



# **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

## **IMRF**

Contribution by the Federal Republic of Germany

## 1. Methodology

Germany appreciates and continues to support the vision and principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The review processes are helpful for assessing progress at national, regional and international level; we are grateful for the UN system's support for these processes and beyond.

For our national reviews, we continue to follow a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach. We also pursue partnerships in multilateral and regional organisations as well as bilaterally with other countries. The **preparation of this voluntary review** was undertaken as a collaborative effort involving various government actors, notably the Federal Chancellery (BKAm), the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ), the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI), the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration (IntB) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA), which also coordinated the process.

We are also grateful for the active and substantive contributions of civil society in Germany and abroad. A longer dialogue session was held with civil society actors, academia and other stakeholders to prepare the IMRF.

Although this paper does not represent the views of all actors, it includes inputs from various stakeholders.

Reflecting policy priorities, developments have been more substantive in some of the areas covered by GCM goals than in others. Hence, the depth and scope of this contribution to the review varies. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to present challenges during the preparation of the report, such as restrictions on in-person meetings. Virtual alternatives were used wherever possible.

## 2. Summary of German policy

Germany values the GCM as a non-legally binding, cooperative framework that fosters international cooperation on migration. The Compact provides important examples for action and is tangible proof of the effectiveness of multilateralism.

**Enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways** for safe, orderly and regular migration and **mitigating the root causes** of forced displacement and irregular

migration is directly related to the **implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement**. The Federal Government and the majority of the Länder (Federal States) have strategies for sustainable development; some are already aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Data for some SDG indicators is disaggregated by migration background.

Germany aims to contribute to reducing the incidence and negative impact of irregular migration and to creating safe and dignified life prospects for people in all countries, as well as to continuously engage in supporting development patterns and measures which foster **human security**.

Priority policy areas for the Federal Government with regard to the GCM's objectives include, inter alia:

- tackling the causes of irregular migration, including the rapidly growing factor of climate change and related significant drivers of migration and displacement, as well as combating human trafficking;
- legal migration, including facilitating access to the German labour market;
- facilitating integration, social inclusion and diaspora engagement;
- safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration;
- women and girls, in all their diversity, in migration.

The following measures, legislative actions and decisions highlight this:

- In 2018, the Federal Government initiated a new **National Action Plan on Integration** – a process involving over 300 stakeholders, including more than 75 migrant organisations (see Objective 16).
- In 2019, the Federal Government appointed a committee of 25 migration and integration experts from academia and the field to its **Expert Commission on the Framework Conditions for Integration Potential** (Fachkommission der Bundesregierung zu den Rahmenbedingungen der Integrationsfähigkeit) (see Objective 16).
- Also in 2019, the Federal Government convened the independent **Commission on the Root Causes of Displacement (Fachkommission “Fluchtursachen”)** (see Objective 2). The Commission's report “Preventing Crises, Creating Prospects, Protecting People”, published in 2021, presents proposals for Germany's future national and international activities across the entire range of displacement and migration-related areas.
- In 2020, the **Skilled Immigration Act** (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz) entered into force, expanding opportunities for professionals with

vocational, non-academic training to access the German labour market, inter alia (see Objective 5).

- Also in 2020, a cabinet committee for the fight against right-wing extremism and racism was set up to develop measures to more effectively combat right-wing extremism, **racism, antisemitism and other ideologies promoting inequality** (see Objective 17).
- With its third Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (2021-2024), the German Government has committed itself to promoting gender equality and the participation of women in the contexts of conflict prevention, resolution, relief and recovery, fragility, displacement and migration.

**COVID-19** has had a significant influence on migration, including the immobilisation of seasonal workers. This has posed challenges for a number of economic sectors, especially food and agriculture, as well as for the livelihoods of migrant workers. COVID-19 has also increased the demand for health workers globally, the majority of which are women. The pandemic has intensified the need for cooperation on migration.

Germany engages regularly in **bilateral migration dialogues** to foster cooperation in the policy areas of migration and displacement, including with Greece, Spain, Italy, Turkey and Egypt. Furthermore, Germany is engaged in bilateral dialogues in the context of binational government commissions with Nigeria and Ethiopia.

Many actors are involved in the implementation of the GCM. Efforts have been – and continue to be – made to engage and inform relevant stakeholders during the review process.

### **3. Progress on GCM objectives - overview**

The following is an overview of the most important developments and highlights selected projects. The scope of activities implemented by German stakeholders is far more extensive than this overview.

In addition, the Federal Government contributes to ensuring a coordinated, coherent and comprehensive EU approach towards the GCM, addressing its 23 goals through NDICI – Global Europe funding, the New Pact on Migration and Asylum of 23 September 2020, Team Europe Initiatives and action plans for specific partner countries.

Objective 1 - Collect and utilise accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

**Integration monitoring** is an important instrument for designing transparent integration policy. The Federal Government collected and analysed data with regard to integration; the report was published in March 2021: Integration in Germany. First Report on indicator-based integration monitoring

(<https://www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/resource/blob/244016/1881330/e59a3435da62a94f14a60f46fcfd21fd/erster-bericht-zum-indikatoren-gestuetzten-integrationsmonitoring-data.pdf> [in German]).

It uses the data to map the heterogeneity of the population of migrant origin in order to highlight successes and challenges in the integration process and to derive indications of where integration measures need to be intensified or re-aligned in the future.

The German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) was established in 2017 to connect existing structures in migration and integration research, to close gaps in research and facilitate factual debates on integration, migration, discrimination and racism. It comprises a network of key stakeholders in integration and migration research as well as a central institute designed to gather, expand and disseminate knowledge on these subject areas and provide evidence-based policy advice. Key DeZIM projects include setting up a migration data centre and a National Discrimination and Racism Monitor (<https://dezim-institut.de/>)

The Federal Statistical Office (**Destatis**) collects data relevant for migration-related policies, such as the percentage of the population of migrant origin. Data on some other indicators (such as childcare provision) is disaggregated by migration background (yes/no). An academic research centre has been established at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge - BAMF) to enhance analysis, with a view to improving immigration management.

Germany financially supports **IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (as of 2022: Global Data Institute)**, which aggregates decentralised data from various institutions into a structured and user-friendly database for more evidence-based migration management. In addition, Germany provides financial support to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, enhancing data and analysis on displacement contexts, migrants in vulnerable situations and internal disaster displacement.

Under Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU, a dialogue on the **digital transformation of migration management** was launched in July 2020 with *Migration 4.0*. The event brought together migration and digitalisation experts with stakeholders from EU member states and non-European partners.

In June 2020, the amended Council **Regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection (REGULATION (EU) 2020/851)** came into force to further harmonise and improve the quality of European statistics on migration.

Germany assists the World Bank in **modelling internal climate change-driven migration in West and East Africa**. The reports describe scenarios and identify climate migration hotspots to inform policy dialogue and action.

Objective 2 - Minimise the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

Germany's approach to mitigating the adverse drivers and structural factors of irregular migration is closely interlinked with the EU's approach e.g. focusing on the instrument of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF/NDICI new) within the framework of the Valletta Action Plan<sup>1</sup>.

In July 2019, the Federal Government convened a **Commission on the Root Causes of Displacement** with 24 experts from academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and international organisations in order to identify the main causes of displacement and irregular migration and to develop approaches for effectively mitigating them, focusing on the difference that the Federal Government can make, together with the EU and other partners. The report "Preventing Crises, Creating Prospects, Protecting People" was presented in May 2021. The recommendations touch upon a broad spectrum of key drivers of displacement and irregular migration and recommend measures in five areas of action: (1) Preventing crises and resolving conflicts; (2) Securing livelihoods and creating new opportunities for development; (3) Halting climate change and coping with its impacts in a spirit of solidarity; (4) Supporting displaced persons and host countries; and (5) Managing German and European refugee and migration policy in a humane and coherent

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<sup>1</sup> The EUTF expired at the end of 2021. Projects that have been launched to date are still ongoing. In terms of content, the migration issue will be financed via the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

manner. The report also underlines the importance of consistently including women, in all their diversity, in all initiatives and strategies. The Federal Government sees the report as backing for its 360-degree approach to migration and forced displacement and will take the recommendations into consideration in the further development of policies and measures.

Germany is committed to supporting better coherence of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and peacebuilding efforts (the **humanitarian–development–peace nexus**) in accordance with the respective mandates. Germany’s increased flexible, multi-year and adaptive funding facilitates the designing of joined-up nexus interventions, to minimise the adverse drivers for and structural factors of displacement.

In 2020 alone, the Federal Government allocated **around 5.5 billion euro to prevent conflict, tackle the root causes of displacement and assist displaced people as well as host communities** in crisis situations. A significant share goes towards crisis instruments such as transitional development assistance and the special initiative “Tackling the root causes of displacement, reintegrating refugees”. The purpose of transitional development assistance is to help strengthen the resilience of people who are particularly hard hit and of local structures in a sustainable way so that they will be able to deal with existing crises themselves and to reduce the risk of new crises. Transitional development assistance thus makes an important contribution to crisis prevention.

Germany continues to improve the coherence and complementarity of its **humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts** in order to strengthen the HDP (nexus). For example, in Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan, German humanitarian assistance and development cooperation have funded **joint nexus projects that support IDPs, returnees and refugees**.

To ensure the effectiveness of the humanitarian system and development cooperation and broaden the donor base, Germany conducts outreach to potential donors – both bilaterally and in coordination with other donors. Germany further coordinates with other donors in the context of the EU, G7 and formats such as the Good Humanitarian Donorship forum.

In line with its Grand Bargain commitments, Germany has increased its flexible funding for humanitarian assistance significantly, from 147.6 million euro in 2016 to more than one billion euro in 2021. In this way, Germany was able to meet the target of 30% for unearmarked or softly earmarked humanitarian contributions. Germany’s use of multi-year funding further strengthens the humanitarian system while fostering an

adequate humanitarian response in contexts with disaster displacement and migrants in vulnerable situations.

Together with the International Organization for Migration, Germany has developed the flexible Humanitarian Programme for Africa, which incorporates a sustained and rapid response mechanism. In addition, Germany has funded an IOM project on human mobility and climate change data in the Eastern Caribbean.

The implications of climate change, including related significant drivers of migration and displacement, are an important topic for the Federal Government. It therefore supports social, ecological and economic transformation and is thus contributing to limiting the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to adapting to the adverse effects of climate change as set out in the Paris Agreement. Germany recognises safe, orderly and regular migration as an adaptation strategy.

Germany is committed to scaling up and mainstreaming anticipatory action throughout the humanitarian system and development cooperation to prevent and mitigate disaster displacement where possible and will continue to provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance and long-term development cooperation to people affected by disaster displacement.

Drawing on expertise from a wide range of actors, the **Platform on Disaster Displacement** (PDD) addresses the challenges of population movement, including those linked to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. Germany supports the Secretariat of the **PDD** as a member of the Steering Group, both financially (3.5 million euro from 2019 to 2022) and with one additional staff member who supports the GCM-related work of the platform. In 2021, the PDD, in partnership with IOM and funded by Germany, launched a project flanking the review of the implementation of GCM commitments related to human mobility, disaster and climate change.

Germany also supports the IFRC **Disaster Law programme**, which is aimed at improving legal provisions and disaster governance to protect vulnerable groups such as IDPs from and during disasters. Furthermore, Germany supports initiatives for countries to develop national **disaster risk reduction strategies** aligned with the Sendai Framework, such as the implementation of the Words into Action guidelines. This includes possible measures related to human mobility, displacement and evacuation as well as human rights-centred, planned and transparent relocation in the context of strengthening disaster risk reduction and management, resilience and preparedness.



The Federal Government's programme **Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change** supports measures to improve development-oriented handling of migration, displacement triggered by disasters, and the voluntary and planned relocation of individuals in the context of climate change. One example is a cooperation measure with the Government of Fiji to develop solutions such as human rights-based disaster displacement and relocation guidelines. The programme also supports the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in modelling human mobility in the context of slow-onset events. This will feed into efforts to implement the region's protocols on transhumance and the free movement of persons.

In Bangladesh, the **Urban Management of Internal Migration due to Climate Change** programme strives to provide sustainable and resilient livelihoods for climate migrants and other vulnerable urban poor. It offers income-generating opportunities and assistance to improve access to public services and finances, and aims to increase cities' capacity to accommodate migrants.

Objective 3 - Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

Germany **provides information** to (potential) migrants about regular migration pathways, perspectives in home countries, risks of irregular migration, repatriation and support for voluntary return and reintegration.

For example, Germany finances **advisory centres for jobs, migration and reintegration in twelve partner countries** that support the sustainable reintegration of returnees and advise people on local job opportunities and the risks of irregular migration, as well as requirements and opportunities for regular migration. Since June 2019, about 14,500 persons have received advice on regular migration through the Migration and Diaspora Programme; moreover, around 95,300 individual counselling sessions on perspectives in the countries of origin and on social and economic reintegration of returnees have been provided by the Returning to New Opportunities programme. The website <https://www.startfinder.de/de> provides comprehensive information about these programmes.

The website <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/de/>, funded by the Federal Government, provides information about legal migration for qualified workers, researchers, trainees and students. Information is available in German, English, French and Spanish and is also distributed via social media (Twitter, YouTube).

Information is also distributed through the *Rumours about Germany – Facts for migrants* website, which is available in Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Russian, Tigrinya and Urdu, as well as through social media, radio and TV campaigns.

Germany also **supports the efforts of a number of international organisations**, NGOs, local media and diaspora initiatives to provide reliable information. Projects include individual support for potential migrants and people on the move, radio shows, workshops and social media communication.

#### Objective 4 - Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

In Germany, as a matter of principle, every registered foreign person receives a document including their personal data and proving that they have legal status in Germany.

National law prescribes that all children born in Germany must be issued with a **birth certificate or a certified register printout** as a civil status certificate as soon as possible. If the registry office does not have suitable proof of the parents' details, in accordance with section 35 subsection (1) of the Ordinance on implementation of the Civil Status Act (Personenstandsverordnung – PStV), in conjunction with No. 21.4.7 of the General Administrative Regulation on implementation of the Civil Status Act (Allgemeine Verwaltungsvorschrift zum Personenstandsgesetz), the registry office must include in the birth entry an explanatory addendum on the lack of proof of the parents' identity and, consequently, the lack of proof of the child's name. In this case, the registry office may only issue a certified printout of the relevant birth register in lieu of a birth certificate until such time as supplementary subsequent certification of the parents' details has been entered. The birth certificate and the certified extract from the register are legally equivalent. They serve as proof of birth registration and are needed, for example, to gain access to social welfare benefits, healthcare or education.

#### Objective 5 - Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

Germany seeks to make better use of existing pathways and has further strengthened pathways for regular migration. In March 2020, the **Skilled Immigration Act** (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz) entered into force, expanding the possibilities for qualified professionals to access the German

labour market. The Act creates new possibilities for skilled workers with vocational, non-academic training from non-EU countries to migrate to Germany for work.

In this context, the Central Advisory Service for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Zentrale Servicestelle Berufsankennung ZSBA) was established in February 2020. As a single point of contact for skilled workers abroad, it supports them throughout the process of recognition of foreign qualifications and thus improves the transparency and efficiency of the process for the applicants. The introduction of the new law is accompanied by the provision of information packages and communication measures at German missions abroad.

The phone hotline “Working and Living in Germany” provides personal advice in German or English to qualified professionals from abroad interested in immigration as well as companies in Germany interested in employing immigrants. It can now be reached from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. CET, Monday to Friday.

In addition, the Federal Government has **extended access to the labour market** for up to 25,000 nationals (per year) of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia who are in possession of a work contract – irrespective of their qualifications – for an additional three years (until 2023). In the current legislative term, the Federal Government plans to lift the time limit on the law.

The **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)** is the world’s largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers. In 2021, the DAAD funded around 134,000 German and international scholars worldwide. It also assists developing countries in establishing effective universities and advises decision-makers on matters of cultural, education and development policy. Its budget is derived mainly from the federal funding for various ministries, primarily the Federal Foreign Office, but also from the European Union. It maintains contact with and provides advice to its main partner countries on every continent via a network of regional offices and information centres.

In 2020, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awarded 995 grants for academic mobility for post-doctoral and experienced researchers.

The Goethe-Institut promotes the study of the German language abroad and encourages international cultural exchange and relations through its 159 institutes worldwide. To date, 470,000 German exams have been taken at Goethe-Instituts and at partner institutions, facilitating access to the German labour market.

The aim of **German development cooperation** is for labour migration and mobility to benefit countries of origin, host countries and migrants alike (a “**triple win**”). The Federal Government supports the development of migration policies and capacity-building for institutions in partner countries. Examples of Germany’s development-oriented engagement on regular migration include:

- The Federal Government and EU-financed programme **Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa (THAMM)** enhances conditions for regular migration in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. It assists efforts by policymakers to improve migration policies, strengthens the capacities of institutions and tests mobility schemes between North African countries and EU member states, while aiming to prevent brain drain. As part of a pilot group for mobility schemes, 263 young people have been prepared for vocational training or employment in Germany in the hotel and gastronomy industry, the commercial-technical industry and in the fields of electronics and sanitation, heating and plumbing. Of those, 124 apprentices from Tunisia and Morocco have already been placed with German employers.
- The Federal Government-financed programme **Partnership approaches for development-oriented vocational training and labour migration (PAM)** aims to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop and test mobility schemes between selected partner countries (Ecuador, Kosovo, Nigeria and Viet Nam) and Germany. The programme supports the preparation of up to 320 people (at least 40% women) in partner countries and their placement with German employers. PAM also aims to improve the quality of vocational education and training in the partner countries in order to facilitate the recognition of qualifications in Germany and to strengthen the supply of qualified workers for the labour markets in partner countries. In this way, partner countries can profit from knowledge transfer as well as additional qualified workers. Graduates from partner countries benefit both from an upgraded qualification and from employment perspectives on the local labour market or in Germany. Employers in Germany profit from suitably qualified and well-prepared skilled workers.
- The Federal Government-financed **Skills Partnership for Mobility** strengthens standards for selected vocations, while piloting a mobility scheme for young Kosovars. Between 2017 and 2020, around 150 people benefitted from vocational training in 60 companies in Germany. Through this training, beneficiaries have better employment prospects in both countries and can contribute to “brain gain” in Kosovo.
- The Federal Government-financed project **Incubating Skills Partnerships beneficial to Migrants, Countries of Origin and**

**Destination** (INSPIRE), implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) on behalf of the BMZ, is designed to support the development of skills partnership models between the EU and partner countries to be selected in the EU's Eastern Partnership, the Western Balkans and Africa. The project aims to enhance capacities for engaging in mutually beneficial and development-oriented labour migration agreements in the partner countries. It is also intended to stimulate regional cooperation among partner countries within their respective region.

#### Objective 6 - Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

For the **recruitment of skilled workers**, the Federal Employment Agency (BA) aligns measures with the needs of the German economy and of partner countries. To this end, the BA concludes **placement agreements** with suitable countries. So far, agreements have been concluded with Indonesia, Mexico, Colombia and India. These relate mainly to nurses, but also to manual and technical professions.

- In addition, the International Placement Services (ZAV) of the Federal Employment Agency and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) have jointly established the Triple Win Programme – for the placement of qualified nurses with German companies. The project facilitates the migration of health professionals from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Philippines, Tunisia, Indonesia and Kerala (India). It is based on placement agreements concluded between ZAV and the government agencies in the partner countries. Countries are selected in accordance with WHO guidelines (see below) and the implementation of Triple Win in line with SDG 10.7. The programme generates threefold benefits ('triple win'):
  - 1) As the surplus of trained nurses migrates, the pressure is eased on labour markets in the countries of origin.
  - 2) Nurses benefit from further training in Germany and migrants' remittances contribute to sustainable development in countries of origin.
  - 3) The shortage of nurses in Germany is alleviated and global mobility schemes are supported.

Between 2013 and January 2022, more than 4900 nurses were placed with German employers: in clinics, geriatric care homes and out-patient services. Of those, 3500 have already started working in Germany.

In the health sector, for instance, Germany is guided by the WHO code of conduct for the international recruitment of **health professionals**. Recruitment and job placement from countries with a critical shortage of health workers may only be carried out if the health system of the country of origin is not damaged. No recruitment has taken place from countries with a critical shortage. Currently, a pilot project is under way to test the placement of trainees for elderly care from a listed country (El Salvador). Additionally, Germany has established a non-compulsory seal of quality, “Fair recruitment healthcare Germany”, for German healthcare institutions which recruit health personnel themselves as well as for private healthcare recruitment agencies. The healthcare institutions and private recruitment agencies are awarded the seal of quality if they comply with the established criteria for recruitment and contract practices. These criteria ensure a transparent, fair, ethical, human rights-compliant and accountable recruitment and placement process.

When migrants are employees, they are subject to labour and occupational safety and health laws. **German labour laws** and occupational safety and health laws do not differentiate between the origins of those employed.

The **Monitoring Unit for Undeclared Work (FKS)** has created an additional 1600 posts for minimum wage checks and will receive an additional 1500 posts to strengthen the agency as a whole as well as 3500 posts to implement the law against illegal employment and benefit fraud. Around 930 additional posts are planned for checks to enforce nationwide, generally binding collective agreements. The positions will be added gradually until 2029. In order to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the FKS and advisory centres for migrant workers, the responsible ministries and the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) concluded a framework agreement in 2021. The DGB is responsible for the advisory services of **Fair Mobility**, aimed at informing migrant workers from other EU member states about their rights in the workplace and helping them to enforce their right to fair wages and working conditions on the German labour market, while the BMAS funds similar advisory services for third country nationals through **Fair Integration**, a part of the funding programme Integration through Qualification (IQ).

#### Objective 7 - Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

Germany continues to **campaign for human rights**, including those of migrants, around the world. Inviolable and inalienable human rights are mentioned in Article 1 (2) of Germany’s Basic Law “as the basis of every community, of peace and of justice in the world”. The Basic Law thus

contains an obligation for the Federal Government and other state institutions to work towards the realisation of human rights. Germany is a party to all major UN human rights conventions and their supplementary protocols, and reports to the relevant committees at regular intervals on how it is implementing its obligations under these agreements. Germany advocates for the human rights of migrants in international fora such as the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council by supporting and co-sponsoring relevant resolutions.

The expansion of regular migration routes and the creation of alternatives to irregular migration can reduce the risk of adverse effects on the **human rights of migrants**. Migrants and refugees are at particular risk of missing out on access to healthcare, education or social security. With a view to the “leave no one behind” guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda, German development policy on migration and forced displacement provides specific support for vulnerable groups and assists partner countries with addressing medium and long-term migration challenges.

**Gender responsiveness** is applied thoroughly to migration policies and is a key quality criterion in Germany’s development cooperation initiatives. In February 2021, Germany launched its Action Plan (2021-2024) on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Germany works to ensure respect for human rights, gender equality and inclusion of people with disabilities in connection with migrants, refugees and IDPs as well as members of host communities. By supporting the UN Women programme “Making Migration Safe for Women”, Germany aims to ensure the safe and orderly migration of women and girls to, from and through the Niger (as well as Ethiopia, Kenya and Mali). Furthermore, the project promotes gender-responsive national migration policies and facilitates the collection of gender-disaggregated data to adapt policymaking to the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrants. The project produced the Policies and Practice Guide to Gender-Responsive Implementation of the GCM, published in July 2021, which provides concrete guidance on gender-transformative implementation of the GCM for governments and other stakeholders. With initiatives such as the “Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change”, Germany promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in all their diversity, in recognition of their independence, agency and leadership. In cooperation with the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), the Action Network supports women’s rights organisations at the local level in Nigeria, Yemen and Colombia, as well as Afghanistan, Iraq and Bangladesh.

Germany and France have launched the **Humanitarian Call for Action** to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law and safeguard

humanitarian space in order to ensure that principled humanitarian assistance can be delivered to those in need. To date, the Call has been endorsed by 52 signatories.

Germany provides **life-saving**, principled **humanitarian assistance** for vulnerable migrants in humanitarian emergencies. For example, in 2020, Germany provided funding to assist forcibly displaced Venezuelans abroad and Venezuelan migrants in several Latin American countries. Germany has also supported humanitarian interventions to protect and assist vulnerable migrants in Yemen since the conflict broke out in 2015. In addition, Germany works strategically to strengthen the capacity of the humanitarian system to provide swift emergency assistance.

In its humanitarian assistance, Germany takes particular account of **gender, age and disability aspects**. A gender–age–disability marker helps to hold partners accountable and to ensure that the different needs and abilities of women, men, girls, boys, older people and people with and without disabilities are taken into account in the design and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

#### Objective 8 - Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

Germany has been cooperating closely with **IOM** for over 60 years and is currently the second largest IOM donor. Germany partners with a wide number of countries on migration, including via IOM-implemented projects.

Under international law, the primary responsibility for the coordination of **maritime search and rescue** lies with the coastal state in whose search and rescue zone the assistance to the persons in distress is rendered. Germany supports Mediterranean riparian states and, since 2018, has voluntarily assumed responsibility for examining the asylum applications of up to 1314 persons rescued at sea. Within the EU, Germany strives for a fair, functional, efficient and crisis-proof Common European Asylum System, maintaining a balance between responsibility and solidarity at a high level.

Under Article 3 (1) (b) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 (**Frontex Regulation**), European integrated border management also includes search and rescue operations for persons in distress at sea “in situations which may arise during border surveillance operations at sea”. Article 10 (1) (g) states that Frontex is to assist member states by coordinating and organising joint operations, taking into account that some situations may involve humanitarian emergencies and rescue at sea. The German Federal Police,



with support from the Länder police services and the Federal Customs Administration, has contributed personnel and assets in the past and is considering whether to do so in the future.

The Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt) and the Criminal Police Offices of the Länder (Landeskriminalämter) use the common database **Vermi/Utot** to manage cases of missing persons, unknown persons and unknown deceased persons. This database is also used for foreign nationals when there are links to Germany.

### Objective 9 - Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

European **integrated border management** (as defined in Regulation (EU) 2019/1896) encompasses different aspects of border control, including measures to facilitate legitimate border crossings and, where appropriate, for the prevention and detection of cross-border crime at the external borders, in particular migrant smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism. Implementation of the regulation is mandatory for all EU member states.

Under the umbrella of the European Common Security and Defence Policy, the EU is supporting partner countries in establishing integrated border management systems. For instance, the civilian European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) in **Libya** is advising Libyan authorities on developing **border management** and security capacities at the country's land, sea and air borders.

The EU Operation EUNAVFOR MED **IRINI** is mandated to contribute to the disruption of the business model of human smuggling and human trafficking networks through information-gathering and aerial patrols. Germany has been actively involved in the operation from the start.

Germany has signed (2000) and ratified (2006) the *Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air*, supplementing the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*.

In December 2021, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published a study: "Abused and Neglected". The study, developed under UNODC's global programme against the smuggling of migrants, aims to promote evidence-based responses to address the gender dimensions of aggravated migrant smuggling offences. It serves as a first stepping stone for practitioners to become aware of and discuss these complex issues as well as

offering some deliberations on providing a gender-sensitive and victim-centred response to aggravated migrant smuggling offences.

#### Objective 10 - Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

The coalition agreement of November 2021, setting down the newly formed Federal Government's political guidelines, highlights the intensification of the fight against human trafficking as an important goal. Throughout the last legislative period, substantive reforms have been initiated, such as the reform of the **social compensation law**. From January 2024 onwards, all victims of human trafficking who have suffered health damages – physical and/or psychological – can receive compensation. Access to emergency aid in a trauma outpatient clinic has been guaranteed nationwide since 2021.

At the federal level, the Government has committed itself to making information on victim support and protection even more accessible and known to the public. The aim is to **raise awareness** of the support offered to victims of crime and to enable those affected by a crime to feel supported and be fully informed about their rights. This has not least been achieved by the launch of a **victims' rights platform** in 2020. The platform, which is also available in English, contains a section dedicated to offers of assistance and contacts for victims of human trafficking.

The Federal Government continues to fund the national Service Centre against **Labour Exploitation, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking**. The aim is to implement the strategy on combating human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, with the help of a Federal Government-Länder Working Group (hosted at the BMAS). The Service Centre conducts training courses, including for law enforcement authorities and counselling services, to raise awareness and improve practical skills. In 2021, the Service Centre published a legal opinion on the reflection and stabilisation period for potential victims of human trafficking and exploitation. The Act on illegal employment and benefit fraud (Gesetz gegen illegale Beschäftigung und Sozialleistungsmissbrauch) of July 2019 gave the Monitoring Unit for Undeclared Work (FKS), as the authority responsible for combating unlawful employment and illegal work, powers to take action against exploitative working conditions and conduct investigations in the area of human trafficking for labour exploitation. As part of the framework agreement concluded between the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB) mentioned under Objective 6, staff members of the FKS receive training from the Service Centre with the aim of equipping them to identify possible

victims of human trafficking. This will enable the FKS to better identify potential victims of human trafficking in connection with employment, forced labour and labour exploitation. In order to effectively combat human trafficking for labour exploitation, the FKS is intensifying its cooperation with counselling services and bodies that deal with this matter as well as with information-sharing forums on labour exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking. In addition, the FKS participates as a partner in round tables, network meetings and similar events.

At the initiative of the Federal Government and on the basis of a report by the German Institute for Human Rights, an interministerial consultation process was launched to create an independent **national reporting mechanism** on human trafficking. In 2020, the German Institute for Human Rights was contracted by the BMFSFJ to draft a concept for national reporting mechanisms that addresses gender-specific violence and human trafficking. The project aims to provide a detailed concept which describes and contrasts both mandates (i.e. gender-specific violence and human trafficking) and identifies tasks and working formats, as well as content priorities. Having completed the first phase of this project, the German Institute for Human Rights recommends two separate reporting mechanisms for the victims of human trafficking and violence against women and domestic violence, as well as further conceptualisation of data collection and reporting on the phenomenon of human trafficking. Until autumn 2022, the German Institute for Human Rights is implementing a planning and trial phase aimed at finalising the concepts and preparing the implementation of two reporting mechanisms. It is anticipated that both reporting mechanisms will be launched by the end of 2022.

The Federal Government is working to improve and strengthen protection and assistance structures for children and young people at risk of exploitation or trafficking. One of the goals of the **EU project THB LIBERI** is to create institutional awareness in dealing with victims of human trafficking. As part of the implementation of a National Cooperation Concept, which aims to improve the prevention of trafficking and exploitation of minors, the BMFSFJ funds workshops for the staff of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). During these workshops, participants are provided with knowledge about human trafficking in minors and recommendations for identification and collaboration with other stakeholders. The Federal Government also prioritised **combating the exploitation of children, minors and young adults** in the relevant bodies within the context of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union (2020) and the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (2020/2021).

In 2016, the **penal provisions on criminal offences for the purpose of combating human trafficking** (sections 232 to 233a of the German Criminal Code) were redrafted and expanded. In 2021, an evaluation of the impact of the revision concluded that further improvements in the fight against human trafficking require a comprehensive approach that does not only focus on changes in criminal law. For example, specialisation and training for police, prosecutors and courts should be strengthened.

The Federal Government continues to support the **German NGO Network and Coordination Office Against Trafficking in Human Beings (KOK)**, which pools the expertise and know-how of the counselling centres for victims of human trafficking in Germany and channels them into political discussion at federal level, into legislation and into the public debate.

The *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and its supplementing *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* (Palermo Protocol) were ratified by Germany in 2006. Their definitions and standards for the prevention and criminal prosecution of human trafficking, as well as for the protection and assistance for victims of human trafficking, are binding for Germany, including the links to migration and smuggling of migrants. Since 2021, Germany has actively participated in the first application of the UNTOC review mechanism.

At the international level, the Federal Government supports its partner countries in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and assist victims of human trafficking, among them:

- The Federal Government-financed programme **Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans** aims to improve the conditions of asylum seekers at risk of/affected by human trafficking. The programme seeks to strengthen state capacity to ensure that human rights-based legal procedures are followed and support relevant civil society actors in their engagement against human trafficking. It follows a “4-P approach” (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership).
- The Federal Government and EU-financed programme **Better Migration Management (BMM)** in the Horn of Africa strengthens national and regional actors and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, particularly addressing human trafficking and smuggling of persons within and from the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, and Uganda. The focus is on a human rights-based approach to migration management in national and cross-border cooperation between law enforcement and judicial authorities, as well as other governmental and non-governmental actors. It contributes to the protection of trafficked persons and migrants in vulnerable situations,

especially women and children, thereby also contributing to GCM Objective 7.

- **The project Organised Crime: West African Response to Trafficking (OCWAR-T)** funded by the European Union and the Federal Foreign Office aims to strengthen national and regional capacities and framework conditions for combating TOC and trafficking, including human trafficking, in the ECOWAS region.

#### Objective 11 - Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

The implementation of integrated **border management** is mandatory for all EU member states under European law and regulated via the relevant European strategy. On this basis, Germany has a national strategy for integrated border management. At European level, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) supports integrated border management in the Member States where necessary with its own technical and operational strategy.

See also: Objective 9

#### Objective 12 - Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral

To **strengthen legal certainty and the ability to plan** administrative procedures, the **Skilled Immigration Act** has improved procedures, in particular through accelerating and centralising visa applications for training and gainful employment as well as for professional recognition.

The **Working and Living in Germany** hotline is an information and advisory service for international professionals, students, trainees, companies and authorities. Services include providing information on job hunting, work and occupation, recognition of foreign qualifications, entry and residence as well as language acquisition. Since the Skilled Immigration Act came into force, the hotline has been a central service point for potential migrants, offering targeted and comprehensive initial and referral advice on relevant laws and requirements.

#### Objective 13 - Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives

In accordance with the requirements of EU and German law, persons required to leave the country are only **deprived of their liberty in specific cases** connected with forced return and only as a **last resort** in a legal process, taking into account the circumstances of the individual case. Such deprivations of liberty are limited to the shortest possible duration. Minors and families with minors are only detained in very exceptional cases and only for as long as is appropriate, taking into account the best interests of the child. Alternatives to deprivation of liberty are given preference, if sufficient.

#### Objective 14 - Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

German embassies and consulates offer **full consular protection** to German nationals who find themselves in difficulties in a foreign country. Under certain circumstances, consular protection by a German mission abroad may also be available to citizens of other EU member states whose country is not represented locally. To a certain degree and within the limits accepted by the host state, German embassies and consulates also endeavour to assist third-country nationals who hold a German residence permit.

#### Objective 15 - Provide access to basic services for migrants

Anyone who takes on more than marginal **employment** in Germany is subject to social insurance deductions and is covered by statutory health, long-term care, unemployment, pension and accident insurance. This applies regardless of nationality or residence status.

Germany's **health policy** is aimed at providing all population groups with equal access to healthcare. Information material on the German healthcare system, such as brochures, is available in a number of languages. Germany has also created a multilingual online platform (<https://www.migration-gesundheit.bund.de/de/startseite/>) which provides detailed information on health and preventive care and about current developments in the field. There are continuous efforts to expand and strengthen the cultural sensitivity of healthcare professionals. For example, Germany has funded an e-learning programme for professionals in nursing care in order to improve cultural sensitivity through tutorials. A second e-learning programme is currently being developed, focusing on work-related scenarios and language barriers.

During the **COVID-19** pandemic, regularly updated information material has been made available in up to 23 languages and through a wide variety of

channels in order to ensure full transparency and information on the pandemic, the healthcare system and especially the vaccines. Preparedness for potential outbreak events includes the publication of procedures for shelters that primarily house persons with a migrant background.

Since 2020, German development cooperation has implemented the Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, providing around 4.7 billion euro to developing countries and emerging economies for the 2020/2021 period. One focus of the programme is the stabilisation of fragile regions affected by displacement, contributing to strengthening partner countries' health systems and ensuring safe access for migrants to basic services.

#### Objective 16 - Empower migrants and societies to realise full inclusion and social cohesion

**Integration is a priority and the key to a modern, diverse and cohesive society.** Germany therefore promotes language learning, vocational training, employment, education and social integration measures, based on the principle of equal opportunity. They apply to all eligible persons, regardless of national, ethnic or religious background. It is a critical goal of the Federal Government to make these measures available as early as possible. This includes offering basic information on living in Germany or language classes in countries of origin. Institutions at all federal levels and civil society are asked to join forces to support the process of integration. Since 2017, the Chancellor has honoured extraordinary complementary commitment for integration on a regular basis with the National Integration Award.

In 2018, the Federal Government initiated a new **National Action Plan for Integration**. The Plan is based on the five phases of a typical migration and integration process: prior to migration, upon arrival, incorporation, growing together and cohesion. It developed key measures and projects for each phase together with relevant ministries, Länder, municipalities, local communities and civil society. The process involves more than 300 stakeholders, including over 75 migrant organisations as key actors. As a result, the Federal Government implemented more than 110 measures and projects forming the framework of an overall integration strategy. The plan includes a phase prior to migration, the central aim of which is the systematic preparation of migrants in their countries of origin.

For instance, almost 17,000 people have participated in the project **Pre-integration in the regions of Southeast Asia and Southeast Europe** (July 2018 to June 2020). In addition, each year, around 700,000 users access online content that was created as part of the project. The project is aimed at immigrants who wish to migrate to Germany for professional reasons or for family reunification. Services include counselling in person, by telephone and by email, as well as information services and seminars on everyday and working life in Germany. The target group of the project comprises potential migrants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Cambodia, Kosovo, Myanmar, North Macedonia, the Philippines, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam. On the basis of the analysis “Approaches that begin in the home country”, optimisation and expansion of services offered for working migrants is in progress.

Germany pays special attention to the support of **immigrant women**, in all their diversity, who often face specific challenges and have specific needs. This focus is linked to a range of digital services (e.g. Fem.OS, MB 4.0) that advise migrants in their native languages, particularly on labour market issues. This so-called “digital streetwork” aims to improve migrants’ access to information. In addition, various empowerment and violence prevention projects for immigrant women are supported and promoted.

In January 2019, the Federal Government appointed the **Expert Commission on the Framework Conditions for Integration**. The Commission submitted its final report to parliament in January 2021. After two years, the Commission presented proposals for improving the structural requirements for integration, such as housing, work, health, education and dealing with racism.

Fostering the social inclusion of migrants and persons with a migrant background as well as coping with reservations within society regarding the equal participation of all people in Germany are long term objectives addressed within the framework of the federal programme “Live Democracy!”. Civil society organisations are therefore granted financial support in order to test new, innovative approaches. In addition, a competence network “Zusammenleben in der Einwanderungsgesellschaft” (Living together in a society of immigration) composed of five experienced civil society organisations has been established to advance expertise in this field, train migrant organisations and provide advice for organisations willing to diversify their own structures and facilitate the participation of migrants.



## Objective 17 - Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

In October 2019, the Federal Government decided on a package of measures to better combat **right-wing extremism and hate crime**. Among other things, the package laid the foundations for pursuing hate crime more effectively online; the criminality of hate speech and aggressive insult was adjusted, and the processing and monitoring of right-wing extremism both in the domestic intelligence services (Verfassungsschutzverbund) and the BKA were intensified. Several hundred jobs have been created for this purpose in the BKA and the BfV.

In March 2020, a **cabinet committee for the fight against right-wing extremism and racism** was set up to develop **measures to combat right-wing extremism, racism, antisemitism and other ideologies promoting inequality** more effectively. Representatives of migrant organisations and civil society as well as members of the research community and representatives of all 16 Länder were consulted in the work of the committee, which led to the development of a catalogue of 89 measures. These measures, which focus on prevention, research, the strengthening of security and judicial authorities as well as civil society, recognising and valuing a diverse society and strengthening opportunities for participation, are still being implemented. They will be further developed and adapted in the current election period from 2021 to 2025.

In 2021, the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) established the National Discrimination and Racism Monitor (NaDiRa) to record development and trends regarding racism in Germany. Among other things, the Racism Monitor surveys members of affected groups, their perceptions and realities of everyday life. First reports will be published in 2022 and are available online (<https://www.rassismusmonitor.de/>).

## Objective 18 - Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

Conditions for migrants who come to Germany for the purpose of in-company training have been fundamentally improved by expanding access to vocational training with the **Act to Promote the Training and Employment of Foreigners** (Ausländerbeschäftigungsförderungsgesetz). Since then, migrants have been able to receive the same support as German citizens for in-company vocational training. Subsistence grants are available under certain conditions. After the reform of the **Act to Promote the Training and**

**Employment of Foreigners**, the share of foreigners among those receiving financial support for the purpose of professional development rose considerably.

As part of the funding programme **Integration through Qualification (IQ)**, around 70 permanent and 100 mobile advice centres as well as 170 qualification projects help migrants and newcomers receive recognition of their qualifications and/or qualify for educationally appropriate employment. The programme further strives to raise the profile of processes and support structures and to overcome structural hurdles to labour market integration.

The recognition of foreign professional qualifications and the acquisition of the German language are important keys for quick and sustainable integration into the job market. The new coalition agreement provides for lowering the hurdles for the recognition of educational and professional qualifications from abroad, reducing bureaucracy and speeding up procedures. This is intended to continue the development of recent years, in which access to the procedures was facilitated, the opportunities for qualification expanded and the benefits of recognition strengthened (see also Objective 5 above for more information on the ZSBA).

The 'ProRecognition' project run by DIHK Service GmbH was expanded in 2021 and provides guidance on the recognition of professional qualifications at German chambers of commerce abroad in ten countries worldwide.

The shortened deadlines for recognition procedures for applications in the newly introduced, accelerated administrative procedure for skilled workers and their family members that were adopted with the Skilled Immigration Act for professions under federal law were adopted for professions governed by Länder law in 2020 and 2021.

Projects such as 'Unternehmen Berufsanerkennung' (UBA), which is run by DIHK Service GmbH and the Central Agency for Continuing Education and Training in the Skilled Crafts (ZWH) and entered a new funding period in 2022, are raising awareness of the topic of recognition within a company context. The aims are to demonstrate to companies and firms the opportunities afforded by professional recognition and to inform them how they can assist foreign skilled workers along the pathway to full recognition.

Since the implementation of the government-funded **vocational language courses** in 2016, more than 600,000 participations have been registered. Access was extended in 2019 and in 2020 through the Act to Promote the Training and Employment of Foreigners (Ausländerbeschäftigungsfördergesetz) and the Skilled Immigration Act

(Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz). Recently developed types of courses, currently at the pilot stage, concentrate on special needs during vocational training, for example. Virtual classrooms were implemented in 2020 in order to mitigate a decline in the number of participants in integration courses and vocational language courses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The integration courses (attended by about 2.5 million participants since 2005) offered by the BMI, together with the vocational language courses offered by the BMAS, constitute a joint modular system known as the comprehensive language programme. The courses are administered by the BAMF.

#### Objective 19 - Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

The **diaspora in Germany is a key partner** of development cooperation. The Federal Government has therefore established a development policy dialogue with important migrant umbrella organisations in Germany. Moreover, the Federal Government harnesses the potential of diaspora engagement to drive social and economic development in 22 partner countries through its **Migration and Diaspora Programme (PMD)**. The PMD offers funding and advice for organisations carrying out projects with partners in countries of origin. The programme also facilitates **knowledge and skill transfer** by supporting temporary assignments by diaspora professionals in institutions of partner countries as well as the voluntary return of highly qualified experts to their countries of origin. The programme supports reintegration into the local job market so that returning experts can contribute with the professional know-how they have acquired in Germany. Since April 2019, more than 870 local employers have benefitted from the services of more than 1100 returning experts. The PMD also assists diaspora entrepreneurs in founding start-ups and thereby contributing to innovation and economic development in their countries of origin. Moreover, the PMD responds to the need for exchange, networking and mutual learning among the diaspora by organising a yearly Diaspora Forum that is shaped by organisations and individuals engaged in their country of origin. German development cooperation has established the website [diaspora2030.de](http://diaspora2030.de) to provide information on funding opportunities and events for people with a migration history who are interested or engaged in the field of sustainable development.

#### Objective 20 - Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

Germany seeks to facilitate an environment where cheap, fast and safe **remittances** are available to migrant families, innovation is supported and recipients can invest these funds sustainably. For instance, Germany and Jordan cooperate on using digital solutions to improve the access of migrant workers and refugees in Jordan, as well as Jordanian households, to remittances and other financial services.

Germany also supports **diaspora investments for entrepreneurship** in selected African countries through the online platform WIDU.africa. WIDU redirects existing remittances into sustainable investments for start-ups and small businesses of friends and family members and tops them up with a 100% grant. In response to COVID-19-induced challenges, WIDU has made additional grants available in the health, food and mobility industries.

As the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development (GFRID) is an important platform for building and strengthening partnerships to realise the commitment of Objective 20, Germany decided to co-fund this forum in 2021 and 2022.

#### Objective 21 - Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

Germany ensures that the **return of migrants** who do not have the legal right to stay in Germany takes place following an individual assessment that is in line with international and national law and is carried out by competent authorities. Germany provides for effective judicial remedies in compliance with due process guarantees and obligations under national and international law.

Germany is committed to the advancement of assisted **voluntary return** as the preferred mode of return for sustainable reintegration. Cooperation among government branches has been strengthened to better coordinate and link support measures for return and sustainable reintegration.

Addressing the challenges of irregular migration requires close **cooperation with countries of origin**, including on identification, issuance of travel documents, return, sustainable reintegration and reduction of root causes of irregular migration and involuntary displacement. Germany is supporting third countries in this regard, i.a. through sustainable reintegration and voluntary return programmes.

**Readmission agreements** are in place with a number of countries.

Germany supports development-oriented voluntary return efforts through partnership-based initiatives with countries of origin and transit in the context of the implementation of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI – Global Europe).

Since 2017, the Federal Government's **Returning to New Opportunities** programme has supported voluntary return and sustainable reintegration in 13 partner countries of origin in Western and Northern Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Balkans. The initiative links counselling and preparation in Germany with economic and social support measures for returnees and, in accordance with its developmental focus and do-no-harm approach, the local population in partner countries. Additionally, the programme aims for the sustainable anchoring of reintegration structures in the partner countries by supporting civil society organisations which are active in the field of social and economic reintegration.

**Advisory centres** in currently twelve partner countries offer information on local employment and training opportunities, provide vocational training and psychosocial support, and assist returnees in their reintegration. Centres are run in partnership with national institutions. By November 2021, the programme had provided more than 1,000,000 individual support measures, of which more than 90,000 were reintegration measures for returnees from Germany. Around 420,000 of these measures have been provided to women. With the programme's support, around 310,000 people (of whom 130,000 were women) found work or started their own business. Since 2017, approximately 145,000 individual counselling sessions have been provided, more than 45,000 to women.

The website <https://www.startfinder.de/de> offers comprehensive information for people who would like to return to their country of origin or who are looking for new perspectives there. The platform provides information on return counselling, return assistance and, in particular, reintegration services in the countries of origin. This includes information on advice services, job fairs, training and support services in the countries of origin, as well as services in Germany, such as short vocational training courses to improve reintegration. In addition, people who have been able to find new perspectives in their countries of origin through the Returning to New Opportunities programme tell their personal stories.

Objective 22 - Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

The objective has been met in the area of statutory **pension insurance**. Pension benefits are provided in full to people who have worked in Germany and have earned a pension, regardless of nationality and place of residence. Entitlement to benefits requires a certain minimum insurance period (for a regular old-age pension, for instance, the fulfilment of a “general qualifying period” of five years). Almost all bilateral agreements on social security allow this requirement to be met by adding insurance periods in contracting states.

**Bilateral agreements** are concluded on the basis of reciprocity, equivalence, financial balance and if there is sufficient need for regulation. Agreements contain – among other things – the principle of equal treatment for the branches of social security they cover.

#### Objective 23 - Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Germany actively **supports organisations, platforms and processes** central to the implementation of the GCM. Germany has been an active member of the **GFMD** since its inception in 2007 and is one of its **core funders**, recognising its added value as an informal, state-led and action-oriented platform on international migration and sustainable development. Germany and Morocco jointly chaired the GFMD from 2017 to 2018. After contributing to GFMD’s Civil Society Mechanism in the last few years, Germany is supporting the Mayors Mechanism in 2021/2022. The Mayors Mechanism engages local governments in the GFMD and provides opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and exchange.

We encourage the GFMD and the UN Migration Network to explore possibilities to further strengthen their partnership and include practitioners, with the aim of fostering more operational cooperation on the ground and addressing clearly defined needs of migrants for the benefit of all actors.

Germany regularly engages in bilateral migration dialogues to foster cooperation in the policy areas of migration and displacement. Germany is also engaged in bilateral dialogues in the context of binational government commissions.

In November 2021, the Federal Government announced its intention to appoint a Special Representative on Migration. This newly created position will further promote migration dialogues between Germany and its partner countries.

#### 4. Means of implementation

Means of implementation are mobilised through relevant branches of government at federal, Land and local levels, as well as through civil society organisations and other stakeholders. Germany has become **IOM's second largest donor**, funding projects to the tune of 132 million US dollars and providing 3.5 million Swiss francs in administrative contributions in 2019. Germany has also intensified its cooperation with ICMPD by joining the organisation as a member state in 2020 and chairing ICMPD's Steering Group in 2022, with the motto "improving operational capabilities". Continued and intensified coordination within Germany, as well as with the EU and partners globally, will support the sustainable implementation of GCM objectives. Processes such as the regional and global review help strengthen exchange and cooperation, take stock of progress, and identify fields where further progress requires intensified engagement and cooperation with countries of origin or transit.

The **Migration MPTF** and the Migration Network Hub are important steps on the way towards reaching the GCM's objectives. Germany has provided a total of 12.25 million euro for the five clusters of the Migration MPTF, which makes Germany its biggest donor. The Federal Government is actively engaged as a member of the steering committee. Germany also engages in several activities of the Migration Network Hub.

#### 5. Next steps

Various actors continue to work on further strengthening policy and practice in areas relevant to goals set out in the GCM. This includes – among others – the follow-up on the reports and recommendations of the **Commission on the Root Causes of Displacement (including irregular migration)** as well as a new federal programme as part of the next European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) funding phase 2021-2027, with the aim of ensuring that unqualified female refugees and immigrants participating in qualification and training measures can obtain access to sustainable employment.

The Federal Government is also following up on the recommendations of the **Commission on the Root Causes of Displacement (including irregular migration)** and the **Expert Commission on the Framework Conditions for Integration**.

**During the preparation of this review**, the Federal Government sought inputs from a broad number of agencies as well as from CSOs, academia, political foundations, diaspora organisations, parliament and other stakeholders. The final report will be published in English and in German.

Germany looks forward to an **inclusive process and to the follow-up and review** outlined in the Global Compact. Preparation of inputs for the International Migration Review Forum has highlighted the ongoing strong interest in the GCM and its implementation among stakeholders.

Achieving safe, orderly and regular migration is a process that requires continuous and concerted action throughout government and society, both domestically and internationally. Germany remains committed to the objectives and principles set out in the GCM and will continue to work together with partners to achieve our common vision.



## List of abbreviations

AA	Federal Foreign Office
BA	Federal Employment Agency
BAMF	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
BfV	Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution
BKAmt	Federal Chancellery
BKA	Federal Criminal Police Office
BMAS	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
BMFSFJ	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
BMG	Federal Ministry of Health
BMI	Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community
BMJ	Federal Ministry of Justice
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
Destatis	Federal Statistical Office
EUTF	European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa
FKS	Monitoring Unit for Undeclared Work
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMDAC	IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
IDPs	internally displaced persons
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
MPTF	Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund
UNMN	United Nations Network on Migration
WHO	World Health Organization
ZSBA	Central Advisory Service for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications