



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 making up one of the largest global diaspora populations.
- The bulk of unskilled workers migrate to Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC).
- In 2018, Pakistan was ranked in the top ten recipients of remittances globally, receiving USD 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 goals are to help people make informed decisions about migration, as well as raise awareness on the benefits of safe and regular migration, and the dangers and consequences of irregular migration.

MRCs inform Pakistanis about study, work and living conditions abroad, recruitment processes, rights and obligations, migration laws and policies, legal and cultural



practices in destination countries, and the risks and dangers associated with irregular migration.

In the last year, 1,578 virtual counselling sessions have taken place, while the MRCs have reached out to over 32,000 community members through local volunteer groups in migration prone districts. Today, the Facebook site has over 60,000 followers and in total, over 110,000 have directly benefited from MRCs in the last four years and over 8.7 million people have been reached.

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.

Migrant protection



Policy development, law enforcement training, and more

MIGRA.P
Protecting the rights of migrant workers

■ Migra.P aims to enhance labour migration by promoting the best working terms and conditions for Pakistani migrant workers. Community Welfare Attachés and labour inspectors are helped by the project both prior to deployment, and while on the job in carrying out various forms of migration-related work. Migra.P also supports Community Welfare Attachés in enforcing standard employment contracts and negotiating bilateral labour and social security agreements.

■ Migra.P also supports capacity-building in the pre-decision-making phase and expands the pre-departure system and orientation for departing migrant workers.

National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis

SILK ROUTES FACILITY
Funding migration management

The Silk Routes Facility supports the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) in the development of a National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis. This awaits final approval by the Prime Minister's Cabinet before being officially endorsed. This policy provides a tailored response to issues related to labour migration through three key areas: 1) the promotion of safe, orderly and fair emigration; 2) the protection and welfare of overseas Pakistanis and their families; and 3) the engagement of the Pakistani diaspora in the development process and reintegration of returning migrants.

Training: the FIA Academy

The Silk Routes Facility supports Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on multiple activities. This includes support in efforts to establish the FIA Academy as a Centre of Excellence for law enforcement training in Pakistan. The Facility also supports the development of an Online Training Delivery Platform for the FIA Academy, which has become especially useful during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Silk Routes Facility also continues to provide support in training of FIA officers in the areas of irregular migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.

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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