Diaspora Map: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. What is the Diaspora Map and how does it work?

The Diaspora map will activate IdEA's membership database by visually and geographically representing Diaspora organizations working in the U.S. and around the world. Each organization will be represented by a marker on the map. Upon hovering or clicking on that marker, additional information about the organization will be presented to the viewer, including organizational contact information. Map users will be able to view organizations by sector, countries they work in, and other characteristics. In future iterations, mapped organizations will be able to submit engagement opportunities to also be published on the map. The map will be hosted on IdEA's website and will be available for public use. The map will be integral to IdEA's platform for Diaspora engagement in connecting with, and giving back to, their countries of origin, heritage, or affinity.

Q. Why is IdEA creating a Diaspora Map?

We are focused on strengthening IdEA as an interactive platform that will elevate and support the work of Diaspora communities around the world. As part of those efforts, we believe IdEA can bring value to members and to diaspora communities by building an interactive, visualized membership map. The map will exhibit member organizations' presence and influence and we believe the map will increase exposure and networking opportunities for participants. For some of our member diaspora groups, inclusion in the map will serve as their only online presence and opportunity to connect with other groups online.

Q. Are there other Diaspora Maps currently available?

Mapping has become increasingly popular across sectors as a way to visualize a variety of types of information. There are currently other examples of maps that relate to Diaspora issues generally (we are particularly inspired by Cash Atlas and InterAction's NGO Aid Map), but IdEA's Diaspora organization map will be the first of its kind.

Q. What is the timeline for the Diaspora Map?

December 2014 - February 2015: Collecting and integrating IdEA member data into mapping platform
February - March 2015: Soft-launch and testing   **March 2015:** Official launch

Q. How will IdEA determine what groups are published on the Diaspora Map?

Any organizational IdEA member is encouraged to submit the form to be included on the map. Individual Diaspora members will not be mapped, but are encouraged to use the map to connect with Diaspora organizations of interest.

Q. How can Diaspora groups use the map?

Diaspora individuals and groups will be able to use the map to view organizations working in their sectors or regions of interest. Organizations who do not have a website or other online presence can direct their constituents and funders to the Diaspora Map to learn more about their organization. For all organizations, being listed on the IdEA map can serve as a stamp of approval and recognition for the great work you do to engage Diasporas in development. Finally, because the map will visually overview diaspora activities and engagement around the world, it will allow groups working in the same issues and areas to connect and potentially work together to broaden or deepen their impact.