

# **MIEUX Case Study Mauritius (2017)**

Funded by the  
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Implemented by  
ICMPD



**ICMPD**

International Centre for  
Migration Policy Development

## How to read this case study?

### MIEUX Thematic Areas



Migration and  
Development



Legal Migration  
and Mobility



Irregular Migration  
and Trafficking in  
Human Beings



International Protection  
and Asylum Policy



Horizontal  
Interventions

### Ten features of good practice in MIEUX Actions

- 1 There should be ownership on the part of the partner country
- 2 Actions should provide an opportunity to be innovative in their context
- 3 Actions should be able to be replicated
- 4 Actions should provide tangible results
- 5 Actions should be endorsed at a high level
- 6 Actions should be integrated into existing priorities
- 7 Actions should be based on the highest levels of experience
- 8 Actions should complement and be in synergy with other initiatives
- 9 Actions should provide EU added value
- 10 Actions should act as a catalyst for the acquisition of knowledge through the exchange of experiences

## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

### Mauritius (2017)

Having recognised the importance of migration as a means of development, the Mauritian Government requested support from MIEUX to develop a national policy on M&D. Deploying European and Southern experts, this Action involved a large number of stakeholders in policy review, coherence and setting up of sustainable mechanisms for policy implementation.

#### Context

Situated off the south-east coast of Africa, the island of Mauritius has one of the most prosperous economies of Africa. The Government of Mauritius wished to increase competitiveness through greater regional integration, create a stronger environment for innovation, make economic growth more inclusive by addressing the skills mismatch in the labour market and bolster resilience to natural disasters and climate change. Faced with growing numbers of emigration of highly-skilled workers in certain sectors, Mauritius wanted to also reverse brain drain and retain these skills in order to expand the highly-skilled labour sector.

Having recognised the importance of migration as a means of development, the Mauritian Government had already developed a policy to promote short-term labour migration, as well as to set up structures to improve opportunities for migrants to invest in, develop enterprises, and use their newly acquired skills from abroad upon their return to Mauritius. Recognition of the importance to provide a coherent framework to address all these different elements of migration led to a series of consultations and measures which preceded the MIEUX Action:

- The drafting of the Migration Profile in 2013 supported by IOM.
- The setting up of the National Migration Steering Committee in 2015 and its five thematic sub-committees.

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**MIEUX  
FEATURES**



With the support of the local EUD, the Prime Minister's Office decided to address a request to MIEUX in order to provide support in the development of a National Migration and Development Policy to mainstream migration into wider development strategies.

## Action Design

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The design of the Action included a combination of different activities and stakeholders to guarantee a whole-of-government approach as well as ensuring coherence with all existing sectoral policies. The Action included a fact-finding mission, a number of bilateral and joint meetings and consultations with relevant stakeholders, capacity building and drafting sessions, as well as a regional consultation on the policy on Rodrigues Island, an autonomous island of Mauritius. The MIEUX team also joined one of the previously established Migration Steering Committee meetings in order to present the draft policy and collect input. The activities mainly targeted members of the Migration Steering Committee, but other actors were associated on different occasions to consult them on their perspectives.

The selection of experts included triangular cooperation through an expert from ICMPD, one from France, one from Cabo Verde and the sharing of experiences from a Jamaican delegate. The expert from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the French Government view on M&D and how the link between the two could best be strengthened. The efforts that France provides in supporting circular migration agreements and diaspora initiatives in the home countries were as well as the participation of France in a number of multilateral initiatives, such as Meetafrica and the Rabat Process.

## Practices

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- **Increasing knowledge base on policy development:** The ICMPD expert underlined the significant understanding the organisation has gathered in developing migration policies, and trained the participants on policy cycle, goal-setting and measures of achievements, and how to create an action plan.
- **South-South Exchange:** The Director General of the Directorate for Immigration and focal point for the four MIEUX Actions in Cabo Verde, the first one of which entailed the development of a national migration strategy, participated as an expert. The experiences of Cabo Verde in the development of its National Migration Policy were shared, focusing on how it set up the necessary institutional structure for implementation of the policy. The presentations included concrete examples and challenges that Cabo Verde, as a middle-income island State, faced at the time of policy formulation, has continued to face, and how they are being addressed. Cabo Verde's monitoring and evaluation mechanism was also presented and gave the Mauritian counterparts a concrete example of how the implementation of

policies can be monitored, and how this process should inform the following policy cycle. The presentations were particularly interesting as a number of similarities between the contexts existed and the coordination mechanism of Cabo Verde is well developed. Additionally, a guest speaker from Jamaica presented the development of Jamaica's M&D policy during one of the Migration Steering Committee meetings.

- **Whole-of-government-approach:** The M&D Strategy was developed in an inclusive manner, involving all main stakeholders, and with it an action plan outlining concrete actions on how to strengthen the link between M&D in Mauritius. The policy represents a strategic vision and roadmap in relation to all facets of migration in Mauritius, both in terms of opportunities and challenges, and is aligned with the Mauritius Vision 2030 and the Government's development programmes.
- **Alignment of migration policies with national development plans:** The policy determines the vision and depicts the determined course that the Government is committed to taking in order to maximise the positive outcomes and impact of migration on national and human development. The resulting provisions are clustered around four 'Ps' (Policy and Institutional Coherence; Prosperity; Partnership; and Protection) while pushing for reforms in other public policies that impact and are impacted by migration.

## Impact

- **Inter-institutional cooperation:** The process of developing a policy enabled and committed all relevant stakeholders across the board to consolidate and sharpen joint efforts and partnerships to harness the nexus between M&D, to reflect and debate on what type of migration management is desirable for the country, and to identify solutions and innovative approaches to it. The transfer of knowledge empowered the country's administration, creating more harmony between government ministries and enabling a better understanding of migration issues and of its impact on socio-economic development. Going through a pre-existing institutional structure rendered the process more efficient and consolidated the coordination conducted by the Migration Steering Committee.
- **Complementarity and synergies with international actors:** The Action was complementary to the Migration Profile Project and initial round-table organised by IOM which resulted in the set-up of the Migration Steering Committee and to the Accelerated Programme for Economic Integration (APEI)<sup>1</sup> that seeks to implement a number of reforms to facilitate regional trading.

<sup>1</sup> Accelerated Programme for Economic Integration, funded by World Bank, aims to speed-up economic integration by eliminating trade barriers in five countries (Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Zambia).

- **Incorporating a regional perspective:** When implementing the policy, a regional dimension has to be considered, for instance in terms of the collaboration within COMESA and the potential of regional policies to further boost Mauritian objectives.
- **Dedicated resources:** A separate migration unit was created to improve coordination of migration issues in the long term and oversee implementation of the policy, for instance through the development of relevant measures supporting implementation of the policy, and organising the monitoring and evaluation of the policy.

## Lessons Learnt

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Through this process, the partner authority was able to achieve a change in mindset on migration issues and how the management of these issues can be supported by strong policies. The partner authority also realised the importance of contributing strongly to the policy, and the necessity for each institution to have a clear vision of different issues before engaging in a policy drafting process.

An important lesson that follows the formulation of this policy is to streamline migration into other public policies to create a coherent approach. This is best done in combination with further capacity building on migration issues so that an understanding is created on how different sectors are affected. Specific research into this area would be beneficial.

For policy development in general, this Action highlighted the need for concrete research and strong data before embarking on the process in order to identify main trends and to analyse which existing policies have had positive or negative effects.



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Migration EU Expertise



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Since launching operations in 2009, the Migration EU expertise (MIEUX) Initiative has provided space to request capacity development activities and EU expertise, allowing the sharing of knowledge and practices between peers working in institutions in and outside of Europe.

The adoption of the Global Compact on Migration and the creation of the UN Network on Migration coincided with MIEUX's ten-year anniversary. To mark the occasion, MIEUX undertook a comprehensive analysis of its achievements, methodologies and practices.

By delving into MIEUX's portfolio of over 100 interventions, this series of case studies intend to offer a glimpse of the broad range of tools, methodologies and approaches that can inspire or be used by governments and migration and development practitioners to advance a cooperative and sustainable international architecture of migration.