



## Pakistan and Migration: opportunities and challenges

- Since the early 1970s over ten million emigrants have left Pakistan to pursue job opportunities abroad. This has resulted in Pakistanis becoming 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 2018, Pakistan was ranked 7th amongst the top ten recipients of remittances globally receiving \$20.9 billion.
- As these remittances contribute significantly to the country's economy, labour migration in Pakistan is strongly linked to long-term development goals.
- 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 the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (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.

Within the first three years of their existence, the MRCs have served over 150,000 outgoing and potential migrants.



More outreach is needed at district level and the extension of the MRC in Pakistan network is ongoing.

MRCs inform the public and youth about study, 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



ICMPD is 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. At national level in Pakistan, 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 (MoI) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) exchange knowledge and experience with the RELEC countries to improve international cooperation in the area of irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

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



Policy development, law enforcement training, and more

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

### MIGRA.P

■ aims to enhance labour migration through promoting best working terms and conditions for Pakistani migrant workers and capacitating Community Welfare Attachés enforce standard employment contracts and negotiate bilateral labour and social security agreements.

■ will further develop capacities in the pre-decision-making phase and expanding the pre-departure system and orientation for departing migrant workers.

Funding migration management **SILK ROUTES FACILITY**

ICMPD is supporting MOPHRD in developing a National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis and its accompanying Action Plan.

The final drafts of both documents will soon be presented before the Prime Minister's Cabinet for endorsement and next steps. In line with the policy responses outlined in the Action Plan, ICMPD aims to further support the MOPHRD in the implementation process as envisaged under the policy.

Furthermore, ICMPD is working in collaboration with Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and its training Academy on developing a Strategic Plan to transform the FIA Academy into a 'Centre of Excellence' for trainings in the region. A draft five-year Strategic Plan and Action Plan with a focus on training, human resource development, infrastructure and finances has been developed and submitted to the top management of FIA for approval and endorsement. Once endorsed, ICMPD intends to support the FIA in implementing the strategic plan.

## 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

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