ICMPD implements an initiative on “Diaspora Engagement for the Protection of Migrants Throughout Emergencies” in the framework of the project “Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC): Supporting an Evidence-based Approach for Effective and Cooperative State Action”, funded by the European Union.

OBJECTIVES

The initiative aims at enhancing the involvement of diaspora organisations in the protection of their fellow nationals abroad in both the country of destination experiencing a crisis and in the country of origin upon return.

The expected outcomes are:

• The role of diaspora in the pre-crisis, crisis and post-crisis phases to assist and protect nationals abroad/returning migrants is recognised by state authorities and other relevant actors;

• Diaspora organisations’ awareness about the specific needs of migrants throughout a crisis is raised;

• Relevant frameworks and platforms to enhance diaspora organisations’ engagement in the provision of migrant-sensitive crisis responses are strengthened in the country of origin.

FORMAT & ACTIVITIES

The following activities will be organised in each participating country:

1. Training workshops to develop the capacity of targeted diaspora organisations to enhance their involvement in prevention, preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis plans;

2. Training workshops aiming at developing the capacity of targeted state authorities;

3. Support to develop policies, tools and strategies.

TARGET GROUPS

• National and, where relevant, local authorities of countries with well-established diaspora institutions with direct responsibility for diaspora engagement, migration and crisis management issues;

• Diaspora organisations of the targeted countries of origin.
CONTEXT

The capacity building component of the “Migrants in Countries in Crisis: Supporting an Evidence-Based Approach for Effective and Cooperative State Action” (MICIC) project, funded by the European Union, aims at enhancing states and other stakeholders’ prevention, preparedness and response capabilities to address the specific needs, mitigate the vulnerabilities and deal with possible long-term impacts of crises on migrants.

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness on the role diaspora can play before, during and after a crisis. Empowered diaspora organisations may help their governments and communities of origin to deal with the humanitarian consequences of crises on migrants, inform on crisis preparedness including contingency planning, facilitate communication and outreach, provide assistance and direct support during an emergency as well as contribute to rehabilitation.

The MICIC Guidelines also highlight the role of diaspora groups since the latter have a facilitated access to migrants, networks, pre-established relations of trust and loyalty with migrant communities and a vested interest in the protection and assistance of vulnerable migrants.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Structuration and capacities of diaspora organisations to prepare and respond to the impacts of crises on migrants are strengthened;

2. Cooperation among target groups is strengthened;

3. Policy frameworks conductive to the engagement of diaspora organisations in the assistance and protection of migrants are strengthened.

For more information, contact ICMPD:

ICMPD Brussels Mission
Rue Belliard 159
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 233 1167
Fax: +32 2 231 1430
icmpd-micic@icmpd.org
www.icmpd.org/MICIC

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