

Programme Migration & Diaspora

Context

More than 280 million people were living outside their country of origin in 2020, according to the United Nations. The International Labour Organization reports that roughly two thirds of these international migrants left their country to work elsewhere in order to secure a livelihood for themselves and their families.

Labour migration can be regular - complying with international law and laws in the countries of origin, destination or transit - or irregular and outside the legal framework. Regular labour migration can drive innovation and economic growth. Engaging people with a migration background also offers potential that could be harnessed for development in their countries of origin. But migration also poses risks to countries of origin, for instance, in the form of “brain drain” as skilled workers move elsewhere. The decision to migrate, especially to take the irregular route, may also be based on inaccurate or inadequate information about the related risks and conditions in the destination country.

In keeping with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), German development cooperation aims to support and design regular migration and international mobility to drive development - creating benefits for migrants, countries of origin and destination alike.

Our approach

The Programme Migration and Diaspora (PMD) assists partner countries in leveraging the benefits of regular migration and engaging diaspora for sustainable development. Working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Programme is active in 22 partner countries around the globe. It contributes towards implementing GCM and is part of a coherent 360-degree approach to migration and development. This approach comprises:

- supporting partner countries as they shape migration policy based on GCM;

Project name	Programme Migration and Diaspora (PMD) Migration and Diaspora Expert Fund
Commissioning party	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partners	The area of action that addresses ‘development-oriented return’ is implemented together 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, Nigeria, Palestinian territories, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine and Viet Nam
National partners	Public institutions with a migration policy mandate (e.g. ministries of foreign affairs, home affairs and employment)
Overall term	Programme Migration & Diaspora: July 2019 to June 2022 Migration and Diaspora Expert Fund: April 2019 to March 2024
Financial volume	Programme Migration & Diaspora: EUR 69 million Migration and Diaspora Expert Fund: EUR 37 million

- informing individuals interested in migration about the opportunities and conditions for regular migration at an early stage;
- raising awareness about the risks of irregular migration and demonstrating alternatives;
- promoting investment, knowledge exchange and innovation in partner countries by supporting the development-oriented engagement of the diaspora in Germany;
- fostering circular migration by placing skilled workers with a migration background with employers active in development issues in countries of origin.



Left to right:

Dr Ivy Asantewaa Asante, who holds a doctorate in microbiology from Hamburg, returned to her country of origin Ghana where she is working to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Founder Martin Rojas (centre) helps local producers to receive fair prices for quality coffee with his start-up in Colombia.

Astrid Kohl
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Left to right:

The diaspora organisation Crossings e.V. is working to protect the environment in Senegal by raising awareness and using creative learning methods.

Le Thien Duc, who has a doctorate in forestry science, is championing responsible forestry management practices in Viet Nam.



Five areas of action

1. Development-oriented reintegration

Many people with a migration background who live and work in Germany would like to return to their country of origin at some point in their lives and contribute by working as doctors, for instance, or in research or education. Local employers can benefit from the knowledge and experience of these returning experts for their own institutional development. PMD supports this transfer of knowledge through training and by providing temporary salary subsidies. The Migration and Diaspora Expert Fund provides the funds needed for these assignments.

2. Regular labour migration and mobility

PMD supports employment authorities in partner countries to manage migration in a fair, development-oriented and socially acceptable way. To this end, the Programme offers advice to interested individuals in 11 partner countries on the conditions for regular migration to Germany and within their region of origin and on the risks of irregular migration. These sessions take place in advisory centres for jobs, migration and reintegration that GIZ operates together with local employment agencies. This work is based on training for partners on specific issues, such as the Skilled Immigration Act and the unique features of the German labour market. In other countries, PMD is directly training local employment agency staff. For instance, the capacity of partner authorities is being developed to enable them to review placement offers from other countries and establish whether they are acceptable for the labour market in that particular country, are fair, safe and socially acceptable for migrants, and whether they have any adverse effect on the concerned individuals.

3. Social engagement by diasporas

Many people with a migration history in Germany work to foster development in their countries of origin, often on a voluntary basis as members of civil society. PMD supports the process

of assigning experts to their countries of origin for a limited period where they can use their technical and professional expertise to help institutions, such as ministries and civil society organisations. The Programme also helps diaspora organisations that work together with partner organisations to carry out their own projects in partner countries. PMD also encourages diaspora engagement in development by holding networking events where members of diasporas can share information with one another and with partner institutions.

4. Financial and economic contributions of diasporas

PMD helps entrepreneurs with a migration background to invest in their countries of origin. With the expertise that they have gained in Germany and innovative business ideas, entrepreneurs create jobs and help to foster economic development. PMD offers coaching and support including on developing business plans and conducting market analyses. The Programme also offers training to support the use of remittances sent by diaspora members for purposes that promote development in their countries of origin.

5. Advice on migration policy

PMD advises government institutions in nine countries on shaping pro-development migration policy. This work includes developing and implementing diaspora strategies, improving conditions for regular migration and increasing coherence with other policy areas. The goal is to craft migration policy that satisfies the interests of the country and migrants. To this end, the Programme builds the capacity of partner institutions through training and promotes the exchange of experience among partner countries. Multi-stakeholder dialogues also involve civil society in shaping migration policy for which GCM also provides the framework.

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