

Centres for Migration and Development – Pakistan

Working together to shape migration for the benefit of all!

Background

There are more than 281 million people across the world who are living in a different country to the one in which they were born. Most of them (some 169 million) leave their country to secure a livelihood elsewhere (IOM, World Migration Report 2022). These migration flows are linked with major development potential for the countries of origin and destination countries, as well as for the migrants themselves. Safe, orderly, and regular migration can help realise these potentials and therefore make a valuable contribution to sustainable development.

Our approach

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH implements the Centres for Migration and Development (ZME) in different countries on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support people throughout the entire migration cycle. This includes supporting regular migration for work and education, regional migration, and socioeconomic reintegration. The major focus is on regular migration for work and educational purposes.

At the same time, the centres play an important role in promoting partnerships among state and civil actors in the respective countries: establishing the centres strengthens partner structures at a local level and enhances civil society. This supports the partners in governing migration in an independent and development-oriented manner.

Given that the centres bring different partners together – both private businesses and multilateral organisations or the European Union (EU) in addition to organisations from civil society – they

also contribute in terms of improved linkage to existing services and initiatives. This enables the potentials created by migration to be strategically exploited in favour of the migrants, the countries of origin and the destination countries.

Project name	Centres for Migration and Development (ZME)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country	Pakistan
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
National Partner	Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MoOP&HRD)
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ZME in Pakistan

The Pakistani-German Facilitation and Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) in Pakistan serves as an advisory centre for people who want to migrate regularly to Germany, Europe or within their region to work or take part in professional development. The advice they receive is intended to enable them to make informed and conscious decisions about migration.

The PGFRC conversely also advises people who have returned from Germany, Europe, or other countries, and who need local support with social and economic reintegration. The centre places a particular emphasis on assisting women.

In addition to general advice, the centre directs people interested in migration to specific activities that prepare them for regular migration relating to work and professional development. These



Figure 1: One-on-one advisory session at PGFRC.

Contact

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activities are tailor-made to take the requirements and local conditions into account.

PGFRC offers information and advice on:

- Prerequisites for regular migration to Germany/EU or within the region.
- Cultural norms and access to healthcare and education services in host countries.
- Migrants' rights, labour rights, and awareness regarding protection against exploitation.
- Employment assistance and vocational training programmes for returning migrants.

The courses cover areas such as:

- Vocational training or qualification measures to enable people to benefit from the existing opportunities for regular migration to Germany, Europe or within their region.
- Support for returnees in finding a job or starting a business.
- Psychosocial support

Success factors in Pakistan

ZME in Pakistan exemplifies success through a strategic and collaborative approach. Building on the achievements of the previous Programme Migration for Development (PME), PGFRC sets a strong foundation for impactful initiatives, leveraging its existing structures to harness synergies. Additionally, the centre significantly amplifies its impact by offering tailored solutions based on comprehensive training needs assessments. For instance, it offers high-demand courses such as culinary arts, IT, solar PV installation, and hospitality training, catering to the diverse needs of the population. Furthermore, ZME prioritises capacity building and

empowerment of partners, equipping them with the tools and resources to address migration challenges effectively. Close cooperation with partners ensures seamless integration into established structures, maximising efficiency, and effectiveness. Finally, exploring synergies with other organisations allows ZME to leverage resources and share best practices, creating a ripple effect of success in the field.

An example from Pakistan

Skilled migration is becoming popular among Pakistani youth seeking economic and educational opportunities abroad. Particularly, the hospitality sector in Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar has a high demand for skilled workers. ZME plays a crucial role in helping Pakistani professionals enter global job markets.

A recent example is a month-long vocational training program at the Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (ITHM) in Faisalabad, focusing on Front Desk Officers. With 60% female participation, the program enhanced skills in communication, customer service, organization, time management, problem-solving, technology, and security.

After the training, five participants, including four women, secured jobs in Pakistan. For instance, Fiza, a high school graduate, now works as a receptionist at the Millennium Universal College (TMUC) in Faisalabad and is applying for jobs abroad with her new skills.

This strategic approach contributes to fostering economic growth through foreign remittances for Pakistan and providing valuable opportunities for skilled Pakistani workers abroad. It also reduces the gender gap in Pakistan's labour market by supporting women in male-dominated sectors, challenging gender stereotypes, and promoting equality and inclusivity.

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