BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT (BMA)
ROUND 2 - AUGUST 2023
TAJIKISTAN

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
MOBILITY TRACKING MATRIX (MTM)

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This report is part of the outputs under the European Union funded project "Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)" and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) project, "Labour Migration Programme-Central Asia". The objective of MTM REMAP is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration in Afghanistan, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Tajikistan through the use of the Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM). The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM, its Member States, the European Union or other donors. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries. This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the aforementioned donors. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries. Moreover, the maps used in this report are for illustration purposes only.

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CONTACT US
For further information, please contact the MTM Team:

✉ mtmtajikistan@iom.int

f Facebook.com/iomTajikistan

🐦 twitter.com/iom.Tajikistan

📷 instagram.com/iomTajikistan/

ABOUT MTM REMAP

The Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) is a system that tracks and monitors population mobility and displacement. MTM is adapted to the context in Tajikistan based on IOM's Global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology[1]. DTM is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile population groups, whether on site or en route. MTM completed its first round of the Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) data collection in January 2023 and the second round of BMA in Tajikistan during August 2023. Furthermore, during October 2023, MTM performed on-site direct observations of various selected assessed locations to perform validation spot checks to endorse the collected data. MTM enables IOM and its partners to maximize resources, set priorities, and deliver better-targeted, evidence based, mobility-sensitive and sustainable humanitarian and development programming.

METHODOLOGY

DTM REMAP implements the Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) in Tajikistan to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, geographic distribution of migrant workers and return migrants, reasons for migration and countries of return. Data is collected at the village level from key informants and direct observations.

When DTM REMAP assesses a district, enumerators collect data through two rounds of two-layered assessments:

1. District-level assessment (B1): It aims to identify villages with high inflows and outflows of Tajik nationals and provide estimated numbers of each target population category.

2. Village-level assessment (B2): Based on the results of B1, this assessment collects information on inflows and outflows of each target population category at each village, identified through B1. Additional villages are also identified and assessed, based on referrals from key informants.

FIVE TARGET POPULATIONS

Through the Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA), MTM tracks the locations and population sizes of five core target population categories:

1	**International Migrant Workers**	Foreign nationals who have moved to Tajikistan for the purpose of employment.
2	**Return Migrants**	Tajik nationals who have returned to Tajikistan after spending at least 6 months abroad.
3	**Emigrants**	Tajik nationals who have crossed international borders and currently reside as migrants abroad.
4	**Internal Migrant**	Residents of other locations in Tajikistan currently residing as internal migrants in the assessed communities.
5	**Internal Out Migrant**	Tajik nationals from an assessed community who moved as an internal migrant to another location within Tajikistan.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

5 Provinces
12 districts
919 commu-
nities assessed

2,816
key informants
interviewed

1,900
internal
migrants

247,753
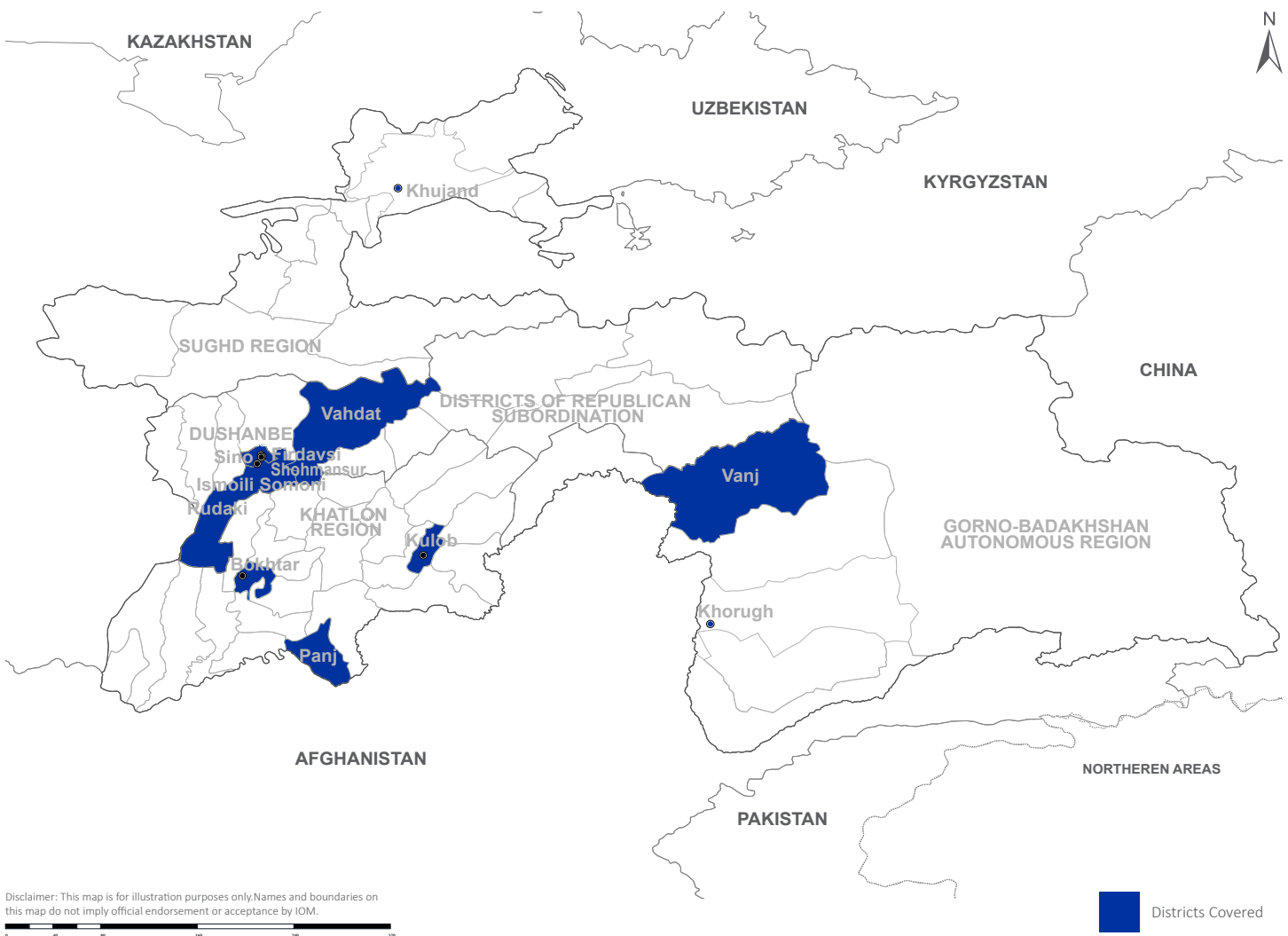emigrants

121,095
return migrants

2,581
international
migrant workers

243,950
emigrants
moved to the
Russian Feder-
ation

Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) was conducted in all five provinces and all 12 districts/cities (including Khujand and Khorugh cities, and Rudaki, Kulob, Panj, Vanj, Vahdat, Bokhtar, Firdawsi, Sino, Shohmansur and Ismoili Somoni dsitricts). This assessment covered 919 communities through 2,816 key informant interviews. Based on the key informants' estimates, 2,581 international migrant workers were hosted in the assessed communities in Tajikistan during 2020 and 2023. Concurrently, 1,900 internal migrants were hosted in the assessed communities and 247,753 Tajik nationals were reported to be residing abroad as international migrants. In addition, 121,095 return migrants have returned from abroad.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

KAZAKHSTAN

UZBEKISTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

Khujand

SUGHD REGION

CHINA

DISTRICTS OF REPUBLICAN
SUBORDINATION

Vahdat

DUSHANBE
Sino Firdavsi
Shohmansur
Ismoili Somoni
Rudaki

Vanj

GORNO-BADAKHSHAN
AUTONOMOUS REGION

KHATLON
REGION

Kulob

Bokhtar

Khorugh

Panj

AFGHANISTAN

NORTHEREN AREAS

PAKISTAN

Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only.Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.
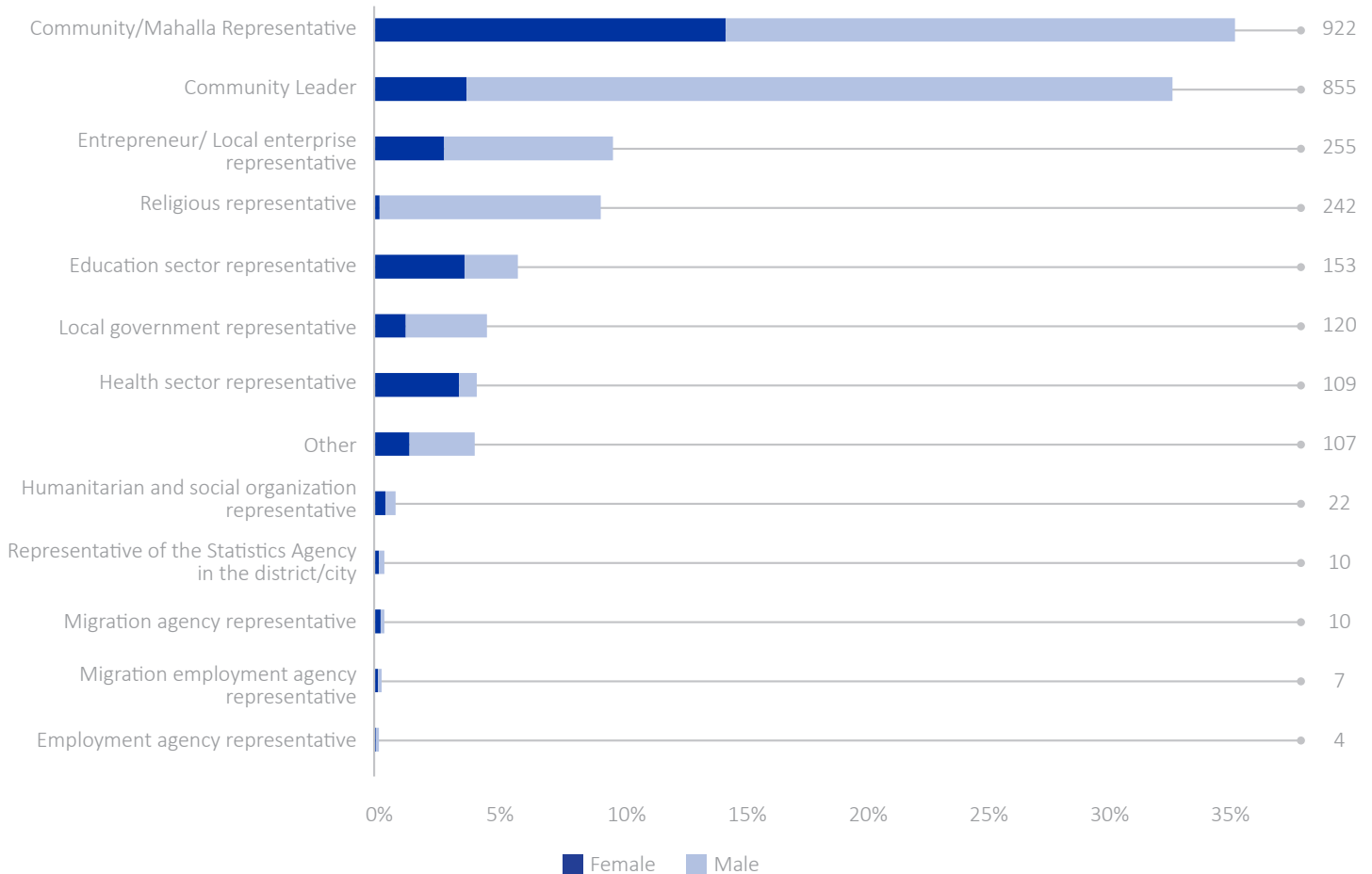
Districts Covered

KEY INFORMANTS (KI)

Field enumerators collect data at the settlement level, predominantly through discussions with community key informants. Key informants were representatives from the community who had been referred by the members of the community who could give information concerning internal and international mobility in each community. In round two of the data collection, 70 per cent of the key informants were males and 30 per cent were females.
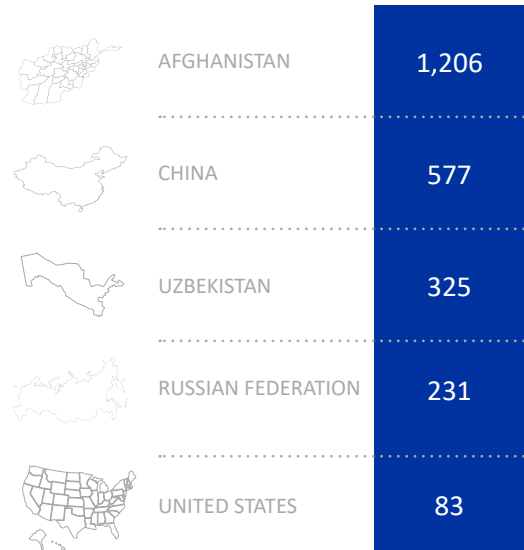
Key Informants by Type and Sex

Type	Value
Community/Mahalla Representative	922
Community Leader	855
Entrepreneur/ Local enterprise representative	255
Religious representative	242
Education sector representative	153
Local government representative	120
Health sector representative	109
Other	107
Humanitarian and social organization representative	22
Representative of the Statistics Agency in the district/city	10
Migration agency representative	10
Migration employment agency representative	7
Employment agency representative	4

Female / Male

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INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES

	AFGHANISTAN	1,206
	CHINA	577
	UZBEKISTAN	325
	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	231
	UNITED STATES	83

During the second round of data collection, MTM key informants from only 56 communities (6% of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of international migrant workers in their communities.

Key informants confirmed presence of 2,581 international migrant workers from 17 different countries in their communities. However, the vast majority of the migrant workers were of only five nationalities. After Afghan nationals, Chinese nationals accounted for the second highest number of migrant workers in the assessed communities. This is most likely due to the Bilateral Investment Treaties[2] between People's Republic of China and Tajikistan, which allows Chinese companies to set up various projects on Tajik soil using their own labour force.
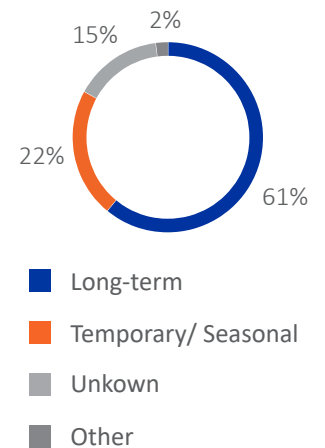
According to community key informants, the main reasons migrants move to Tajikistan varied significantly, with access to employment opportunities topping the list. The most common type of migration was long-term, followed by seasonal migration.

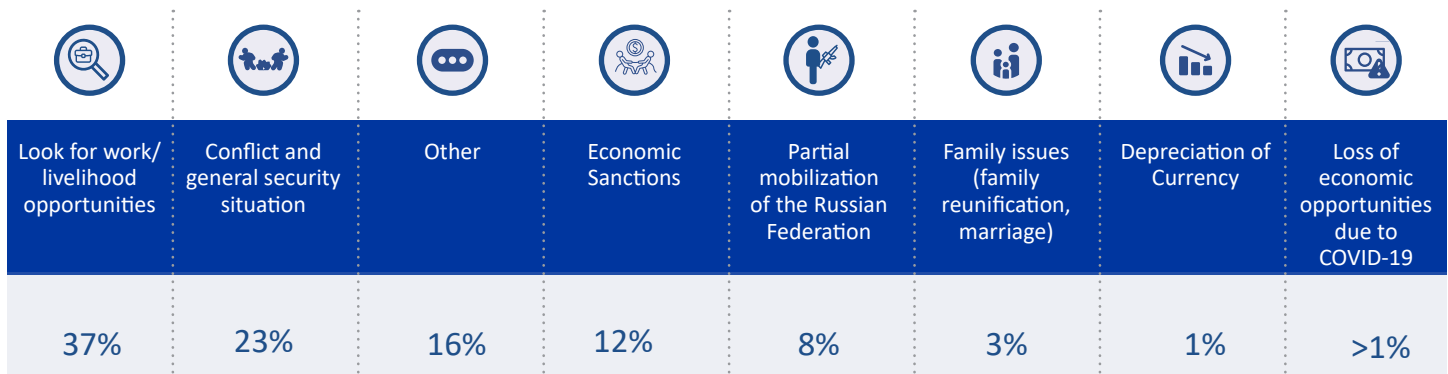## TYPE AND REASON OF MIGRATION

In exploring the type of migration the highest proportion was recorded as long-term migration (61%), followed by temporary/seasonal migration (22%), followed by an unknown duration of stay (15%), and other (2%).

Moreover, when asked about the primary drivers of migration, the results revealed a nuanced landscape of motivations. Foremost among these factors was employment opportunities (37%), conflict and general security situation was mentioned as the second highest response (23%), followed by sanctions (economic situation) (12%), partial mobilization of the Russian Federation (8%), family issues (family reunification, marriage) (3%), depreciation of currency (1%) other reasons (16%), and loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19 (less than 1%).

Type of Migration

2%
15%
22%
61%

- Long-term
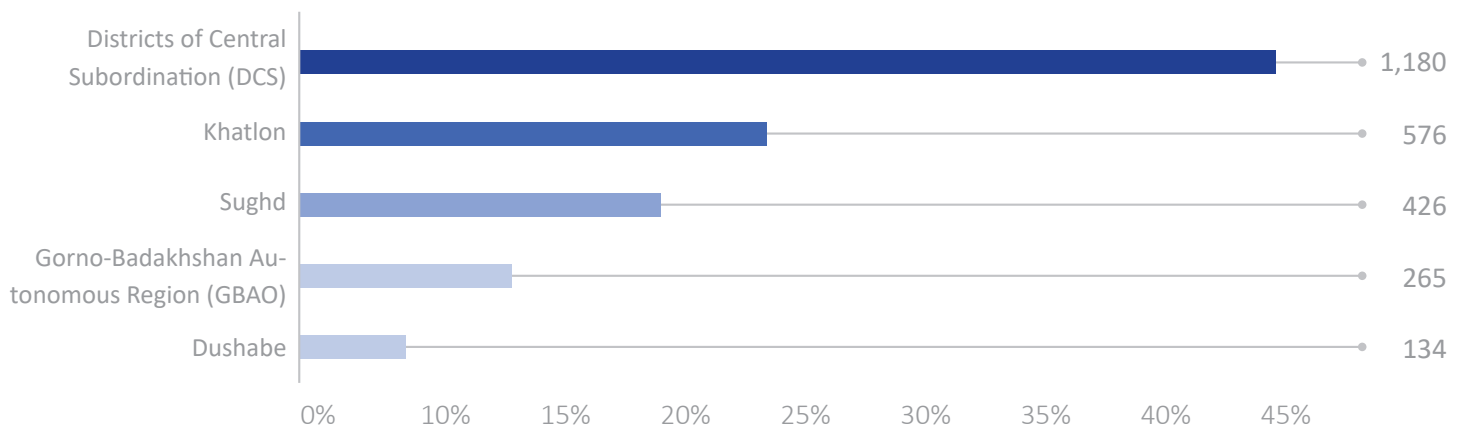- Temporary/ Seasonal
- Unkown
- Other

Reasons for Migration

Look for work/ livelihood opportunities	Conflict and general security situation	Other	Economic Sanctions	Partial mobilization of the Russian Federation	Family issues (family reunification, marriage)	Depreciation of Currency	Loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19
37%	23%	16%	12%	8%	3%	1%	>1%

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

Geographically, the distribution of international migrant workers was notably concentrated in the districts of Central Subordination of Tajikistan, which hosted 45 per cent of the total migrant worker population in the assessed communities. Khalton province followed with 22 per cent, Sughd with 17 per cent, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region with 10 per cent, and Dushanbe with 5 per cent. Delving into district-level specifics, a striking 91 per cent of migrant workers in the assessed communities were concentrated in just five districts. Foremost among these was the Rudaki district, situated in the Central Subordination districts, which accounted for 46 per cent of the total. This was trailed by Bokhtar district (17%) in Khatlon province, Khujand city (17%) in Sughd province, Khorugh city (7%) in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, and Panj district (6%) in Khatlon province. This concentration of migrant workers in specific districts underscores the localized nature of migration patterns, offering valuable insights for targeted interventions and policy considerations.

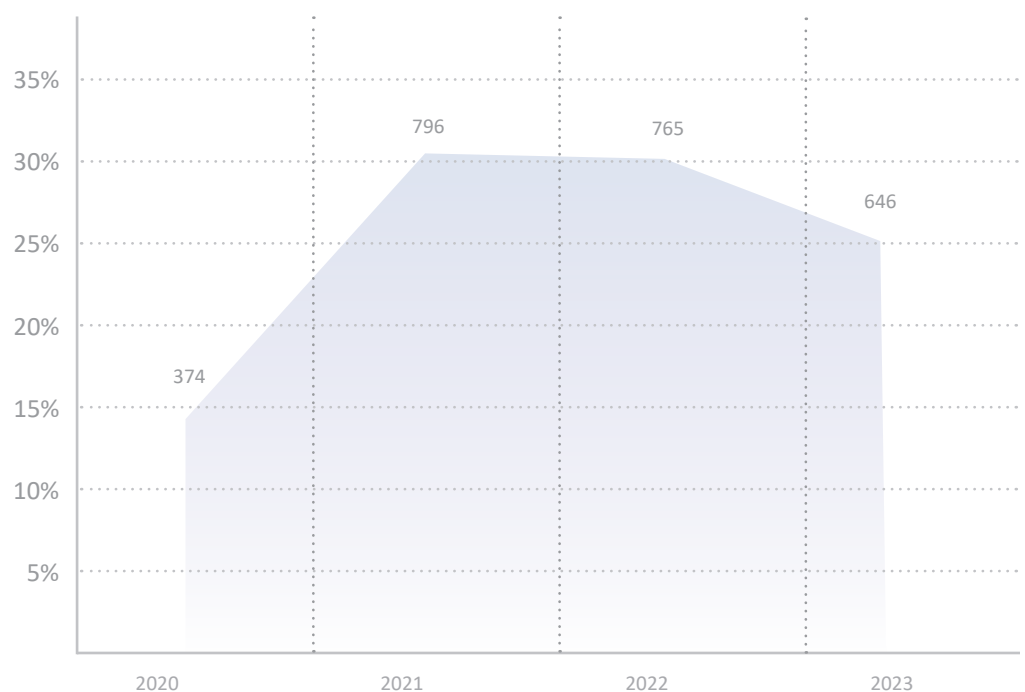International Migrant Workers | By Province of Arrival

Province		Value
Districts of Central Subordination (DCS)	████████████████████	1,180
Khatlon	██████████	576
Sughd	████████	426
Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO)	█████	265
Dushabe	███	134

0%   10%   15%   20%   25%   30%   35%   40%   45%

International Migrant Workers| Annual Trends

As per the estimations provided by MTM key informants, the aggregate number of migrant workers shows an increase of 50 per cent in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. However, the trajectory of labour migration in Tajikistan reveals

a subtle downturn, showing a marginal decline of 4 per cent in 2022 and a further contraction of 18 per cent in 2023.

According to the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)[3], international migrant workers in Tajikistan are primarily involved in endeavours associated with the construction of hydroelectric plants, infrastructure projects, entrepreneurship, trade, and services. Nonetheless, a more comprehensive research effort is warranted to uncover the intricacies of the various sectors in which international migrant workers participate in Tajikistan.

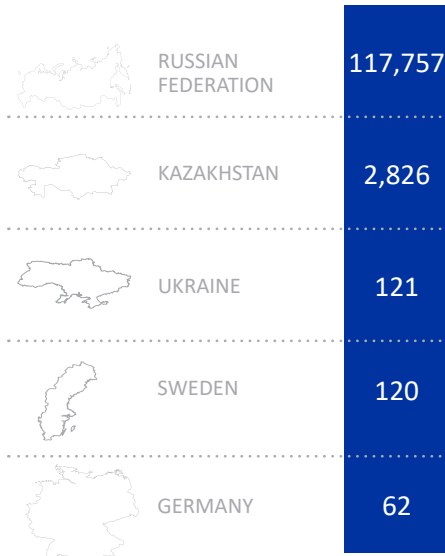International Migrant Workers | Annual Trends

Year	Value
2020	374
2021	796
2022	765
2023	646

35% 30% 25% 20% 15% 10% 5%

2020   2021   2022   2023

3. Migration Profile Light of the Republic of Tajikistan (2013,p.10). Retrieved from: https://www.icmpd.org/file/download/48365/file/Republic%2520of%2520Tajikistan%2520Migration%2520Profile%2520Light%2520EN.pdf

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RETURN MIGRANTS

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF RETURN

RUSSIAN FEDERATION	**117,757**	
KAZAKHSTAN	2,826	
UKRAINE	121	
SWEDEN	120	
GERMANY	62	

During the second round of BMA data collection, MTM key informants from 877 communities (95 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of return migrants in their communities.

Key informants confirmed the presence of 121,095 return migrants from 19 different countries in the assessed communities. Notably, a substantial majority of these return migrants had returned from the Russian Federation, comprising 97 per cent of the total. Additionally, a smaller yet significant segment, constituting 2 per cent, had returned from Kazakhstan.

This concentration underscores the prevailing trend of return migration predominantly from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan as the key host countries, providing valuable insights into the dynamics of migration patterns within the assessed communities.

Ukraine was the third highest country of return with 121 return migrants, Sweden was the fourth largest, with 120 migrants and Germany was the fifth largest, with 62 return migrants.

Reasons for Return

The main reasons for return of the return migrants included expiration or high cost of work permits as the top response (34%). Following closely, returning due to family issues including family reunification was mentioned as the second highest response (24%), followed by deportation (13%), depreciation of currency (10%), partial mobilization of the Russian Federation (6%), conflict and general security situation (4%), economic sanctions (4%), personal issues including documentation issues and medical reasons (2%), loss of economic opportunities in the country of destination due to COVID-19 (1%), and other reasons (2%).

Reasons for Return

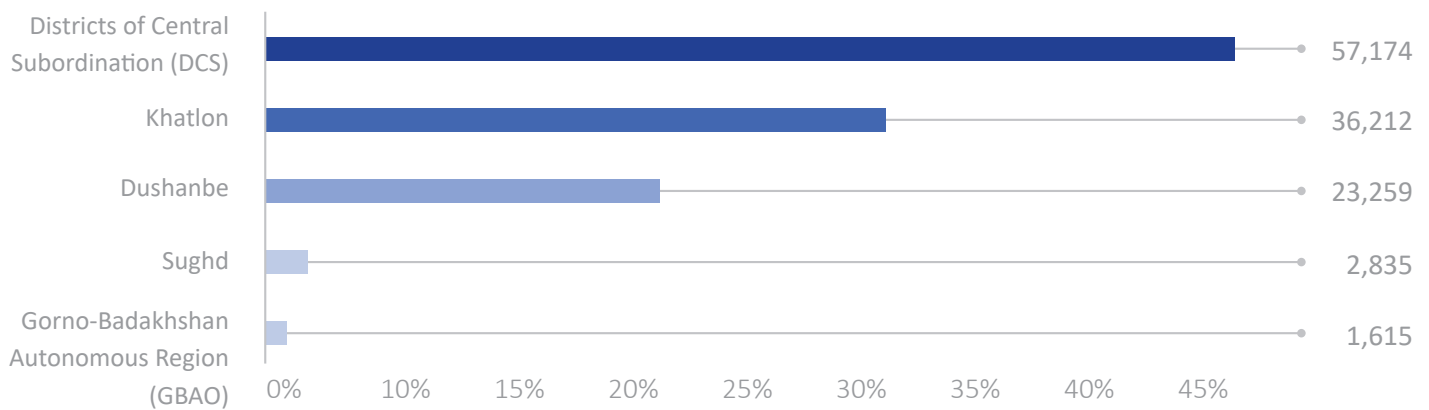| Patent (expiration/ high cost of work permit)	Family issues (family reunification, marriage)	Deportation	Depreciation of Currency	Partial mobilization of the Russian Federation	Conflict and general security situation	Economic Sanctions	Personal issues (documenta- tion/ treat- ment)	Other	Loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19
34%	24%	13%	10%	6%	4%	4%	2%	2%	1%

RETURN MIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

Almost half of all the return migrants from the assessed communities returned to the Districts of Central Subordination of Tajikistan (47%), followed by Khalton province (30%), Dushanbe (19%), Sughd (2%), and Gorno Badakhsan (1%).

Almost three in four returned migrants returned to the assessed communities in only three districts: 44 per cent of the return migrants returned to Rudaki district located in districts of Central Subordination, 17 per cent returned to Panj district located in Khatlon province and 11 per cent returned to Kulab city also located in Khatlon province.

Return Migrants | By Province Of Arrival

Province	Value
Districts of Central Subordination (DCS)	57,174
Khatlon	36,212
Dushanbe	23,259
Sughd	2,835
Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO)	1,615

Return Migrants |Annual Trends

Based on MTM key informants' estimates the overall number of return migrants witnessed a significant upswing, surging by 39 per cent in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. This surge is most probably due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the sanctions levied against the Russian Federation. Subsequently, in 2022, a marginal increase of 2 per cent recorded

In 2023, the trend took a noteworthy upturn, experiencing a 41 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

This surge could be in part attributed to to the sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation and heightened concerns on the spread of the war in Ukraine within the region. The sanctions could have played a pivotal role in shaping migration dynamics by limiting job opportunities and contributing to currency depreciations.
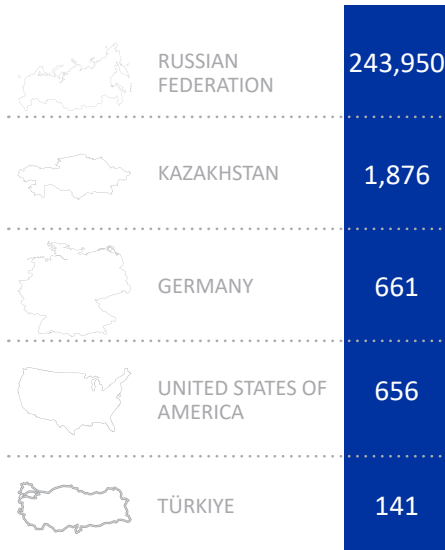
Return Migrants | Annual Trends

Year	Value
2020	20,825
2021	28,957
2022	29,530
2023	41,783
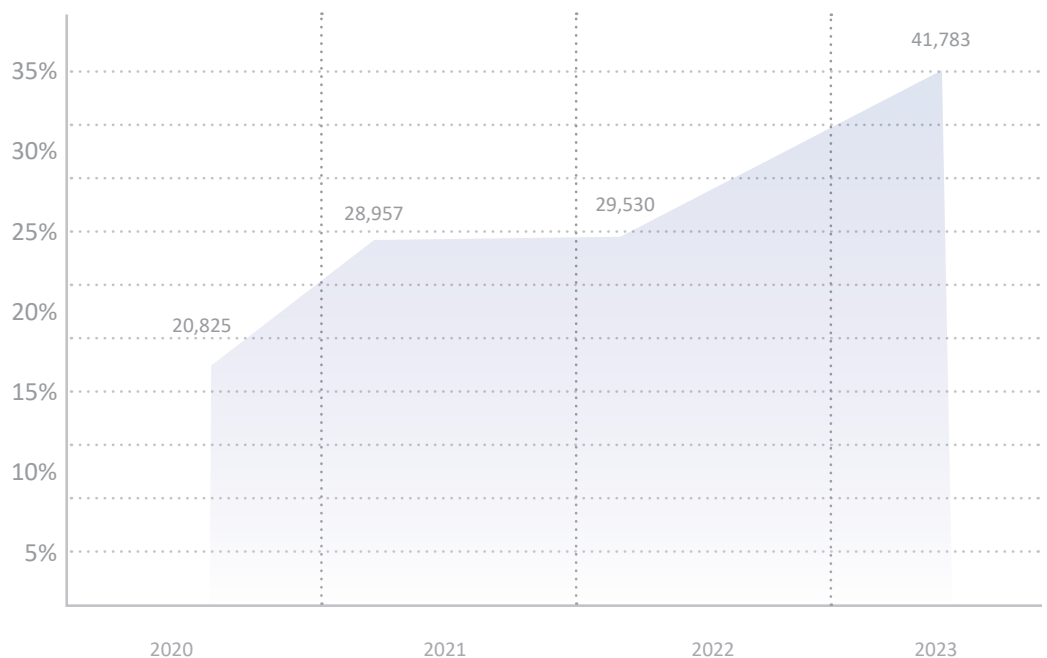
DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF EMIGRANTS

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF MIGRATION

RUSSIAN FEDERATION	243,950
KAZAKHSTAN	1,876
GERMANY	661
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	656
TÜRKIYE	141

During the second round of BMA data collection, MTM key informants from 814 communities (89 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the existence of Tajik nationals who have left their communities and currently live abroad as emigrants.

Key informants indicated that 247,753 Tajik nationals from the assessed communities have migrated to 28 different countries. Remarkably, the pre-eminent destinations for these emigrants were overwhelmingly the Russian Federation, drawing 98 per cent of the migrant population, followed by Kazakhstan at 1 per cent.

The prominence of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan as primary destinations for both emigration and return among Tajik nationals indicates the dynamic and reciprocal nature of migration patterns between Tajikistan and these key host nations. This juxtaposition emphasizes the intricate interplay of economic, social, and geopolitical factors influencing migration dynamics within the Tajik population.

Reasons for Migration

In probing the primary motivations driving Tajik nationals to migrate abroad, the predominant choice for the majority of Tajik nationals who have migrated abroad was labour migration or economic reasons (86%), migration due to medical reasons was mentioned as a second highest response (6%), followed by education (4%), conflict and general security situation (1%), and loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19 (1%). The remaining 2 per cent of the reasons were either not known or other options (1%).

Reasons for Migration

| Labour Migration/ Economic Reasons	Medical Reasons/ treatment	Education	Conflict and general security situation	Loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19	Unknown	Other
86%	6%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%
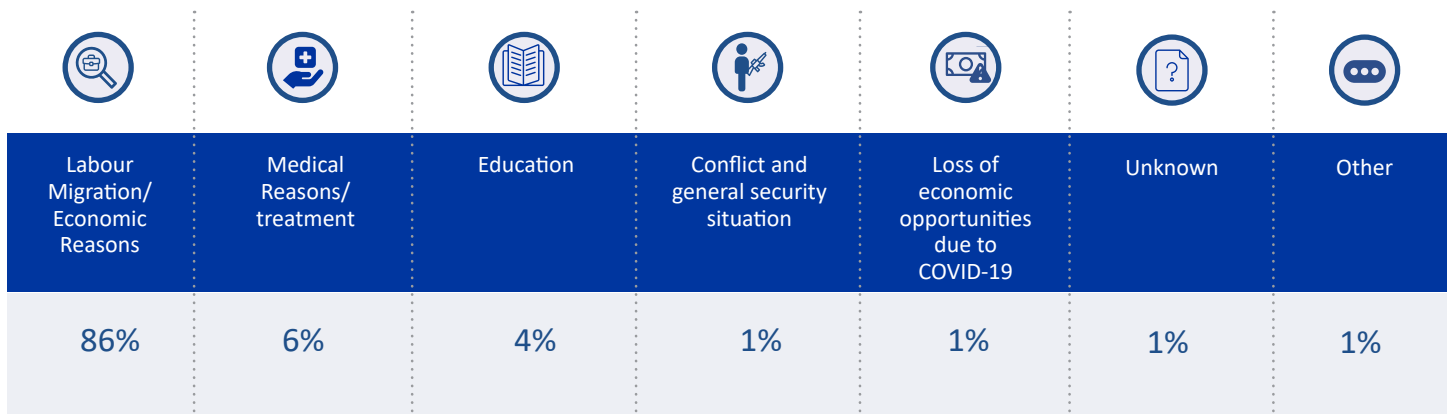
EMIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

More than half of all the emigrants from the assessed communities are from the Districts of Central Subordination of Ta-jikistan (57%). The second highest number of emigrants (23%) are from Khatlon province, followed by Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (8%). Only 7 per cent of the emigrants are from Dushanbe and 5 per cent from Sughd province. Almost half of all the emigrants are from Rudaki district located in Districts of Central Subordination. The second highest number of emigrants are from Kulob city (11%) located in Khatlon province and the third highest number of emigrants are from Vahdat district (10%) located in Districts of Central Subordination.

Emigrants | By Province of Arrival

Province	Value
Districts of Central Subordination (DCS)	140,562
Khatlon	57,573
Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO	20,974
Dushanbe	17,483
Sughd	11,161
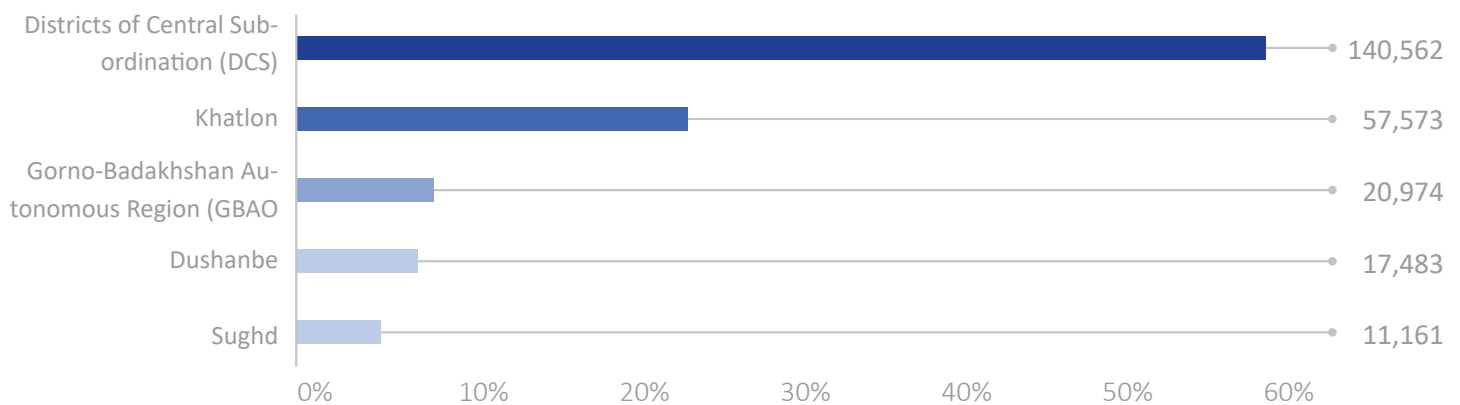
Emigrants |Annual Trends

According to estimates from MTM key informants, the overall number of emigrants experienced a significant increase of 39 per cent in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. Following this pronounced increase, there was a marginal increase of 2 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021, and a subsequent rise of over 41 per cent in 2023.

The fluctuation in emigrant numbers over the observed years underscores the complexity of migration dynamics. While the provided data offers valuable insights, there remains a need for more in-depth research to comprehensively understand the underlying reasons behind these fluctuations. Conducting additional research would enable a nuanced exploration of economic, social, and geopolitical factors that contribute to the varying trends in emigration, facilitating more informed policy decisions and interventions.

Emigrants | Annual Trends

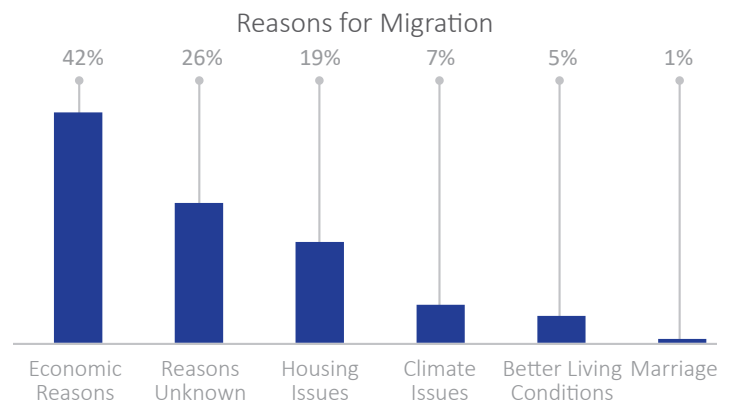| Year	Value
2020	39,832
2021	55,198
2022	65,614
2023	87,109
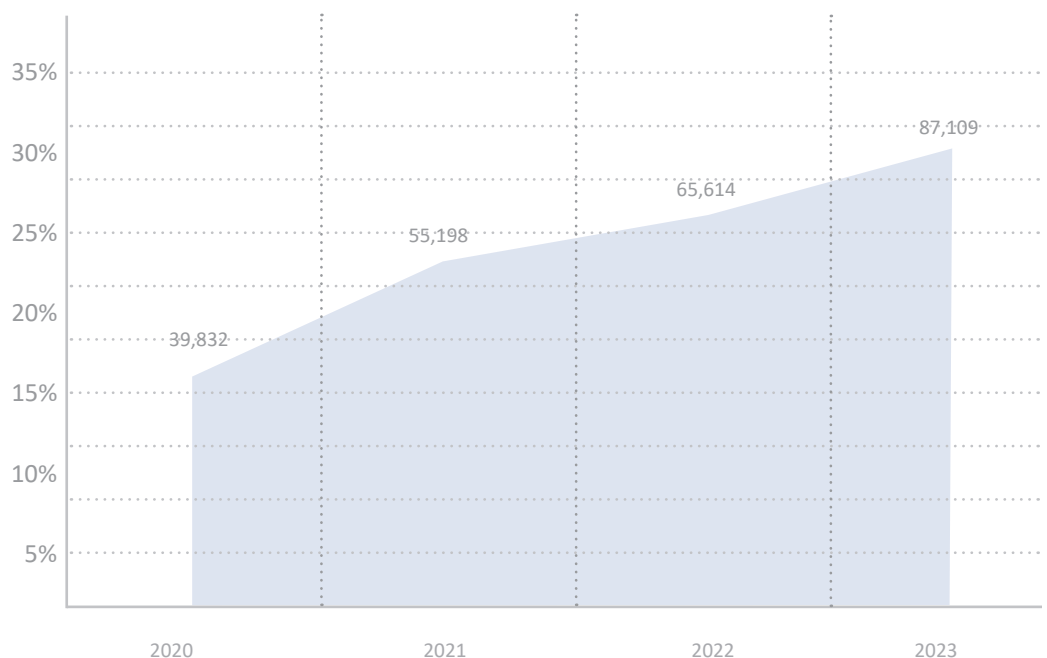
INTERNAL MOBILITY

INTERNAL MIGRANTS

During the second round of data collection, MTM key informants from 72 communities (8 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of internal migrants in their communities.

Key informants indicated that 1,900 Tajik nationals have been internally migrated in the assessed communities. Three in four internal migrants had migrated within the same district. Thirty-one per cent of the internal migrants had moved to Dushanbe, followed by Sughd (21%), Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (17%), Khatlon (17%), and Districts of Central Subordination (15%).

Moreover, the highest numbers of internal migrants from the assessed communities were reported in Khorugh city (34%) located in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, followed by Sino 31 per cent, and Rudaki 21 per cent.

Reasons for Migration

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top first reason for internal migration was mentioned as economic reasons/job/labour (42%). However, 26 per cent of the reasons for migration was unkown. Nineteen per cent had housing issues including planned demolition of buildings[4] (19%), followed by climate issues including drought, flood and harsh winter (7%), seeking better living conditions (5%) and marriage (1%).

Reasons for Migration

| Economic Reasons	Reasons Unknown	Housing Issues	Climate Issues	Better Living Conditions	Marriage
42%	26%	19%	7%	5%	1%

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INTERNAL EMIGRANTS

During the second round of data collection, MTM key informants from 101 communities (11 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of internal migrants in their communities.

Key informants indicated that 8,169 Tajik nationals migrated internally from the assessed communities. One in two internal migrants migrated within the same district. Three in four internal migrants had moved from Dushanbe, followed by Khatlon (10%), followed by District of Central Subordination (7%), Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (5%), and Sughd (4%).

Moreover, the top three districts of internal migrants were Ismoili Somoni district (59%) located in Dushanbe, followed by Sino (31%), and Rudaki (21%).

Reasons for Migration

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top first reason for migration out of the assessed communities was mentioned as housing issues including planned demolition of buildings[5] (75%), followed by economic reasons/job/labour (15%). However, 6 per cent of the reasons for migration was unknown. Two per cent of the reasons was climate issues including drought, flood and harsh winter, followed by 1 per cent seeking better living conditions elsewhere and less than 1 per cent was mentioned as family reunification or marriage.

Reasons for Migration

Housing Issues	Economic Reasons	Reasons unknown	Climate Issues	Better Living Conditions	Marriage
75%	15%	6%	2.4%	1.4%	0.2%
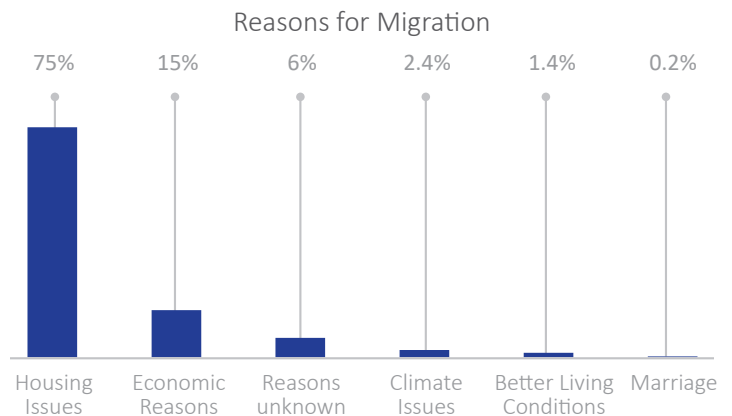
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5. Based on the Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan some buildings are under planned demolish scheme and new administrative and residential buildings are constructed. Retrieved from: https://tajsohtmon.tj/tj/konun/96-kodeksi-sharsozii-umurii-toikiston.html

ACCESS TO SERVICES

In the second round of data collection, MTM enumerators interviewed key informants regarding the presence of essential services in their respective communities. The findings revealed significant gaps in infrastructure: 32 per cent of communities lacked clinics, 81 per cent lacked hospitals, 70 per cent were without markets, 8 per cent lacked access to safe drinking water sources, 12 per cent were without schools, and 10 per cent had no access to mobile internet within their communities.

Availability of Services within the Community		
Services	Yes	No
Clinic	68%	32%
Hospital	19%	81%
Internet	90%	10%
Market	30%	70%
Drinking Water	92%	8%
School	88%	12%

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES BY DISTANCE

Key informants were asked to provide the travel distance to the nearest facility of services if they were unavailable within the communities. Based on key informant estimates, in 32 per cent of the communities that did not have clinics, over 13,000 families had to travel for more than five kilometres to access health clinics elsewhere. In 81 per cent of the communities that did not have hospitals, over 3,000 families have to travel for more than 25 kilometres to access hospitals elsewhere. In 70 per cent of communities that do not have markets, over 15,000 families have to travel for more than 10 kilometres to access nearest market. In the 8 per cent of communities who do not have sources of safe drinking water, over 10,500 families have to travel for three kilometres or more to access safe drinking water. In 12 per cent of the communities who do not have schools, almost 6,000 families did not have access to education facilities in less than 3 kilometer distance. In 10 per cent of the communities that did not have mobile internet, over 8,500 families have to travel more than 5 kilometres to access mobile internet.

DISTANCE TO NEAREST FACILITY AMONG COMMUNITIES WITHOUT FACILITIES

Travel Distance	Clinic	Hospital	Internet	Market	Safe Drinking Water	School
	Number of Households (HHs)					
0-5 KM	105,464	192,033	31,011	179,793	32,500	34,128
6-10 KM	9,961	62,507	5,683	45,827	114	286
11-15 KM	240	7,611	876	7,862	0	0
16-20 KM	443	4,857	30	2,195	0	0
21-25 KM	349	1,219	0	1,357	0	0
Over 25 KM	2,199	3,020	0	4,424	0	0
Total Households	118,656	271,247	37,600	241,458	32,614	34,414