



### Towards better migration management in Afghanistan

- About 2.5 million refugees have officially left Afghanistan in almost four decades marked by conflict
- This puts Afghanistan as second, after Syria, in the number of refugees originating from within its borders since the Syrian crisis erupted in 2012
- The Afghan refugee exodus has a long history
- Unofficially, the number of people who have fled Afghanistan exceeds six million
- The majority of them are currently in the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran

### The Migrant Resource Centre in Kabul: Call the migration hotline 5588



The first information centre for potential migrants - the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) - was established in November 2017 in Afghanistan's capital Kabul.

The Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR) established this MRC together with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The fundamental goal is to empower Afghans to make informed decisions on migration; over 5,000 potential migrants have already been served by the MRC.

The MRC counsellors also sensitise Afghans on the risks, dangers and consequences of irregular emigration, and alerts them on signs of exploitation and ways of protection from human trafficking.



Labour migration opportunities and migration for educational purposes is also explained.

MRC staff engage with communities living in districts of Kabul province, schools, technical, vocational and other educational institutes, and government offices providing services to potential migrants.

### Law Enforcement Cooperation in the region



ICMPD is also facilitating regional cooperation of national law enforcement agencies on irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking, in brief RELEC.

This cooperation initiative among Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Turkey started in October 2015. RELEC aims to establish a better transnational response against criminal networks involved in migration related crimes. In Afghanistan, the Afghan Border Police acts as the National Contact Point (NCP) for RELEC 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 Afghan migrant workers be protected?



- MIGRA.P will assist the Afghan government, especially the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, in developing the pre-deployment governance mechanism for recruitment and hiring of migrant workers.
- The objective: to help prevent irregular migration, enhance labour migration, and promote best working terms and conditions for Afghans in other countries.
- Activities include, among others: the regulation and monitoring of recruitment or placement agencies, validating job orders, rationalising costs, streamlining documentary requirements, and preparing standard employment contracts.
- MIGRA.P will also support the Afghan government in developing guidelines, protocols and terms of reference in the appointment, functioning and supervision of labour attachés as well as enhancing their capacities to ensure timely and efficient performance of their functions.
- In addition, MIGRA.P provides expertise in the drafting and negotiation of labour migration agreements with destination countries.

## Background on the “Silk Routes project”



The activities described above are conducted under the project “Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes” with the main objective 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 ICMPD. The project strengthens the regional dialogue on migration under the Budapest Process initiated in 1993. It hosts the Silk Routes Facility, MIGRA.P and RELEC; in collaboration with its partner countries it operates the Migrant Resource Centres.

## Why a policy framework for better migration governance is needed



1. There is currently no policy framework on migration in and from Afghanistan that goes beyond return and reintegration.
2. The result? It is difficult for the country's authorities to govern and effectively address migration-related challenges.
3. The Silk Routes Facility can help: it supports the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations and Displacement and Returnees Executive Committee in the development of a Comprehensive Migration Policy (CMP).
4. The CMP aims at addressing a broad spectrum of migration challenges. It is built on the foundation of ensuring safe reintegration of Afghan returnees, promotion of regular and labour migration, prevention of irregular migration, welfare of Afghans abroad, and maximising development potential of migration.
5. Afghanistan's CMP is expected to be completed by mid-2019.

For possible funding of other migration management projects in Afghanistan through a grant mechanism, the Silk Routes Facility has published an open Call for Proposals at [www.budapestprocess.org/silkroutesfacility](http://www.budapestprocess.org/silkroutesfacility)

## Our contacts

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