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FUND

Autumn 2020 Newsletter



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Since 2001, the IOM Development Fund has been a unique source of funding for IOM developing Member States. With projects implemented in more than 120 countries worldwide, the Fund is successfully and simultaneously addressing the needs of eligible Member States and migrants alike by providing essential seed funding to strengthen Member States' migration governance capacity. By supporting innovative projects, the Fund has aimed to foster the involvement and ownership by all relevant stakeholders, paving the way towards alternative programming, strategic priorities and sustainable actions.

The Autumn 2020 Newsletter features 10 recent projects developed and implemented in close collaboration with Member States, local partners, and migrant communities. The projects address a wide array of requests that include using big data to identify medical professionals in the Armenian diaspora and connect them with Armenian doctors battling COVID-19, conducting a pilot project to revitalize youth entrepreneurship in Dominica after Hurricane Maria, and engaging with private sector entities to promote the ethical recruitment of migrant domestic workers along the migration corridors of South-East Asia, among many others.

As the number of requests for funding from eligible Member States continues to increase, I look forward to collaborating with all partners to sustain this funding mechanism and its success. Over the years, the Fund has been the catalyst for successful long-term sustainable initiatives.

I hope that this newsletter will inspire you to learn more about the IOM Development Fund and to further explore the initiatives it supports. More information about the Fund and the projects it has financed can be found on the IOM website at: developmentfund.iom.int

Cover Photo: Hovhannes Vardevanyan, MD, PhD, an Armenian Radiologist and head of his hospital's Diagnostic Imaging Department, discusses the positive impact of videoconferences with doctors in the Armenian diaspora in New York City and Paris, set up through an IOM Development Fund project. Find out more about the identification processes and how the groups were connected on Page 4. © IOM 2020

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FEATURED ARTICLE

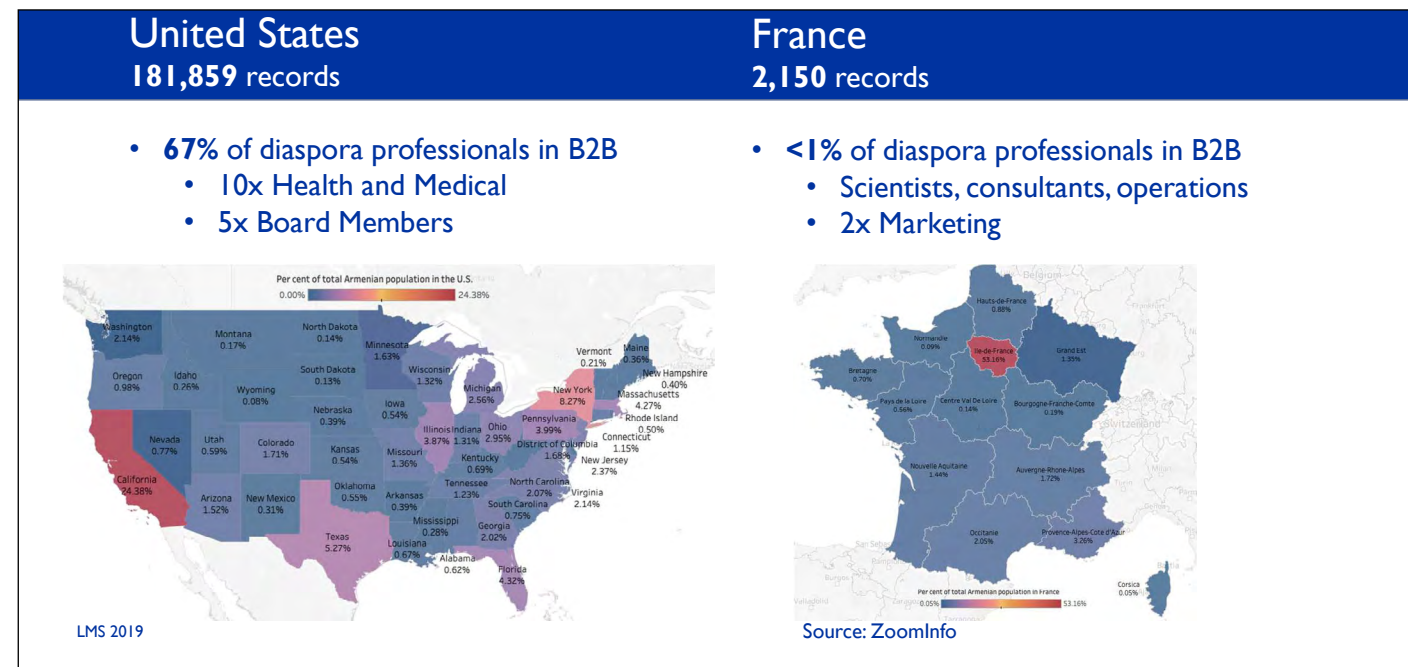
USING BIG DATA TO ENGAGE THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Armenia has one of the largest and oldest diasporas in the world, with an estimated 8-10 million persons of Armenian descent living outside of Armenia, and with the first diaspora communities dating back to 387 BCE, resulting from the division of Armenia between Persia and the Byzantine Empire. More recently, Armenia saw several waves of emigration in the first few decades of the 20th Century and again following the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

While a number of studies have been carried out on the Armenian diaspora, both generally and within specific countries of destination, none have focused specifically on identifying the skills and professional networks of the Armenian diaspora; this is what makes IOM's current project so unique and valuable for diaspora engagement in the social and economic development of Armenia.

The Armenian diaspora has been a driving force for the country's economic survival and development over the past few decades, primarily through the transfer of remittances and philanthropic projects. However, relations with the government have often been weak or strained due to a limited capacity to communicate and meaningfully engage with diaspora members. Through the project "Enhancing Development through Diaspora Engagement in Armenia", funded by the IOM Development Fund, IOM aims to build the capacity of the Armenian Government to engage the Armenian diaspora and leverage their skills, talents, and energies to support the country's sustainable development plans.

Through innovative methods using big data, including analyses of web traffic and onomastic* analysis of public databases, IOM and its partners have been able to better map concentrations of the Armenian diaspora in the United States and France, and understand the professional networks of the diaspora. Through analysis of the Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) database of researchers, for example, the project has identified 26,945 scientists and researchers of Armenian origin living outside of Armenia, with many engaged in fields of importance to Armenia's development, such as health, the social sciences and natural sciences.



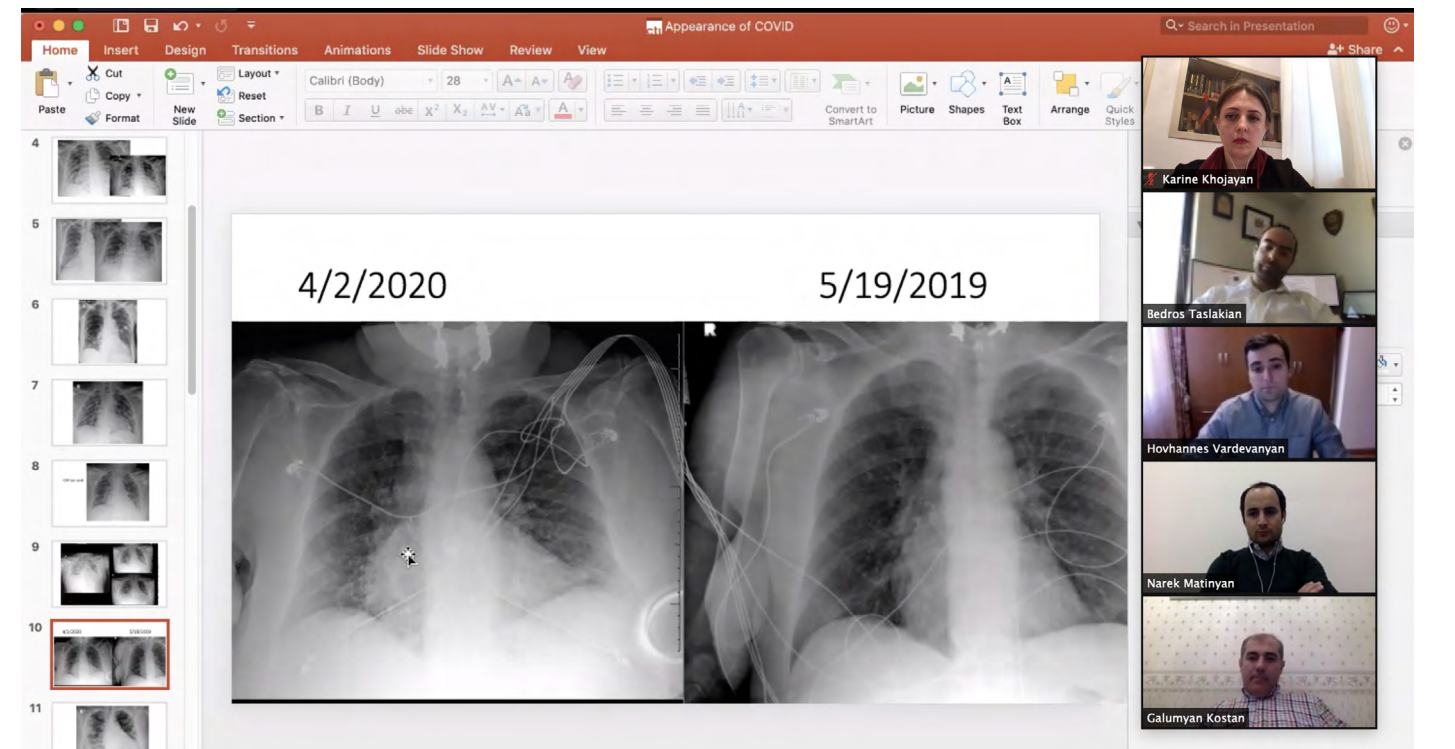
Results of the mapping of the Armenian diaspora, completed through onomastic research, showing professionals identified in the Armenian diaspora in the United States and France, as well as the sectors they are involved in.

*This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

“Engaging the diaspora's potential for the sustainable development of Armenia is one of the key priorities for the Government of Armenia. In this regard, the Office of High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs ensures effective cooperation with the International Organization for Migration.”

Mr Zareh Sinanyan,
High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs

The tangible benefits of this research can already be seen, as IOM was able to identify relevant diaspora professionals and coordinate videoconferences between officials within the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Armenian diaspora medical professionals in New York and Paris who had been treating cases of COVID-19. Through the videoconferences, the medical professionals were able to provide Armenian MoH with key insights and information to support Armenia's own response to the pandemic and treatment of COVID-19 patients.



A screenshot from a videoconference between Armenian doctors and doctors from the Armenian diaspora in the United States and France, in which doctors from New York discussed breakthroughs they've found in treating early-diagnosed COVID-19 patients while at the epicentre of the pandemic. New York / Paris / Yerevan, June 2020.

“We used big data analysis** to identify highly skilled diaspora specialists, aiming to engage them in different spheres of development of Armenia. This is what we have been piloting for several months.” Ilona Ter-Minasyan, Head of Office, IOM Armenia. “It involves using software to scan through large public databases of professionals to identify professionals with the needed skills, and names that would indicate the person is likely of a specific national origin – in this case Armenian. We couldn't bring the expertise in due to the pandemic and border closures, so we sought it out online. And we did it in full respect of IOM's Data Protection Policy”.

While ad hoc engagements, such as the invitation of diaspora specialists by certain institutions, can bring benefits, a systematic approach to integrate diaspora skills and networks into development will reap far greater benefits. In this next phase of the project, IOM is working with the Armenian Government to develop a Diaspora Communications and Outreach Strategy, providing an institutional approach to engagement and interaction with the diaspora that can create more sustainable and impactful relations.

*Onomastics is a study of the history and origin of proper names, especially personal names.

**Big Data Analytics is a process of examining large sets of data through varied tools and processes in order to discover unknown patterns, hidden correlations, meaningful trends, and other insights for making data-driven decisions in the pursuit of better results.

AFRICA

TIME TO GIVE BACK: DIASPORA YOUTH RETURN TO MADAGASCAR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With an estimated 75,000-200,000 Malagasy nationals living abroad, Madagascar has an enormous opportunity to leverage the human resource potential of its diaspora for sustainable development. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has been working since 2015 to encourage greater involvement of the diaspora in the country's development process, but has run into difficulties when trying to build bridges between the Malagasy diaspora and the country of origin. Matters of confidence building between the diaspora and the Malagasy authorities, as well as a need for conducive mechanisms of communication between the diaspora and the population in Madagascar, have contributed to lingering stereotypes on both sides.

In this context, with funding from the IOM Development Fund, the Diaspora Youth Volunteer Programme was implemented in Madagascar, with the objective of strengthening the commitment and valorisation of the diaspora, through a community-based approach, a focus on young people, specifically young women, and special attention to the process of integration and cultural exchange.

Look Forward, Give Back

"Look Forward, Give Back" is an IOM Development Fund initiative based on this project, which shares the stories of the Malagasy diaspora youth who travelled back to Madagascar to work together with local communities on development initiatives.

Through 360° storytelling, you can meet them and see the contributions these young people are making to their communities, as well as the many unexpected, often humbling lessons they learned whilst there.

"Look Forward, Give Back" has been featured at multiple major UN events and has been presented at schools to encourage further diaspora engagement. The videostories and more information, including a Youth Diaspora Quick Start Guide, can be accessed online, for free, at lookforwardgiveback.iom.int.



Hariniaina, a youth diaspora volunteer from France, meets producers of a local food, called Koba, to assist them in the development of an association of local agricultural producers. Talata-Volonondry, Madagascar, September 2019.



Lova, a youth diaspora volunteer from France, meets artisan manufacturers and local salesmen to help them best display local handicrafts. Talata-Volonondry, September 2019.

Supported by IOM and the MFA, nine young diaspora volunteers were hosted from July to September 2019 in rural communities in Madagascar, where they worked side-by-side with fellow nationals to implement local development activities, providing host municipalities with long-term, socially useful structures for students, children and local entrepreneurs. The volunteers contributed, among other projects, to the setting up of a playground for children, the installation of showcases to display local handicrafts, and the development of an association of local agricultural producers.

“

Spending time with the kids and reflecting on their experiences, I was able to reclaim a part of my own childhood that was somewhat lost when I was adopted. It's hard to explain how I feel about this experience because it has been a very emotional time – it is humbling to think of the opportunities I have enjoyed simply because I was lucky enough to grow up elsewhere, the kinds of opportunities that children here simply don't have.

”

Léa, 37 years old, France

Conducted language and computer training and recreational activities with children in the commune of Mantasoa.

This positively impacted the diaspora's relationship with their country of origin, enabling them to, in the words of a volunteer, "feel much more Malagasy now than at the beginning of the programme", strengthening the sense of belonging to the local society and culture, and restoring a relationship of trust with national institutions.

The local population's perception of the diaspora also changed, as they are no longer viewed with hesitation as a foreign presence, but as a key actor for the country's development. To ensure the sustainability of the project and its continued impact in improving relations, the MFA played a central role in the conceptualization and implementation of the programme, and has reinforced its long-term commitment to pursue more similar initiatives and to institutionalise the Diaspora Youth Volunteer Programme in Madagascar.

This ground-breaking programme is now the subject of an IOM global campaign, "Look Forward, Give Back", which showcases the experience of volunteers and encourages diasporas around the world to actively engage in the development of their countries of origin. It is an example on how to harness migrants' economic and social capital for broad based development and thereby empower migrants and their families as development actors. The campaign has encouraged other countries around the world to replicate the programme, including in 2020 proposals by IOM Missions in Guyana and Mauritius.



Anaïs, a youth diaspora volunteer from Sweden, helps refurbish the marketplace. Manjakandriana, September 2019.

“

It was not my goal to change Madagascar on my own. I am doing my part in Talata-Volonondry and the other volunteers are doing theirs in their assigned communities. The communities we learn from, taught to and shared with, they are the ones who will support Madagascar.

”

Harry, 35 years old, France

Conducted language and computer training in the commune of Talata-Volonondry.

RWANDA: STEPS TOWARDS SAFER LABOUR MIGRATION AND GREATER DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

Despite the relatively small numbers of Rwandan migrant workers abroad, the Government of Rwanda is committed to protecting its citizens who choose to look for opportunities in other countries. Last year, the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Arab Emirates and finalized a Bilateral Labour Agreement with Qatar, guaranteeing fair wages and protection of the rights of Rwandan migrant workers in those countries.

Both of these achievements are among the early outcomes of the "Safe Labour Migration from Rwanda" project, funded by the IOM Development Fund and implemented by IOM Rwanda and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) since January 2019. The project's objective is to raise public awareness on safe labour migration and to build the capacities of government officials in managing labour migration.

To accomplish this, in addition to the initiatives mentioned above, the project will enhance the national Labour Migration Information System (LMIS). The LMIS is a tool which provides information on the Rwandan labour market and can assist labour market agents in making informed plans, choices, and decisions.

The goal of the LMIS in the context of the project is to show how far along the Government of Rwanda is in mainstreaming labour migration into its national monitoring tools. Through the project, the LMIS will be upgraded with information on opportunities for Rwandan labour migrants.

As a final initiative of the project, IOM Rwanda will spearhead a mapping of the significant Rwandan diaspora in the United States, which follows four other mapping exercises previously carried out in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany. The Government of Rwanda specifically requested the United States to be mapped, as no mappings had occurred yet on the North American continent.

This project not only supports the capacities of the Rwandan Government in labour migration management, but also supports future migrant workers in taking better and informed decisions.

Helene Fors,
Chief of Mission, IOM Rwanda



An IOM nurse raises awareness of hygiene practices and COVID-19 related risks among truck drivers. Rwanda, April 2020.



Gilbert Agaba, a member of the Rwanda Development Board, distributes a comparative study on the free movement of workers. Musanze, December 2019.

In September 2020, a workshop with the RDB and other government stakeholders, including the institutions responsible for Immigration, Foreign Affairs, and Labour, will be held to validate the upgraded LMIS, while a study visit is scheduled to Mauritius and the Republic of Korea to conduct a benchmarking exercise with the aim of sharing best practices in managing labour migration. The project will also launch a public awareness campaign on safe labour migration and a diaspora mapping exercise in the United States in September 2020.

The effective management of migration in Rwanda has seen several recent milestones. For example, in June 2019, the Rwandan Cabinet approved the National Safe Labour Mobility Policy and its legal framework, which was developed as part of a previous IOM Development Fund project. The policy provides a solid foundation for institutions to collaborate and harmonize current initiatives on labour mobility for national development. A Ministerial Order and Rules and Regulations for the implementation of the policy has been developed and is currently within the Prime Minister's Office for further review.

Last year, IOM Rwanda and RDB brought together 40 government officials from relevant institutions for capacity-building workshops on labour migration management. It was during one of these events that Mr Gilbert Agaba, a labour market analyst at RDB, acknowledged the fruitful collaboration between IOM and the Government of Rwanda.

It is important that we conduct workshops on migration management because it builds and enhances capacities of key stakeholders in labour mobility management. We thank the IOM Development Fund and the Government of Rwanda for allowing us to carry out such initiatives. It not only builds our capacity but also contributes to the national development of Rwanda.

Gilbert Agaba,
Labour Market Analyst,
Rwanda Development Board

This project supports the National Labour Mobility Policy, and directly contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Target 10.7: "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies".

The sustainability of this project is enhanced through government validation of the developed policy, high political will and commitment to ensure that migration governance is done in a safe and orderly manner and that it is well coordinated and managed for the long-term benefits of all. This project will finally encourage the Government of Rwanda to implement the National Labour Mobility Policy, a long-term goal finally close to realization thanks to the products of this project, contributing to the overall sustainable development of the country.



Project stakeholders at a field visit to the La Corniche One Stop Border Post, as part of a capacity-building training for government officials. Musanze, Rwanda, December 2019.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMME IN ARGENTINA

The fight against human trafficking in Argentina calls for actions by a range of actors, both from government institutions and from civil society. It also requires a federal approach since half of the victims are not only Argentines, but are also being recruited, transported and exploited within the country boundaries.

To respond to these challenges, in 2012, the Argentinean Government passed a new amendment to its human trafficking law, which provided for the creation of a Federal Council made up of representatives of the National Government (from each national ministry), the provinces, the justice system, the national congress and the civil society. IOM, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN-Women are part of this Council as observers.

During the Federal Council meetings, the need for closer case management collaboration amongst the provinces and the National Ministry of Social Development was identified. Furthermore, the Protection and Assistance Committee recognized the necessity to formalize and strengthen all provincial aid registries and mechanisms related to victim's assistance as well as to unify the criteria being used (terminology, information, inputs, etc.). There was a system in place, but it was neither formalized nor integrated, resulting in delays and challenges when victims of human trafficking needed care.

In light of the above, this project, funded by the IOM Development Fund, was implemented to strengthen the capacity of the Government to contribute to the prevention and the prosecution of the crimes as well as reinforce the assistance to the victims.



An IOM team member conducts activities and oversees the border crossing at the Integrado Los Horcones border control site, in the Andes mountains between Argentina and Chile. Puente del Inca, Mendoza Province, Argentina, 2020.

As a first step, to improve the registries, the project focused on retrieving the information related to the mechanisms and processes available to the victims when they are being referred throughout the country. Then, an integrated model was created, the REDAVIT (by its acronym in Spanish: Registro de Asistencia a Víctimas). The model design includes several layers of information such as: place of exploitation, place of recruitment, province of origin, institutions involved in the monitoring, judicial status, etc.

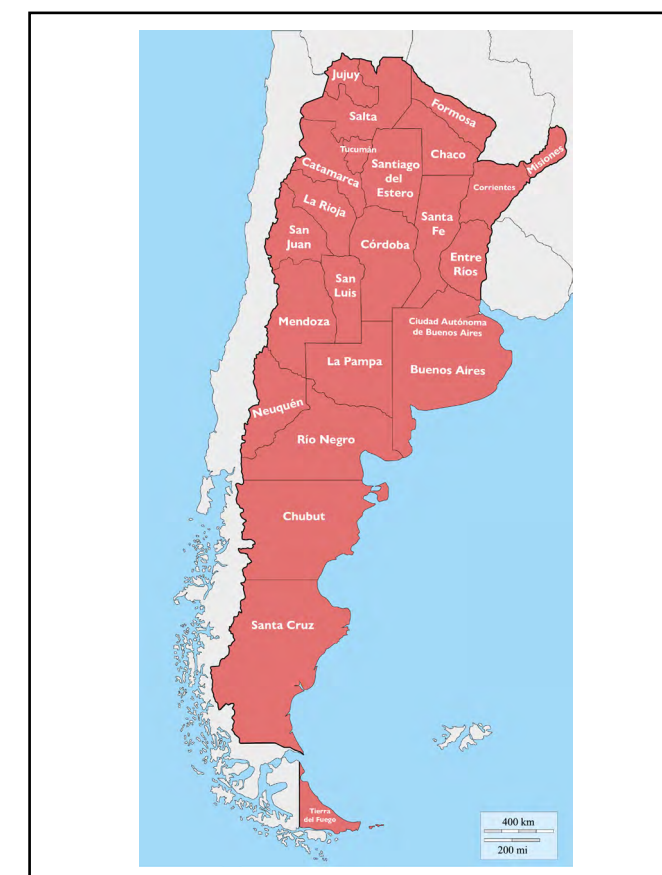
As an example of a collaborative endeavour which aims to assist victims and uphold and promote their rights, the project developed REDAVIT into a national virtual platform. The platform now allows data loading and systematization in real time of both qualitative and quantitative information related to all assisted victims throughout the Argentinean territory. This will lead to a much more thorough base of evidence and more holistic set of services offered to victims of human trafficking.

IOM celebrates Argentina moving forward with the creation of a registry of information for the assistance of victims of trafficking. This will have a direct impact on the lives of victims since all information regarding the implementation of the assistance for human trafficking victims will be systematized by all Argentinean focal points, one in each province, into one integrated system.

Gabriela Fernandez,
Chief of Mission, IOM Argentina



A meeting of the Federal Council for Human Trafficking. Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province, December 2018.



An active map of the provinces of Argentina where REDAVIT has been implemented, showing that the platform is now implemented and in use in all provinces as of 2020. *This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Now that the REDAVIT platform has been established and is contributing to ensuring that the human trafficking law is effectively implemented in Argentina, the next steps are to ensure the sustainability of the system, which can easily be scaled up. REDAVIT also provides an example of best practice in the region and beyond, setting the stage for others to take notes and replicate the platform.

REDAVIT was one of the tasks set to us by the Human Trafficking National Biannual Plan: it is a new way to systemize all information, of all the assistance that is given in the Argentinean provinces to human trafficking victims.

Statement from SENAF (Secretaría Nacional de la Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia), the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family; National Ministry of Social Development

STRENGTHENING MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING



Horacio Calle, Head of Office of IOM Bolivia, presents the project during a meeting of the National Migration Council. La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia, December 2019.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as in many developing countries, most policy development processes across governance sectors rely on limited or inaccurate evidence, unfortunately contributing at times to ill-informed or ineffective policies. Migration governance is not an exception. Despite the major efforts that the Bolivian Government has made in recent years to produce timely data about migration, the evidence available to the National Migration Council for the effective formulation, implementation, and evaluation of migration policies is extremely limited and of insufficient quality.

In this context, with funding from the IOM Development Fund and in close coordination with the National Directorate of Migration, since November 2019, IOM Bolivia has been implementing the project “Strengthening Migration Governance in Bolivia through Evidence-Based Decision-Making”, which aims to strengthen the capacities of the Government to periodically produce accurate and timely information about migration for the formulation and implementation of effective and inclusive migration related policies.

The first component of the project was an assessment of national migration governance through the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) in order to identify best practices, gaps and

areas with potential for development. This was a consultative exercise, and IOM engaged with the Government throughout the process, including through an interministerial consultation. The consultation brought together decision makers from nine government institutions from different sectors, reflected on challenges and opportunities, and agreed to establish a working committee within the National Migration Council to formulate the National Migration Public Policy, which will use the findings of the MGI assessment.

“The institutional mechanisms of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Plurinational State of Bolivia are aimed at optimizing the levels of governance in migration matters with a human rights approach.”

Freddy Abastoflor Córdova,
Vice Minister of Institutional and Consular Management

The second component of the project focuses on the optimization of the national migration information system. Currently, specialists hired by IOM are working with officials from the National Directorate of Migration to identify gaps in: (a) the availability of variables of information that the system collects and produces; (b) the system's processing capacity; and (c) the connectivity between different units and with other institutions' information systems. Programming work will then improve the system, which will be complemented by the creation of partnerships with other relevant institutions for data transfer. Finally, officials from the National Directorate of Migration will be trained on the collection, processing, use and dissemination of migration information.

Both components of the project mainstream gender to strengthen the capacity of the Government to generate evidence that clearly reflects the impacts of gender on the causes and consequences of migration and how risks, vulnerabilities and needs are different for men and women. This promotes the formulation of inclusive policies that address specific conditions and vulnerabilities of each group.

About the Migration Governance Indicators



The six dimensions of migration governance measured by the MGIs: Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; Migrant's Rights; Whole-of-Government Approach; Partnerships; Well-being of Migrants; and Mobility Dimensions of Crises.

What are the Migration Governance Indicators (MGIs)?

In 2015, IOM developed a Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) to help define what “well-managed migration policy” might look like at the national level. The MiGOF was welcomed by IOM's Member States the same year. The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) were developed to assess national frameworks, and help to operationalize the MiGOF.

The MGI is a tool based on policy inputs, which offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to develop their migration governance. The MGI is not meant to rank countries on the design or implementation of migration policies, but rather to be a framework to help countries in the assessment of the comprehensiveness of their migration policies, as well as to identify gaps and areas that could be strengthened. The MGI aims to advance conversations on migration governance by clarifying what “well-governed migration” might look like in the context of SDG Target 10.7. So far, 51 countries have participated in the MGI process.

For more information about the MGIs, visit <https://migrationdataportal.org>.

“Through this project, not only will there be a baseline on migration governance that will allow the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to address existing gaps in its migration policies but, in addition, the capacity of the relevant institutions to collect, analyse and use migration data appropriately will be strengthened, which will allow the Government to develop more effective migration policies and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Target 10.7.”

Horacio Calle,
Head of Office, IOM Bolivia

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN DOMINICA INNOVATE AND ADAPT TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Julie Robin (right) with other trainees at the DYBT's Entrepreneurship Training. Cabrits National Park, Portsmouth, Dominica, March 2019. Photo Credits: Dominica Youth Business Trust.

In 2017, the tiny Caribbean island of Dominica was hit directly by Hurricane Maria – the worst natural disaster in its recorded history. The hurricane caused 31 deaths, left 37 missing, and inflicted damage valued at 226 per cent of Dominica's Gross Domestic Product.¹

Julie Robin, a 26-year-old Dominican, could have left in the disaster's aftermath. Instead, she decided to launch her business and contribute to rebuilding a sustainable economy.

In May 2019, Julie and 22 other youth completed the new Entrepreneurial Development Programme – a training package of the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT). "This was the best decision I have taken in a while!", Julie said. "The training helped me gain confidence to start talking about my project. It was just what I needed; I had the concept, but I was lacking direction on the steps to get it done, the legalities and all the other areas of running a business. The training touched on all the important areas and they answered all my questions."

The entrepreneurial training was part of an IOM Development Fund project to help the DYBT to support economic recovery and foster engagement of young entrepreneurs after Hurricane Maria. Through the project, DYBT is developing essential business skills, providing grants, mentorship, and more to aspiring entrepreneurs through a new hub of entrepreneurial support.

“The IOM Development Fund has had a major impact on a core programme of the Youth Development Division, namely the Dominica Youth Business Trust. This programme has benefited from technical and financial assistance, contributing tremendously to the social and economic empowerment of the DYBT entrepreneurs and their dependents.”

John Roach,
Chief Youth Development Officer
Ministry of Youth Affairs, Dominica

In November 2019, Julie won one of eight DYBT-IOM Development Fund business grant for her start-up venture “Back-to-Basics”. With new-found confidence and the assurance of DYBT's ongoing support, Julie used the grant to secure credit and in April 2020, she successfully launched her line of frozen “french fries” made with local starchy crops, despite the challenges of COVID-19.

Julie's mentor, the Business Advisory Committee (specialist professionals made available to the entrepreneurs by appointment through DYBT as advisor-coaches) and the DYBT team have been a tremendous support throughout. She is excited about the co-production facilities and networking opportunities being developed under DYBT's hub and sees the project as providing a solution for entrepreneurs to produce, innovate and be inspired.

She spoke about DYBT's new Advisory Committee, saying, “DYBT has helped with adapting, networking and asking for help. It has been a personal growth journey as much as a business venture. I am looking forward to what the business can become for me, my staff members, the farmers, the restaurants, and Dominica.”

When people first learn of IOM's involvement in the DYBT project, there is often confusion as to the connection between migration and entrepreneurship.



Julie Robin receives the top BPIA Grant Award from Head of Office Natasha Greaves. Roseau, Dominica, November 2019.



Julie Robin (left) with employees of her company, Back-to-Basics Products, displaying some of their frozen “french fries”. Castle Comfort, Dominica, September 2020.

As part of its strategy on migration and sustainable development, IOM promotes the well-being of migrants and other community members so they can reach their full potential. After a disaster as devastating as Hurricane Maria, IOM saw the strategic importance of supporting the Government of Dominica's recovery efforts by promoting sustainable solutions for displaced entrepreneurs, to empower them as development actors and reduce the factors that often compel people to move.

As the project enters its final stage, the DYBT team, Julie, and many other young entrepreneurs, are excited about the relief that the coproduction facilities in the new entrepreneurial support centre will provide. Training is ongoing despite COVID-19 and the DYBT is actively reaching out for partnerships to mobilize funds, training partnerships, mentorship and coaching resources, and establish networks to sustain and scale-up this impactful initiative.

“This project has influenced the strategic positioning of IOM with the Government of Dominica and other stakeholders. Further, it has enhanced the operations of DYBT and by extension increased its impact to the young entrepreneurs. We are proud of this and look forward to future collaboration.”

Natasha Greaves,
Head of Office, IOM Dominica

¹<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/dominica-pdna-maria.pdf>

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?

- STEP 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
- STEP 2

Approach your local IOM Office or the Fund directly to discuss the viability of your project idea.
- STEP 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 (RO). In addition, projects may be reviewed and endorsed by the relevant department at IOM Headquarters before final consideration by the Fund’s management team.
- STEP 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.
- STEP 5

Once you have submitted the complete (RO 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 20 million in 2020 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

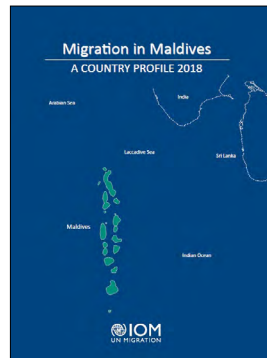
IOM COULD NOT CONTINUE ITS WORK WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT

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

	Australia		Hungary
	Austria		Morocco
	Belgium		Spain
	Italy		Sweden
	Japan		United States of America

IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND PUBLICATIONS

Migration Profiles



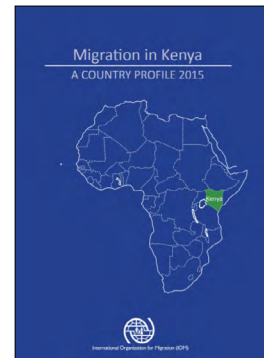
Migration Profile:
Maldives 2018



Migration Profile:
Viet Nam 2016



Migration Profile:
Federated States of
Micronesia 2015

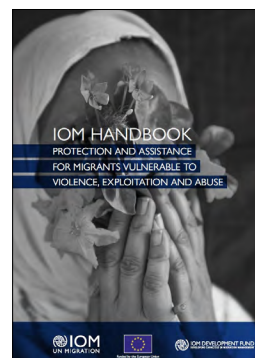


Migration Profile:
Kenya 2015

Training Manuals



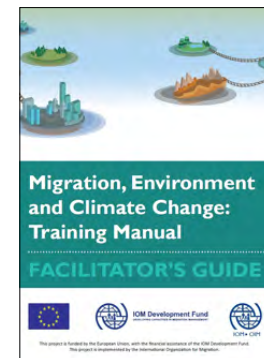
Inserção de migrantes
vulneráveis no mercado
de trabalho brasileiro,
Brazil
2018



Protection and
Assistance for Migrants
Vulnerable to Violence,
Exploitation, and Abuse
2018



Guide pour l'intégration
de la diversité culturelle
dans les pratiques des
entreprises, Maroc
2018

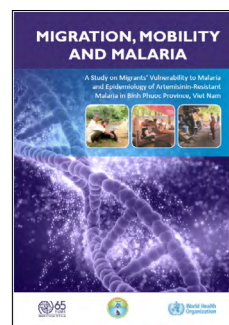


Migration,
Environment, and
Climate Change:
Training Manual
2016

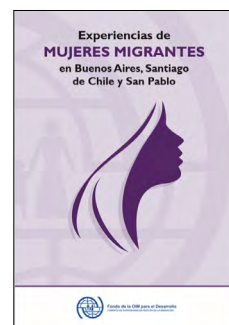
Needs Assessments



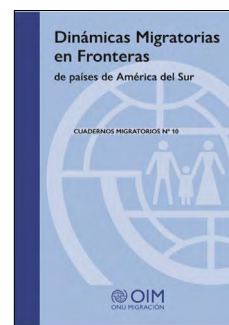
Mobility Monitoring for
Disaster Preparedness
Mongolia
2018



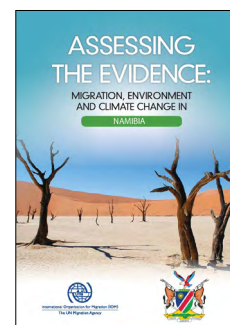
Migration, Mobility and
Malaria
Vietnam
2016



Experiencias de Mujeres
Migrantes
Argentina, Chile, Brazil
2017

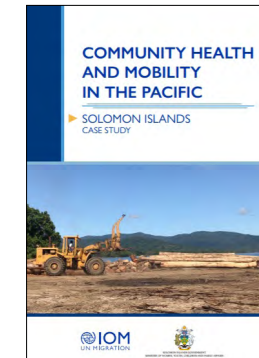


Dinámicas Migratorias
en Fronteras
MERCOSUR Region
2018



Assessing the Evidence,
Migration, Environment
and Climate Change in
Namibia
2018

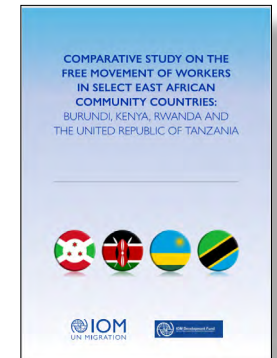
Research Reports and Studies



Community Health and
Mobility in the Pacific:
Solomon Islands
2018



Exploring the Role of
ICTs in Recruitment for
Human Trafficking
2019

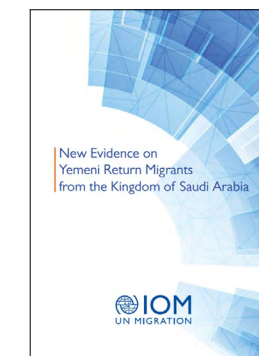


Comparative Study on
the Free Movement of
Workers
2018

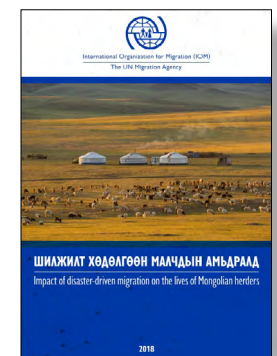
Other Reports



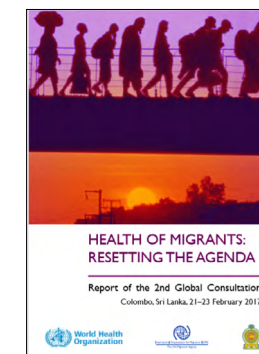
Migration, Environment, and
Climate Change: Regional
Policy Forum
2018



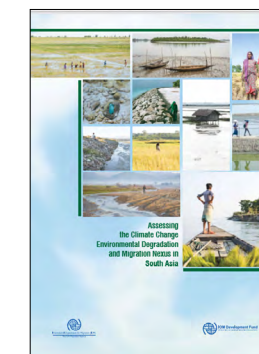
New Evidence on Yemeni
Return Migrants from the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
2018



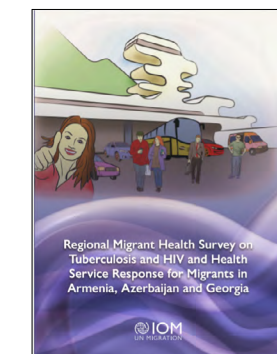
Impact of Disaster-Driven
Migration on the Lives of
Mongolian Herders
2018



Health of Migrants:
Resetting the Agenda
Report of the 2nd Global
Commission in Sri Lanka
2017



Assessing the Climate
Change, Environmental
Degradation, and Migration
Nexus in South Asia
2017



Regional Migrant Health
Survey on Tuberculosis and
HIV and Health Service
Response for Migrants
2019

ASIA AND OCEANIA

IMPROVING MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN FIJI



Members of the Technical Working Group gather at the Fiji Department of Immigration after Christmas morning tea to celebrate the project's achievements so far. Suva, December 2019.

Fiji, an archipelago in the South Pacific, is an origin, transit, and destination country for migrants, with complex and unique migration challenges. According to government officials consulted by IOM in early 2018, reliable data on migration – currently lacking in Fiji – is a priority issue for the country, and key to achieving effective migration governance. This is the purpose of the Fiji Migration Profile: Building the Capacity for Evidence-Based Decision-Making project, funded by the IOM Development Fund.

Through the project, which began early 2019, IOM has been working closely with the Government of Fiji to draft the country's first Migration Profile. The Fiji Migration Profile captures data, statistics, policy, and legislation relating to migration (to, from, and within the country) from over 40 stakeholders, including 17 government ministries, departments and institutions, and from international and national online sources.

To guide the project, a Technical Working Group (TWG), with representatives from 13 government ministries and institutions, was created to discuss

the country's migration issues and the draft Migration Profile's content. The TWG has crafted 12 recommendations for consideration by the Government, based on the important analysis of the draft Profile. These recommendations include, for example:

- Continuing to improve collaboration on the collection and use of migration information and data across government in Fiji;
- Targeting support to returning Fijian migrants to reintegrate into the domestic labour market;
- Aligning national legislation on human trafficking;
- Promoting circular labour mobility as a means to reduce dependence on social protection programmes in Fiji while ensuring protection for families staying behind.

Towards the end of 2020, IOM will deliver training to TWG members and other civil servants on data collection, sharing and analysis, and how to consider migration data as part of evidence-based policy development. This will support the Government's future reviews and updates of the Migration Profile.

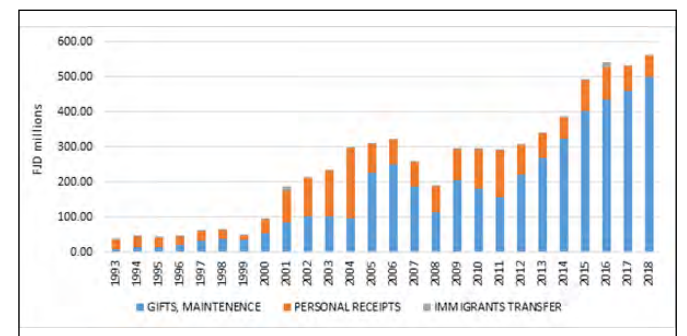
A further recommendation is to transform the TWG created within the framework of this Migration Profile project into a dynamic and proactive working group going forward. The Fiji Bureau of Statistics has committed to convening this group, in partnership with the Department of Immigration and Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations. In addition to leading on future reviews of the Migration Profile, this group will also have the responsibility to ensure maximum use of statistical data and information to support evidence-based government policies and programmes.

Through the efforts of the Government of Fiji, the Migration Profile will provide a comprehensive analysis of migration trends, characteristics, impact, and governance in Fiji. In a country so popular among migrants looking to visit, work or study – with permits issued to nationals from 139 countries in 2019 – we hope this will become a significant policymaking tool for the Government and other stakeholders once published.

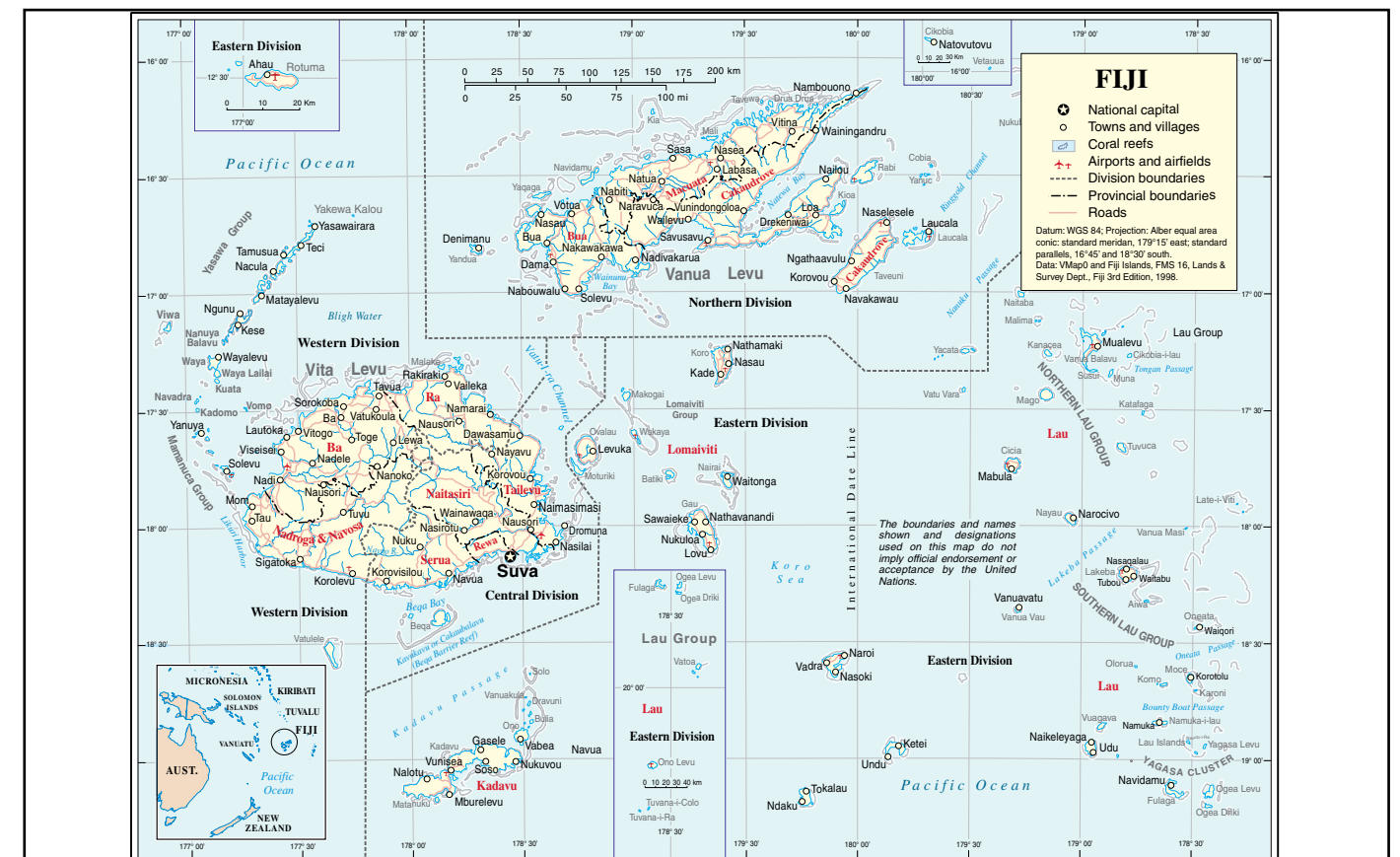
Pär Liljert,
IOM Coordinator for the Pacific

“ Since the beginning of this project, we have seen improved engagement across government on migration issues. Meeting as a group to discuss the Migration Profile report has uncovered better ways to collaborate and means that migration data is more accessible and understood by all of us. ”

Kemueli Naiqama,
Chief Executive, Fiji Bureau of Statistics



A graph of the personal remittances to Fiji, by type, between 1993 and 2018, showing the continued growth and significance of remittances for the Fijian economy. Source: Reserve Bank of Fiji, 2020.

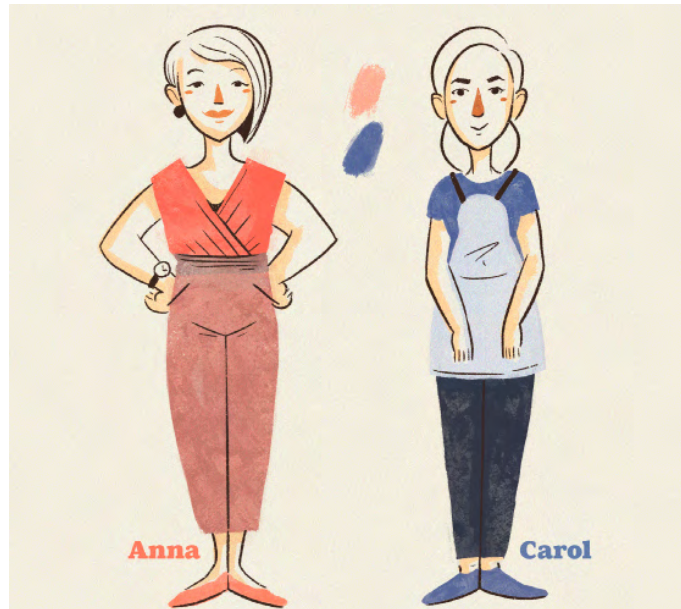


A map of Fiji, illustrating its archipelagic geographical features, which raise unique and complex migration questions. Source: United Nations, Department of Field Support Cartographic Section, map no. 4371

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT TO PROMOTE ETHICAL RECRUITMENT OF MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS

Globally, there are more than 67 million domestic workers over the age of fifteen. Eighty per cent are women, and one in five is a migrant worker. In Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), China, it is estimated that one in seven families employs a migrant domestic worker. Migrant domestic workers are often left out of efforts to engage with the private sector due to the hidden nature of their work in private households. The intersectionality of gender, race, religion and other factors combine to create a unique mode of discrimination, not only in the workplace, but also during their recruitment. All around the world, fraudulent and abusive recruitment practices are all-too-common, putting women migrant domestic workers into exploitative situations before they have even begun to work in an employer's household.

The project, "Asia Region: Promoting Ethical Recruitment and Decent Work Among Private Sector Partners by Strengthening Company Policies to Protect Domestic Workers," financed by the IOM Development Fund and launched in January 2019, engages a wide range of stakeholders including private recruitment agencies (PRAs), individual employers of migrant domestic workers and labour officials along the migration corridors between Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong SAR, China.



Anna and Carol, employers and migrant domestic workers, are the main characters in the eLearning course developed by IOM Hong Kong SAR, China, and IOM E-Campus for employers.

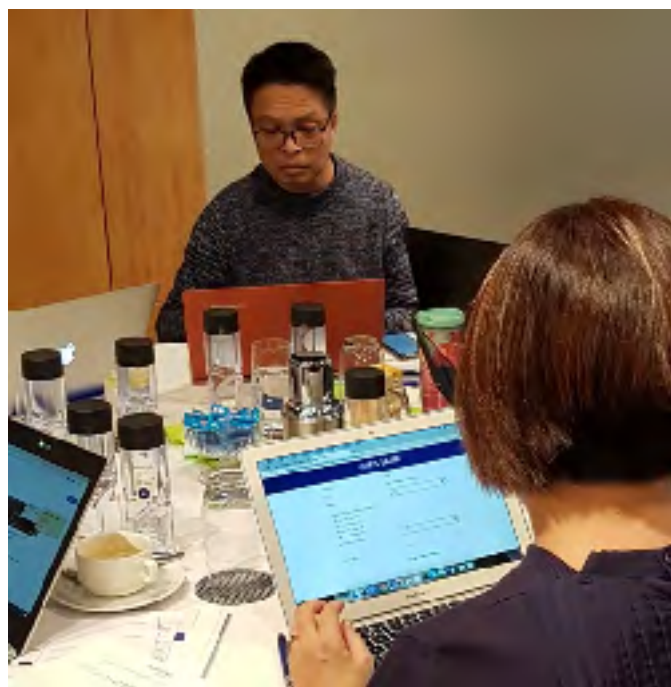
The overarching objective of this project is to prevent human trafficking and associated forms of exploitation by enabling private sector partners to adhere to and implement principles of ethical recruitment and decent work. This is achieved through IOM's provision of practical guidelines and management solutions. The project further aims to ensure that migrating women can access decent work, free from discrimination and exploitation, by promoting migrant domestic worker access to gender-sensitive recruitment channels, protection and grievance mechanisms.

“

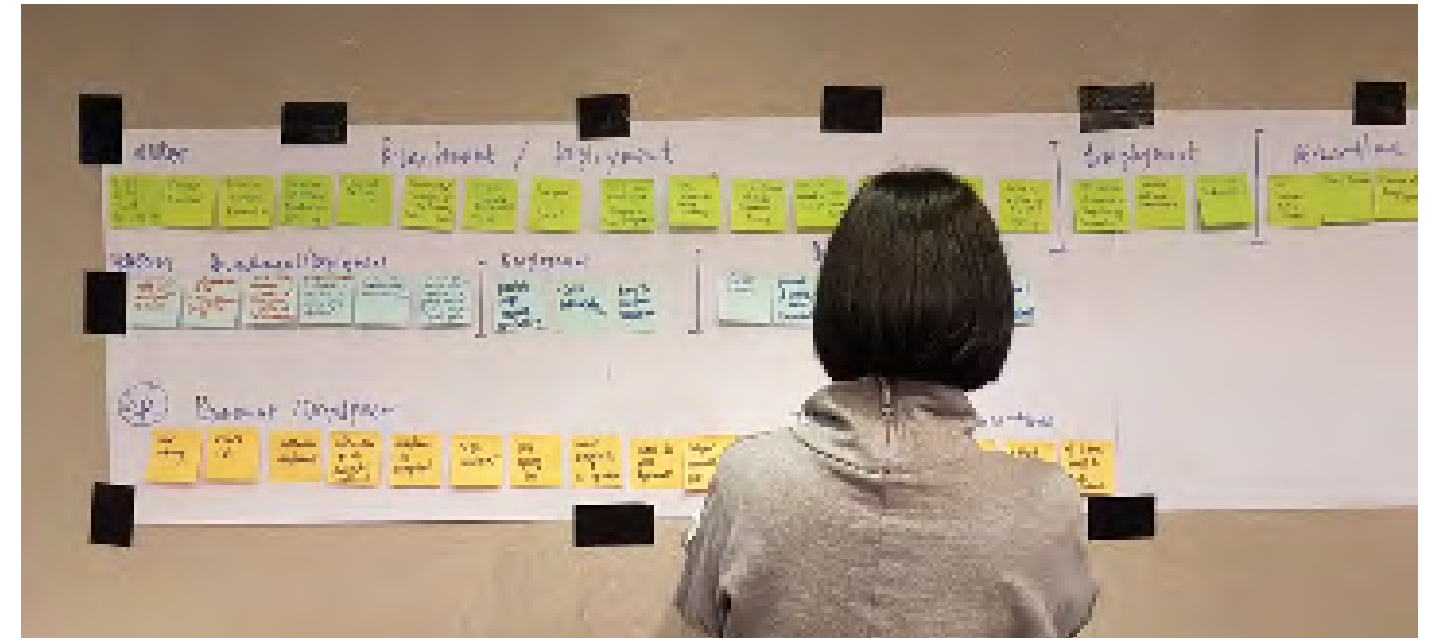
With a population of nearly 380,000 and steadily growing, foreign domestic helpers account for about 9 per cent of our total workforce. They assist our families in household chores and taking care of our elderly and children, thereby unleashing the potential of the local labour force, especially women. In return, they enjoy and deserve comprehensive and equal protection under our laws, on a par with local workers – not only because it is in our interest to do so, but it is the right thing to do.

”

Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung,
Chief Secretary for Administration



Patrick Chan and other participants using IRIS SAFER during IRIS Training. Hong Kong SAR, China, December 2019.



A participant from private recruitment agencies maps a hypothetical migrant worker's journey at the IRIS introductory training. Hong Kong SAR, China, December 2019.

To date, IOM has actively engaged 53 PRAs in both countries of origin and destination. Patrick Chan, General Manager of the Wellmark Employment Agency, has been actively engaged throughout project activities. Patrick first joined a technical workshop in September 2019, alongside staff from 10 other PRAs, to design a new ethical recruitment self-assessment tool, the International Recruitment Integrity System Self-Assessment for Ethical Recruitment (IRIS SAFER), hosted jointly by IOM and private sector partner, Diginex.

IRIS SAFER was designed for use by labour recruiters to assess their agency's current level of adherence to the IRIS principles as set forth by the IRIS Standard. This tool also enables users to be connected directly with an IOM IRIS case manager to receive resources, guidance and assistance in conjunction with IRIS capacity development activities to improve their recruitment practices.

Patrick and 22 other Hong Kong-based PRA staff then joined an IRIS training in December 2019. This training, also held in Bangladesh and Indonesia in January 2020, teaches participants how best to incorporate ethical recruitment policies into management and due diligence systems.

According to Patrick, "IOM's highly consultative approach and its proactive engagement with PRAs is invaluable. There has been a lot of confusion around what is ethical recruitment, why it is relevant to our work and how we should implement ethical principles. IOM's IRIS training and the IRIS SAFER tool have

Off the back of its successful pilot, IRIS SAFER will now be updated and incorporated into IOM's global IRIS capacity-building programme for PRAs worldwide from 2021. The programme consists of three levels and is designed to help labour recruiters methodically align, step-by-step, their business practices to the IRIS standard. To date, over 500 individuals across the globe have been trained through the programme and 40 agencies have enrolled in further activities of the programme with figures expected to grow.

IRIS SAFER Global will serve an important function for onboarding and continued support to recruitment partners, vital to effect positive change for all migrant workers, including women migrant domestic workers. With more than 260,000 private recruitment agencies worldwide – leveraging technology to maximize reach and engagement is essential for the private sector to join in the efforts of IOM and our multi-stakeholder community to realize the many benefits of well-managed migration.

“

We believe that ethical recruitment should be at the forefront of efforts to protect all migrant workers for its potential to impact sweeping, positive change.

”

Maria Nenette A. Motus,
Regional Director
IOM Asia and the Pacific

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME THROUGH EFFECTIVE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER RESPONSE

Various forms of transnational organized crime in South-East Asia have been on the rise over the last few years, as the modus operandi of criminal organizations has become increasingly complex and characterized by interconnected networks. This is depicted by the involvement of multiple actors including smugglers, recruiters, transporters, and facilitators across international borders. By adopting innovative and flexible approaches, these criminal organizations and networks undermine national and regional security, exploiting millions of people on the move while maintaining a clandestine presence.

To effectively counter such crime, especially the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, which have both been high on the national agendas of the Thai Government since 2017, cooperation between states, relevant ministries/departments, and frontline officials is crucial. However, due to a myriad of challenges, including legislative gaps, a lack of reliable data and information exchange protocols, and inadequate infrastructure to allow secure data exchanges, law enforcement agencies are sometimes unable to effectively cooperate on these issues. This leads to chronic operational gaps and therefore hampers the ability of law enforcement to effectively

counter criminal organizations that operate beyond borders and jurisdictions.

Since January 2019, through the project "Supporting the Government of Thailand to Improve Migration and Border Management Structures in the Midst of Rapid ASEAN Integration", funded by the IOM Development Fund, IOM Thailand has been working on strengthening inter-agency cooperation between law enforcement agencies to share information and intelligence and to conduct joint operations to counter transnational organized crime, in line with the Integrated Border Management approach. To promote government ownership, IOM Thailand established a Technical Working Group (TWG) in May 2020 engaging 14 Royal Thai Government agencies [9 Police, 5 non-Police] to develop a curriculum to enhance inter-agency cooperation.

A special task force of the Thai Police, the Combatting Transnational Criminal and Illegal Immigrants Center (CTIC), chairs the TWG and has been working with IOM through a series of consultative meetings to refine the modules and ensure their alignment with national priorities as well as international standards and best practices.



The Thai-Myanmar friendship bridge in Mae Sot, Thailand was built in 1996 to connect with Myawaddy in Myanmar. Since then, the bridge become the main crossing point between the two countries. Mae Sot, Thailand, 2017.

“

Combatting transnational crime, especially smuggling of migrants, remains a top priority for Thailand. The Thai Police understands the need to cooperate across ministries, departments and even across borders with neighbouring countries on this complex issue. As the chair of the Technical Working Group, I endorse IOM's timely and relevant initiative. We must work together to defeat transnational criminal networks that pose a threat to national security and prosperity.

”

Pol Gen. Nathathorn Prousoontorn,
Special Advisor to the Thai Police Commissioner



Thai immigration police demonstrating the border pass control system "e-Fingerprints" during the visit for Border and Migration Management Assessment (BMMA). Ranong Province, Thailand, August 2019.

The curriculum includes modules on topics including transnational organized crime such as smuggling of migrants, data collection and sharing, Thailand's legal framework on inter-agency cooperation and victim protection instruments and cooperation examples. Each module has been developed to highlight and reinforce inter-agency cooperation elements.

Upon finalization of the curriculum, IOM will organize a tailored Training of Trainers (ToT) for experienced officials from relevant law enforcement agencies in Thailand. The ToT is being designed in close coordination with key TWG members as a practical simulation involving complex transnational crime modus operandi and response of multiple law

enforcement agencies. Afterwards, the capacity-building workshops will be cascaded under the ongoing Anti-Crime Capacity-Building Programme, funded by the Government of Canada. IOM will also engage a network of Immigration Control Experts (ICE), with representatives based in various diplomatic missions in Thailand to share models of inter-agency cooperation from their respective countries.

With this initiative, IOM Thailand aims to enhance awareness among Thai Government agencies on inter-agency cooperation and ultimately contribute towards formal cooperation mechanisms both within Thai Government agencies and relevant authorities across the borders.



Pol. Gen. Nathathorn Prousoontorn meets with IOM Chief of Mission Maria Moita to discuss the ongoing project. Bangkok, May 2020.

“

In the context of the ASEAN Economic Community and increased regional connectivity it is important to take note of existing transnational criminal networks that aim to exploit and undermine such initiatives, damaging both human and economic security. Facilitating safe and regular migration will be instrumental in supporting Thailand and other countries to tackle this issue. IOM strongly advocates for enhanced cooperation among relevant authorities at national and regional levels to counter these threats and is proud to work with the Royal Thai Government on this important initiative.

”

Maria Moita,
Chief of Mission, IOM Thailand

EUROPE

EMIGRATION OF HEALTH AND INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONALS FROM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: A ONE-WAY STREET?

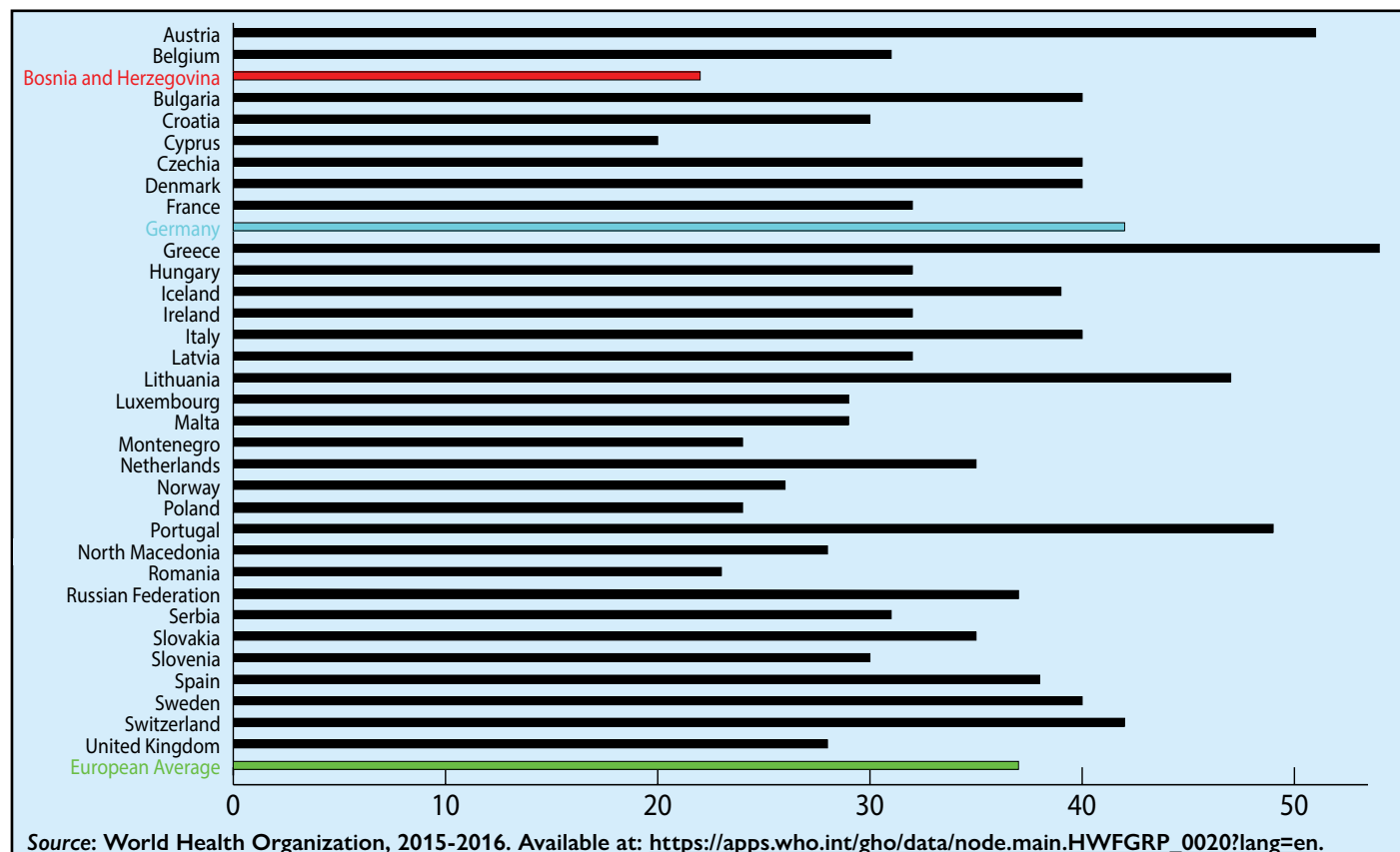
Approximately one-third of citizens from the Western Balkans currently live outside of the region. Last year alone, 230,000 people left the region, with the greatest numbers departing from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.¹ Most of those who emigrate are young, skilled and well-educated. According to a recent Gallup study,² the Bosnia and Herzegovina Potential Net Migration Index (PNMI) score is negative, at minus 32 per cent, meaning a predicted significant net population loss.

Two sectors particularly affected by emigration are Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and health care. High rates of emigration in these sectors have impacted health services dramatically and resulted in shortages of qualified ICT workers, with consequences for the well-being of the population and the broader modernization and productivity of the economy.

In light of all of the above, the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has partnered with IOM to implement the project “Contributing to Evidence-Based Labour Migration Policies for Health Care and ICT Sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, funded by the IOM Development Fund, to better understand the trends and impact of emigration in these sectors. The main objective of the project is to improve migration governance and support the development of evidence-based policies that seek to shape and leverage the migration of skilled professionals in these sectors to support socio-economic development and the national health security.

The project’s goals have become all the more important with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health-care services and the economy.

1. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
2. <https://news.gallup.com/migration/interactive.aspx>.



A graph with examples of the density of medical doctors per 10,000 people in different countries of Europe (non-exhaustive). The density of medical doctors in Bosnia and Herzegovina (red) is 22 per 10,000 people, well below the European average (green) of 37 per 10,000. Most health professionals from Bosnia and Herzegovina choose Germany (blue) as their country of destination, which averages 42 doctors per 10,000 people.

“

The COVID-19 crisis has drawn attention to the importance of a strong public health system, capable to recruit and deploy well-trained and highly motivated health workers; and this includes being able to easily identify and call on skilled individuals in the diaspora when needed.

”

Vedran Marčinko,
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Systematic research on the emigration of health care and ICT professionals from Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently unavailable, and the project study on this topic is the first of its kind. The starting point is to identify the data points and research needs to capture information that can contribute to policy decision-making. This includes research analysing the scale, drivers, and impact of emigration of health and ICT professionals from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The research methodology is informed by gender perspectives, incorporating gender equality considerations into research design and data analysis, guaranteeing their relevance in the overall assessment of the research findings. A better understanding on the interrelations between migration and these specific policy sectors will allow to ensure policy coherence to harness the linkages between migration and development and thereby contribute to recovering better from COVID-19 and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



A view of Sarajevo, the cosmopolitan capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina and one of the core research areas of the ongoing project, given its large rates of out-migration of young, skilled, well-educated workers. Sarajevo, August 2020.

CONTRIBUTING TO EVIDENCE-BASED LABOUR MIGRATION POLICIES FOR HEALTHCARE AND ICT SECTORS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Artwork created for the project, Sarajevo, August 2020.

Key questions the research aims to address include:

- What health-care occupations in which regions of the country are facing the greatest challenges due to emigration?
- What management systems (including programmes for temporary return) can be put in place to mitigate these skills gaps?
- What is the effect of emigration on the ICT labour market and how does this hinder growth in other sectors?
- Are there positive networking and investment effects with ICT diaspora professionals in other countries and, if so, how could these be further leveraged?

Upon finalization the research, the project team will organize a series of policy dialogues to validate the findings and recommendations. These events will engage various stakeholders, including the private sector, policymakers and local communities’ representatives to identify avenues for potential follow-up pilot interventions in response to identified challenges. Such initiatives could provide support to relevant ministries to collect and process data to feed into evidence-based policymaking in fields related or directly affecting labour migration, and also serve to mainstream migration in existing (health care and ICT) sector strategies, or to develop new ones. Seed funding and technical assistance will then be provided to implement select pilot initiatives that demonstrate the most promise, which may eventually be scaled up to be run nation-wide if successful.

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 700 projects in various areas of IOM activity and has benefited over 120 Member States.



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