

# Shaping Development-Oriented Migration

## The Context

Migration is a global phenomenon. According to the United Nations, the number of international migrants has risen over the past three decades from 153 million in 1990 to 281 million in 2020. Women make up almost half of this number. The regular migration of skilled workers often has a positive effect on the economies involved. Migrants and their descendants form transnational networks and contribute to their countries of origin through volunteer assignments, business engagements, remittances and investments, thereby fostering sustainable development. However, there are also risks associated with migration. Women, children and ethnic minorities in particular, can be exposed to precarious situations during the migration process, which may infringe on their rights and compromise their safety and well-being.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) recognises that regular migration can be beneficial if it is based on comprehensive information and international standards that ensure the protection of human rights. In line with the objectives of the GCM, German Development Cooperation aims to shape migration in a way that creates opportunities for migrants as well as for the countries of origin and destination. It places particular emphasis on empowering women as agents of change and strengthening international cooperation in this policy area.

## Our Approach

The Global Programme “Shaping development-oriented migration” (MEG) supports partner countries in leveraging the benefits of regular migration and engaging diaspora for sustainable development. It contributes to implementing the GCM and forms part of a comprehensive approach to migration and development.

Project name	Shaping development-oriented migration (MEG)
Commissioning party	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner countries	Albania, Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Kosovo, Nepal, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine and Viet Nam
National partners	Public institutions with a migration policy mandate (e.g., ministries of labour and foreign affairs) and subordinate authorities (e.g., employment agencies)
Overall term	June 2023 to May 2026

The MEG contributes to the following objectives:

- supporting partner countries in shaping their migration policies based on the GCM and in contributing their best practice and recommendations to international or regional forums;
- enhancing the protection of migrant rights;
- promoting gender equality and cooperation with civil society;
- promoting investment, knowledge exchange and innovation in partner countries by strengthening the diaspora in Germany as a development actor and supporting their engagement;
- strengthening partnerships with multilateral and international organisations.



*L. to r.:*

*A counselling session on regular migration.*

*Diaspora experts contribute to knowledge exchange in fields such as health.*

## Four Fields of Action

### 1. Regular migration

The MEG supports key state actors to strengthen their capacities in the areas of regular labour migration and regional migration. The programme offers advice on relevant policy areas related to the following GCM objectives:

- Providing accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.
- Improving the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
- Facilitating fair and ethical recruitment and safeguarding conditions that ensure decent work.

There is a particular emphasis on enhancing the capacities of partner representatives in partner countries to ensure fair and ethical recruitment, and on better regulation of private recruitment agencies. Training measures for labour inspectors also help to raise awareness of precarious working conditions, especially among migrant women.

### 2. Cooperation with the diaspora

Many people with a migration history in Germany are committed to development in their countries of origin. The MEG aims to strengthen the diaspora as a key player in development policy and mobilise its commitment to achieving development goals. The programme supports the process of sending diaspora experts to their countries of origin for a limited period, where they can contribute their technical and professional expertise to various institutions, such as ministries and civil society organisations.

The programme helps the diaspora in Germany to establish businesses that contribute to sustainable development in their countries of origin. It further assists diaspora organisations in Germany to work with partner organisations in their countries of origin to implement projects at the local level. Additionally, the MEG advises line ministries on issues related to diaspora engagement, including on gender-responsive policies and how migrants can contribute to sustainable development in their countries of origin.

The MEG also promotes diaspora engagement in the field of sustainable development through networking events that connect members of the diaspora and relevant partner institutions.

In 2024, a diaspora advisory board was created to advise the MEG on its support for the diaspora. The board is made up of 16 highly qualified members of the diaspora.

### 3. Mitigating precarious situations and enhancing the protection of migrants

Migrants can be exposed to risks, for example, if employed under unregulated, precarious working conditions without access to social security, occupational health and safety and labour rights. This is particularly true of the care sector, especially for women who migrate from low-income countries to provide paid care and domestic work in richer countries. The resulting global care chains often lead to gaps in the families left behind, affecting children and youth as well as the elderly in need of care. The MEG advises the relevant ministries on how to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and reduce vulnerabilities in migration. The programme also assists key state and civil society actors to develop and implement measures safeguarding the rights of migrant workers. This empowers migrants as agents of change and reduces the negative effects of migration such as care gaps.

### 4. Global Partnerships

In line with the GCM, the Federal Republic of Germany strengthens global partnerships to support safe, orderly, and regular migration. The MEG plays a crucial role in this effort by supporting strategic partnerships and providing advice on development-oriented migration policies.

Through dialogue and international cooperation, the common interests shared by countries of origin, transit and destination can be identified and aligned. Many partner countries of German Development Cooperation also have their own experience with migration policy and the implementation of the GCM objectives. The MEG supports these countries in processing these experiences and incorporating them into regional or international policy processes. This allows partner countries to pass on good practice and facilitate mutual learning. Moreover, the MEG supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in setting up the Global Data Institute and contributes to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (M-MPTF).