

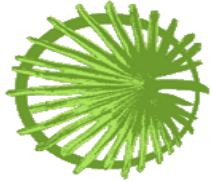


## The Ethiopian Diaspora in Germany

Clara Fischer  
Researcher

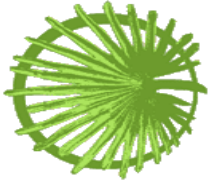
Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) GmbH

[www.bicc.de](http://www.bicc.de)



## The Ethiopian diaspora in Germany

1. The research process
2. Ethiopians and Ethiopian diaspora organisations in Germany – Some characteristics
3. Thematic issues and activities – A typology of diaspora organisations
4. Networks and co-operation
5. Perceptions of peace and conflict
6. Framework conditions for diaspora engagement in Germany

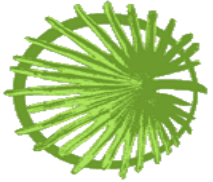


## The Research Process

- Mapping of about 167 Ethiopian organisations in Germany through literature, online and empirical research
- Dissemination of the project questionnaire and information on DIASPEACE, online questionnaire
- Fifteen interviews with selected groups, additional interviews

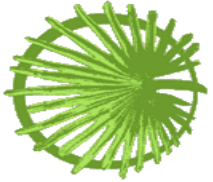
### Challenges

- Access and validity of contact details
- Poor turnout of questionnaires



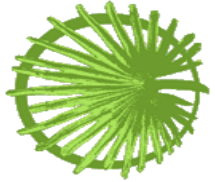
## Ethiopians in Germany

- 11,000 Ethiopians (non-naturalized) in Germany
- Four major waves of immigration
- Ethiopian diaspora: ca. 20.000 persons
- Major centres of diaspora activities: Frankfurt and the Rhine-Main area, Munich, Hamburg, Berlin
- On average: high educational levels and high levels of socio-economic integration



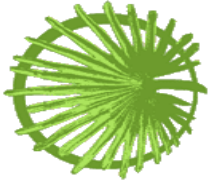
## Diaspora organisations

- High levels of organisation and professionalism
- Continuity and dynamic of the community
- High levels of political awareness and engagement
- High levels of networking and transnationalism



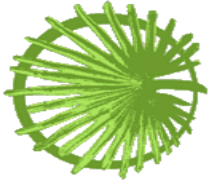
## Thematic Issues and Activities – A Typology of Diaspora Organisations

- Development co-operation and humanitarian assistance
- Community support groups
- Women's organisations
- Political campaigning
- Human rights
- Churches and fellowships
- Peacebuilding



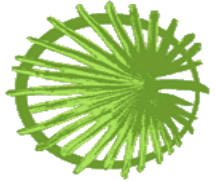
## Networks and Co-operation

- Networks and alliances in the country of settlement
  - With other Ethiopian groups (ethnic and interethnic networks)
  - Little co-operation at the project level
  - With German NGOs, churches and governmental agencies mainly on the local level
- Partners and links with the country of origin
  - Partner organisations or individuals in Ethiopia
  - Partly: cooperation with Ethiopian government institutions
- Transnational ties
  - Transnational networks, websites, blogs; links to umbrella organisations in the US / in Europe



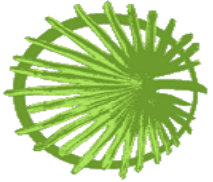
## Diaspora: Perceptions of Conflict

- Political repression and the 2005 post-election crisis,
- Lack of political participation and self-determination of ethnic regions,
- Socio-economic conflict and underdevelopment,
- Ethnic conflicts,
- Historical grievances and the legacies of colonialism and authoritarian rule,
- The Ethiopian intervention in Somalia,
- The Ethiopian-Eritrean (border) conflict.



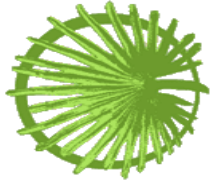
## Approaches to the Conflict and the Role of the Diaspora

- Community-based approaches on the grassroots levels,
- Importance of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms,
- The diaspora as facilitator for constructive dialogue,
- Restricting factors of diaspora engagement:  
Government policies, lack of potential partners and civil society structures in Ethiopia (anti-CSO legislation), financial constraints, heterogeneity, fragmentation and distrust.



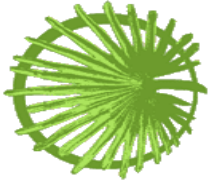
## Framework conditions for diaspora engagement in Ethiopia

- Restrictive government policies (CSO law),
- Relationship between the government and the diaspora: widespread distrust; “Diaspora Departments”
- Unstable security situation,
- lack of potential partners and civil society structures in Ethiopia,
- Upcoming 2010 elections.



## Framework conditions for diaspora engagement in Germany

- Overall high levels of integration into German society,
- But: increasingly restrictive immigration /asylum policies: create obstacles to integration (precarious residence titles, lacking job opportunities etc.),
- Financial constraints,
- Lacking access to potential partners,
- The institutional framework: improving opportunities for funding and cooperation,
- Lacking awareness regarding existing support structures among several diaspora organisations.



Thanks!

Clara Fischer  
Researcher

[www.bicc.de](http://www.bicc.de)