

# IOM KOSOVO<sup>1</sup>

## STRATEGIC APPROACH (2022-2025)



<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the UN Migration Agency and the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. IOM works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners to promote humane, safe, and orderly migration. It does so by providing services, policy advice and recommendations to governments and migrants.

Over the years, IOM has grown into 173 Member States, over 400 field locations and almost 14,000 staff. IOM's structure is highly decentralized. Over 90 percent of IOM's staff is deployed in the field.

### MIGRATION CONTEXT IN KOSOVO

#### INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

More than twenty years after the 1999 conflict, the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Displaced Persons in the Region (DPRs) remain high. It is estimated that some 20,000 displaced persons are still waiting for a durable solution, through return to or local integration in Kosovo.

Implementing an effective and meaningful return and reintegration policy continues to be a challenge. The displaced persons need assistance in exercising their rights and earning sustainable income.

#### LABOUR MIGRATION

Despite rapid economic development, insufficient job opportunities and low wages constitute strong migration drivers and continue to prompt several thousands of Kosovo residents to emigrate in search of better opportunities.

Labour migration and interactions with Kosovo's diaspora influence economic opportunities and improvement of welfare of Kosovo residents, with remittances amounting for approximately 19 per cent of Kosovo's GDP.

#### MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

Kosovo has been affected by the inflow of migrants along the Eastern Mediterranean route and is a transit territory for diverse categories of migrants. It is still in the process of developing a fully effective and protection-sensitive entry system within the context of mixed migration flows. Data collection capacities, provision of basic services to migrants, identification and assistance to vulnerable migrants need to be furthered strengthened.

### IN LINE WITH THE IOM GLOBAL STRATEGIC VISION, IOM KOSOVO STRATEGIC APPROACH IS STRUCTURED AROUND THE THREE PILLARS

#### RESILIENCE



**Empower migrants and communities to strengthen their resilience in situations of vulnerability**

IOM will continue to provide effective protection to migrants in vulnerable situations, internally displaced persons and victims of trafficking, empowering them to strengthen their resilience. IOM will focus on enhancing social inclusion and cohesion and will work on community stabilization to create greater access to economic opportunities and social services for disadvantaged groups to address migration drivers. Parallel to that, IOM will actively work on diaspora mapping and engagement to leverage diaspora contributions for development of all communities. IOM will engage to prevent exploitation and human trafficking while promoting safe labour migration practices and ethical recruitment. IOM will work with relevant stakeholders to enhance research and data collection to better understand and manage climate change-induced migration.

#### MOBILITY



**Migrants, society and businesses benefit from safe orderly and regular human mobility**

IOM will enhance the availability and flexibility of safe and orderly pathways for regular migration for employment and education purposes. IOM will focus on increasing knowledge of migrants wishing to return voluntarily (returnees to Kosovo but also migrants returning voluntarily from Kosovo to their places of origin) so that they are able to make informed decisions and achieve the sustainable reintegration. For the inflow and transit of migrants along the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Balkan Route, IOM will support Kosovo's institutions to mainstream protection sensitive admission, and will work towards overall strengthened migration management frameworks in line with international standards.

#### GOVERNANCE



**Strong migration governance is coherent with related policies and legal framework**

IOM will promote a holistic, 360-degree approach to migration governance, through close cooperation with authorities, migrants, communities, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders. IOM will develop comprehensive programming to strengthen capacities of Kosovo authorities to collect adequate migration data, design sound policies, mainstream migration into development strategy, streamline the legal framework as well as implement evidence-based and inclusive migration governance in line with international standards that address migration challenges and facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. IOM will expand ongoing Displacement Tracking Matrix initiatives, to ensure up-to-date analysis of migrant profiles, key migration drivers, experiences en route and indicators of vulnerabilities of migrants in transit.

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The Strategy aims to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.



### THE UNSDCF FOR KOSOVO IS BUILT AROUND FIVE PRIORITY AREAS



**Priority area 1**  
Accountable governance



**Priority area 2**  
Inclusive and non-discriminatory social services and policies



**Priority area 3**  
Resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic development



**Priority area 4**  
Social cohesion



**Priority area 5**  
Cross-cutting Theme: Increased gender equality and rights-holders' participation, empowerment, and civic engagement

IOM work and migration is integrated across all five priority areas. IOM leads the priority area 4.