

# Shaping Development-Oriented Migration

## The Challenge

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. Regular migration often has a positive effect, e.g., through provision of skilled labour in the destination countries. Migrants and their descendants form transnational networks and engage in various ways in their country of origin, such as, through volunteer assignments, business engagements, remittances and investments. In this way, this diaspora contributes to sustainable development in their countries of origin. However, there are also risks associated with migration. For example, during the migration process, women, children and ethnic minorities in particular, can be exposed to vulnerable situations that 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 highly beneficial if it takes place based on sufficient and accurate information, and international standards that ensure the protection of human rights and provide effective linkage to national employment policies. In line with the objectives of the GCM, German Development Cooperation aims to shape migration in a way that it creates opportunities for migrants as well as for the countries of origin and destination. A particular focus is on the empowerment of women as agents of change and strengthening international cooperation in this policy field.

## Our Approach

The Global Programme “Shaping development-oriented migration” (MEG) assists partner countries in leveraging the benefits of regular migration and engaging diaspora for sustainable development.

Project name	Programme 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, Indonesia, India, Kosovo, Nepal, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine and Vietnam
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 2025

Working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the MEG is active in up to 15 partner countries around the globe. It contributes towards implementing the GCM and is part of a comprehensive approach to migration and development.

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 policy coherence, gender equality and cooperation with civil society;
- promoting investment, knowledge exchange and innovation in partner countries by supporting the development-oriented engagement of the diaspora in Germany;
- strengthening partnerships with multilateral and international organisations.



*L. to r.:*

*A counselling session on regular migration.*

*As a diaspora expert, one can 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.
- Enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
- Facilitating fair and ethical recruitment and safeguarding conditions that ensure decent work.

Particular emphasis is placed on enhancing the capacities of skilled personnel to ensure ethical and fair recruitment and improved regulation for private recruitment agencies. Training measures for labour inspectors also contribute to raising awareness of precarious working conditions, especially among (female) migrants.

### 2. Diaspora Cooperation

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 MEG 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 organizations.

The programme also supports 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. In addition, the MEG advises line ministries on issues related to diaspora engagement, including gender-responsive policies and GCM Goal 19 (create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries).

The MEG additionally promotes diaspora engagement in the field of sustainable development through networking events that bring together members of the diaspora and relevant partner institutions. Furthermore, the diaspora in Germany is set to be engaged in an advisory capacity for the programme through the establishment of a corresponding body.

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

Migrants can be exposed to risks, for example, when 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 do paid care work and domestic work in richer countries. The resulting global care chains often lead to care gaps in the families left behind, affecting children and youth as well as the elderly in need of care. MEG offers policy advice to line ministries on facilitating fair and ethical recruitment and reducing vulnerabilities in migration. The programme also assists key state and civil society actors to develop and implement measures safeguarding the rights of migrant workers, thus empowering migrants as agents of change and reducing 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. Here, the MEG supports strategic partnerships as part of its advice on a development-oriented migration policy. Through exchange and international cooperation, common interests of countries of origin, transit and destination can be identified and aligned. Many partner countries of German development cooperation 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 (MMPTF).

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