

Towards better migration management in Afghanistan

- About 2.5 million refugees have officially left Afghanistan in almost four decades marked by conflict. Unofficially, more than six million Afghans currently reside abroad.
- Globally, Afghanistan has the second highest number of refugees originating from within its borders, after Syria and since the Syrian crisis erupted in 2012. The majority of Afghan refugees are currently in the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran.
- Since 2015, there is simultaneous large-scale outmigration and return with an estimated 1 million returns and over 600,000 leaving, in 2016 only.
- As of 2015, labour migrants comprised about 50% of all Afghan migrants. In 2018, 52% of Afghans cited unemployment as a major reason for wanting to leave the country.

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



The first information centre for potential migrants – the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) – was officially inaugurated in July 2018 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 85,000 potential migrants have already been served by the MRC; around 30,000 via various outreach activities, and over 55,000 Afghans who have called the toll-free number 5588 to receive information on migration. The MRC counsellors sensitise Afghans on the risks, dangers and consequences of irregular emigration, and alert them

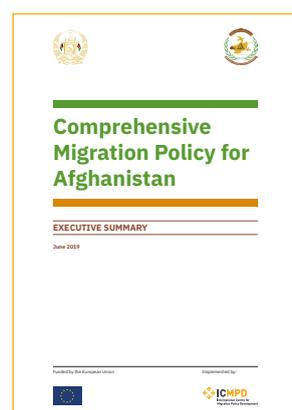


on signs of exploitation and ways of protection from human trafficking. Labour migration opportunities and migration for educational purposes are also explained. MRC staff engage with communities in Kabul province, schools, technical, vocational and other educational institutes, and government offices providing services to (potential) migrants.

Comprehensive Migration Policy for Afghanistan



There is currently no policy framework on migration in and from Afghanistan that goes beyond return and reintegration. It is therefore difficult for the authorities to effectively govern and address migration-related challenges prevalent within the country. Through a whole-of-government approach, ICMPD is presently supporting the Government of Afghanistan in developing a Comprehensive Migration Policy (CMP). In June 2019, the final draft of the Policy was officially presented to the country’s Chief Executive, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, and the Displacement and Returns Executive Committee. The policy focuses on four priority areas: the safe reintegration of Afghan returnees, promotion of regular and labour migration, prevention of irregular migration, and efforts to maximise the development potential of migration. Pending final endorsement by the Government of Afghanistan, ICMPD plans on supporting the policy implementation process.





How can Afghan migrant workers be protected?

MIGRA.P Protecting the rights of migrant workers

- **MIGRA.P will assist the Afghan government, especially the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 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.

Funded by the European Union



Law Enforcement Cooperation and Information Exchange

RELEC **Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation**

ICMPD is 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 (ABP) acts as the National Contact Point (NCP) for RELEC. At national level, RELEC supports the establishment of a framework for statistical information exchange and analysis of migration trends in order to strengthen national capacities for international cooperation. At regional level, the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the ABP exchange knowledge and experience with the RELEC partner countries to improve international cooperation in the area of irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

Our contacts

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