# ABOUT US

## Background, Vision, and Mission

**Background**

DICOFODE is an acronym for Diaspora Community for Development, a UK based multipurpose agency, founded primarily for East Africa Diaspora Communities in Britain, as well as for British Diaspora in East Africa. Majority of our members at this point in time are British-Africans or East African born or raised in Britain, resettled Britain as refugees or East Africans who were born and raised in Britain, there is no limits in membership and services can be accessed by people of all walk life regardless of ethnic background, gender, race or religion. however at this point in time despite our inclusive policy are not confined to certain section of the society as membership is open to people of all walks of life.  However, despite our full commitment to inclusive policy, majority of members at this point in time are mainly East Africans, who have resettled as refugees or born and raised in the UK. On the path towards realizing the vision spelt above, regular service improvements and updates on the website shall be maintained to ensure that service provision is accessible and attracted to diversity of users- regardless of social or ethnic backgrounds.

Its membership is drawn from people of all walks of life- regardless of ethnic background, gender, race or religion.

**Vision**

1. Development and Prosperity
2. Integrated and more contributing diaspora communities
3. Social cohesion and mutual cultural interest

**Mission**

To realise our vision, DICOFODE shall work to meet range of short and long term objectives-including the following:

1. Accessible education and employment opportunities
2. Effective self-reliance and sustainable contribution toward economies in host countries-including the UK
3. Creation of a platform for talents and skills development

Therefore, our agency shall:

* Serve as a venue for people to interact, as well as a medium, through which members can excel so that collective positive contribution can be harnessed more effectively toward economy and social wellbeing.
* Support accelerated integration of diaspora communities into host societies by encouraging education and by creating employment opportunities through jobs trainings or work placements.
* Work with friends and partners in order to create a vibrant and skilful workforce that can be a bridge in trade and business between the UK and developing countries- particularly East African region.
* Co-ordinate or linkup charitable communities or societies with donors; prospective employees with employers; universities/ colleges with prospective international students; and UK businesses with their counterparts in the East African region.
* Support community projects in Britain and in East Africa.
* Encourage innovation that combats diseases and poverty, reverse the trend of global warming, and that mitigates impacts of climate change on the environment and communities.

## Our Approach

Achieving developmental goals requires different approaches, and the method adopted by us shall include development of an app. This is in addition to dedication of a major page for each of the following:

**Communities**

Diaspora communities have many things in common, particularly their existence in more than one country, host and native countries. For example, Ethiopian community in Britain has members who can identify themselves as British and Ethiopians at the same time. There are also unbroken cultural ties as well as shared universal social norms that are adorably practised by diaspora communities in their host countries. When members of a diaspora community come together to enjoy cultural heritages, their presence in a host country becomes devoid of “the feeling of being home sick”. To showcase national heritages and to communicate directly with members of each community, we have dedicated specified subpages for nine diaspora communities: British, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Kenyan, Somalians, South Sudanese, Sudanese, Tanzanians, and Ugandans. British citizens in East Africa and vice versa are all part of Diaspora communities whose membership with us is encouraged.

**Service**

DICOFODE shall strive in order to deliver range of services-including communicational and employability skills, hospitality, social events, training, and tutoring. These services shall be discharged to members of any East African diaspora community in Britain. Also, members of British and East Africa diaspora communities in any East Africa capital city shall access our service-depending on availability.

**Talents or Technical Skills**

As a platform for community development, DICOFODE shall create suitable environment for members to showcase talents or technical skills in order to encourage their development or utilization for the benefit of the society at large.

**Innovative Ideas**

We encourage creativity and innovation, and DICOFODE shall work in co-operation with inventors and the entrepreneurial community in Britain to identify areas where governments and businesses in East Africa can be strengthen.

**Investment and Trade**

DICOFODE shall seek ways to participate in tackling root causes of poverty in the East African region by mobilising donors, governments, and businesses in Britain and elsewhere to invest on youth and by encouraging increased trade between East Africa and developed countries-including Britain. Addressing causes of climate change and mitigation of its impacts on the environment and life is another core component of our mission that should be met through positive exploitation of untapped natural resources and investment on renewable sources of energy.

**Aid and Development**

Despite being a profit agency, we shall work out ways of how we can support aid agencies and developmental projects in East African region.

## Membership

Our services are not confined to certain section of the society as membership is open to people of all walks of life.  However, despite our full commitment to inclusive policy, majority of members at this point in time are mainly East Africans, who have resettled as refugees or born and raised in the UK. On the path towards realizing the vision spelt above, regular service improvements and updates on the website shall be maintained to ensure that service provision is accessible and attracted to diversity of users- regardless of social or ethnic backgrounds.