

THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Statement to Roundtable 2.2

Fostering the development impact of return migrants

It is critical to harness the potential contribution of returning migrants to the development of their countries and communities of origin since they often bring their individual skills, financial, and social capital from their working period abroad.

It is therefore important that countries have and apply robust policy frameworks and programs to ensure that migrants can maximize their potentials and contribution upon returning to their countries. Further, reintegration of migrant workers needs to be addressed by comprehensive approaches covering economic empowerment, skills identification, and social involvement of migrants.

To provide better services and protection for Indonesian migrant workers, citizen service units are established in 24 Indonesian Missions in countries with significant number of Indonesian workers. Such unit provide integrated services that covers consular services, legal assistance, education and trainings, shelters, and health services.

Taking note of the needs of victims of human trafficking, my Government has also created a reintegration program, covering elements such as physical and mental rehabilitation and economic empowerment.

Considering that women constitute more than 60% of Indonesian migrant workers, Indonesia pays special attention to the empowerment of Indonesian women migrant workers. Accordingly, my Government has put three priorities in its support to Indonesian women migrant workers, namely access to justice, access to financial services, and access to information.

We have also worked on improving and streamlining policies and programs for returning migrants. The Indonesian National Board for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers, for example, has put in place an integrated empowerment program that targets return migrants—those who have finished their employment contract and assisted voluntary returnees. Working with relevant stakeholders (CSOs, private sectors, microcredit organizations, and training centers), the Board provides entrepreneurship and upgrading skills programs.

The Government also encourages CSOs to be more involved in assisting migrant workers. One of the successful programs initiated by CSOs, in collaboration with the government, is 'Migrant Care Village'. The program offers various services to migrant workers and their families, such as information on safe migration, papers, and empowerment programs for migrants and their families.

Indonesia recently launched Productive Migrant Village program aiming at expediting reintegration process and preventing non-procedural migration. This program has four main activities, namely establishing migration service centre in villages to disseminate information to prospective migrant workers, conducting trainings for return migrant workers, establishing community parenting for migrant workers' children, and nurturing sustainable entrepreneurship through the establishment of cooperatives for migrant workers and their families. In the long run, this program aims at promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration, as mandated in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.