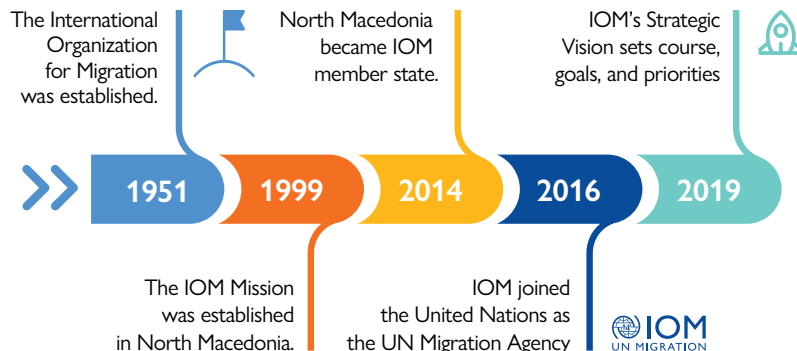


# IOM NORTH MACEDONIA

## STRATEGIC APPROACH (2022-2025)



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 worldwide is deployed in the field.



## MIGRATION CONTEXT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

### EMIGRATION

North Macedonia is characterized by long term traditional emigration. The total number of Macedonian nationals living abroad has been rising consistently and significantly in the last decade.<sup>1</sup> In 2020, it was estimated to have reached 693,900 persons, which is almost 30 per cent of the country's population. The annual influx of remittances was approximately 3.3 per cent of the GDP in 2020.<sup>2</sup> The Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) represented 0.063 per cent of GDP in the same year.<sup>3</sup>

### MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

North Macedonia has been affected by the inflow of migrants along the Eastern Mediterranean route and is a transit country for diverse categories of migrants. During 2015 and 2016, North Macedonia has witnessed an unprecedented migratory flow, with an estimated 800,000 migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees transiting through the country. Although the number of migrants transiting through North Macedonia in 2019 and 2020 was lower compared to 2015 and 2016,<sup>4</sup> the migratory movements continue given the country's central position on main migration routes.

### TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

North Macedonia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficking in human beings (THB). During 2018-2020, 21 victims of trafficking (VoTs) and 197 potential victims of trafficking have been identified in North Macedonia. More than 70 per cent of the identified VoT cases were women and girls.<sup>5</sup>

In 2019 and 2020, there were 69 migrant smuggling cases, involving 1,809 smuggled migrants, and 86 apprehended smugglers.<sup>6</sup> Migrants' smugglers collaborate with local facilitators by trucks, commercial vans, SUVs, larger passenger vehicles, stolen vehicles, open freight wagons, and intermodal containers and is combined with the use of forged documents.

IN LINE WITH THE IOM GLOBAL STRATEGIC VISION AND THE IOM REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA THE STRATEGIC APPROACH OF IOM NORTH MACEDONIA IS STRUCTURED AROUND FOUR PILLARS

#### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



IOM will respond to the needs of crisis-affected populations through the provision of humanitarian assistance and quality services.

IOM will continue to support the institutional stakeholders in meeting basic standards and providing protection assistance to the crisis-affected populations such as health care, including mental health and psychosocial support, COVID-19 prevention and protection, education, as well as Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration. IOM will support capacity building of the immigration and border authorities in protection-sensitive and humanitarian border management.

#### RESILIENCE



IOM strives to improve migrants' resilience in situations of vulnerability, through supporting the institutional capacities, knowledge, skills, and resources to protect the rights of migrants in vulnerable situations, including migrant children and actual and potential victims of trafficking. IOM will work on community stabilization to create greater access to economic opportunities and social services for disadvantaged groups of the community to address migration drivers. Parallel to that,

IOM will be actively working on diaspora mapping and engagement to effectively leverage diaspora contributions for the country development. IOM will strengthen community resilience against violent extremism to prevent, recognize, manage, and alleviate violent extremist occurrences. IOM will also work to support the resilience and socio-economic stabilization of those compelled to migrate due to poverty, exploitation, lack of opportunities, climate change and environmental challenges.

#### MOBILITY



IOM will work with the Government in the development and implementation of migration governance and border management policies, strategies and systems that ensure the human rights, dignity and safety and security of all those on the move, including children and vulnerable migrants. IOM will work towards assuring that migrants of all genders, ages, abilities, and other diversities benefit from appropriate and gender-sensitive pre-departure, post-arrival or return assistance and counselling. IOM will support the institutions in developing innovative, flexible, and inclusive initiatives for cooperation in the field of labor migration. IOM will continue supporting the institutional stakeholders in addressing of transnational organized crime, such as migrant smuggling and human trafficking, and the protection of the rights of migrants across the entire mobility continuum.

#### GOVERNANCE



IOM will work to enhance national capacities in migration-data collection, analysis, and dissemination to address the gaps, identify the key migration trends with the whole-of-Government approach, develop and implement relevant migration management policies, as well as conduct efficient and effective monitoring and evaluation of the policies' implementation. IOM will be working to strengthen the national capacities and systems for effective and comprehensive migration data collection, exchange, analyses and alignment with the EU standards. IOM will support availability, access, and analysis of migration data through the ongoing IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix Initiatives to track mobility and evolving needs of the population groups on the move. IOM will continue to develop and implement activities ensuring that the public narrative of migration is well-informed and balanced, and the human rights of migrants and their contribution to local and national development are recognized. IOM will also work with the national partners to foster vertical and lateral coordination as well as develop capacities for mainstreaming of the opportunities and challenges associated with the human mobility in the context of climate change.

<sup>1</sup> Atlas of Migration, 2020 / Migration in Europe; UN International migrant stock 2019, <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp>

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?locations=MK>

<sup>3</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BM.KLT.DINVVD.GD.ZS?locations=MK>

<sup>4</sup> According to the registration data in the two Temporary Transit Centers (TTC) "Vinojug" Gevgelija and "Tabanovce" Kumanovo over 800,000 migrants transited through the country.

<sup>5</sup> Annual Reports of the "National Commission for combating human trafficking and irregular migration"

<sup>6</sup> Source: Ministry of Interior



THE UNSDCF FOR NORTH MACEDONIA IS BUILT AROUND THREE PRIORITY AREAS



### Priority area 1.

Sustained and inclusive economic and social development



### Priority area 2.

Climate action, natural resources, and disaster risk management



### Priority area 3.

Transparent and accountable democratic governance