



Migration - Leveraging migration for development

How SECO addresses the Global Theme *Migration*

Migration in economic cooperation

International migration is a phenomenon of an increasingly globalized world. The number of international migrants has doubled in the past quarter century to more than 245 million in 2015. This is more than 3% of the world's population. Roughly 10% of all international migrants are refugees. Increased mobility, economic, political and financial instability as well as environmental changes mean that in the future the movement of people across the world will become ever more complex and present new challenges for policy makers.

Against this backdrop, national development policies like the Swiss dispatch on International Cooperation 2017-20 classify migration as a global issue. Through its Global Programmes and Themes, the Swiss cooperation, including SECO's Economic Cooperation, will play an important role in making migration a more beneficial element in the development context of partner countries as well as address root causes of irregular migration by systematically link development aid (ODA) and migration where it serves the interests of Switzerland. Respective linkages will be carried out on three levels:

- Political level: through policy dialogue, e.g. within the framework of migration partnerships
- Geographical level: interventions in fragile contexts
- Thematic level: through programmes indirectly working on the root causes of forced migration, e.g. skills development, job creation.

SDGs and Migration

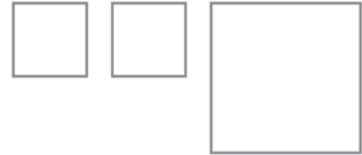
The inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development confirms and reinforces the important relation between migration and development. By integrating migration, including forced displacement, into the SDGs, the international community acknowledged that migration can make a positive contribution to development, both in countries of origin and destination, while not ignoring its potential challenges.

SECO-priorities regarding Migration, 2017-20

The main objective of SECO's Economic Cooperation is to reduce poverty and uplift living conditions in partner countries, for example by creating employment and building valuable skills on site. By doing so, SECO seeks to create alternatives to migration which is caused by lack of economic opportunities - a major cause of migration. For instance, SECO plans to implement specific projects in the following areas:

- *Support the private sector, dynamic entrepreneurship and skills development* in order to create more and better jobs, foster entrepreneurship and provide access to finance.
- *Promotion of sustainable trade* in order to create new trade relations (e.g. with diasporas), strengthen the value chain and create new, decent employment on site.
- Encourage the development of new financial products fostering the *investment of remittances* rather than mere consumption, e.g. in business development, sustainable energy solutions for private households (solar energy) and other infrastructure investments.





Implementation of priorities

The approach in the area of migration is thus twofold: First, SECO addresses the root causes indirectly e.g through creating jobs and providing better economic perspectives on site as alternative to forced migration. Secondly, SECO contributes directly to migration issues by assessing the economic potential of migration and migrants in its programmes dealing with remittances and diaspora investments.

The geographical scope for migration related interventions by SECO lies in two regions:

- 1) **Northern Africa**
- 2) **Western Balkans**

For the implementation of its projects, SECO works with partner institutions such as Non-Governmental

Organisations (NGOs), the private sector (including the diaspora) and international organisations, for example members of the World Bank Group or Regional Development Banks.

SECO is a member of the Swiss interdepartmental coordination group for international migration (IMZ) and actively supports the establishment and implementation of migration partnerships with the above mentioned priority countries. The participation and regular consultation within the network assures coherence and efficiency of the Swiss migration policy, which is coordinated among several federal offices (FOM, SDC, FDFA, SECO, FEDPOL).

Project example: Swiss entrepreneur hailing from former Yugoslavia creates 600 jobs in Serbia and Bosnia i Herzegovina

A naturalized Swiss entrepreneur, seized the opportunity to start a business in the Balkans after completing his studies in Switzerland. With the support of the SECO Start-up fund he builds two profitable furniture factories in Serbia and Bosnia i Herzegovina delivering to IKEA as their first customer. Thanks to his education in Switzerland and many years of work experience in Croatia, he knew the requirements of the international market and had established the necessary network to promote the products of his company. Specialized in furniture production, he now employs almost 600 people - mostly women - in a region where the unemployment rate is high and people are likely to migrate for a job. His experience is however that most people would like to stay if they had a decent job.



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