



Economic development and employment

Shaping migration

The challenge

In 2013, there were 232 million people worldwide living outside their country of origin and, according to estimates by experts on internal migration, one billion people permanently moved to another place of residence within their country. As migrants tend to stay in contact with family and friends in their country of origin, it can be assumed that almost every person in the world is either experiencing migration first-hand or is in some way affected by it. Migration harbours both potential and risks for the countries of origin, the destination countries and the migrants themselves. It can take place on a voluntary or involuntary basis. The countries involved are often overwhelmed by the complexity of the migration process. However, the positive effects of migration can be harnessed for sustainable development and the negative impacts can be mitigated by strengthening competencies in the field of migration policy.

Our approach

We take a holistic approach that promotes the positive effects of migration and reduces associated risks at all stages of the migration cycle. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH advises projects on how they can achieve their goals more effectively by making use of migration. We also carry out migration projects via the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), jointly run by GIZ and the International Placement Services (ZAV) department of the German Federal Employment Agency.

We provide consulting services in areas including the protection of labour migrants and the safeguarding of their rights, the pre-departure training and integration of migrants, the transfer of know-how and remittances, and the involvement of the diaspora in development planning activities in their countries of origin. As international migration transcends national borders, intergovernmental cooperation plays an important role. GIZ fosters cooperation between countries of origin and destination countries and assists them in concluding bilateral labour agreements. We advise the governments of partner countries on designing and implementing appropriate migration policy measures. This work is based on prior analyses of the impact of migration on the respective countries. The findings allow us to provide consulting services in different political sectors, such as good governance, vocational education, development of financial systems, promotion of the

private sector, rural development, social protection or protection of the environment.

Our services

The support provided by GIZ and CIM focuses on

- migration policy advice,
- mobility of labour,
- the impact of migrants' remittances on development,
- private-sector-oriented activities of migrants in countries of origin,
- non-profit activities of diaspora communities in countries of origin,
- transfer of know-how by means of migrants' return to their country of origin.

GIZ supports partner countries in developing vocational education as well as labour market policies which enable young people to be mobile and flexible in their working life, which includes the ability to pursue a career abroad if necessary and beneficial. The development and maintenance of labour market information systems therefore plays a significant role. Using these systems, partner countries are able to observe immigration and emigration patterns, and to take into account the needs of the labour market not only in their own country but also in destination countries. We provide migrants and employers with practical advice, training and support in the recognition of skills and qualifications, and we also help ensure migrants find appropriate work. Regional economic communities such as the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, facilitate the mobility of labour through free movement agreements and regional qualification frameworks. We assist partner countries in concluding regional framework agreements on the recognition of qualifications across international borders.

Migrants' remittances are important financial inflows for developing and emerging countries. We advise our partners on promoting the development-oriented use of these private flows. We strengthen the competencies of financial institutions and help convey basic financial literacy to migrants and their families. We also support their access to specific savings, credit and insurance products. Our innovative services in this field include setting up websites which provide migrants with information on the services offered by



banks and money transfer operators and the costs involved (www.geldtransfair.de).

Private-sector activities carried out by migrants provide important stimulus for development. Thanks to their experience, migrants can serve as intermediaries between their country of origin and the destination country. GIZ advises its partners on developing instruments and services which promote the activities of migrants – be they diaspora or returnees – within the private sector, and helps them tailor their services to the needs of business start-ups. This improves the business and investment climate, which ultimately benefits everyone. And since migrants are seldom keen to do without familiar products from their home country, it makes sense to promote the export of these products to the destination country.

The countries of origin also stand to benefit from non-profit activities carried out by the diaspora. Our studies of diaspora communities show how support programmes can foster this kind of charitable engagement. The CIM programme ‘Migration for Development’, which is being carried out on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supports migrant organisations in Germany in implementing development-oriented projects in the countries of origin. Through this programme we are also establishing fruitful cooperation arrangements between German development institutions and migrant organisations.

The experiences and skills that migrants have acquired abroad represent their most important resource. When they return to their country of origin, whether temporarily or permanently, they bring with them valuable knowledge along with new perspectives and innovations. For 20 years, CIM has been supporting returning experts by placing them in jobs relevant to development and by granting salary top-ups for a period of up to two years in order to facilitate reintegration.

The benefits

Our long-standing experience has made us well aware of the important role that migrants and returnees play in advancing sustainable development in their countries of origin. Our holistic, triple-win approach to promoting the positive effects of migration for all concerned – the countries of origin, the destination countries and the migrants themselves – represents an innovative contribution to global migration policy. Our service is unique in combining expertise in labour market policy and development policy.

An example from the field

The project ‘Strengthening the Development Policy Potential of the EU Mobility Partnership with Georgia’ implements the holistic approach described above. It is funded by the European Commission and BMZ. The national Migration Commission, part of the Georgian Public Service Development Agency, and the Georgian Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises are implementing partners. Despite having already taken significant steps towards the development of a sustainable migration policy, the Georgian Government still requires support in harnessing the positive effects of migration. The project is therefore advising Georgian decision makers and implementing individual migration policy measures. Among other things, a circular migration scheme for health personnel and staff from the hospitality industry has been introduced. Under this scheme, the migrants work in Germany for a limited period of time, receiving training and benefiting from placement services prior to their departure. Furthermore, the project is working to encourage the Georgian diaspora to return to their country of origin and to start their own businesses there. In addition, CIM has placed an international expert in the Georgian Ministry of Justice, who works as an advisor on issues related to migration policy.

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