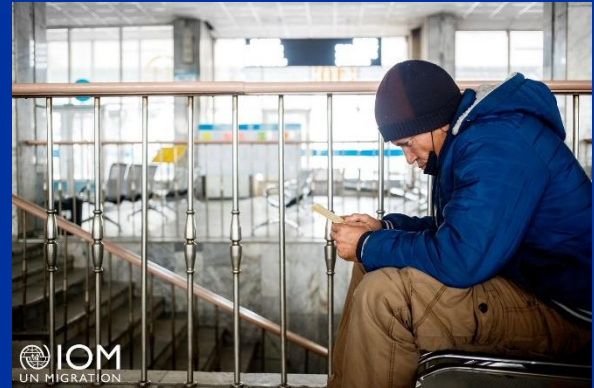




IOM CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL
RESPONSE REPORT, ISSUE 9,
24/12/2020 ● ● ●

THE OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY IN CENTRAL ASIA



December 18 marked the International Migrants Day. IOM in Central Asia called on the Governments, international communities, media and civil society to unite in observance of the International Migrants Day.



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PRESS RELEASE

OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY IN KAZAKHSTAN



December 18
International Migrants Day



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The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Migration Agency, calls on the Government of Kazakhstan, international communities, the media and civil society to unite in observance of the International Migrants Day in Kazakhstan.

Nur-Sultan, 18 December 2020 – Since Spring 2020, the attention of public organizations has been drawn to migrants from different countries. Due to the tightening of restrictions for the period of the state of emergency, the work of many services and organizations was suspended until the situation stabilizes. Being in isolation, many migrants, including migrants from the Central Asian region experienced a sharp loss of employment, which led to difficulties in sustaining the income level of their families who remained in their home countries. Also, many migrants ended up undocumented and lost the opportunity to return home.

In response, IOM has developed a **Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for Central Asia and the Russian Federation**.

The IOM strategy aims to jointly address migration issues in the region and provide assistance to migrants in a difficult life situation either in destination or transit countries, as well as to family members of migrant workers. With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, IOM and its partners (migration and border services, NGOs, diasporas) conducted mass return operations and provided humanitarian assistance to 5,177 migrants and their family members. Direct assistance continues to this day.

Today, the need to address such issues as access to medical services, documentation, special social services for victims of human trafficking is exacerbated. In its regional appeal, IOM urges the states of the region and the donor community to address the need to map the needs and requirements of migrants, be they returnees or those who are not yet able to return to their homeland. The development of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is important both for direct assistance to vulnerable migrants and for further action to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Kazakhstan is one of 103 states that signed the COVID-19 Joint Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants dated 12.06.2020. The state is taking stabilizing anti-crisis measures during the pandemic,

including protection of migrants' rights. The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, to which Kazakhstan is a party, mechanism of cooperation for the best management of migration and cooperation at all levels.

IOM in Kazakhstan would like to draw the attention of all the parties concerned to the necessity of complex protection of migrants suffered from the consequences of crises, both in the countries of destination and in the countries of origin upon their return home.

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IOM Kazakhstan has launched a week-long information marathon. Representatives of the non-governmental sector in the cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Aktau and Karaganda, carried out activities among the population in cooperation with city Akimats, police departments and other partner organizations.

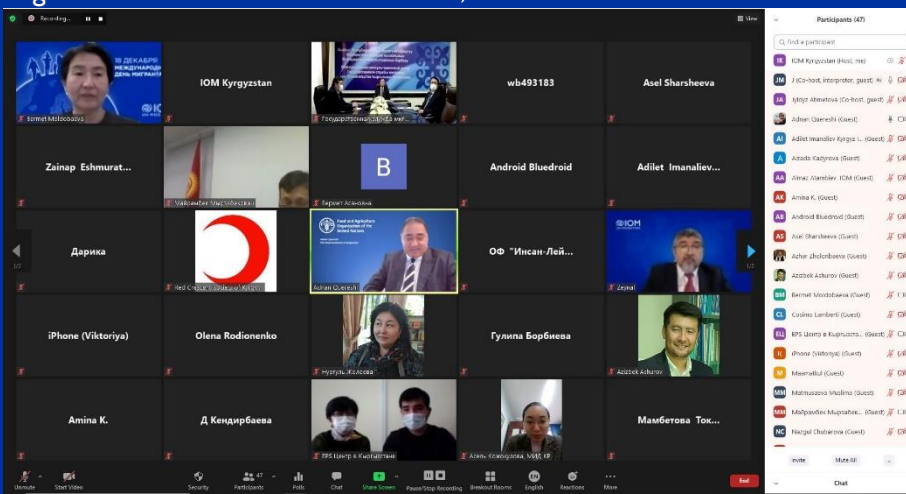
IOM signed a Memorandum on Cooperation on Migration in Kazakhstan. In the framework of the Memorandum between the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and IOM, research, trainings on international migration issues, as well as the preparation of educational materials and trainings of civil servants from the southern and northern regions of the country will be carried out in Kazakhstan.





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IOM Kyrgyzstan launched their local United Nations Network on Migration (Network) to ensure coordinated support to authorities in reaching the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. More than 700,000 of Kyrgyzstan’s 6.3 million citizens work abroad, making an important contribution to the development of the mountainous Central Asian country. The protection of migrants' rights is a priority for the Government, and the online Network launch was opened by the chairman of the State Migration Service and the Vice Prime Minister. “COVID-19 emphasized the importance of a well-managed migration for a prosperous and healthy society, demonstrating the negative impact of reducing people's mobility on sustainable development. Our health, food and prosperity depend on safe and orderly movement of people,” noted Zeynal Hajiyev, IOM Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central Asia, in his address to the online audience



INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY – TAJIKISTAN

On the occasion of the International Migrants Day a number of awareness-raising campaign initiatives on safe migration, prevention of irregular migration, and protection of the rights and interests of labor migrants were organized by members of the “Umed” network in different parts of Tajikistan. It included meetings with local communities, round table, TV and Radio programs, and information actions in public places. The events were organized in cooperation with local state agencies and were attended by representatives of departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Migration service of the Ministry of labor, migration and employment of the population, Committee of youth and sport, and Committee for women and family affairs, and NGO partners in the districts. The main aim of the organized events was to educate the public on issues of challenges and difficulties of labor migrants, risks of irregular migration, and contribution of migrants to their host and home countries, human trafficking, and find solutions and provide adequate protection of the rights of labor migrants and their families. Total number of people covered is: 1131 (m691/f440) and more than 1500 leaflets were disseminated.

Roundtable entitled “Safe migration” with participation of local Hukumat, Heads of Migration services, and NGOs “Fund for Society Development”, “Chashmai Hayot”, “Khurshedi Zindagi”, and “Woman and Society”, Sughd region, TV/Radio programs. Three special TV and one Radio programs on safe migration, challenges, and opportunities, as well as human trafficking were prepared and broadcasted at Tajikistan's top and regional TV stations. The TV and Radio programs dedicated to IMD were organized by IOM’s NGO partners “Femida” in



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Dushanbe city, “Madina” in Khorog, GBAO,

“Ruhafzo” in Yovon district, Khatlon, and “Woman and Society” in Khujand, Sughd regions. Official experts from the Ministry of labor, migration, and employment of the population, the departments of Migration services, and Information Resource Centre for Migrants, Centre for combating trafficking in persons under the department

for Combating Organized Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and committee of youth and sports affairs were invited to discuss migration issues. The audience of more than 2,5 million people was reached by these TV and Radio programs.



Footage from a TV program on safe migration, human trafficking, and internal migration featuring experts of NGO “Madina”, employees of Migration service, MIA, and information resource Center for Migration of GBAO broadcasted by Khorugh TV on December 16, 2020.

IOM Uzbekistan held International Forum on Migration (17-18 December 2020), dedicated to International Migrants Day titled "New migration trends, migration management and protection of migrants under the COVID-19 pandemic".

The forum was organized by IOM in partnership with the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations and the Agency for External Labor Migration, with donor support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

More than 100 representatives from IOM, state agencies, NGOs, academia and individual experts from Albania, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and other countries participated in the combined online/offline event. The Forum provided an effective platform for exchanging views, experiences, advocacy, strengthening partnerships, discussing challenges and finding ways to address them.





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**Kazakhstan's (11616) and
Kyrgyzstan's national hotline (1899)
as well as emergency cell number in
Tajikistan +992900800800 continue
to receive calls.**

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