



Centres for Migration and Development

Advising people, strengthening partner governments, gaining skilled workers

BACKGROUND

In the Global Compact for Migration, the international community recognised that migration can be a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development. Realising this potential requires fair and equal partnerships that enable safe, orderly and regular migration that benefits countries of origin, destination countries and migrants alike.

Many people in the countries Germany partners with in its development cooperation are interested in working, training or studying abroad. Others return to their countries or regions of origin and seek new prospects locally. The governments of many partner countries are also interested in opportunities for labour mobility, for example in order to relieve the pressure on their own labour markets. At the same time, many destination countries, including Germany, are in need of skilled and well-trained workers.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) works to maximise the benefits of migration for sustainable development and minimise the potential risks of migration for people and partner countries. It advocates for the interests of partner countries and supports them in actively shaping their migration policy in order to create training opportunities and career prospects for people without jobs, for example, and to avoid the emigration of skilled workers in high-demand industries.

The BMZ's work on migration puts the focus on the individual. It is guided by a human rights-based approach and the principles of feminist development policy.



Kick-off for the flagship initiative in February 2023 in Accra, Ghana. © GIZ

The BMZ pursues a holistic approach. Its engagement includes initiatives and programmes to improve the use of regular migration pathways and regional mobility, reduce causes of irregular migration, promote the sustainable reintegration of returnees and support members of the diaspora in Germany in their engagement for their countries of origin. The main areas of cooperation are defined in collaboration with partner governments and are tailored to their interests and needs.

The BMZ brings a development perspective to German migration policy and discourse by piloting hands-on approaches to shaping migration that are based on partnerships and mutual benefit. In doing so, it complements Germany's policy for skilled labour immigration and the work of the Federal Government's Special Commissioner for Migration Agreements. The BMZ contributes to the negotiation of such agreements by offering a holistic perspective and concrete support options for partner countries.

NEW FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE: CENTRES FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The centres for migration and development offer people in partner countries support for regular migration to Germany, Europe and within their region, especially for the purposes of work and vocational training. In addition, they assist returnees with sustainable reintegration and provide information on the risks of irregular migration, such as exploitation by people smugglers and often life-threatening routes. The centres provide reliable information and raise awareness of misinformation. There is a specific focus on supporting women and disadvantaged groups.

Since June 2023, the flagship initiative “centres for migration and development” has been implemented in **Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan and Tunisia**. In Jordan and Indonesia, new centres will be established; in the other seven countries, existing migration advice centres, which previously focused on sustainable reintegration and promoting employment, will be expanded. To increase the long-term viability of the centres and their work, the centres are closely linked to government structures in the partner countries, such as national employment agencies and migration ministries. The aim is to hand the centres over to these bodies in the long term. The centres’ mandate also includes strengthening the capacities of partner governments, local authorities and civil society, for example by supporting governments in developing strategies for fair migration policy.

NEW PROSPECTS THROUGH ADVISORY SERVICES...

The centres for migration and development serve as central points of contact for people who are interested in migrating to Germany, Europe or within their own region, especially when it comes to working or undergoing training outside of their country of origin. The centres offer **individual, neutral**

advice to enable people to realistically assess their options and make an informed migration decision.

The centres also provide advice for people who have returned from Germany, Europe or other countries. They support people’s sustainable reintegration in their country of origin or, depending on their interests and wishes, advise them on other options, for example how they can gain further qualifications that would enable them to migrate abroad through regular pathways.

...AND TRAINING

In addition to offering advisory services, the centres can also refer interested persons to concrete training programmes that either prepare them for regular migration for work or training purposes or support their socioeconomic reintegration. The centres build on a network of cooperation partners and function as a hub that pools relevant information on the various offers available, such as:

- Vocational training/qualification to support the use of existing regular pathways for migration to Germany/Europe or within people’s local region.
- Pre-integration and language classes (for example those offered by the Goethe Institute) for people who have concrete plans to move to Germany or another EU country for work (i.e. those who are already in possession of a work contract or visa).
- Support for returnees in finding a job in their country of origin – for example through additional short-term training – or in starting a business.
- Psychosocial support, especially for vulnerable groups.

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CENTRES FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT A GLANCE

- **Start:** June 2023
- **Nine countries:** Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tunisia
- **Holistic approach to migration:** support for people interested in migration and returnees
- **Comprehensive services:** individual advice; referral to specialist training programmes, language classes, psychosocial support



Source: GIZ

Expanding on a successful approach: The advisory services build on people’s existing interests and skills and build these up as required. The centres are already well-established contact points for returnees in seven countries, and have helped numerous people to find jobs or set up businesses in their countries of origin. Examples include a [hairstyling salon in Morocco](#), a [welding start-up in Ghana](#) and a [livestock breeding business in Tunisia](#). These advisory services are now being expanded to enable people to make informed migration decisions and to support them in preparing for migration where appropriate. This is one response to the shortage of skilled workers in Germany and to the interest of partner countries in providing new prospects, in particular for their young populations.

MIGRATION THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE, WITH A PARTNERSHIP-BASED APPROACH

The centres support interested partner institutions in shaping their migration policies and in managing regular labour migration, mobility and reintegration in a way that is effective and contributes to sustainable development. The focus is on the advantages for development, as these ensure that countries of origin benefit as well as destination countries and the migrants themselves – for instance from the support and advice given to responsible authorities and from the creation of transnational partnerships.

The centres thus also play an important role in promoting partnerships between civil society and private sector stakeholders in partner countries. In addition, the centres work with multilateral organisations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Union, thereby improving links between existing offers and initiatives.

The centres also cooperate closely with other BMZ-funded projects, such as technical and vocational education and training (TVET) projects and programmes that pilot partnerships for vocational training or labour mobility between interested partner countries and Germany in selected occupations. In such partnerships, the participating stakeholders develop models for migration or mobility schemes to trial the placement of trainees and skilled workers in Germany. The occupational areas are selected based on labour market demand and supply in the respective context, among other factors. Through the project “Partnership Approaches for Development-oriented Vocational Training and Labour Migration” (PAM), the BMZ supports the development of partnerships of this kind with Ecuador, Nigeria, Viet Nam and Jordan. By closely involving the private sector, these partnerships promote fair labour migration and the recruitment of trainees and skilled workers from partner countries by German employers. In this way, they create new career prospects, especially for young people.

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