

Issue №3, 10 July 2020

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## RETURNING HOME

### DIRECT ASSISTANCE

IOM stays committed to supporting and empowering its NGO partners in delivering humanitarian and legal assistance to vulnerable migrants (VM) and victims of trafficking (VoT) inside and outside of the region.



Photo by IOM NGO partner. Migrants (the eldest is 92 years old) at the Kazakh-Uzbek border, June 2020.

 **IOM missions in Central Asia have assisted 3186 vulnerable migrants.**

COVID-19 overview in Central Asia

(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan)

76,698

Registered

30,759

Recovered

470

Deaths<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://caa-network.org/archives/19520>

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## PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

- IOM General Director Antonio Vitorino met with Uzbekistan's Ambassador to the UN Geneva H.E. Ulugbek Lapasov. Both sides pointed out that this interaction allows both parties - the IOM and the government of Uzbekistan - to achieve their priority goals, including labor mobility, effective combating of human trafficking, and ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable categories of migrants, especially women and children.
- IOM Central Asia participated in a high-level forum organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UN. This online forum, which brought together more than 100 high-level participants from the Republic of Uzbekistan, UN agencies and other international organizations, was dedicated to the theme: "Uzbekistan and the UN: cooperation on the path to achieving the SDGs."
- IOM remotely attended the meeting of the working group on the implementation of the Turkmenistan National action plan (NAP) 2020-2022 on combating human trafficking. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the priority areas in the implementation of NAP for the year 2020. The meeting was attended by representatives of 16 national ministries, state agencies, and public associations of Turkmenistan.



Photo: Bilateral meeting of the IOM Director General and The Head of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan in Geneva, June 2020. Video is available [here](#)

On July 1, in the online format was held a Special Session of the Almaty Process, dedicated to the presentation of the results of the study on the impact of COVID-19 and the negative economic situation on migration trends and remittances in Central Asia. Among others, the study touched upon such issues as:

- Ongoing programs and plans related to economic recovery and early crisis response;
- Forecast of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn on existing migrants in terms of employment/economic opportunities in Central Asia;
- Analysis of current and expected impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn on remittances and economic impact on families and communities dependent on remittances;
- Prediction of the likely short-/mid-term effects on labour migration trends and the implications for local/national labour markets in Central Asia.



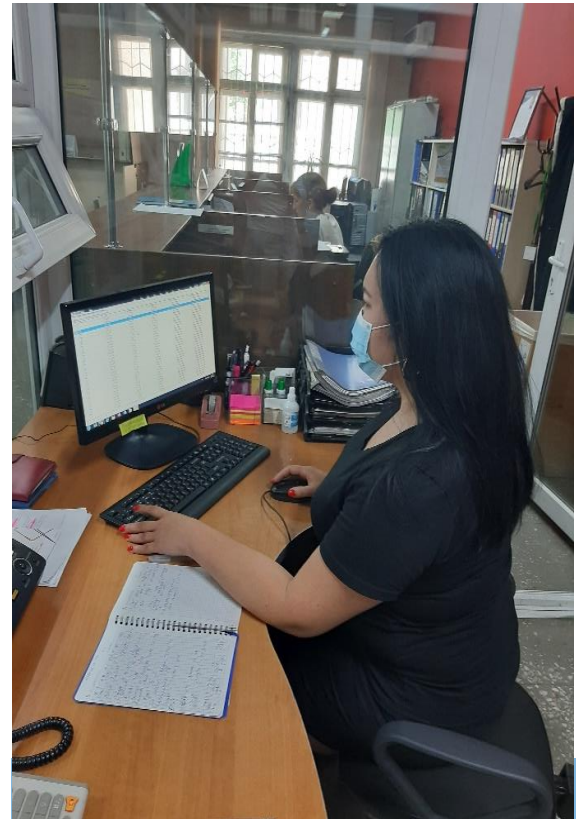
АЛМАТИНСКИЙ ПРОЦЕСС  
ALMATY PROCESS



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## ONLINE INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS ON SAFE MIGRATION DURING COVID 19 OUTBREAK

- IOM Central Asia continues to raise awareness among migrants and the population about safe migration. Migrants across the world continue to experience violence, exploitation, and abuse, therefore, reliable, open information is key to protecting migrant rights, especially during the pandemic.
- IOM Kyrgyzstan has increased the number of posts with useful information and actively monitors voices of migrants shared on the pages. Every day more and more people use “Safe Migration” pages as a main source of information about migration, migrant rights, COVID and migration, and many more.
- IOM Tajikistan raised awareness of more than 560,000 people on the pandemic and its impact to migrants through targeted radio programs and online campaign.



Contact IOM missions in Central Asia.

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Kazakhstan’s (11616) and Kyrgyzstan’s national hotline (1899) as well as emergency cell number in Tajikistan +992900800800 continues to receive calls. Because of the pandemic the hotline activated additional means of connection. In addition to direct landline and cellphone calls, migrants as well as the general population can address all their questions and concerns via Instagram page [“Hotline1899”](#) and WhatsApp 



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