

INTRODUCTION

As the fastest growing economy with a relatively young population, India plays a crucial role in the international labor markets with the country being well positioned to provide skilled workforce globally. At present, India is the world's largest recipient of remittances standing at USD 87 billion in 2021, constituting roughly 4.6 percent of the country's GDP. Well-managed emigration can thus be an unsung asset for origin states in India. International Indian migrants (with their earnings) ensure the financial inclusion of their family members and serve as role models for many others in their villages and districts. Increasingly, students are applying for higher education in countries abroad, such as the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia. State governments thus play a very important role in safe mobility management and welfare, thereby facilitating migrant workers to better manage their remittance which may contribute to rural and urban development.

IOM India, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), aims to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration for aspiring Indian migrant workers and students. This will be achieved through a mapping exercise of migration trends and patterns, formulating policy recommendations, and disseminating communication materials on safe and regular migration.

Significance of State Governments' Contributions

State governments play a significant role in international mobility management and welfare. State governments ensure and verify the credibility of the recruiters and inform migrant workers of the specificities of visa requirements and associated labour rights through their official websites.

States also meaningfully support the reskilling and up-skilling of migrants (including returning migrants). Most importantly, state governments can also facilitate a more informed decision for young students seeking to move abroad for higher education with information on scholarships, accreditation status of foreign universities, visa procedures, and how to avoid misinformation, misguidance and misleading claims and information.

Better sensitization of State Governments to migration issues can contribute to better formulation of migration-responsive interventions that can be easily delivered through more migrant-accessible channels. Collaboration between the State and Union Governments also helps reduce vulnerabilities, increase access to basic services, strengthen consular protection, and effectively monitor government initiatives for international migrants.

Alignment with SDGs, GCM & MiGOF

In alignment with national priorities, the project's objectives also align with:

1. **Goal 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed policies.
2. **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM):**
 - Objective 1:* Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.
 - Objective 3:* Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.
 - Objective 5:* Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
 - Objective 7:* Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.
3. **Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF)**

PARTNERS



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PRAYAS (Promoting Regular & Assisted Migration for Youth And Skilled Professionals) is one of the first attempts to consolidate all the state-level initiatives for safe, orderly, and well-managed international migration. IOM intends to develop a roadmap for improved coordination between State and Central Governments that would encourage sharing of good practices between States and enhanced engagement with the MEA on matters related to the international migration cycle. The engagement also involves other stakeholders, such as recruitment agencies, student counselling agencies, researchers, civil society organizations as well as returned migrant workers and students, allowing for a whole-of-society approach to emigration management.

The objective of the project is to contribute to facilitating safe, orderly, and regular migration for aspiring Indian migrant workers and students through policy recommendations in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and State Governments, thus strengthening international migration governance. Taking the varied needs of different emigrant groups, the project aims to identify the needs and gaps across the entire emigration spectrum, to:

1. Strengthen existing initiatives for the international mobility of skilled professionals and students from India through proactive participation of State Governments.
2. Provide information to all skilled professionals & students about the complete range of services that are accessible for ensuring safe, orderly and regular international migration.

KEY DELIVERABLES

Mapping report on International migration and mobility trends and patterns.

Needs assessment of the ongoing State-level initiatives facilitating international migration.

Convene bilateral/zonal round tables with State Governments on targeted areas of improvement in international migration management.

Consultations with relevant non-government stakeholders on good practices and gaps in international migration governance.

Policy recommendations to enhance facilitation of international migration through strengthened coordination between the Government entities.

Accurate and timely information on safe, orderly, and regular migration and mobility to internationally bound migrant workers and students from India.

SUPPORTED BY:



References:

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2. Observer Research Foundation (2018), <https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-future-of-the-indian-workforce-a-new-approach-for-the-new-economy/>
3. Migration Policy Institute, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-immigration-and-diaspora-relations-india#12>