkiye–Africa relations, but an active and indispensable actor within them.

This report should be understood as a foundational starting point rather than a final conclusion. It lays the groundwork for a more inclusive dialogue, inviting policymakers, diplomats, and civil society to recognize the diaspora as a vital bridge in the Türkiye–Africa partnership.

# The African Diaspora in Türkiye: 2026 Demographic Overview

3<sup>rd</sup> African Diaspora Forum

May 2026

Bizim Afrika



## Africans in Türkiye

# 137,776



2025,  
TÜİK İSTATİSTİK  
KURUMU



## Trade Volume

# \$37 Billion



DEİK, 2024

### Work Permit Statistics

# 8,823



2024  
CSGB.GOV.TR

# 5220

MALES

# 3603

FEMALES

2024, ÇALIŞMA BAKANLIĞI

From

# 16

AFRICAN  
COUNTRIES

### Students

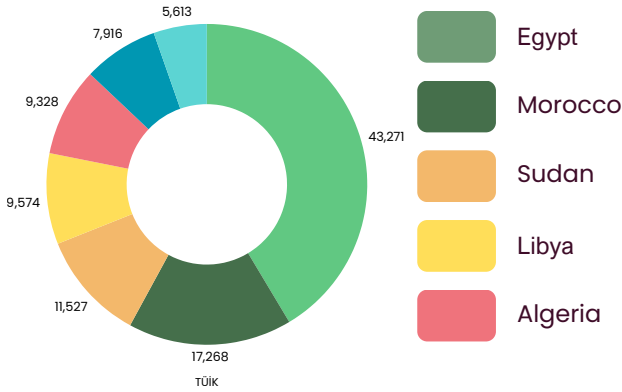
# 50,608



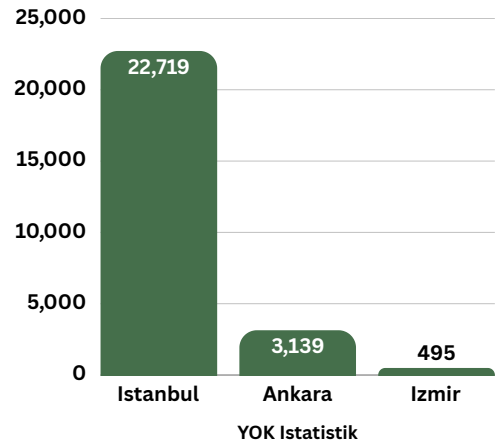
YÖK  
İstatistik

## Top nationalities

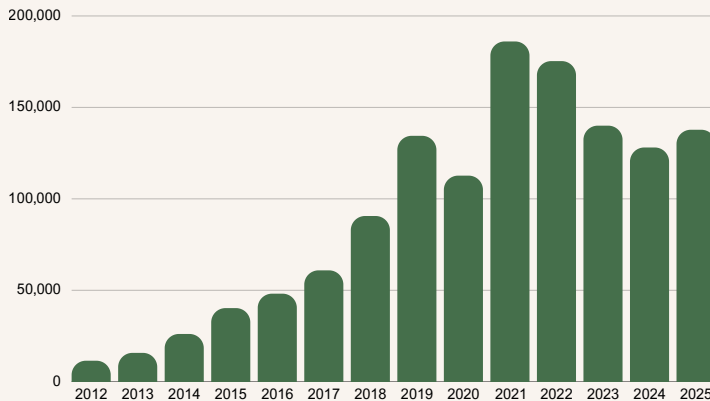
MISIR FAS LİBYA SUDAN CEZAYİR SOĞDİ



## Cities with most Africans



## 2012 – 2015 Population Growth



TÜİK İSTATİSTİK KURUMU

## Summary

The population of the African Diaspora in Türkiye increased by **7.6%** compared to 2024. **37%** of the population are estimated to be students. According to 2024 Work Permit data, 8,823 work permits were issued to citizens from 16 African Countries. **74%** of the African Diaspora State Report were students while **26%** were professionals. Respondents identified education and trade as the greatest potential for Türkiye Africa cooperation.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This report provides first insights into the experiences, challenges, and aspirations of the African diaspora in Türkiye. It draws on an initial online survey of 54 respondents from 25 African countries (including students, professionals, entrepreneurs, and researchers) supplemented by qualitative interviews.*

The report examines patterns of diaspora engagement with Turkish institutions, perceived levels of influence across key sectors, the conditions shaping everyday integration, and perspectives on the future of Türkiye–Africa cooperation. The findings suggest a diaspora that is increasingly visible across academic, economic, and diplomatic spaces, yet unevenly included in institutional processes.

Approximately two-thirds of respondents reported no participation in Türkiye–Africa cooperation initiatives. This appears to be driven less by disinterest than by systemic gaps in information dissemination, limited access to networks, and the absence of structured platforms connecting diaspora actors to ongoing initiatives. Across sectors, a gap emerges between presence and influence.

**While diaspora members are most represented in higher education, their perceived influence over institutional decision-making remains weakest in this domain. By contrast, influence is viewed as relatively stronger in business cooperation and diplomatic engagement, where participation is more closely aligned with existing cooperation frameworks.**

The data further point to a set of interrelated challenges that shape the conditions of diaspora life. Legal precarity around residence and work authorization, economic constraints, language barriers, and perceived discrimination do not operate in isolation; rather, they reinforce one another, narrowing the conditions under which meaningful institutional participation becomes possible. These dynamics suggest that improving integration outcomes is a prerequisite for strengthening diaspora engagement and influence.

Despite these constraints, respondents expressed a broadly positive outlook on the future of Türkiye–Africa relations.

This optimism is grounded in the continued expansion of educational exchange, growing people-to-people connections, and the perceived potential for deeper economic cooperation. At the same time, concerns were raised about power imbalances within cooperation frameworks, persistent barriers to professional inclusion, and the limited availability of structured channels for diaspora voices to contribute to policy dialogue. The report outlines policy recommendations to improve language accessibility, restructure pathways for residence and work authorization, strengthen the economic and social stability of students and young professionals,

enhance institutional inclusion mechanisms, support professional networks, address discrimination, and promote more balanced, reciprocal cooperation frameworks. Overall, this report should be understood as a first step toward building a more systematic and evidence-based understanding of the African diaspora in Türkiye. It highlights key patterns within an initial dataset while underscoring the need for broader and more representative data collection efforts in future phases. At its core, it advances a central insight: that the African diaspora is not a passive beneficiary of Türkiye–Africa relations, but an active actor whose inclusion will shape the depth and sustainability of the partnership.

# 1. Introduction

Since the early 1990s, Türkiye has witnessed a steady increase in the presence of African nationals across a wide range of social and professional backgrounds. This evolution has taken place alongside the country's expanding strategic engagement with the African continent. Initially formalized through the 1998 Action Plan for Opening to Africa, and further accelerated with the declaration of 2005 as the "Year of Africa," Türkiye's outreach has developed into a multidimensional partnership encompassing diplomacy, trade, education, and development cooperation.

Over the past two decades, this institutional engagement has produced measurable outcomes. Trade volumes between Türkiye and African countries have grown significantly, diplomatic representation has expanded, and connectivity has increased through both transport and educational exchanges. Thousands of African students have pursued higher education in Türkiye, while a growing number of entrepreneurs, professionals, and researchers have established themselves across major urban centers. Recent estimates suggest the African population in Türkiye has reached a scale that reflects the deepening of people-to-people relations underpinning this broader partnership.

Despite these developments, a systematic understanding of the African diaspora has not kept pace with the growth of Türkiye–Africa relations. Much of the existing discourse remains centered on institutional achievements or high-level diplomacy, while comparatively limited attention has been given to the lived experiences, integration conditions, and institutional engagement of diaspora communities themselves. As a result, the diaspora often remains at the margins of analytical and policy discussions.

It is this critical gap that the present report – an inaugural pilot study led by the ADR Taskforce, begins to address. Rather than treating the African diaspora solely as a demographic outcome, this study approaches it as an active social and institutional actor capable of shaping the dynamics of the Türkiye–Africa relationship. By focusing on patterns of engagement, perceived influence, and structural conditions, the report contributes to a more grounded and human-centered understanding of cooperation.

Presented by Bizim Afrika in 2026, this publication represents a first step toward building a systematic, evidence-based perspective. It brings together initial data and qualitative insights from a diverse continental cross-section to highlight key patterns, while underscoring the need for the broader, sustained research efforts that Bizim Afrika intends to lead in the future. In doing so, it aims to inform policy discussions and encourage the recognition of the diaspora as an integral, indispensable component of Türkiye–Africa relations.



## 2. Research Overview: Scope and Methodology

This report presents foundational findings from an inaugural pilot survey conducted by the ADR Taskforce with members of the African diaspora residing in, or having recently resided in, Türkiye. As a first-of-its-kind initiative by Bizim Afrika, this exploratory phase was designed to establish a baseline understanding of institutional engagement, integration conditions, and continental perceptions of Türkiye–Africa cooperation.

### 2.1 Methodological Design and Reach

The study utilized a 31-item instrument comprising both closed-ended and open-ended questions to capture a wide spectrum of lived experiences. To ensure a high degree of authenticity, the survey was distributed digitally through specialized African diaspora networks, academic associations, and professional contacts across the country. This primary data was further enriched by qualitative, follow-up interviews with selected participants to provide deep-dive insights into the nuances of the diaspora experience.

### 2.2 Strategic Sample Composition

While the current dataset is indicative rather than statistically exhaustive, it represents a high-quality, multinational cross-section of the community.

- **National Diversity:** The 54 respondents originate from 25 different African countries, ensuring that the findings reflect a continental perspective rather than a localized one.
- **Geographic Reach:** Though concentrated in the diplomatic and economic hubs of Istanbul and Ankara, the sample includes voices from various urban centers across Türkiye.
- **Sectoral Insight:** The cohort is predominantly composed of students (approximately 75%), alongside a critical group of professionals, entrepreneurs, researchers, and diaspora leaders.
- **Demographic Focus:** The sample reflects the "youth-bulge" of the diaspora, with a significant concentration in the 23–32 age bracket.

### A Foundation for Future Growth:

Recognizing the complexities of data collection within migrant communities, the taskforce utilized purposive sampling through existing institutional and social networks. Consequently, these findings are presented as exploratory insights: a necessary first step in identifying recurring patterns and structural challenges that will inform future, larger-scale research iterations. By prioritizing qualitative depth and national diversity in this inaugural phase, the report provides a meaningful evidence-based foundation to support the transition of the African diaspora from passive engagement to informed influence.

Note on

# STUDY LIMITATIONS

*It is important to acknowledge that this pilot study encountered a notable degree of "participation hesitancy" among certain segments of the diaspora. Many potential respondents expressed reluctance to share details regarding their legal status or integration experiences, often citing concerns over privacy or potential institutional repercussions. This hesitation is, in itself, a significant qualitative finding; it reflects an underlying sentiment of precarity and a lack of institutional trust that characterizes the current living conditions of many Africans in Türkiye. Recognizing these psychological and structural barriers is essential for future research phases, which will require localized, trust-based outreach to capture the voices of those currently navigating the more vulnerable margins of the system.*

## 3. Findings



The findings presented in this report are organized around five key dimensions: patterns of diaspora engagement, perceived levels of influence, conditions of integration, structural barriers to inclusion, and perspectives on the future of Türkiye–Africa cooperation. Across these areas, the data suggest recurring dynamics that offer insight into how members of the African diaspora experience and navigate life in Türkiye.

Given the nature of the sample, the findings should be understood as indicative of broader tendencies rather than statistically representative conclusions. They highlight consistent patterns across respondents' experiences, while also reflecting variations shaped by factors such as length of stay, access to institutional support, and individual professional trajectories.

### WHO WAS SURVEYED ?

participants

**54**

Africans Countries

**25**

# 3. Findings

## 3.1 THE ENGAGEMENT LANDSCAPE

Understanding the engagement landscape is important for assessing how Türkiye–Africa relations are experienced at both institutional and grassroots levels. This section examines the extent to which institutional outreach translates into diaspora participation, considering both formal and informal forms of engagement.

Overall, the data suggests a moderate-to-low level of perceived engagement between the African diaspora and Turkish institutions. When asked to rate engagement on a scale of 1 to 5, respondents reported an average score of 2.93, indicating a generally limited sense of active involvement. Approximately 65% of respondents reported no participation in Türkiye–Africa cooperation initiatives, while around one-third indicated some level of engagement.

This limited participation appears to be driven less by disinterest than by structural and informational gaps. A recurring theme across responses is the perceived lack of effective information dissemination, with many respondents reporting being unaware of existing initiatives or lacking access to relevant networks. In several cases, respondents reported encountering such initiatives for the first time through the survey itself. Others, particularly recent arrivals, emphasized that initial priorities such as settlement and adaptation often take precedence over institutional engagement.

Engagement also appears to be shaped by sectoral dynamics. Respondents most frequently associated engagement with academic and economic spheres, reflecting the dominant presence of students and emerging professionals within the sample. Accordingly, the most recognized Turkish institutions were those directly encountered through education and administrative processes, including higher education institutions, YTB, TIKA, and migration-related authorities. At the same time, a notable share of respondents did not identify any specific institutions, suggesting that engagement often remains informal and experience-based rather than institutionally structured.

Among those who reported participation, engagement took various forms, including involvement in academic programs, cultural initiatives, and economic cooperation activities. However, qualitative responses suggest that opportunities for participation may be unevenly distributed and often concentrated within specific sectors or networks.

Overall, the findings indicate that while pathways for engagement do exist, access to them remains uneven. Strengthening information flows, expanding outreach mechanisms, and creating more inclusive entry points could play a key role in enhancing diaspora participation.

# 3. Findings

## 3.2. DIASPORA INFLUENCE

While the African diaspora maintains a visible presence across multiple sectors in Türkiye, its perceived influence appears to vary considerably depending on the domain. This section examines how respondents assess diaspora influence within university policies, business cooperation, and diplomatic relations.

Across all three sectors, respondents commonly perceived diaspora influence as moderate, suggesting that the diaspora is present within institutional spaces but not fully established as a decisive actor within them. At the same time, the distribution of influence appears uneven.

Influence is perceived to be weakest within university policy environments, despite the high representation of African students in higher education institutions. A significant share of respondents reported little to no influence in this domain. By contrast, influence appears relatively stronger in business cooperation and diplomatic relations, where participation is more directly linked to existing cooperation frameworks and external engagement.

This pattern points to a gap between visibility and influence. While the diaspora is most present in academic settings, this presence does not necessarily translate into decision-making power or institutional impact. In business contexts, representation and influence appear more closely aligned, while in diplomatic spaces, respondents reported greater awareness and perceived relevance of diaspora engagement.

Professional representation follows a similar distribution, with higher visibility in academic and economic spheres and lower representation in media and policy dialogue. This suggests that while the diaspora is increasingly embedded in certain sectors, its role in shaping broader narratives and policy directions remains limited.

Overall, the findings suggest that strengthening diaspora influence will require not only increasing representation but also creating mechanisms that translate presence into participation in decision-making processes



# 3. Findings

## 3.3. INTEGRATION CHALLENGES AND CONDITIONS OF DIASPORA LIFE

The data suggests that members of the African diaspora in Türkiye navigate a set of interconnected challenges across education, social life, and healthcare. These challenges appear to be layered rather than isolated, shaping the broader conditions under which integration takes place.

A majority of respondents reported experiencing difficulties in their educational environment. Language barriers emerged as the most frequently cited challenge, extending beyond individual proficiency to include inconsistencies between the stated and actual language of instruction in some programs. Financial pressures and administrative complexities, including issues related to tuition, stipends, and credential recognition, were also identified as significant concerns.

In the social domain, respondents reported challenges related to communication, cultural differences, and the formation of social networks. While language remains a central factor, several responses also pointed to feelings of social distance and the persistence of being perceived as “foreign,” even after periods of adaptation. Some respondents also referred to experiences shaped by limited knowledge or stereotypical perceptions of African countries.

Healthcare access presented a comparatively more mixed picture. While a slight majority of respondents reported functional access to healthcare services, challenges remain, particularly for those without adequate insurance coverage. Reported issues include high costs, language barriers in medical settings, and difficulties navigating appointment systems.

Taken together, these findings suggest that integration is shaped by a combination of structural and everyday challenges. Factors such as duration of stay, access to institutional support, and inclusion within diaspora networks appear to influence the extent to which individuals are able to navigate these conditions. However, even among those with relative stability, full inclusion remains limited.

# 3. Findings

## 3.4. STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO DIASPORA INCLUSION

Beyond individual experiences, the data points to a set of structural constraints that shape diaspora participation at a systemic level. These barriers operate across legal, economic, social, and organizational dimensions, often reinforcing one another.

Legal and economic constraints appear as foundational barriers within the dataset. Difficulties related to residence and work authorization were among the most frequently cited challenges and were rarely identified in isolation, often appearing alongside other concerns. This suggests that legal precarity may function as an underlying condition that limits access to employment, services, and longer-term stability. Economic constraints similarly reflect both direct financial pressures and the indirect effects of restricted employment opportunities.

At the experiential level, language barriers and perceived discrimination were also widely reported. These challenges differ from structural constraints in that they are embedded in everyday interactions and social environments. Language barriers affect not only communication but also access to services and institutional navigation, while perceived discrimination can shape individuals' sense of belonging regardless of their legal or economic status.

A third set of barriers relates to organizational capacity and access to networks. Respondents highlighted limited professional networks, resource constraints, and coordination challenges among diaspora actors. While these were cited less frequently than legal or experiential barriers, they remain significant in shaping the diaspora's ability to organize collectively and engage institutions effectively.

Importantly, these barriers do not operate independently. The data suggests a compounding dynamic, where legal insecurity contributes to economic precarity, which in turn limits access to language acquisition and professional networks, while social perceptions further restrict opportunities for inclusion.

This interconnected structure is reflected in respondents' perceptions of institutional inclusion, which averaged 3.12 out of 5. While this suggests a moderate level of presence within institutional spaces, it also indicates that inclusion remains partial and uneven.

**74%**  
Students

**26%**  
Professionals

Aged  
**23–27**

# 3. Findings

## 3.5. PROSPECTS FOR TÜRKIYE–AFRICA COOPERATION

Despite the challenges identified throughout the report, respondents expressed a generally positive outlook on the future of Türkiye–Africa cooperation. Within this sample, a majority indicated optimism, with an average rating of 3.59 out of 5.

Respondents identified education and trade as the sectors with the greatest potential for future cooperation. The strong emphasis on education reflects the central role of academic exchange in shaping diaspora experiences, while the prominence of trade and investment suggests an interest in expanding economic participation beyond current constraints.

At the same time, respondents highlighted several priorities for strengthening diaspora influence. These include improving access to employment opportunities, facilitating work permits and internships, strengthening organizational coordination, and developing more structured platforms for diaspora representation.

In addition to these priorities, respondents expressed concerns regarding the future trajectory of cooperation. Key issues include the risk of imbalanced partnerships, persistent barriers to professional inclusion, and the limited availability of mechanisms through which diaspora voices can contribute to decision-making processes.

Overall, the findings suggest that while the foundations for stronger cooperation are present, realizing this potential will depend on addressing both structural constraints and representation gaps. Enhancing diaspora participation in economic, institutional, and policy spaces may play a critical role in shaping a more inclusive and sustainable Türkiye–Africa partnership.



# Conclusion



This report has provided initial insights into the experiences, conditions, and perspectives of the African diaspora in Türkiye, drawing on an exploratory dataset that captures a diverse range of lived realities. While not statistically representative, the findings point to a set of recurring dynamics that are analytically significant and policy relevant.

**First**, diaspora engagement with Turkish institutions appears to remain moderate-to-limited. A substantial share of respondents reported no participation in Türkiye–Africa cooperation initiatives, a pattern that seems to be shaped less by lack of interest than by gaps in information dissemination, limited access to networks, and the absence of structured entry points into existing frameworks. This suggests that current institutional outreach mechanisms may not be fully aligned with the realities and channels through which diaspora communities access opportunities

**Second**, while the African diaspora demonstrates increasing visibility across academic, economic, and diplomatic spaces, this presence does not translate evenly into institutional influence. The discrepancy is most pronounced in higher education, where representation is highest but perceived influence over decision-making remains limited. By contrast, influence appears relatively stronger in business and diplomatic contexts, where engagement is more directly linked to formal cooperation structures. This imbalance highlights a broader gap between presence and participation, suggesting that visibility alone is insufficient without mechanisms that enable meaningful inclusion in institutional processes.

**Third**, the conditions of diaspora life are shaped by a set of interrelated challenges that operate across legal, economic, social, and institutional dimensions. Legal precarity, particularly regarding residence and work authorization, emerges as a foundational constraint that conditions access to employment, services, and long-term stability. This, in turn, reinforces economic pressures, which intersect with language barriers, administrative complexity, and experiences of perceived discrimination. Rather than functioning as isolated obstacles, these factors appear to form a compounding structure that narrows the conditions under which meaningful integration and participation can take place.

# Conclusion



Fourth, despite these constraints, respondents expressed a generally positive outlook on the future of Türkiye–Africa relations. This optimism appears to be grounded in the continued expansion of educational exchange, the growth of people-to-people connections, and the perceived potential for deeper economic engagement. At the same time, this outlook is accompanied by clearly articulated concerns, particularly regarding the risk of power imbalances within cooperation frameworks, persistent barriers to professional inclusion, and the limited availability of structured platforms through which diaspora voices can contribute to shaping bilateral agendas.

Taken together, these findings suggest that the African diaspora in Türkiye occupies a position of growing relevance within the broader Türkiye–Africa partnership yet operates within a set of structural and institutional constraints that limit the full realization of its potential. Addressing these constraints requires not only targeted policy interventions, but also a shift in how diaspora communities are positioned within cooperation frameworks — from peripheral participants to recognized stakeholders.

The findings presented in this report are based on aggregate patterns within an initial dataset. Future iterations of this research, particularly those incorporating larger and more diverse samples, would benefit from more granular analysis, including cross-tabulation across variables such as length of stay, legal status, scholarship status, and professional sector. Such analysis would allow for a more differentiated understanding of diaspora experiences and support the development of more targeted and context-specific policy responses.

# Policy Recommendations

In light of these findings, the following policy recommendations are proposed as potential avenues for strengthening diaspora integration, institutional inclusion, and participation within Türkiye–Africa cooperation frameworks:



## **Bridging the communication gap.**

The findings suggest that access to institutional information remains uneven, particularly for non-native Turkish speakers and newly arrived diaspora members. Addressing this gap could involve expanding multilingual communication across public institutions, including the provision of translated materials, dedicated support desks, and more accessible digital platforms. Improving the clarity and reach of information dissemination would not only enhance awareness of existing opportunities but also facilitate more equitable access to institutional processes.

## **Restructuring residence and work authorization pathways.**

Legal constraints related to residence and employment emerge as foundational barriers that shape multiple dimensions of diaspora experience. Policy adjustments could focus on facilitating smoother transitions from student status to professional employment, thereby retaining human capital developed within Türkiye's higher education system. In parallel, reducing administrative barriers for diaspora-led entrepreneurial activity, particularly in sectors linked to Türkiye–Africa trade, could support greater economic participation and long-term stability.

# Policy Recommendations

## **Strengthening economic and health stability.**

Economic precarity and healthcare access remain significant concerns within the dataset. Potential interventions could include revisiting the adequacy of student stipends in relation to cost-of-living dynamics, expanding regulated access to part-time employment, and improving navigation support within healthcare systems. Establishing dedicated liaison mechanisms to assist diaspora members in accessing health services may also contribute to more consistent and equitable outcomes.

## **Formalizing institutional inclusion mechanisms.**

The moderate levels of perceived institutional inclusion suggest the need for more structured channels through which diaspora actors can engage with Turkish institutions. This could involve the creation of advisory platforms, consultative bodies, or formalized dialogue mechanisms that integrate diaspora perspectives into relevant policy discussions. Additionally, developing centralized platforms that map diaspora organizations and professional networks may enhance coordination and visibility.

## **Fostering professional networks and mentorship structures.**

Limited access to professional networks was identified as a constraint for a segment of respondents. Structured mentorship initiatives, linking established professionals with students and early-career individuals, could facilitate knowledge transfer, support career development, and strengthen pathways into the labor market. Such initiatives could be implemented in collaboration with universities, private sector actors, and diaspora organizations.

# Policy Recommendations

## Addressing discrimination and reshaping public narratives

Experiences of perceived discrimination and the persistence of stereotypical representations point to the need for sustained efforts in public engagement and narrative transformation. Joint initiatives involving public institutions, media platforms, and diaspora organizations could promote more nuanced representations of African societies and diaspora contributions, while fostering intercultural understanding within the broader public sphere.

Concerns regarding potential imbalances in Türkiye–Africa relations highlight the importance of embedding principles of reciprocity and inclusivity within cooperation structures. This may involve ensuring that diaspora perspectives are not only considered in domestic integration policies but also reflected in the design and implementation of bilateral agreements.

## Ensuring reciprocity within cooperation frameworks

Strengthening diaspora representation within these processes could contribute to more balanced and mutually beneficial outcomes.

The African diaspora in Türkiye should not be understood merely as a demographic outcome of mobility, but as an active and evolving component of Türkiye–Africa relations. The students, professionals, entrepreneurs, and community actors who navigate and contribute to Turkish society play a critical role in shaping the depth, direction, and sustainability of this partnership.

A cooperation framework that recognizes and integrates this reality, by addressing structural constraints while enabling meaningful participation, is more likely to deliver on the principles of reciprocity, inclusivity, and shared development that underpin the long-term vision of Türkiye–Africa engagement.

# Policy Recommendations

## Strengthening Intra-Diaspora Solidarity and Collective Agency

Beyond institutional and diplomatic shifts, the sustainability of the African presence in Türkiye relies on the proactive engagement of the diaspora itself. For members of the community (particularly those who feel socially or professionally excluded) we recommend:

- **Transitioning from Individual to Collective Action:** Joining professional networks, student associations, and platforms like Bizim Afrika transforms individual challenges into shared advocacy and support systems.
- **Ownership of the Narrative:** Meaningful participation in future research and forums ensures that the "African Story" in Türkiye is told by the community itself, rather than by external observers.
- **Active Stakeholding:** We encourage the diaspora to view themselves not as temporary guests, but as vital stakeholders in the Türkiye–Africa partnership. Leveraging your dual identity, professional expertise, and language skills is essential for bridging the gap between current isolation and future institutional influence.

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