

DIRECT ASSISTANCE



Photo above by IOM partners. During the reporting period IOM Kazakhstan, IOM Tajikistan, and IOM Uzbekistan in cooperation with the Governments, NGOs and Diaspora representatives facilitate voluntary return of **3120** stranded vulnerable migrants back to Tajikistan by land through the territory of Uzbekistan.

COVID-19 in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan): 330, 528 registered cases, 4,378 deaths.

IOM missions in Central Asia have assisted **7,801** victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.



Photo by IOM Kazakhstan.
In November 2020 18 vulnerable migrants received assistance for their voluntary return from Kazakhstan to Moldova.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

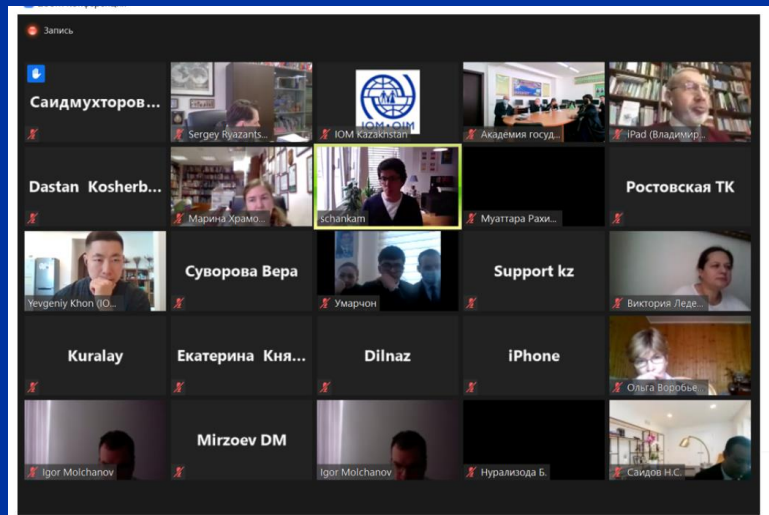


Kazakhstan joined the list of countries that signed the Global Compact on safe, orderly, and regular migration (GCM). Since then, the country has taken several initiatives to meet the 23

objectives of the GCM. In his address to the people of Kazakhstan dated 2 September 2019 and titled "Constructive public dialogue as the basis of stability and prosperity of Kazakhstan" the Head of State noted that the government must take effective measures to manage migration processes. Considering all the work aimed towards the achievement of GCM objectives, on 12 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan presented achievements of the country and its contribution to GCM taking into account the outbreak of COVID-19.

**TRAINING MANUAL ON
RETURN MIGRATION**

On November 23-26, IOM conducted a series of regional online training courses for civil servants on "Return Migration to Central Asia". In the course of four days, lectures, group



discussions were held, and methodological recommendations were presented to the teaching staff on training civil servants on various aspects of return migration. The course consisted of daily interactive sessions lasting 1-2 hours and individual assignments. The seminars were attended by representatives of the Public Administration Academies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Russia. The trainings were based on a training manual developed by IOM and a team of experts from Central Asian countries in 2019-2020.

On 12 November, IOM, WHO, Tajik health authorities, and the NGO AFEW held a regional dialogue titled "Migrants' Access to Essential HIV Services: Progress and Opportunities amid COVID-19". At the event, IOM claimed that the lack of cross border cooperation between sending and receiving countries is making migrants with HIV more vulnerable. The dialogue resulted in recommendations to address the challenges raised and extend best practices developed by policy makers and frontline organizations.

Photo by IOM Tajikistan. IOM Tajikistan HIV outreach to migrants in 2011. This photo has been used for the official website at the head of the article addressing the regional dialogue on 12 November 2020.



RESEARCH ON REMITTANCES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

On 17 November 2020 IOM has conducted a regional kick-off meeting for governmental partners, national banks, private sector, donors and international partners of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation. The aim was to present IOM initiatives towards improving understanding of current situation in the field of money transfer system and financial services for migrants, as well as towards digitalization of remittance systems in Central Asian states and the Russian Federation.



The project will undertake a detailed analysis of the policies and practices for addressing financial literacy and managing remittances, as well as an in-depth assessment of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Central Asian migrants and their families on sending, receiving and investment of remittances.

This was the first meeting to present the start of research. Continuing thematic consultations with banking sector and relevant government stakeholders will be conducted by IOM Missions in each country during the upcoming several months.

ORANGE THE WORLD!



The 16-Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign has been launched in Kyrgyzstan, calling for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. The Global Campaign starts annually on November 25, The International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, and continues until December 10, The International Human Rights Day.

This year IOM's campaign is focused on three areas:

- ◆ promoting a culture of not being silent about violence, eliminating harmful social norms that reinforce destructive practices and gender-based violence;
- ◆ Increasing the visibility of crisis centers and hotlines to strengthen the response to domestic violence, especially in view of the increased demand for services during the COVID-19 crisis;
- ◆ and finally, raising general awareness of gender equality to enhance women's participation in decision-making.



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

Contact IOM missions in Central Asia:

KAZAKHSTAN
iomastana@iom.int/iomalmaty@iom.int
KYRGYZSTAN: iomkyrgyzstan@iom.int

TAJIKISTAN: dushanbe@iom.int
TURKMENISTAN iomashgabat@iom.int
UZBEKISTAN: iomuz@iom.int

FOLLOW US ON [FACEBOOK](#)