

IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND



A photo submission by America Sheshira Aquino Milla, a member of the South American diaspora, to the iDiaspora photography contest. The contest was run through an IOM Development Fund supported project working on diaspora engagement across the South America region. Find out more on page 17. Photo: © IOM 2022.



Left: A view of the Una River which runs through Bosnia and Herzegovina (© IOM 2023). Right: A group of preschool kids playing the eco-board game *Guardians of Nature* (© IOM 2023).



YOUTH LEADING THE WAY: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

With clean and pristine waters, Bosnia and Herzegovina is widely known as the land of rivers. These waterways, while an important ecological resource for the country, are also a source of flooding and consequent displacement.

Like other places, climate change is increasing the intensity of droughts, floods, and landslides in Bosnia and Herzegovina, thereby reshaping patterns of human mobility at the same time. In 2022 alone, there were 32.6 million internal displacements worldwide triggered by disasters, according to the 2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement.

While specific data on environmental migration and youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina is limited, youth emigration has been an ongoing pattern in the

country, and IOM research has shown that young people's desires to migrate are partially driven by environmental issues.

To address these factors, IOM, with the support of the IOM Development Fund, is implementing a project that empowers youth to build more sustainable and resilient communities, while also mitigating some of the drivers of youth migration due to climate change.

IOM designed a bottom-up approach called the Eco UP Start Weekends (EIWS). In 2022, the EIWS were held in three different cities in BiH and took the form of a hackathon – an event where young environmental enthusiasts had a chance to design innovative approaches to address some of the country's pressing ecological challenges.

EIWS has brought together people of different ages and ethnic backgrounds with a common interest in stepping up environmental protection. In the city of Bihać, the project is installing flower islands, to aid in the detoxification and purification of waste and polluted water – an idea from Jasmina Ibrahimpasić, a university professor and conservationist.

Bojana Jelić, a preschool teacher from the other side of the country, invented a board game called "Guardians of Nature" to teach children about environmental protection in a fun and interactive way. A hit among her students, the Eco UP initiative is now helping her produce the game and a guidebook so that other educators can use the game.

The focus on young people is part of an innovative approach to address the

factors leading to outmigration and the socio-economic dissatisfaction of youth in BiH communities.

Other youth-led environmental initiatives are in the works, including establishing a citizens' association that will focus on environmental protection, promoting cycling as a way to prevent CO2 emissions, and developing a mobile app for the early detection of wildfires.

Read the full story



“This project helped me make my contribution to the community and to raise ecological awareness among the youngest in a creative and fun way by setting an example, and creating a new generation of young people who will advocate for the protection of the environment.”

Bojana Jelić
Preschool Teacher and Inventor of the Eco-game *Guardians of Nature*



CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE: THE MISSION BEHIND EGYPT'S MIGRATION RESEARCH UNIT

In 2019, IOM Egypt and Cairo University agreed on a shared vision to establish the Migration Research Unit (MRU), bringing together academia and policy – two complementary, but often separate, domains. The starting point for the partnership is a consensus that good migration governance requires a dynamic interface between research, policy, and practice. As a solution, IOM Egypt invested in the establishment of the MRU within the Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS) at Cairo University, with support from the Government of Egypt and the IOM Development Fund.

Established in 2021, it is the first migration research and learning hub at a public university in Egypt. Now in its second phase, the MRU is expected to expand in the coming years. Migration policymaking and implementation is not only linked to global and national frameworks, but can also have a real impact on the everyday lives of migrants and host communities. Policy often determines if and how migrant rights and concerns are respected, protected, and upheld.

By linking policy and research, the MRU is expected to be an avenue that facilitates and supports co-learning and rigorous policy research with a focus on migration. This year, the MRU team has put together a crash course curriculum on migration, cross-cutting issues, and policy research analysis and writing. The MRU is envisioned to play a role as a driving force in discussions around migration and linking the migration agenda to other relevant areas of work.

Read the full story



Above (Top): A group photo of students and professors who took part in the IOM Model simulation, where students performed roles as heads of units in IOM and representatives of national ministries in Egypt while presenting topics and solutions relevant to migration policy in October 2022 (© IOM 2022). Above (Bottom): IOM and MRU participants take part in an event for researchers who participated in the research competition organized by IOM and MRU, Cairo, Egypt (© IOM 2022). Right: A view of Cairo University, where the Migration Research Unit was established (Source: Cairo University).



“The Unit will play an important role in building national capacities and this will contribute in the long term to developing more comprehensive migration policies based on evidence-based data and a deep understanding of all related matters of migration and how to manage it.”

Dr. Adela Rajab
Professor of Economics and Director of MRU



Left: A view of Eswatini, one of the world's smallest countries (© IOM 2023). Right: Images from one of Eswatini's best known cultural events, the annual reed dance festival (© IOM 2023).



BELONGING, HOPE & POTENTIAL: ESWATINI'S EFFORTS TO ENGAGE ITS DIASPORA

Out of the nearly 100 interviews conducted as part of a 2021 Emaswati diaspora mapping exercise, three central themes emerged: belonging, hope, and potential. Across the discussions, many participants reiterated their strong sense of identity, optimism for the country's future, and the recognition that they can play a role in the country's development.

Wedged between Mozambique and South Africa, the Kingdom of Eswatini is one of the world's smallest countries in land size. However, as shown in the diaspora mapping exercise, there remains a tremendous amount of passion among the diaspora.

Over the last two years, IOM, with assistance from the IOM Development Fund, has been supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation in Eswatini in its efforts to facilitate, enable, and encourage meaningful communication between the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Emaswati diaspora. The project's main aim is to promote diaspora engagement in the national development agenda.

One of the project's first initiatives was to establish a Diaspora Unit to advocate for policy development and implementation to support the Emaswati diaspora. It is also a dedicated space to facilitate communication between the Government and the diaspora to promote better understanding of Eswatini's development goals and priority areas of focus within diaspora communities.

The project also supported a mapping of the diaspora to better understand

the needs and challenges among this community. The data will be used to increase the effectiveness of existing programmes and contribute to the development of additional diaspora engagement programmes. The Diaspora Unit will use the data collected during the project to develop a longer-term Diaspora Engagement Strategy.

Read the full story



“Eswatini is one of the most beautiful countries, with some riches that can offer some of the greatest opportunities ever...that is one of the biggest motivations. I want to plow back all that the country has invested in me and I really want to plow back all my skills to my country.”

Liswati Interviewee
South Africa, May 2021



DIGITALIZING LESOTHO'S MIGRATION DATA

Lying entirely above 1,000 meters in elevation, it's easy to see how Lesotho, a small country in southern Africa, came to be known as the 'Mountain Kingdom in the Sky'. Surrounded by its one and only neighbour, South Africa, the landlocked country has a total land area of just over 30,000 square kilometres and is one of the world's few enclaves.

The countries share historic, economic, and sociocultural linkages. There are also significant economic inequalities between them. Due to a lack of employment opportunities in Lesotho, a large number of migrants from the country move to South Africa in search of work.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, labour migration patterns have shifted both internally and externally. Migration trends have become increasingly complex, and there are many irregular migration flows due to the porosity of borders between Lesotho and South Africa. While these trends can be

observed, it has been difficult to quantify human mobility and measure its impact without reliable data.

Thus, the need for reliable data to effectively govern migration has become urgent for the Government of Lesotho. This goes beyond just the availability of data and extends to the development of strong institutional arrangements surrounding the production, protection, and analysis of such data.

With support from the IOM Development Fund, IOM is partnering with the Government of Lesotho to strengthen the coordination mechanisms in Lesotho's migration data ecosystem. A major component of the project is the development of Lesotho's first Migration Profile, which will provide a comprehensive view of migration dynamics in the country.

Since the project's start, the Government has developed an Integrated Migration

Left: A view of a village around Katse dam in Thaba Tseka district, one of the districts where IOM conducted a study on the socio economic impact of COVID-19 on migrants who returned from the Republic of South Africa (© IOM 2023). Below: A portrait of a Mosotho woman (© IOM 2023).



Data Management System for the sharing of accurate and timely data that will inform the Migration Profile and its periodic updates. The development of this platform required the digitization of all of the Government's administrative data, which IOM supported through the development of databases for all key migration data producing ministries.

Read the full story



“Migration is becoming more relevant in all countries around the world. The world is changing rapidly in recent years and so has human mobility. We cannot overemphasize the importance of data in the modern societies. Data helps us understand almost all aspects of our societies, from employment to education.”

Eriko Nishimura
Chief of Mission, IOM Lesotho

OPERATIONALIZING A DIASPORA POLICY: ZAMBIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH ITS DIASPORA

In 2010, the Government of Zambia commissioned a survey of its diaspora in the United Kingdom and South Africa. Since, the Government has launched a National Diaspora Policy and established a Diaspora Coordination Desk, demonstrating a growing recognition of the positive contributions of diaspora nationals to Zambia's development.

Launched in 2019, the policy provides a framework for diaspora engagement and prioritizes 13 key areas including the promotion of trade and investment, knowledge and skill transfers, and establishing a diaspora database. Other areas focus on the needs of the diaspora, such as dual citizenship, political participation and access to land.

One of the project's aims was to build mutual trust by establishing a system for ongoing communication with its diaspora members. To do so, the project supported the establishment of a Diaspora Coordination Desk in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, providing a dedicated focal institution focused on enhancing the dialogue between the Government and the diaspora nationals.

The project also supported multiple studies on the Zambian diaspora, as well as the development of an application to facilitate information on remittances. The app will include a transfer costs comparison feature that includes information on the different service providers, services offered, average transactional costs, and the time taken for recipients to receive the remittances.

Read the full story

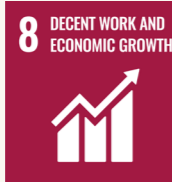


All Photos: Images from the Zambia Diaspora Conference held in 2022 with the theme, "Shifting Mindsets to Ignite Growth" (©IOM 2022).



"The Diaspora are an asset that the Zambian Government cannot afford to ignore, as we recognise your valuable contribution to the National Development Agenda. We therefore, wish to acknowledge your potential for innovation, facilitation of global trade, investment, as well as skills and knowledge transfer."

H.E. Hakainde Hichilema
President, Republic of Zambia
In his opening address at the 2022 Zambia Diaspora Conference



ZIMBABWE PARTNERS WITH EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES IN DRIVE TO STRENGTHEN ETHICAL RECRUITMENT PRACTICES

In recent years, Zimbabwe has experienced huge out-flows of labour migration into neighbouring countries and beyond. The bulk of the labour recruitment from Zimbabwe occurs outside the regulatory purview of the government, which leaves migrants vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

For example, in March 2022, 100 women were stranded in Oman after being trafficked on false job promises. This case and others highlighted the need to address ethical recruitment practices. The Government of Zimbabwe moved to address this in 2021 with the adoption of a National Labour Migration Policy (NLMP), designed to improve labour migration governance, protection and empowerment of migrant workers.

With support from the IOM Development Fund, IOM is now collaborating with the Government of Zimbabwe to operationalize the NLMP, which has prioritized ethical and fair recruitment as a key policy area. This partnership focuses on promoting ethical recruitment practices through developing the capacities of private employment agencies (PEAs) in Zimbabwe. The PEAs play a vital role in foreign recruitment: they can either follow ethical practices or be unscrupulous recruiters. Activities of recruitment agencies operating outside the law often leads migrants to becoming victims of exploitation and abusive practices. The promotion and enforcement of ethical practices, on the other hand, could allow Zimbabwe to harness the potential of labour migration while reducing the risks.

Read the full story



“The workshops are so beneficial to Private Employment Agencies as they equip us with contemporary trends in ethical recruitment and selection. The training sessions help us to stay updated on emerging labour migration challenges and norms and, have empowered us to adopt a harmonized structure for PEAs in Zimbabwe. Our association will continue to engage with IOM for ongoing professional development around fair and ethical recruitment for the benefit of all stakeholders.”

Caleb Kunze
Chairperson,
Private Employment Agencies Association of Zimbabwe (PEAAZ)

Above: Participants engaged in a validation workshop on improving recruitment regulations under the National Labour Migration Policy (© IOM 2022). Right: Zimbabwe recently adopted a National Labour Migration Policy (NLMP), which was designed to improve labour migration governance, protection and empowerment of migrant workers in a wide variety of industries, including construction (© IOM 2009).



HOW TO APPLY TO THE FUND

Project proposals may be submitted by eligible Member States directly to the IOM Development Fund for consideration, including via Permanent Missions in Geneva. Projects may also be presented on behalf of Member States by IOM Offices, or by the relevant department at IOM Headquarters. All projects are referred to the participating IOM Office(s) for coordination and support.

ARE YOU AN IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND-ELIGIBLE MEMBER STATE?

- 1 Identify an eligible thematic area where IOM's technical expertise can be used to build your government's capacity to more effectively manage migration. Refer to the Fund's website to help you with the application process: developmentfund.iom.int/how-apply.
- 2 Approach your local IOM Office or the Fund directly to discuss the viability of your project idea.
- 3 If your project idea is considered viable by the Fund management, you can begin putting together a project proposal.

You can work closely with your local IOM Office or IOM Headquarters to shape and finalize the document and the project design. It is not necessary for eligible Member States to create the project document by themselves.

Projects must be presented in the IOM Development Fund template with complete budgets, wherein the combined total of staff and office costs should not be more than 30 per cent of the total budget. Consistent with the IOM Project Handbook, projects should also receive endorsement from the relevant Regional IOM Office. In addition, projects may be reviewed and endorsed by the relevant department at IOM Headquarters before final consideration by the Fund's management team.
- 4 Your project proposal, including those submitted through your Permanent Mission in Geneva, must be supported by a written endorsement and request for IOM Development Fund funding by your capital. This endorsement should take the form of a letter from the cooperating arm of the government, addressed to the IOM Development Fund or the Chief of Mission of the local IOM Office, citing the specific project and making specific reference to the IOM Development Fund. You must assign a focal point for the project prior to implementation.
- 5 Once you have submitted the complete (Regional Office endorsed) project proposal and supporting letters, that's it! Your proposal will be evaluated by the Fund, a recommendation will be made to the Director General and, if approved, your government will benefit from IOM Development Fund support!



SUPPORTING THE FUND

The IOM Development Fund was established in 2001 with an initial allocation of USD 1.4 million. The Fund has grown to USD 15 million in 2022 thanks to successful project outcomes and the generous support of Member States.

To date, the Fund has been supported through operational support income as well as Member State donations specifically earmarked for the programme. The vast majority of funding goes to project implementation; programme management and administration account for less than seven per cent of total expenditures.

Recent expansion of IOM membership has resulted in a remarkable increase in demand from eligible Member States for assistance in developing migration management capacity. Currently, this demand significantly exceeds IOM donors' contributions. The IOM Development Fund is dedicated to bridging this funding gap in order to respond to the many deserving requests by Member States.

- Member States can support the Fund through annual earmarked contributions.
- Private organizations and foundations can support the Fund through single donations or annual contributions.
- Individuals can contribute to the Fund online via the "Donate Now" menu on our website.
- In-kind donations are also welcome and can be discussed with the Fund management.

We appreciate your interest in the IOM Development Fund. IOM could not continue its work without your support.

Member States that have supported the IOM Development Fund to date are:

Australia
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Sweden
United States of America

More about the IOM Development Fund





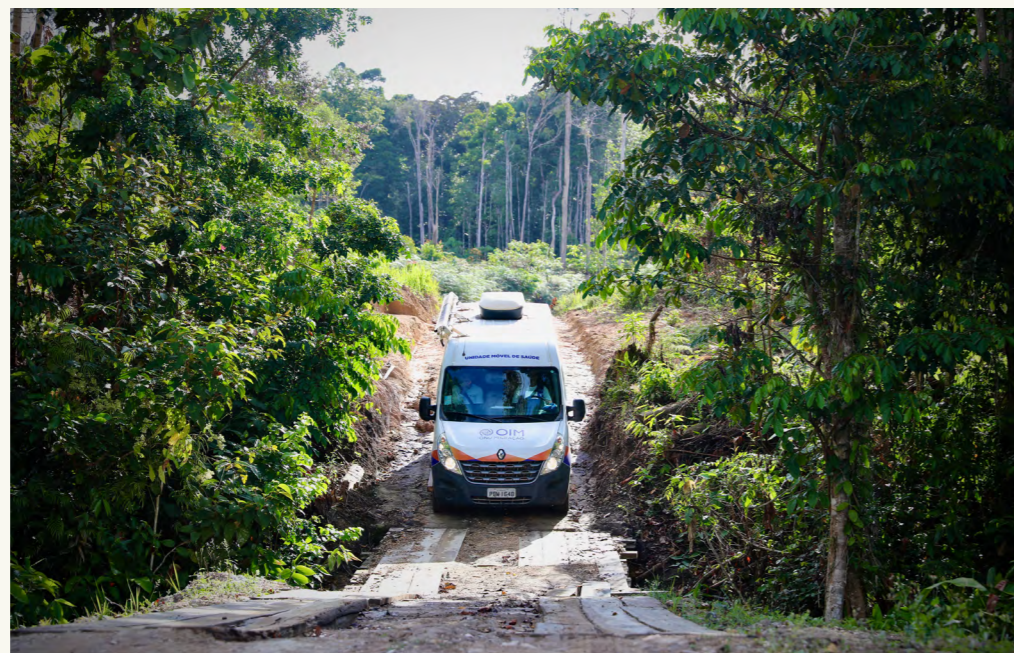
A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ADDRESS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE BRAZILIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM

According to a 2022 needs assessment from IOM and Brazil's National Council of Justice, it takes an average of 11 years to prosecute a single human trafficking case in Brazil. Additionally, less than half of the cases lead to actual convictions. These numbers point to the complicated nature of prosecuting trafficking in persons and the stark need to make the justice system more efficient in addressing this crime – a task that is being taken up in the project “Strengthening the capacity of the Justice System to prevent and prosecute human trafficking and related crimes in Brazil,” with support from the IOM Development Fund.

Taking a holistic approach, the project is working with multiple stakeholders to establish practical and evidence-based tools, in addition to strengthening the capacities of public officials, to improve the countertrafficking response in Brazil. So far, the project has established three protocols with guidance and standards on procedures: active listening guidelines, referral procedures, and a compilation of best judicial practices.

Together, the three documents take a rights-based approach to the protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers, covering multiple aspects of the judicial process – working with victims, coordination among stakeholders, and bringing perpetrators to justice. This approach is rooted in Brazil's countertrafficking policy, which is based on shared responsibilities between different stakeholders and implemented through a network to address human trafficking.

Read the full story



Above, top: People move towards an immigration office at the border in Ciudad del Este, on the border of Brazil and Paraguay (© IOM 2022/Juliana Hack). Above, bottom: An IOM Mobile Health and Response vehicle moves down a bumpy road in Roraima, a northern region of Brazil (© IOM 2023/Gema Cortes). Right: A view of the Amazon River flowing through Brazil (© IOM 2022/Bruno Mancinelle).



“At this stage of the project we have already reached authorities from the 27 Brazilian states. Further dissemination of the protocols with training sessions are our next challenge. We delivered several national trainings and are now focused on supporting the authorities in mainstreaming the project tools locally.”

Stéphane Rostiaux
Chief of Mission, IOM Brazil

Brazil, Colombia,
Ecuador, Paraguay,
Peru, Plurinational
State of Bolivia



DIASPORA AND DEVELOPMENT: A REGIONAL APPROACH TO DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN SOUTH AMERICA

Over the last 15 months, Ana Lucia Gutierrez has interviewed over 90 women from across the world as part of her podcast, *Granadilla*. Though every woman she speaks to harbours a unique story, they all share a common experience – each has migrated from South America and are now seeking to empower their communities back home.

As a member of the Peruvian diaspora, Ana began the podcast as a way to give voice and visibility to the knowledge and experiences of others like her abroad. Her interviews reinforce the complexity of the migration experience for women of the South American diaspora. In 2021, IOM worked with government partners to conduct a regional assessment to understand the state of diaspora engagement in South America. The assessment showed that while 57 per cent of women agreed that living abroad gave them more opportunities, they also indicated that the obstacles they faced were more significant compared to men.

The study was initiated as part of an IOM Development Fund project, which is working to create a regional platform for governments to share their experiences engaging with diaspora communities, particularly on development initiatives.

The project is also working with the men and women of the South American diaspora to contribute to the well-being of their communities in the region. Some initiatives include a project providing psychosocial care for women victims of gender-based violence in Madrid, carried out by the Bolivian diaspora, and an organic horticulture initiative being piloted in Buenos Aires.

Read the full story



Above, top: A photo submission by America Sheshira Aquino Milla, a member of the South American diaspora, to the iDiaspora photography contest (© IOM 2022). Above, bottom: Opening panel of the Eighth Edition of the Conference of Brazilians in the Word held in June 2022 (© IOM 2022). Right: *Granadilla* podcast founder Ana Lucia Gutierrez organized a virtual workshop called, “Latinas in the Diaspora,” in June 2022 to provide women with digital tools to share experiences, build community, and showcase their contributions to their home and host societies (© IOM 2022).

La voz migrante

Explorar la alternativa del podcasting

¿Eres latina y quieres crear comunidad en la diáspora?
¡Este taller es para ti!

Latinas en la diáspora

Taller Online

Sábado,
25 de junio

de 9 AM a 12 PM (PER)
de 11 AM a 14 PM (ARG)
de 16 PM a 19 PM (ESP)



Escanea el QR
e insíbete



FONDO DE
LA OIM PARA
EL DESARROLLO



iDIASPORA
CONECTAR APRENDER CONTRIBUIR



Ana Gutiérrez
Fundadora de
Granadilla Podcast

“The experience and the migration process are very different for Latina women and that is why it is so necessary to be able to tell stories from their perspective and build sisterhood.”

Ana Lucia Gutierrez,
Founder, *Granadilla* Podcast



Left: An overhead view of the COVID-19 response supported by IOM in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (© IOM 2023). Below: Participants take part in a safe migration training in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (© IOM 2023).



MIGRATION PROFILES: COLLECTING PERSONAL STORIES FOR BETTER MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Sharing borders with five neighbouring countries, Lao People's Democratic Republic is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants across the Southeast Asian region and beyond.

Migration is not only part of Lao culture and identity, but also a vital livelihood strategy, particularly through remittance inflows which contribute significantly to better development outcomes through enhanced health, education, and the promotion of better nutrition.

Migration substantially contributes towards the country's economic growth and its forthcoming graduation from Least Developed Country status. Primary data on various migrant profiles is therefore crucial for the development of evidence-based migration governance. However, despite the importance of data for managing migration, quality migration-related data is still lacking.

Beginning in 2020, the Lao People's Democratic Republic initiated its first Migration Profile, which is both a report

and a policymaking tool that puts collecting primary information on the profiles of various migration trends and flows at the heart of the project.

As part of the project, aspiring and returning migrants, as well as other communities that experience high flows of migration, were interviewed in focus group discussions in three provinces with diverse migration patterns.

Through sharing their stories, migrants provided first-hand data on their lived experiences, a unique complement to secondary data sources that are ordinarily used for policymaking. That way, the Migration Profile can provide holistic data that supports better designed policy interventions for migrants all over the country.

Read the full story



“Evidence-based data on migration will be very critical to develop policies and actions to address emerging migration issues and challenges.”

Dr. Sthabandith Insiengmai
Vice Minister of Planning and Investment,
Lao People's Democratic Republic



MERGING BIG DATA AND DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT: HOW KAZAKHSTAN IS DEVELOPING ITS DIASPORA POLICIES

For years, Kazakh professionals and young people have migrated to surrounding countries and beyond. According to the Statistics Committee of Kazakhstan, this trend is growing, as the country saw a 57 per cent increase in people leaving for permanent residence in 2019 compared to five years earlier.

The numbers prove an emerging recognition that the country must do more to engage its diaspora in its development. Kazakhstan does not currently have a policy incentivizing the return or engagement of its citizens living abroad. There are also no reintegration programmes in place for migrants wishing to return to Kazakhstan. With International Development Fund support, the IOM Mission in Kazakhstan is strengthening the capacity of the Government on diaspora engagement, utilizing big data techniques to do so.

One of its initial goals is to map the Kazakh diaspora to gain a clear understanding of the size, skill levels, and location of diaspora members abroad, particularly in the Russian Federation, which holds one of the largest proportions of Kazakh diaspora. In addition to traditional diaspora mapping techniques, the project is using big data onomastic methodologies, a branch of sociolinguistics that relates to the history and cultural origin of names. Taking the categorization of personal names, the project is then using big data techniques to mine, analyse, and search through vast amounts of data, to better identify and understand the Kazakh diaspora.

Read the full story

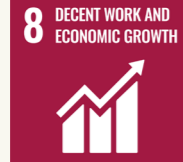


Above: A view of Shymkent, a city near the border of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan (© IOM 2023). Right: Participants at the diaspora mapping validation workshop, Astana, 1 July 2022 (© IOM 2022).



“This analytical report is the first attempt to raise awareness and develop a comprehensive public analysis of the policies and activities of responsible institutions...Constant efforts are needed to create a critical mass of research and experts to form an integrated approach to the implementation of state policy on diaspora engagement in the development of the country.”

Duman Zhampeissov
IOM National Expert, IOM Kazakhstan



INVESTING IN MIGRANT WORKERS: SRI LANKA'S EFFORT TO SUPPORT UPSKILLING FOR DOMESTIC AND CARE WORKERS

Across the world, aging populations, shifting family structures, and labour shortages are increasing the demand for domestic and care workers. This is particularly true for women migrant workers, who make up the vast majority of care workers around the world.

This phenomenon is important for Sri Lanka – a country that sends over 200,000 individuals abroad every year. However, many emigrate without proper training or certification, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation, wage theft, discriminatory pay practices, and poor working conditions.

To support this opportunity for Sri Lankan labour migrants while aiming to reduce their risks, an IOM Development Fund project assisted the Government of Sri Lanka in the development of a Labour Migration Strategy in 2021. In addition to the policy, the project also sought to remedy the current gaps in the worker preparation process, which proved to be an obstacle for access to developed markets, highlighting the importance of training programmes to upskill prospective migrant workers.

In 2022, the project concluded a 40-day pilot training programme on advanced domestic housekeeping where 25 women participants developed skills at the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment training facility. Plans are now underway to facilitate the deployment of the trained prospective migrants for foreign employment in the Middle East and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries' labour markets.

Read the full story

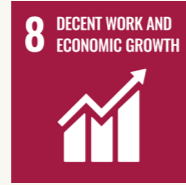


Above: Located in the Indian Ocean, the island country of Sri Lanka is hoping to expand its training for migrant care workers to meet the needs of aging populations in many developed countries (© IOM 2021). Right, top: The pilot group of prospective female migrant workers at their 40-day residential training programme on advanced domestic housekeeping at the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Training Centre in Rathnapura from February to March 2022 (© IOM 2022/ Aruna Herath). Right, bottom: A group of prospective migrant workers being trained for care work during their residential training programme in August 2022 at Siyasi Academy, Kuliyaipitiya (© IOM 2022/ Aruna Herath).

“The course provided both theoretical and practical knowledge ranging from useful communication skills to more complex areas such as enteral nutrition. As such, it has made me see beyond the conventional career framework and sharpen my skills.”

Chinthanie Ekanayake
Prospective Labour Migrant,
Participant in the Pilot Training Programme





A SPOTLIGHT ON MIGRANT HEALTH: BELARUS'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

The COVID-19 pandemic has renewed attention to the health of migrants. The very process of displacement can be a social determinant of health and can impact the vulnerability of migrants to health risks and their susceptibility to diseases.

Broader social factors such as the responsiveness of health systems to migrants' needs, legal status in the host country, stigma, and discrimination can also influence the health of migrants and their access to health care. As the recent pandemic made clear, equal access to health care is seen as a priority not only for migrants, but for the whole population.

In Belarus, one of the greatest challenges is the lack of harmonization between migration policies and health policies. As a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Belarus has focused on promoting labour mobility between CIS countries for the last two decades. However, adjustments to national health provisions for migrants have lagged behind the simplification of employment procedures within the CIS.

Given this context, an IOM project is supporting the Belarusian government in its efforts to align its migration health policies and programmes with international best practices, particularly focused on preventing infectious diseases. The project is conducting research to identify migrants' health needs and vulnerabilities and will ultimately determine how migrant-related data are shared among relevant sectors for policy development to promote the inclusion of migrants into national vaccination plans.

Read the full story



“Reducing the health risks associated with migration and ensuring equal access to health services for migrants and their families is an important aspect of reducing migrants’ vulnerability, ensuring their well-being and improving public health indicators in countries of origin and destination, and achieving the positive impact of migration on community development.”

Mrs. Mahym Orazmuhamedova
Chief of Mission, IOM Belarus

Above: IOM Belarus Chief of Mission Mahym Orazmuhamedova (left) and Deputy Minister of Healthcare of Belarus Aleksandr Tarasenko (right) discuss the health project during a Coordination Council meeting in Minsk on 15 July 2022 (©IOM 2022 / Hanna Kalichava). Right, top: A doctor from IOM conducting a medical check-up for a migrant (© IOM 2022 / Hanna Kalichava). Right, bottom: Photo of a migrant visiting one of the sights in Minsk (© IOM 2022).



The IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND supports developing Member States in the development and implementation of joint government–IOM projects to address particular areas of migration management. Since its inception in 2001, the Fund has supported over 1000 projects in various areas of IOM activity and has benefited over 125 Member States.

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