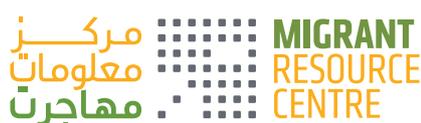


Towards better migration management in Afghanistan

- About 2.7 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. 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



An information centre for potential migrants – the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) – has been operating in Afghanistan's capital Kabul since July 2018.

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 1.8 million people have been reached by the MRC, while the Facebook page has over 20,000 followers.

33,000 Afghans have called the toll-free number 5588 to receive information on migration, while 2,400 counselling sessions have taken place in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MRC counsellors sensitise Afghans to the risks, dangers and consequences of irregular emigration, and alert them to signs of exploitation and ways of protecting themselves against 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.

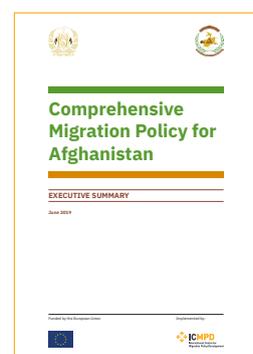
A First Comprehensive Migration Policy for Afghanistan



The Silk Routes Facility is supporting the Government of Afghanistan and its Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation in the development of a Comprehensive Migration Policy for Afghanistan (CMP). The CMP has entered the final stage of development and is close to adoption. This will focus on promoting regular migration, combating irregular migration, ensuring safe returns through reintegration and resettlement, as well as the link between migration and development.

The CMP is designed to help Afghanistan move from short-term humanitarian responses to long-term migration and development governance. This integrates repatriation and reintegration measures into a coherent strategy; links policy objectives with pragmatic policy solutions; and builds a common roadmap on which international and national partners can join forces.

A wide range of challenges have been addressed relating to data; the coordination efforts between public, non-governmental and private entities providing reintegration support to returnees and IDPs; and livelihood opportunities. Furthermore, national capacity-building has been supported, existing legislation on Afghan labour migrants reviewed, and key issues highlighted.





Protecting migrants

MIGRA.P

Protecting the rights of migrant workers

- MIGRA.P assists the Afghan government, especially the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), in developing a pre-departure system for overseas employment and enforcing standard employment contracts.
- The objective: to help prevent irregular migration, enhance labour migration, and promote best working terms and conditions for Afghans in other countries.
- Activities include: the regulation and monitoring of recruitment or placement agencies; preparing labour market assessments; promoting the safe, ethical and orderly employment of Afghan nationals overseas; validating job orders; rationalising costs; streamlining documentation requirements; and preparing standard employment contracts to protect the rights, welfare and interests of Afghan migrant workers. Migra.P has also developed guidelines and manuals to cover all phases of the migration process.
- MIGRA.P supports 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.

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