

### Pakistan and Migration: opportunities and challenges

- Since the early 1970s over ten million emigrants have left Pakistan to pursue their life elsewhere; this resulted in one of the largest diaspora populations spread across the world
- Pakistan ranks within the top ten labour exporting countries worldwide
- The bulk of unskilled workers migrates to the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC)
- In 2017, Pakistan was among the world's top ten countries in terms of migrant remittance inflows
- As these remittances contribute significantly to the country's economy, labour migration in Pakistan is strongly linked to long-term development goals and its overall sustainability
- Irregular migration remains a major concern for Pakistan

### Migrant Resource Centres in Islamabad and Lahore



The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD), Labour Department Punjab and ICMPD operate two Migrant Resource Centres (MRC) in Islamabad and Lahore.

The MRCs' fundamental goal: to help people make informed decisions about migration.

The MRCs raise awareness on the benefits of safe and regular migration and the dangers and consequences of irregular migration.

MRCs have already served over 75,000 potential migrants.



More outreach is needed at district level and the extension of the network to 6-7 MRCs is ongoing.

MRCs inform the public about work and living conditions abroad, recruitment processes, rights and obligations, migration laws and policies, legal and cultural practices in destination countries, and risks and dangers associated with irregular migration.

### Law Enforcement Cooperation in the region



Via the Silk Routes project, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is also facilitating regional cooperation for law enforcement agencies on irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking, in brief RELEC. This cooperation among Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Turkey started in October 2015. Its aim is to establish a better transnational response against criminal networks involved in migration related crimes. In Pakistan, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) acts as the National Contact Point (NCP) and will - together with their peers - exchange migration data, analyse migration trends and developments in the region, and establish a regional early warning system.

## How can Pakistan's migrant workers be protected?



Policy development, labour migration corridors and more

**MIGRA.P**  
Protecting the rights of migrant workers

- aims to enhance labour migration, and promote best working terms and conditions for Pakistani migrant workers
- will further develop capacities of Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment's labour inspectors in supervising and monitoring overseas employment promoters
- assists Pakistan's Community Welfare Attachés enforce standard employment contracts and negotiate bilateral labour and social security agreements
- supports the Facilitation and Reintegration Centre in implementing economic and social programmes for returning overseas Pakistanis

Funding migration management **SILK ROUTES FACILITY**

Technical assistance to the MOPHRD helped develop Pakistan's first National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis, awaiting adoption.

This policy will not only govern the emigration process but also protect workers' rights, ensure their welfare and help link migration with national development priorities.

The Silk Routes Facility will support the implementation of an array of activities aiming to facilitate recruitment and promotion of Punjabi workforce in Qatar.

The Facility collaborated with the Academy of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in the development and delivery of trainings on irregular migration, trafficking in human beings, migrant smuggling and border management.

## The "Silk Routes project"



All described activities are conducted under the project "Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes" whose main objective is to improve migration governance in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan, as well as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

and Uzbekistan. It is funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The project strengthens the regional dialogue on migration under the Budapest Process which was initiated in 1993. The project hosts the Silk Routes Facility, MIGRA.P and RELEC; in collaboration with its partner countries it also operates Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs).

## Our contacts

To find out more please do not hesitate to contact:

**Ms. Raana Rahim**  
Country Coordinator Pakistan  
Tel.: +92 345 5004937  
E-mail: Raana.Rahim@icmpd.org

**ICMPD**  
Tel: +43 1 504 4677 0  
www.icmpd.org

