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NOTE

From:	Commission services
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Operationalization of the Pact – Action plans for strengthening comprehensive migration partnerships with priority countries of origin and transit Draft Action Plan: Pakistan

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (06.09.2022)

Delegations will find attached a draft action plan for Pakistan prepared by the Commission Services.

The Commission would very much appreciate that the text of the draft action plan be handled with discretion.

Draft Action Plan: Pakistan

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ANNEX I

Existing EU cooperation and areas of engagement under the Pact

I. Protection

- Under the MFF 2014-2020, the main focus of EU support to Pakistan in the area of migration, mobility and forced displacement was related to the Afghan displacement crisis, implemented by UNHCR through one regional action in support to the SSAR, covering Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran (EU contribution €37 million, ended in April 2022), and the following action, still ongoing:
 - **Addressing the needs of Afghan refugees and host communities affected by COVID-19 pandemic** (€10 million, implemented by UNHCR in the period 2020-2023). The objective is to mitigate the direct and longer-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Afghan refugees and their host communities in Pakistan through increased access to health services, WASH facilities and social protection measures.
- The €79 million Special Measure on Afghan regional displacement adopted at the end of 2021 under the MFF 2021-2027 aims to continue this support. Pakistan benefits from two regional actions also covering Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia, respectively implemented by UNHCR (€34 million) and IOM (€15 million) for the period 2022-2025, providing protection to displaced Afghans and supporting them and their host communities with access to basic services, skills development, livelihoods and access to market opportunities.
- Two projects funded under the Lives in Dignity Grant Facility (MFF 2014 – 2020) which aims to promote innovative and development-oriented approaches to displacement crises are/will be implemented in Pakistan:
 - Strengthening communities facing climate-related displacement in Pakistan (€2 million, implemented by the Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan and Aga Khan Planning and Building Services, Pakistan for the period 2022 – 2024).
 - Livelihoods and integrated health and WASH services strengthening and support for displaced populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan (€2 million, implemented by Care International and the Afghan Women's Resource Center for the period 2022 – 2024).

II. Addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement

- The GRASP project (2019-2024; €50 million) aims at reducing poverty through developing sustainable economic growth in rural areas (both Sindh and Balochistan provinces). BRACE programme (2017-2023; €45 million), supports the Government of Balochistan in reducing the negative impact of economic deprivation and supporting poverty alleviation. They also cover migrant and/or refugee communities in Sindh and along the Afghan frontier province of Balochistan.
- The PAIDAR project (starting 1 April 2022; €49.2 million), also with the aim of poverty alleviation and inclusive development across rural Sindh province is inclusive of all communities in need. The Aid to Uprooted People in Pakistan (AUP) project (2017-2021; €21.5 million), with the specific aim of supporting internally displaced peoples in the ex-Federally Administered Tribal Areas of KP province, which also borders Afghanistan, is planned to be extended, subject to recovery of non-dispersed funds from an unilateral withdrawal of an implementing partner. These local development programmes build the resilience of the rural population through improving the livelihoods and economic conditions of the most deprived population and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and even forced displacement.
- The TVET sector support programme (€60 million, EU contribution €45 million) supports Pakistan in developing a skilled workforce based on private sector demand. The overarching

goal is to increase employment opportunities for young Pakistanis in the country, which will lead to greater incomes and ultimately contribute to economic growth.

III. Migration governance and management

- A regional project on Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Countries is funded under MFF 2014-2020 - DCI (€12.5 million, implemented by ICMPD, August 2017-April 2022). An information centre for potential migrants – the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) - has been operating since December 2020 to empower people in Pakistan to make informed decisions on migration by sensitising them to the risks of irregular emigration, opportunities of legal migration and alert them to signs of exploitation and ways of protecting themselves against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

Border Management

- Under MFF 2014-2020 (DCI) Pakistan participates in a regional project on Integrated Border Management (€12 million, implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), January 2019-December 2022). The programme supports the countries of the Silk Routes region in building more effective and efficient border management systems by increasing their capacity for border management and developing their national IBM strategies/guidelines, to ensure that these are coherent and effectively co-ordinated at a national, and, if possible, at a regional level. The focus is on effective border control, human resources development and preventing the irregular migration.

Countering Migrant Smuggling

- Glo.ACT – a regional project on the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling is funded under MFF (DCI) 2014-2020 (€12.5 million, implemented by UNODC, January 2018-June 2023). The project works alongside partner countries in developing and implementing more effective national and international responses to trafficking in human beings, as well as migrant smuggling, linked to: (i) strategy and policy development, (ii) legislative assistance, (iii) capacity building, (iv) regional and trans-regional cooperation and (v) protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and migrants in vulnerable situations.

Awareness-raising Campaigns

- PARIM – Awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in Pakistan (funded under the EU budget - AMIF, Mol Austria and Bulgaria, implemented by ICMPD, Jan 2021- Dec 2022, €1.1 million) – through Migrant Resource Centres in Islamabad and Lahore.

IV. Returns, readmission, reintegration

- The EU-Pakistan readmission agreement entered into force on 1 December 2010 and the Joint Readmission Committee meets regularly.
- Return Case Management System is implemented under the European Readmission Capacity Building facility – EURCAP: “Sustaining progress on RCMS in Pakistan through capacity building, RCMS II” (€1.4 million is funded by the EU budget (AMIF), implemented by IOM). The EU-Pakistan RCMS is currently implemented in 13 Member States (original pilot countries: EL, DE, FI and BE + 9 recent connections: IT, AT, SI SK, CZ, LV, EE, PL and LX; connections to the remaining 11 Member States should be completed before end July.

V. Legal migration and mobility

- The project “Global Action to Improve the Recruitment Framework of Labour Migration (REFRAME) (2017-2021) (EU contribution €8.3 million MFF 2014-2020 GPGC Migration and Asylum Programme, co-funded and implemented by ILO),” which included the Pakistan-Middle East labour migration corridor, was designed to prevent or reduce abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices, and maximize the protection of migrant workers in the recruitment

process and their contribution to development. Among other things, this has resulted in awareness raising and capacity building for migrant workers, civil society and local organisations, recruitment agencies, trade unions, and government on fair recruitment; the generation and implementation of methodologies for data collection on recruitment costs; review and adoption of the Emigration and Welfare Policy and Action Plan; and the harmonization of the national qualification frameworks in the region.

- There were no pilot projects on legal migration nor proposals from Member States for such projects in partnership with Pakistan.

ANNEX II

Member States’ bilateral engagement

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ANNEX III

Key figures and trends	
Irregular migration	
- Illegal border crossing of Pakistani nationals to the EU: 2 083 in January-April 2022. 3 863 in 2021, of which 1 748 in Italy, 827 in Cyprus and 681 in Hungary. 2 603 in 2020 (3 799 in 2019) of which 1 397 in Italy, 479 in Greece, 422 in Cyprus - Illegal stay of Pakistani nationals in the EU: Illegal stay of Pakistani nationals in the EU: 22 265 in 2021 of which 6 310 in Greece, 5 200 in France, 2 750 in Croatia. 20 055 in 2020 (24 925 in 2019) of which 7 110 in Greece, 4 985 in Croatia, 2 425 in France	
Return	
- Pakistani nationals ordered to leave the EU: 18 500 between Q1-Q4 2021, of which 5 745 in Greece, 4 135 in France, 3 235 in Croatia. 19 145 in 2020 (22 110 in 2019) of which 7 010 in Greece, 4 820 in Croatia, 3 420 in France - Return rate: 13% in 2021¹, (11% in 2020) - Highest return in 2020: 100% in Malta, 86% in Romania, 58% in Germany - Lowest return rate in 2020: 0% in Estonia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland.	
Asylum	
- First time asylum applications by Pakistani nationals: 5 385 between January-March 2022². 21 015 in 2021, of which 6 885 in Italy, 3 730 in France, 3 415 in Greece 15 910 in 2020 (24 345 in 2019) of which 4 960 in Italy, 3 555 in France, 3 515 in Greece - First instance total asylum decisions: 5 515 in Q1 2022. 24 420 in 2021, 8 805 in 2020 (23 675 in 2019) - EU recognition rate: 11% in Q1 2022. 11% in 2021; 9% in 2020 (9% in 2019) - EU recognition rate incl. humanitarian protection: 18% in Q1 2022. 14% in 2021; 10% in 2020 (11% in 2019)	
Legal migration	
- First time residence permits: 35 761 in 2020 (43 983 in 2019) of which 8 874 in Spain, 7 900 in Italy, 5 447 in Germany - Total valid residence permits: 346 731 in 2020 (355 843 in 2019) of which 122 383 in Italy, 87 621 in Spain, 41 443 in Germany³	
Visas	
- Short stay visa applications to the EU (Schengen States): 25 500 in 2021 (18 500 in 2020; 89 000 in 2019) - Share of Multiple Entry Visas (MEVs): 49% in 2021 (44% in 2020; 39% in 2019). Top three Member States of MEV issuance in 2021: Germany (2 800), Spain (1 500), Italy (1 200) - Visa refusal rate : 34% 2021 (41% 2020; 35% in 2019)	
Forced displacement in the country; Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries	
(Afghan) refugees hosted by Pakistan: 1 435 026 at the end of 2020 registered by UNHCR, approx. another 1.5 million ACC holders and non-registered. UNHCR recorded 117 550 newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to Pakistan between 1 January 2021-7 February 2022. - Internally Displaced Persons in Pakistan (end of 2020): 910 000 (104 000 from conflicts and 806 000 from disasters).	

¹ Statistics on returns are incomplete. Data might be subject to change.

² Data for March missing for: RO, PL, MT, HU, LT.

³ No data for DK.