



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation



## Webinar

### ***Remittances in Crisis: How to Keep them Flowing***

**Convened by Switzerland and the United Kingdom on the occasion of the  
International Day of Family Remittances**

**Tuesday, 16 June 2020**

**8:00 - 9:00 (ET) / 14:00 - 15:00 (CET)**

On the occasion of the International Day of Family Remittances, Switzerland and the United Kingdom in partnership with World Bank/KNOMAD, UNCDF, IOM, UNDP, the International Association of Money Transfer Networks, and the International Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to a webinar to build on the recently launched

#### **Call to Action «Remittances in Crisis: How to Keep them Flowing»**

The unprecedented disruption of remittance flows as a consequence of the current global crisis is severely affecting migrants, diaspora communities, and the families, communities and economies that rely on receiving remittances in low- and middle-income countries. It is projected that remittance flows to these countries will sharply decline by 20% – around US\$110bn – in 2020. Remittances provide a vital lifeline for hundreds of millions of people round the world, and such a significant drop will inevitably impact on their ability to cover basic necessities, such as food, housing, healthcare and education. Ensuring that remittances can continue to be sent and received without obstacles will mitigate this impact, and will prevent millions of people from falling into poverty. Facilitating the continued flow of remittances is also vital for the resilience and recovery of local economies and communities in many low- and middle-income countries heavily affected by the health and economic crisis caused by the spread of COVID-19.

The Call to Action aims at keeping remittances flowing throughout the crisis and mitigating the impact on the people and economies most affected, by calling on policymakers, regulators and remittance service providers to take measures that facilitate the continued flow of remittances from migrants and diaspora members to their families and communities in low- and middle-income countries.

The webinar will serve as a platform to discuss how countries that have joined the Call to Action are affected by the disruption of remittances and how the implementation of the Call to Action's recommendations can keep remittances flowing during the crisis and beyond.



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## Format

Speakers will address the following **guiding questions**:

- How are remittance flows to different countries affected? What are the greatest challenges?
- What is necessary to ensure the flow of remittances to different countries?
- What concrete support can be given to facilitate the flow of remittances?
- What role can be played by governments, the private sector and civil society?

The webinar will open for comments in the chat box on ideas, actions and solutions to facilitate the flow of remittances.

## Participants

The event is open to the public. Speakers will be invited.

## Outreach

Web: <https://www.knomad.org/covid-19-remittances-call-to-action/>

Access to livestreaming: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-ad6WM6CSI>

## Registration

Please register here: <https://form.jotform.com/201567959930164>

## Call to Action

For more information please visit: <https://www.knomad.org/covid-19-remittances-call-to-action/>



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#### **AGENDA AND PANELISTS**

**Welcome and introductory remarks:** Mr. Pietro Mona, Ambassador for Development, Forced Displacement and Migration, Switzerland

**Setting the stage:** Mr. Dilip Ratha, Lead Economist and Head of KNOMAD, World Bank

**Panel discussion: How are remittance flows in different regions affected by COVID-19 and what mitigation measures are most effective?** Chaired by Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

*How are different countries affected? What measures are policymakers and regulators taking to keep remittances flowing?*

Egypt: Ambassador Amr El Sherbini, Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Refugees, Migration and Combating Human Trafficking, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mexico: Dr. Christopher Ballinas Valdés, Director General for Human Rights and Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nigeria: Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairwoman / CEO of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission

Pakistan: Mr. Naveed Kamran Baloch, Finance Secretary of the Government of Pakistan

Jordan: Mr. Adnan Allahaseh, Executive Manager of Money Exchange Supervision Department, Central Bank of Jordan

*How is the remittances industry affected? How are remittance service providers ensuring the flow of remittances?*

Mr. Mohit Davar, Chairman, International Association of Money Transfer Networks

Mr. Andrew Wilson, Permanent Observer for the International Chamber of Commerce to the United Nations

*What support do international organisations offer to keep remittances flowing?*

Ms. Asako Okai, UN Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Crisis Bureau, UNDP

Ms. Wen Li, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM

**Closing remarks:** Mr. James Duddridge, Minister for Africa, United Kingdom