

Migration Initiatives Appeal 2009

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Migration issues

Considering the fact that Iran is faced with high unemployment, economic difficulties, high proportion of youth population, new incentives for highly educated youth to migrate, and a significant rise in internal migration from rural areas to urban due to unbalanced progress of development, the country has experienced steady flows of emigration and immigration, driven further by key eco-political events in the region.

However, what makes Iran's migration context unique is that it has experienced simultaneous emigration and immigration to extreme degrees. In its recent history, Iran has laid claim to producing the highest rates of emigration in the world while simultaneously topping the list as the world's largest refugee haven, mainly for Afghans and Iraqis. Iran also exhibits one of the steepest urban growth rates in the world, largely driven by internal migration from rural areas.

Programme areas

Migration Health

Health Promotion and Assistance for Migrants

The relationship between HIV and population mobility has been accepted among those working in this field, and mobile people are considered among those at greatest risk to HIV infection in the country. Nevertheless, research conducted in this regard is scarce, which has contributed to a lack of efficient and effective programming aimed at HIV and

Total Funding Requirements for Iran - USD 6, 300, 000

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Iran

International Organization for Migration

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mobility. Research, advocacy, awareness-raising, and education are the main priorities requiring the involvement of IOM expertise in the field of HIV and population mobility. IOM, which is a member of the Joint United Nations Team on AIDS in Iran, has proposed several initiatives as part of a UN Joint Programme in line with the national response to the HIV epidemic.

- **Assessment of HIV vulnerability and mobility patterns in the Islamic Republic of Iran — USD 300,000**
- **HIV and AIDS awareness-raising aimed**

at vulnerable Iranian mobile groups to the UAE — USD 200,000

- **Sensitizing migration authorities on HIV-related issues through the Academy for Migration and Refugee Studies' (AMRS) migration management course — USD 300,000**

Migration and Development

Migration and Economic/Community Development

With over a million foreign migrants residing in Iran, the country is ranked among the world's top migrant receiving states. This population has a diverse composition, with mixed flows of refugees under protection by the 1951 Geneva Convention, asylum seekers, and different categories of irregular migrants including victims of trafficking. On the other hand, Iran, which has the world's second youngest population, has become a major country of origin for migrants. Accordingly, new IOM projects aim to promote the human rights of migrants in Iran and build social partnerships between Iranian diaspora and their homeland. New initiatives also aim to assist Government of Islamic Republic of Iran (GIRI) to develop a national policy for migration management in order to effectively address the development challenges and improve human security since the issue of irregular migration is inextricably linked to matters of human security.

- **Pilot project to develop national capacities to safeguard the rights of migrants in the Islamic Republic of Iran and promote partnership with Iranian diaspora for 2009 - USD 600,000**
- **Pilot project to address the mobility challenge of human security for 2009 - USD 500,000**
- **IOM-UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) joint project "Disaster Preparedness programme for migrant workers in the IR Iran" - USD 500,000**

Regulating Migration

Counter-trafficking

Given Iran's geographic position, near west and central Asia which are considered as origin, transit, and destination areas for migrants and refugees, the country is more susceptible to cross-border and trans-national organized crime. Human trafficking and migrant smuggling are emerging as growing regional issues, as trafficking and smuggling networks are becoming increasingly active due to existing eco-political challenges. In its efforts to assist the GIRI in combating trafficking in human beings, IOM has developed multi-pronged strategies to address the issue and seeks to launch sustainable projects that would build on the achievements of earlier pilot programmes.

- **Prevention of human trafficking among women and children in the IR Iran: (Phase II) — USD 600,000**
- **Holding the second regional conference on human trafficking and migrant smuggling with participation of more 35 countries in the region and observers from EU and UN agencies under the umbrella of the AMRS — USD 500,000**

Technical Cooperation on Migration Management and Capacity Building

Based on its expertise in the field, IOM is supporting the GIRI in enhancing its capacity to manage migration flows more efficiently and effectively. Following the successful regional approach of organized training courses and conferences, IOM plans to commence a new phase of the AMRS courses with participation of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Member States, as well as the other stakeholders in the region (with special focus on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries).

- **Strengthening the capacity of the AMRS for 2009 — USD 600,000**
- **AMRS and School of International Relations (SIR) joint series of certificate**

**courses on migration management for
students and officials of the Iranian MFA
— USD 500,000**

- **Enhancing the capacity of border
security forces of the ECO Member
States' law enforcement forces
— USD 1,500,000**
- **AMRS cooperation with Iran's Bureau of
Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs
and SIR to develop the first national
report on the consequences of Afghan
Expulsion Programme — USD 200,000**