

Programme Migration & Diaspora

Leveraging potential - promoting development

Context

According to the United Nations, there were around 258 million migrants in 2017. Bridge-builders between their countries of origin and the countries where they now live and work, these people are key drivers of development: They get involved in local associations and implement projects on site, send remittances to family and friends, and apply their knowledge and experience when returning home on a temporary or permanent basis for work or to set up a business.

Migration also involves risks however – for the migrants and also for their countries of origin – such as the loss of highly skilled professionals (brain drain) and the hazards associated with irregular migration. Cooperation with job agencies and employment ministries makes for safe, orderly and regular migration that is fair and socially sustainable. This benefits the countries of origin and Germany, too.

Our approach

Through the Programme Migration & Diaspora, we harness the positive impact of regular migration and diaspora engagement to drive forward social and economic development in our partner countries.

The programme’s approach reflects the German Government’s migration policy by:

- leveraging the potential of regular migration
- strengthening our partners’ capacity to actively shape migration processes

Project title	Programme Migration & Diaspora Migration & Diaspora Expert Fund
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
In cooperation with	The Federal Employment Agency’s International Placement Services (ZAV) under the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM).
Partner countries	Albania, Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Palestinian territories, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine and Viet Nam
National partners	Partner countries’ employment agencies
Overall term	Programme Migration & Diaspora July 2019 to June 2022 Migration & Diaspora Expert Fund April 2019 to March 2024
Funding volume	Programme Migration & Diaspora EUR 69 million Migration & Diaspora Expert Fund EUR 19 million

- addressing the causes of displacement and irregular migration
- supporting migrants in returning and reintegrating into the labour market
- making migrant remittance fees transparent.

These activities all take place in accordance with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as Germany’s Skilled Labour Immigration Act and its National Action Plan for Integration.



L. to r.:

Riana Amretasari, diaspora expert - improves flight security in Indonesia

Salim Benaïssa, entrepreneur – developed GPS-based tracking systems to coordinate logistics and trade with his start up in Morocco.



Iris Breutz
iris.breutz@giz.de

L. to r.:

Benjamin Cheabu, returning Expert at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Ghana.

Ernesto Apaza Flores und Fermin Quispe, beneficiaries of a project implemented by the Diaspora Organisation Freundeskreis Peru Amazonico improving infrastructures at Peruvian highlands.

Five priority areas:

1. Development-oriented return

Many migrants who have lived and worked in Germany later return to their home country. Local employers can leverage these returnees' expertise and experience for their own development. We support this transfer of know-how, e.g. through training courses and salary subsidies. Since 1980, the programme and the predecessor projects have supported more than 15,000 returning experts.

2. Regular labour migration and mobility

We aim to give potential migrants access to more information on safe and regular migration pathways. For this reason, we assist agencies and training institutions in delivering better quality advice on various options for regular migration. And when expertise is recruited from abroad, we check to see whether this is sustainable for the country of origin (no 'brain drain') as well as fair and socially sustainable for the migrants themselves. Our advice centres for jobs, migration and reintegration currently operate in 10 partner countries, providing people with everything they need to know about the terms and conditions regulating labour and student migration.

3. Social engagement by diasporas

Migrants also contribute to development in their country of origin while they are in Germany. One way they do this is through fixed-term expert assignments:

We provide support to 'diaspora experts' who make their expertise available to local institutions and we back diaspora organisations implementing their own projects with partner organisations locally. Through dialogue forums with diasporas, we strengthen their development engagement in their countries of origin.

4. Financial and economic contribution of diasporas

We provide assistance to migrants wishing to set up a business back home. With know-how from Germany, innovative start-ups foster their country's development and create jobs along the way.

Migrants also make financial contributions to their country of origin through cash remittances to family and friends. However, since high fees mean less money actually arrives on site, we have opened a price comparison portal, geldtransFAIR.de, to give migrants a simple and swiftly accessible overview of the various transfer fees providers charge.

5. Migration governance

We advise governments and international partners on policy-making, organisational formats and strategies for migration. Through training and the assignment of integrated experts in relevant institutions, we provide upskilling and support the development and implementation of a sustainable migration policy. Our framework is the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted by the United Nations in 2018.

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Programme Migration & Diaspora
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn

T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
www.giz.de/xxxxx

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Text Alexander Köcher & Laura Hellwig

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation
and Development (BMZ)