

# Centres for Migration and Development (ZME)

## Shaping migration together 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 associated 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 utilise these potentials and thus make a valuable contribution to sustainable development.

### Supporting people throughout the migration cycle

Through the Centres for Migration and Development (ZME), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports people throughout the entire migration cycle on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): in regular migration for labour and qualification, regional migration, and social and economic reintegration.

The implementation of the Centres for Migration and Development initially began in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Ghana, and Nigeria. The GIZ had already previously operated centres for work, migration and reintegration in these countries on behalf of BMZ. The centres were further developed and expanded into Centres for Migration and Development. A major focus lies on regular migration for work and educational purposes. Since 2023, there has also been a Centre for Migration and Development in Jordan, and Indonesia was added as further location in 2025.

Existing centres in The Gambia, Kosovo and Serbia will be integrated into the local partner structures with the support of the programme. This process has already been successfully completed in Albania and Senegal.

### Enabling conscious migration decisions

The Centres for Migration and Development serve as a point of contact for people who wish to migrate regularly to Germany, Europe or within their region in order to work or further their vocational training or education. The counselling they receive there is intended to enable them to make informed and conscious decisions about migration.

The centres are also available to people who have returned from Germany, Europe, or other countries, and need support with social and economic reintegration on site. The centres place a particular focus on women.



*Migration advisor of the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration in a counselling session © GIZ Nigeria*

### Concrete measures for new perspectives

Together with various cooperation partners, the centres offer specific measures to those interested in migration and returnees, which serve, for example, to prepare them for regular work or training migration or for social and economic reintegration on site. These include the following services:

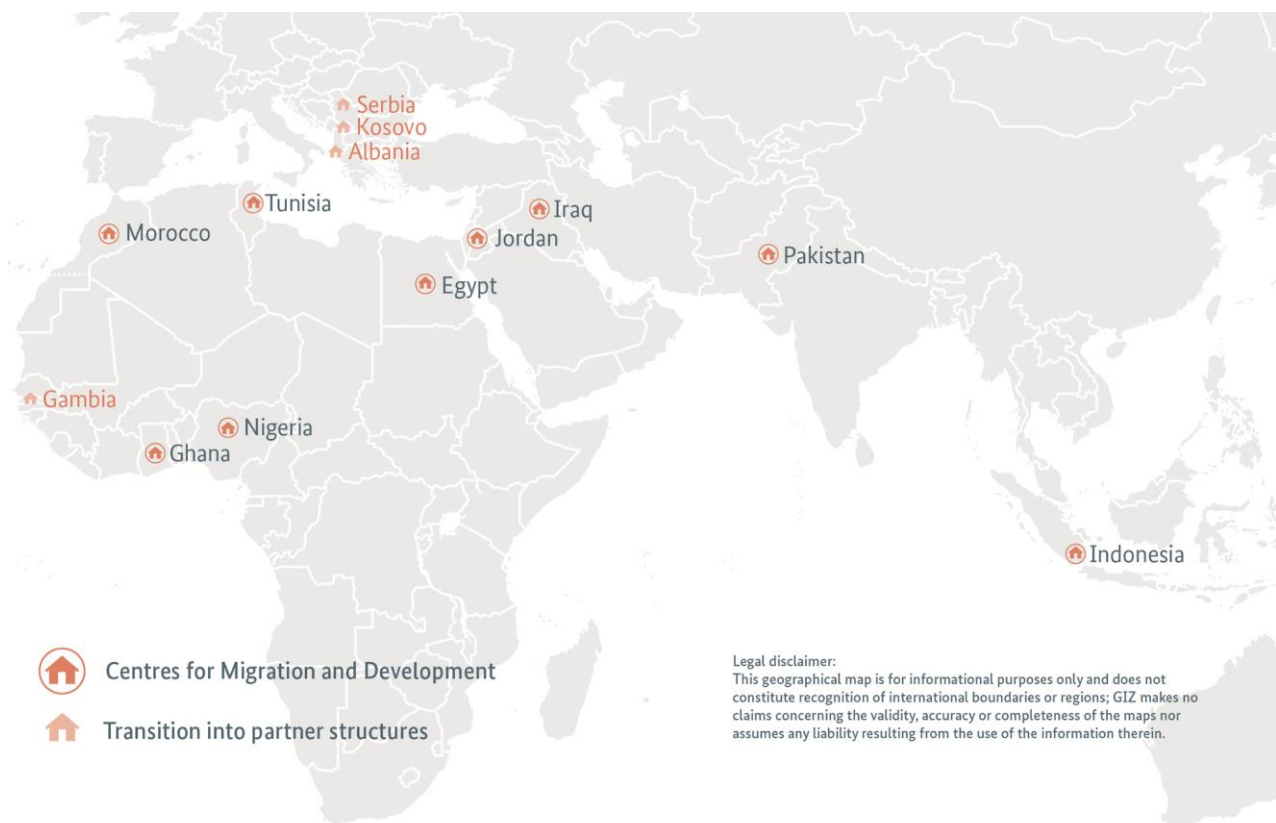
- training or qualification to enable people to utilise existing opportunities for regular migration to Germany, Europe or within their region;
- information on the requirements for regular migration and language courses provided by local Goethe-Institutes or others;
- support for returnees in finding a job or starting a business;
- psychosocial support;
- references to services offered by the Federal Employment Agency and other stakeholders such as German development cooperation projects;

The services offered in the individual countries are tailored to the needs, potential and requirements of the local context.

## Strengthening partners, utilising potentials

Together with national partners and other state, civil society and private sector actors, the centres build partnerships and networks. The objective is to create a reliable and development-oriented framework for joint approaches to facilitate regular migration for the purposes of education, vocational training, and labour. Moreover, established networks contribute to better linkage of existing services offered by relevant stakeholders. This also expands the opportunities for referral counselling offered by the Centres for Migration and Development.

Simultaneously, state and civil society partners are supported in steering migration processes autonomously. In this way, the potentials of migration are strategically utilised to the benefit of the migrants as well as the countries of origin and destination.



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Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1–5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15  
E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de) | [www.startfinder.de](http://www.startfinder.de)

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**Programme:**  
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**Authors:**  
Oliver Hofmann-Sedelmayer, Kerstin Trouillet

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