# IMPROVING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN THE SILK ROUTES

 $2013 \longrightarrow 2014 \longrightarrow 2017 \longrightarrow 2022$ 

#### Istanbul Ministerial Declaration A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration

Promoting dialogue and cooperation in managing migration flows in the Silk Routes region through six priorities:

- · Migration and Mobility
- Integration
- · Migration and Development
- · Irregular Migration
- · Trafficking in Persons
- International Protection

#### Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process

- Building Capacities and Knowledge Base of Policy Makers and Government Officials
- Support to policy development and establishing sustainable training structures in the area of migration
- Piloting Migrant Resource Centers in Pakistan and Awareness Raising
- Launch of the Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation (RELEC), Silk Routes and Turkey
- Regional trainings and capacity building initiatives

#### Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes

- Maximising the development potential of migration and mobility
- Establishing comprehensive regional responses to migration and mobility with respect of human rights and protection of migrants

# What is the purpose of this project?

- To strengthen regional dialogue under the Budapest Process, based on shared and clear understanding of migration and mobility between the Silk Routes countries, Central Asian countries and European counterparts.
- To improve migration governance and mobility and to operationalise the Budapest Process through concrete initiatives under Flagships and Facility.
- Location(s) of the action: Silk Routes countries (SRs):
   Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan; and Central
   Asian countries (CACs): Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan,
   Turkmenistan, Tajikistan



from August 2017 to April 2022

#### Dialogue



- Support to the Budapest Process
- A consultative forum with over 50 governments and 10 international organisations
- Developing systems for orderly migration
- One of the longest-standing cooperation frameworks on migration for Europe and its eastern neighbours

#### **Facility**



- Demand driven facility for technical assistance to enhance migration management in all areas of migration, including gender aspects of migration and climate change induced migration
- Call for Proposals for large scale initiatives to implement Istanbul Ministerial
  Declaration priorities in the Silk Routes
  and Central Asian Countries, including
  small scale infrastructure projects

#### Flagships



- Migrant Resource Centres in five Silk Routes countries
- Furthering Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation (RELEC) between Silk Routes countries
- Developing initiatives for furthering protection of migrants' rights

## **Project Summary**

## 1. Support to the dialogue



#### **OUTPUTS:**



**Istanbul Commitments** on the Silk Routes **Partnership for Migration** and its Call for Action

adopted at the 6th Ministerial Conference on 20 February 2019.



**Budapest Process** Strategic Document and five-year Implementation Plan (2019-2024)

developed subsequent to the Conference



#### Reference Group

A to provide red-thread between dialogue and operational cooperation



#### 27 meetings of various types

(i.e., Thematic, Regional Working Groups, Ad-hoc, etc.)



#### ca. 2000 participants

from an average of 37 countries



#### Relevant experts

from 30+ countries - strong and relevant representation at meetings held



## 10 knowledge products

produced and disseminated to Budapest Process network and beyond





#### 3 new projects

- 1. Community of Law Enforcement Practitioners (COLEP)
- 2. Reinforcing Return and Reintegration
- 3. Vocational training for Labour Migration



#### Research and knowledge outputs

addressing all 6 priority goals of the Budapest Process



#### Reference Group

to continue providing stronger link between Budapest Process dialogue and operational cooperation on ground

## 2. Policy work across the Silk Routes (SR) Region



#### **OUTPUTS:**



3 major policies in 3 countries

covering all migration thematic areas



#### 18 research & policy papers

assessment and reintegration

on climate-induced migration, female

migration, country information needs



3 guides/SOPs

on labour migration

**RESULTS:** 



Policies serve as basis for government programming



A meaningful vision for migration management

> grown from national expertise and context



Omership by government counterparts

#### **WAY FORWARD:**



Market in the control of the control

of specific policy responses based on government needs

## 3. Awareness-raising:

the Migrant Resource Centres (MRC) network in the region



#### **OUTPUTS:**



7 fully operational Migrant Resource Centres (MRC)

in 5 countries integrated within Ministries



#### More than 150 Leaflets

(covering topics such as safe migration processes, country-specific laws and regulations, recruitment costs and occupational safety and health)



#### Outreach to 92 million migrants

potential, current and returning (295,000 received personalised counselling)

#### **RESULTS:**



13% reduction

on the likelihood of emigrating irregularly (from 21 to 8 %)



6.7% increase

on the likelihood of migrating regularly (from 73.2 to 79.9%) after MRC interventions



**Bridged institutional** and service gap

between migrants and governments



MRCs are "ears on the ground" on migration trends

## **WAY FORWARD:**



**Expansion of MRC** work, staff, location



**Engagement with MRC** related facilities in destination countries



Addressing information needs

of displaced and people on the move

## 4. Institutional and Capacity-building work: highlights from the Facility, MIGRAP and RELEC





88 More than 7,000 individuals RRR capacitated in more than 90 organisations/institutions



23 training modules/ activities



#### **RESULTS:**



Change in the knowledge, attitude and practice on the part of government officials

Development of guidelines. operations manuals, research and policy papers

#### **WAY FORWARD:**



Institutionalisation of the modules

in regular government programming and budgeting

Enhanced capacity building

Support focusing on long-term interventions/cooperation and strategic dialogue

## Project highlights - few out of many

## Iraq: Policy on Engagement with Iraqis Abroad

The project supported the development of a Policy on Engagement with Iraqis Abroad for the Government of Iraq under the leadership of the Ministry of Migration and Displaced.

The Policy has been designed through the lens of both Iraqis abroad and the state of Iraq. Its actions are geared towards building trust and sharing a common identity (including a sense of co-responsibility) between Iraqis abroad and Iraq. The policy also aims to build institutions and structures that facilitate sustainable engagement.

### Pakistan Federal Investigation Agency - Academy

Improved migration governance at national level through strengthened capacities of the FIA Academy to deliver training (including dedicated access to an online training platform and distant learning tools).

## Climate induced migration through gender lens

South Asia Migration and Climate (SAMAC) project, funded through Facility Component, further stressed that dignified, planned movement in South Asia requires policymakers to better understand the state of climate-induced migration and displacement, and share the learnings and information across borders.

The SAMAC regional report was developed with a gender lens, emphasising on the intersection among climate change, gender and displacement.





Courtyard meeting on safe migration for female migrants in Bangladesh (Facility funded project of CARE Austria)

### Migrant Resource Centre in Bangladesh

New approach: Capacity building of local Imams on safe migration

Imams (Islamic religious leaders) play significant role in Muslim countries such as Bangladesh, as trusted life advisors who can widely disseminate safe migration information in their communities. For this purpose, MRCs in Bangladesh held a number of workshops and trainings for Imams who would further educate and engage the community to understand the benefits of safe migration. Imams are expert communicators; their messages are listened to, both in the mosques when they deliver sermons, and when they use mosque megaphones.



In February 2019, the Budapest Process held its 6th Ministerial Conference in Istanbul, where close to 40 countries adopted the "Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration" and its "Call for Action". This political declaration and action plan builds upon the achievements of the 2013

#### Evaluation: Key take away and lessons learned.

Invest in policy support, development, and capacity building at the regional level.

- Future continuations of the project should aim to invest in migration policy support and development as well as capacity building

   not only at the national level but also at the regional level.
- Gender-sensitive action was a common thread throughout IMM Project activities in all five countries.
- The MRCs established in Kabul, Dhaka, Cumilla, Baghdad, Lahore, Islamabad, and Dushanbe demonstrated the power and potential of information on migration – as well as its digitisation, as shown by online campaigns conducted via various social media networks.
- Establishing coordination and cooperation networks in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Pakistan, and Tajikistan between the ICMPD and government entities as well as between national and local organisations helped lay foundations for further alignment.

One of the key strengths of the IMM Project and ICMPD team was the level of flexibility and adaptability (Covid19, Afghanistan crisis etc.)



