

Engaging the Lebanese diaspora: Socioeconomic determinants, barriers, and opportunities for sustainable development

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Abstract: This article studies the contributions of Lebanese expats to the country's socioeconomic and cultural aspects, focusing on the main factors influencing financial and non-financial engagement of the diaspora, such as generational differences, financial ability, and cultural links. This research drew data from the Lebanese Diaspora Online Survey (LDOS), which included 123 respondents. The study finds that generational differences, financial capacity, and cultural connections significantly influence the level of engagement of Lebanese expatriates. Systemic constraints, such as institutional mistrust and political instability, are identified as the main reasons for the lack of financial engagement from expatriates. The study concludes that Lebanese expatriates are a crucial factor in Lebanon's economic and cultural development, but the current political and institutional landscape limits their financial contributions. Structural reforms are essential to improve diaspora engagement and maximize their potential for national growth. A comparative review of multinational diaspora models provides actionable ideas, including centralized engagement structures and diaspora-focused investment channels. The findings showcase the criticality of structural reforms to maximize the diaspora's potential and long-term financial national growth.

Keywords: *Diaspora, Engagement, Lebanon, Financial contributions, Institutional mistrust, Lebanese diaspora online survey (LDOS), Sustainable development.*

1. Introduction

Lebanon, a country recognized for its richness in history and cultural diversity, has endured continuous economic and political instabilities that have significantly impacted its demographic environment. Over decades, these crises have resulted in major waves of immigration, causing a large and globally disparaged Lebanese diaspora. The expats, counting millions across continents, have become a vital constituent of the country's economic, cultural, and international presence. The dependence on contributions from the diaspora, especially remittances, highlights how crucial they are to Lebanon's socioeconomic structure. Issues still exist, though, about how to best realize this potential for long-term economic growth, especially amid crises like the current hyperinflation, the 2020 Beirut port explosion, and the 2019 economic downturn [1].

The Lebanese Diaspora Online Survey (LDOS), which focused on the contribution difficulties and motivations of the diaspora, is examined in this article. The study aims to present a more nuanced picture of the Lebanese diaspora's role in sustainable development by examining these data in conjunction with comparative case studies of diasporas around the world. The analysis focuses on the barriers to effective engagement, the socioeconomic factors that affect both monetary and non-monetary contributions, and the policy frameworks that can boost diaspora participation. By offering evidence-based suggestions for optimizing the diaspora's transformative potential, the LDOS seeks to close the gap between potential and action. By doing this, it adds to the expanding discussion regarding the relationship between policy development and migration. The author wanted to investigate whether the

potential of the Lebanese diaspora can be brought into a more systemic framework toward more sustainable economic development in Lebanon.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Historical Background of Emigration from Lebanon

According to Gevorkyan and Issa [2] there were four main waves of Lebanese migration, each influenced by social, political, and economic factors. The initial wave of Christian and Muslim migration to the Americas, Europe, and Australia in pursuit of economic opportunities took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Approximately 600,000 people were displaced during the second wave, which emerged during the Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990) [3]. Political unrest at home and in the region, as well as the 2019 economic crisis, one of the worst since the middle of the 19th century, fueled subsequent waves [4]. Entrepreneurial spirit and socioeconomic diversity are what set apart the Lebanese diaspora. Members have achieved great success in a range of fields, maintaining cultural ties with Lebanon while making significant contributions to host countries [5]. With this dual function, the diaspora serves as a cultural link to the rest of the world and a resource for Lebanon's development [2].

2.2. Effects of the Lebanese Diaspora on the Economy

Lebanon has benefited greatly from remittances, which have stabilized the economy and reduced poverty. Diaspora remittances contributed significantly to Lebanon's macroeconomic landscape in 2024, accounting for 54% of the country's GDP. The results of the LDOS show that age, income levels, and sentimental ties to one's home nation are often the driving forces behind monetary contributions [1]. While they have little effect on monetary donations, higher education levels are crucial for creating non-monetary connections like lobbying and information sharing [6]. Beyond remittances, diaspora investments can also include direct investments in businesses and infrastructure as well as startup companies. Nordean [7] focuses on how Lebanese business owners abroad create international networks that boost Lebanon's local economies. Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI) has the potential to support sustainable development, but it is currently underutilized because of Lebanon's inadequate institutional frameworks, as Tabar [8] highlights. Systemic limitations restrict the contributions of the Lebanese diaspora despite its potential. Political instability and a lack of trust in government institutions prevent large-scale investments and philanthropy in Lebanon [9]. Moreover, current initiatives' effectiveness is limited by disjointed engagement strategies and a dearth of coordinated diaspora policies [10]. The LDOS results emphasize the value of open governance and customized initiatives to boost trust and simplify contributions.

2.3. Other Diasporas Comparative Views

Comparative studies point to successful diaspora engagement strategies that Lebanon can adopt. Diaspora bonds and investment plans have been used by nations such as India and Armenia to raise money for national development [11]. Similarly, the importance of centralized diaspora engagement offices in fostering cultural and economic ties is highlighted by Ireland's Global Irish program [12]. These examples highlight how important trust-building cooperative efforts and inclusive policies are to achieving diaspora potential. Overall, the diaspora of Lebanese people is a varied group that can support the country's long-term growth. But realizing these potential calls for removing systemic barriers, fostering closer cultural ties, and putting evidence-based policies into place. With the help of LDOS insights and effective global practices, Lebanon can create a more robust framework for diaspora participation that will benefit the country and its expat population. The LDOS empirical findings will be examined in detail in the following sections, along with specific policy recommendations to help achieve these goals. This article has presented exploratory research; thus, no hypotheses were stated. Instead, it uses data from a custom survey to explore research questions related to the Lebanese diaspora's engagement with their ancestral homeland.

3. Methodology

3.1. Empirical Findings from the Lebanese Diaspora Online Survey

Important data on the reasons, behaviors, and challenges faced by diaspora members when interacting with Lebanon can be found in the Lebanese Diaspora Online Survey (LDOS). Seventy-two structured questions covering demographics, cultural attachment, crisis sensitivity, political activity, financial contributions, and administrative aspects were used to evaluate the responses of 123 people (see Table 1). To reduce dimensionality and classify respondents based on their involvement with Lebanon, principal component analysis (PCA) and cluster analysis were used because there were far more variables than the sample size. This study was conducted by ethical standards and received approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB). All participants provided informed consent before participating.

The following significant discoveries were made:

Table 1.

Variables, groups, and categories.

Variable group	Variable categories
Group A	Demographics (Gender, residence, employment status, etc.)
Group B	Attachment to the Lebanese and proficiency in the Arabic language (Reading, writing, emotional attachment, interest in Lebanese history, etc.)
Group C	Sensitivity to the 2019 crisis (Was impacted or not, severity, etc.)
Group D	Political involvement in Lebanese life (participation in parliamentary elections, etc.)
Group E	Financial and other assistance to Lebanon (Donations, etc.)
Group F	Administrative questions

3.2. Demographic and Financial Dynamics of the Lebanese Diaspora

3.2.1. Demographic Characteristics

According to the LDOS data, the majority of the Lebanese diaspora is middle-aged (30–45 years old), with 69% of them employed full-time. High-income countries like the US, Canada, Australia, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are home to the great majority of Lebanese expats. Considering how stable their jobs and incomes are, this demographic distribution shows the expat's potential financial capacity. About 42% of those surveyed said their household made more than \$70000 a year. Due to its financial stability, the diaspora is recognized as a valuable asset for Lebanon's economic recovery. The survey did, however, show generational disparities, with younger participants (18–30 years old) having fewer financial ties to Lebanon, suggesting a change in priorities as they assimilate into host cultures. This trend calls into question how to maintain diaspora contributions over the long term.

3.2.2. Financial Contributions

1. Remittances as economic stabilizers: One of the main sources of economic stability for Lebanon is remittances according to 69% of respondents, they provide monthly financial assistance. These donations are frequently used to cover urgent family needs like housing, healthcare, and education. Raji, et al. [13] emphasize the macroeconomic significance of remittances, which in 2021 constituted over half of Lebanon's GDP. Only 7.3% of respondents contributed more than \$10000 annually, according to the LDOS, while 29.3% of respondents gave less than \$100 (see Table 2). This imbalance suggests that although remittances are dispersed widely, they are usually not enough to satisfy more general developmental requirements. A disconnected strategy that puts individual households ahead of systemic impact is evident in the focus on small-scale remittances.

Table 2.
Frequency and relative frequency of financial assistance to Lebanon.

Financial assistance category	Frequency	Percentage relative frequency	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
\$100 to \$500	22	17.9%	17.9%	17.9%
\$1001 to \$5000	30	24.4%	24.4%	42.3%
\$5001 to \$10,000	11	8.9%	8.9%	51.2%
\$501 to \$1000	15	12.2%	12.2%	63.4%
Less than \$100	36	29.3%	29.3%	92.7%
More than \$10,000	9	7.3%	7.3%	100.0%
Total	123	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2. Investment Preferences: Many members of the diaspora are reluctant to invest in Lebanon despite their financial means because of the general mistrust of governmental institutions and worries about political instability. Tabar [9] emphasizes that these barriers have restricted the potential for Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI), a technique commonly employed in other countries to channel diaspora funds into expansive projects. This observation is supported by the LDOS findings, which show that respondents preferred direct community support or private-sector initiatives over government-backed projects. A preference for investing in specific industries like healthcare, education, and renewable energy was also indicated by the survey. Although the diaspora's priorities for sustainable development align with these areas, their involvement is restricted by a lack of organized investment frameworks.

3. Generational Trends: Direct financial support from younger diaspora members was less common, especially from second and third-generation Lebanese. This mindset is attributed by Haddad [14] to cultural assimilation and a lack of sentimental ties to Lebanon. According to the LDOS results, compared to 45% of first-generation immigrants, only 18% of younger respondents said they wanted to make a financial contribution.

3.3. Cluster and Factor Analysis Results

The key factors influencing diaspora contributions were identified by the Lebanese Diaspora Online Survey (LDOS) using factor and cluster analysis. With this approach, respondents were divided into three distinct clusters, providing a deeper understanding of the factors influencing both financial and non-financial engagement.

1. Crisis-Sensitive Contributors: Respondents in this cluster place high importance on their work during national emergencies such as the 2019 economic collapse and the 2020 Beirut port explosion. The majority of contributions are reactive, concentrating on urgent relief efforts like funding for medical supplies or rebuilding infrastructure. This cluster represents a short-term engagement strategy, but it is crucial in emergencies. Tabar [9] highlights that Lebanon's dependence on contributions prompted by crises runs the risk of jeopardizing sustained growth. It is imperative to create diaspora engagement programs that promote steady contributions, particularly in years when there is no crisis.
2. Culturally Connected Contributors: Members of this cluster support Arabic language schools, go to Lebanese festivals abroad, and take part in advocacy campaigns as ways to support cultural preservation efforts. Such gatherings, according to Abdelhady [15] foster unity among expatriate populations and deepen cultural ties. However, people in this category only contribute a small amount of money despite their strong emotional ties. The results of the LDOS are in line with previous studies that show cultural ties usually don't result in significant financial outlays unless they are connected to official programs like historical preservation or cultural endowment funds [3].
3. Economically Motivated Contributors: These people give top priority to investment prospects in Lebanon, especially in lucrative sectors like real estate education and renewable energy. This group usually views Lebanon as a potential market rather than as a cultural or emotional commitment, according to Nordean [7]. However, involvement is usually discouraged by political

instability and suspicions related to trust. Their pursuit of long-term profits makes them essential to long-term economic growth in contrast to crisis-sensitive contributors.

4. Results

4.1. Cultural and Social Engagement

While navigating the challenges of integration into host nations, the Lebanese diaspora plays a vital role in maintaining and passing down the Lebanese cultural heritage from one generation to the next. The LDOS provides information on how diaspora members maintain their cultural identity, make social contributions to Lebanon, and get past barriers to more active participation.

4.2. Preservation of Lebanese Identity

1. **The role of community organizations:** Events hosted by diaspora organizations like the World Lebanese Cultural Union or local Lebanese cultural clubs were reported by about 78% of LDOS respondents. By promoting traditional dance, music, cuisine, and religious rites, these groups help expatriates feel more connected to one another [16]. Additionally, these clubs usually serve as unofficial networks for sharing job leads, providing support to one another, and introducing younger generations to Lebanese traditions. But there are gaps in these groups' inclusivity and accessibility, especially for younger diasporans. Numerous respondents noted that younger generations often feel alone because older or first-generation immigrant groups tend to be drawn to these activities and networks.
2. **Language Proficiency and Heritage:** The LDOS study found that being able to communicate in Arabic was a key component of cultural engagement. Arabic-speaking respondents reported stronger emotional ties to Lebanon and were more likely to take part in Lebanese cultural events. Abdelhady [15] asserts that proficiency in the language enhances one's ability to access Lebanese literature, media, and social networks, preserving ties to the nation. However, a generational loss is evident as only 41% of second-generation respondents said they could still have conversations in Arabic compared to 78% of first-generation members. In many host countries, the lack of Arabic language education options exacerbates this loss.
3. **Integration Challenges:** Religious and traditional customs are crucial for maintaining cultural identity, particularly for diasporic Muslims and Maronite Christians. Worldwide religious institutions typically act as hubs for social events and cultural pursuits, guaranteeing the continuation of customs. In addition, respondents said they are dedicated to commemorating important Lebanese holidays like Independence Day and religious feasts because it allows them to feel more connected to their roots. Remarkably, many of the younger respondents said they preferred combining modern cultural expression with traditional customs, such as Lebanese-inspired modern music and art.

4.3. Social Contributions in Lebanon

1. **Philanthropic Activities:** A sizable majority of respondents said that their cultural ties to Lebanon motivate them to support charitable endeavors to give back to the community. These include funding healthcare initiatives, offering educational scholarships, and helping with disaster relief efforts in times of crisis like the 2020 Beirut explosion. Such projects are usually carried out by diaspora networks, which profit from their extensive reach and financial resources, as seen by Tabar and Denison [17]. However, according to the LDOS results, philanthropy is still primarily reactive, with contributions rising during emergencies and declining during times of relative calm. To ensure Lebanon receives consistent funding, respondents favored longer-term, more structured charitable initiatives like development funds or endowments.
2. **Knowledge Transfer:** According to the LDOS findings, there is a growing interest in non-monetary contributions such as professional skills and knowledge transfer. Those who responded from industries like technology, engineering, and medicine said they would like to take part in

skill-building seminars or mentor young professionals in Lebanon. The reach of these initiatives is, however, constrained by logistical issues and a dearth of structured knowledge transfer programs.

3. **Advocacy for Lebanon:** In their new countries, expatriates frequently advocate for Lebanon, bringing attention to its problems and urging foreign assistance. This activism usually entails taking part in campaigns, cultural festivals, and protests to change the host governments' perception of Lebanon. Abdelhady [6] claims that these initiatives not only help Lebanon but also give diaspora members a sense of direction and community.
4. **The Lebanese diaspora plays a vital role in handling the challenges of integration into host nations while also protecting and passing down the Lebanese cultural heritage to future generations.** The LDOS provides insight into how diaspora members maintain their cultural identity, make social contributions to Lebanon, and get past barriers to more active participation.

4.4. Challenges of Integration

1. **Identity Conflicts Among Newer Generations:** Older diaspora members were proud of their heritage, but younger generations found it hard to fit in with the host countries' social mores. Nordean [7] observed that Lebanese of the second and third generations often struggle with dual identity issues, navigating both family demands for cultural preservation and host country prejudice and stereotyping. Relationships with Lebanon may gradually deteriorate because of these conflicts. In contrast to older generations who view cultural engagement as a duty, younger respondents typically view it as a personal choice, according to the LDOS.
2. **Stereotyping and Racism:** For Lebanese diaspora members, particularly in Western countries like the US, Australia, and Europe, encounters with racism and unfavorable stereotyping have emerged as significant obstacles to full integration. As stated by Al-Natour [18] racial profiling and prejudice against young Lebanese men in Australia are commonplace, expressing feelings of cultural and national exclusion. Younger expats may be discouraged from actively engaging in cultural or social initiatives related to Lebanon because of these difficulties.
3. **Barriers to Participation in Homeland Activities:** Although many respondents expressed a wish to preserve cultural ties, they encountered financial and practical barriers to participating in Homeland events in Lebanon. The nation's political instability, high travel costs, and limited vacation time were frequently mentioned as deterrents. The absence of official initiatives that support cultural exchanges or heritage tours was another issue raised by some respondents.

5. Discussion

5.1. Barriers to Engagement

1. **Trust Deficits in Institutions:** Financial contributions are hindered by a lack of trust in Lebanese political and economic institutions, according to more than 70% of LDOS respondents. Ineffectiveness, corruption, and a lack of accountability were frequently mentioned as obstacles. According to Tabar and Denison [17] this mistrust is supported by ongoing scandals involving public sector mismanagement as well as a lack of transparency in funding allocation. Due to the belief that their financial contributions will not be used appropriately or reach the intended recipients, many people have scaled back their support or resorted to unofficial means like sending money directly to family members or grassroots organizations. Additionally, a few respondents expressed annoyance at the Lebanese authorities' silence about contributions from the diaspora.
2. **Absence of Centralized Engagement Frameworks:** Diaspora engagement is significantly affected by the absence of transparent and easily accessible investment mechanisms. Lebanon's decentralized strategy leads to inefficiencies and uncertainty in contrast to Armenia and India, which have established centralized frameworks for diaspora investments [11]. Many respondents noted worries about fraud or poor management, and they found it difficult to choose reliable partners or projects in Lebanon. Opportunities to use the financial resources of the diaspora for

national development have been lost because of this lack of a coherent investment strategy. The LDOS results indicate that 43% of participants expressed interest in making donations to significant development initiatives such as education or renewable energy but chose not to do so because there were insufficiently safe and transparent channels for such expenditures.

3. **Effect of Political Instability:** Political and economic instability have become more of a concern as a result of Lebanon's ongoing crises, particularly the economic collapse in 2019 and the explosion in Beirut in 2020. In the absence of a stable governance structure, respondents were worried that their financial contributions would be mismanaged or ineffective [19]. Long-term development initiatives are also called into question by the political instability within the country's governmental system, which is characterized by frequent power struggles between political factions. Both monetary donations and long-term diaspora investments in infrastructure or business plans are discouraged by this uncertainty. The LDOS also discovered that younger diaspora members' desire to participate financially is disproportionately impacted by political unpredictability. Given the current political climate in Lebanon, younger respondents were doubtful that their efforts would truly bring about change, even though older generations might still contribute out of sentimental or familial ties.

The extensive but underutilized potential of the Lebanese diaspora is highlighted by the LDOS findings. Remittances continue to be a vital economic lifeline, but the dependence on modest donations represents a missed chance for significant change. Programs specifically designed for younger generations combined with institutional reforms could bridge these gaps and fully realize the potential of the diaspora. Additionally, funds could be directed toward sustainable development projects through the creation of transparent investment mechanisms like diaspora bonds.

6. Opportunities and Recommendations

6.1. Opportunities for Enhanced Engagement

1. **Digital Platforms:** A centralized digital platform to promote communication and collaboration was strongly endorsed by respondents. Diaspora members could stay informed about cultural and economic events, investment opportunities, and direct channels of communication thanks to such a portal. According to Gevorkyan [11] Armenia and India have effectively mobilized their diasporas for national development through comparable digital strategies.
2. **Diaspora Bonds and Investments:** Diaspora bonds have been emphasized as a potential avenue for organized monetary contributions. Tabar [8] notes that countries like Ethiopia have financed significant infrastructure projects with diaspora bonds. Clear rules and open procedures could encourage Lebanese diaspora members to take part in such programs, according to the LDOS findings.
3. **Strengthening Cultural Ties:** Respondents emphasized how important it is to establish a connection with the next generation. Virtual heritage initiatives, youth ambassador programs, and cultural exchange visits to Lebanon were among the suggested activities. According to Haddad [14] these kinds of events can pique the interest of young people from diaspora communities, ensuring the maintenance of emotional and cultural ties.
4. **Private Sector Partnerships:** To address institutional inefficiencies, partnerships between Lebanese businesses and entrepreneurs from the diaspora were encouraged. Successful case studies of diaspora-led businesses that have leveraged global trade networks to promote economic development in their home countries are the focus of Nordean [7].

6.2. Policy Recommendations

Together with knowledge gained from comparative diaspora studies, the LDOS findings offer several practical suggestions for optimizing the potential of the Lebanese diaspora. These programs seek to build cross-cultural connections to remove systemic barriers and provide opportunities for productive engagement.

1. Establishing a Centralized Diaspora Office: A specialized government organization like Ireland's Global Irish program could enhance engagement strategies, plan diaspora activities, and foster trust [12]. Such an office could act as a link between Lebanese institutions and the diaspora, guaranteeing open communication and collaboration.
2. Developing Trust via Transparency: Clear accountability protocols and transparent governance are necessary to address trust deficits. Building trust and encouraging contributions can be facilitated by independent oversight committees' regular audits of diaspora funds and the release of project results [9]. For instance, diaspora donations could go toward observable, quantifiable infrastructure initiatives like hospitals, schools, and renewable energy projects.
3. Developing Customized Digital Infrastructure: An integrated digital platform for diaspora engagement could focus on investment opportunities, encourage virtual cultural programming, and provide updates on national project progress. According to Gevorkyan [11] such a website could also serve as a marketplace, bringing together local businesses and diaspora entrepreneurs and promoting diaspora direct investment.
4. Promoting Investments from the Diaspora: Diaspora bonds are well-designed financial instruments that have the potential to draw sizeable contributions. Ethiopian examples show how effective these programs are when paired with explicit legislation and incentives [8]. Involvement may be increased by tax breaks and government guarantees for diaspora investments in vital fields like healthcare, education, and renewable energy.
5. Encouraging Youth Engagement: Initiatives for younger diaspora members, like virtual heritage courses, internships in Lebanon, and youth ambassador programs, can encourage sustained engagement with their homeland [14, 15]. By maintaining strong cultural ties to Lebanon, these programs can help the younger generation balance their identities as members of the global diaspora. Through the removal of structural obstacles and the development of trust, Lebanon can emit a transformative potential of its international diaspora. If successfully carried out, these legislative initiatives may establish the diaspora as a pillar of Lebanon's long-term growth.

6.3. Comparative Global Diaspora Engagement Models

6.3.1. Comparative Insights from Global Diaspora Engagement Models

Examples from around the world of expatriate engagement teach Lebanon important lessons, particularly about fostering structured interaction and closing gaps in institutional trust.

6.3.2. Centralizing Diaspora Engagement in Armenia

The Ministry of Diaspora Affairs in Armenia frequently interacts with the diaspora through initiatives like investment campaigns and cultural preservation. Diaspora bonds have been used to finance significant infrastructure initiatives. Applying this to Lebanon would entail setting up a central diaspora office there to assist in planning related events. According to Tabar and Denison [17] fragmented engagement strategies have lessened the influence of contributions from the Lebanese diaspora. Lebanon could increase trust by centralizing operations and establishing transparent channels of communication.

6.4. India: Investment platforms targeted at the diaspora

The annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in India serves as a forum for discussion between policymakers and members of the diaspora. To encourage investments, India also offers financial instruments geared towards the diaspora, such as tax breaks and mutual funds. According to LDOS findings, which are pertinent to Lebanon, over 40% of respondents said they would like to take part in major development projects but mentioned a lack of safe routes. These gaps might be filled by structured financial products like mutual funds for the diaspora in India [11].

6.5. Ireland: Social and Cultural Interaction

Ireland's Global Irish program aims to develop mentorship opportunities for young diaspora members to support Irish community organizations overseas and preserve Irish culture. Based on Gamlen, et al. [12] these initiatives foster sustained engagement and strengthen ties between generations. Lebanon could gain from adopting Ireland's strategy of supporting Arabic language schools and Lebanese cultural organizations overseas. According to Abdelhady [6] these kinds of programs could help reverse the generational decline in cultural engagement observed in the LDOS.

Although these international models provide valuable insights, institutional accountability, and efficient governance are necessary for their success. To implement these international systems in Lebanon, systemic corruption and political inefficiency must be addressed. Without these fundamental changes, diaspora engagement initiatives, no matter how creative, run the risk of failing. Additionally, as Nordean [7] notes, there are age differences within the diaspora, necessitating focused programs that appeal to both younger economically minded members and older contributors.

7. Conclusion

The Lebanese diaspora is a valuable asset that has the power to alter the socioeconomic and cultural climate of Lebanon. A range of interaction patterns impacted by systemic limitations, cultural identification, and financial capability are revealed by the Lebanese Diaspora Online Survey (LDOS). Notwithstanding Lebanon's ongoing difficulties, the diaspora's contributions, whether in the form of knowledge transfer, cultural preservation, or remittances, remain vital lifelines for the nation.

The analysis does, however, point out the limitations of achieving this promise. Larger diaspora participation is restricted by political instability, fragmented engagement strategies, and trust gaps in government institutions. The need for new strategies to sustain long-term relationships, especially among younger members, is highlighted by generational differences. For Lebanon, there are valuable lessons to be learned from international diaspora involvement models like those in Armenia, India, and Ireland. Culturally themed programs with diaspora-focused investment platforms and centralized diaspora offices can all aid in bridging the gap between the diaspora's potential and actual impact.

Concepts for policies like creating diaspora ties, creating digital platforms for engagement, and focusing on youth programs provide manageable ways to encourage sustained involvement. To foster trust and align its policies with the goals of its diaspora, Lebanon must put systemic reforms to openness and inclusivity first going forward. Lebanon can transform its international diaspora into a force for resilience and prosperity in the country by addressing these basic problems.

Transparency:

The author confirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. This study followed all ethical practices during writing.

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