



MAPPING REPORT OF THE KYRGYZ DIASPORA, COMPATRIOTS AND MIGRANTS ABROAD

Update and Inventory of the Kyrgyz
Diaspora Members/Groups List
of Some Large Communities Abroad
(in Some Countries of Destination and/or
Permanent Residence in Migration)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ICT	information and communications technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KGS	Kyrgyzstan som
LGBTQ+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and others
MFA KR	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
NGO	non-governmental organization
RCE	Resource Centre for the Elderly
SMS KR	State Migration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic
SSII	semi-structured in-depth interview
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW

1.1. INVENTORY OF DIASPORA MAPPING AS COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF A FIVE-YEAR CYCLE

The report on mapping of the Kyrgyz diaspora, compatriots and migrants abroad was commissioned by IOM within the framework of the project Leveraging Diaspora Funding into Climate Action, funded by the IOM Development Fund and managed by IOM Kyrgyzstan in collaboration with the Government and non-government stakeholders involved.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to supporting the Government of Kyrgyzstan's strategic vision in climate change adaptation with a special focus on channelling diaspora funding to support climate action. This objective will be achieved by generating evidence of motivational factors among diaspora members and compatriots with regard to supporting climate action (mitigation or adaptation) in Kyrgyzstan and improving awareness and capacities of national stakeholders, particularly relevant government institutions (such as Climate Finance Centre and National Council on Diaspora), about the role of diaspora funding in the context of climate finance. IOM generates knowledge through research, and leverages the knowledge generated through the research and stakeholder engagement to build the capacity of relevant government institutions through trainings on migration, environment and climate change and diaspora engagement, ministerial briefings, and by supporting relevant national initiatives such as the National Action Plan for Migration Policy. It is expected that the initiative will contribute towards the recognition of the role that diaspora can play in supporting climate action in Kyrgyzstan.

To achieve the previously listed targets, IOM recruited a team of consultants to conduct a diaspora mapping of the Kyrgyz nationals, diasporas, diaspora leaders and activists, migrants and compatriots in cities of the Russian Federation, such as Altai Republic, Irkutsk, Moscow, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Saint Petersburg, Sakhalin, Surgut, Yakutsk and Yekaterinburg were covered, as well as in the following destinations: Afghanistan, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Oman, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Slovakia, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

The study aimed to map active members of Kyrgyz diaspora organizations, compatriots and migrants abroad, who are interested to invest, or have been investing in development activities in Kyrgyzstan. The mapping exercise enabled the following concrete results:

- Collected profiles of organizations and individual migrants as members of the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad, indicating their main characteristics;
- Identified diaspora organizations and diaspora members who contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan or are interested in it;
- Identified communication channels of diaspora members and existing groups in social networks, as well as mass media, which the diasporas trust;

- Identified diaspora-friendly conditions that should be created in Kyrgyzstan for the return or involvement in the development of various sectors in Kyrgyzstan;
- Assessed the level of interest and readiness to invest with segmentation of sectors indicating problems and obstacles in implementation;
- Collected level of information and knowledge of respondents about climate change, migration due to environmental reasons (such as forced migrants pushed out by environmental reasons), as well as their attitudes and perceptions and contribution (monetary or otherwise) preferences in relation to the environment, climate, forced migration associated with environmental and climatic reasons);
- Developed a database of diaspora organizations and their membership base (participants, contributions, state of accounting for donations and investments, charity activities and others);
- Reviewed successful diaspora engagement programmes and developed recommendations for their potential application in Kyrgyzstan;
- Evaluated the extent to which they are currently engaged as opposed to wishing to be engaged) in supporting their communities of origin. The research also aimed to help shed light on what diaspora-led initiatives need to be supported and boosted by government authorities to contribute to the development of local activities in the respective countries of origin.

At the beginning of 2021, mapping in countries of permanent residence in migration was carried out. With this study, the team of IOM Kyrgyzstan carried out not only an “upgrade” (upgrade from English in the meaning of “technical improvement”) of its demographic data regarding Kyrgyz people in various countries of the world, but also obtained deeper understanding of the opportunities and capacities of migrants, compatriots and their diaspora associations in particular countries and cities abroad. Five years passed after the first mapping of compatriots abroad was carried out in 2015, and there appeared preserved and intensified trends, as well as new vectors, both in perception of emigration and in the realization of migration transformation of the state of migrants, their level of well-being and completion of a certain cycle of forced or chosen migratory mobility in diaspora-type stabilization.

According to IOM definition, a diaspora is a community of citizens staying outside the country of origin, as well as a group of people connected by means of several common elements with which they identify themselves. IOM considers diasporas as transnational communities, since in the context of global mobility, they are composed of people who are associated with more than one country (Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2016).

1.2. THE GROWING POPULATION DENSITY IN THE VALLEYS AND FOOTHILLS OF KYRGYZSTAN LINKED TO EXTERNAL MIGRATION

Geographic and natural climate specifics of populating the valley and foothills of the home villages and extended motherland

Two research reports from 2017 were most informative and analytically encompassing for this study as follows: (a) UNFPA's research report titled "Population Situation Analysis of the Kyrgyz Republic" (UNFPA, 2017); and (b) the report of RCE titled "Joint Report on Migration in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Russian Federation" (2017). Some reference materials from these research reports are provided here for the clarity of context and conditionality that are relevant to the mapping conducted here.

Due to the specific features of the Earth's relief, the population of Kyrgyzstan is spread out unevenly across the territory and within the administrative districts. Geographical, climatic and ecological factors are interconnected with the migratory tendencies.

Text box 1. Population density and geographic distribution

Almost 16 per cent of the population of the republic lives in Bishkek. In total, as of today, a little over 30 per cent of the population of the republic is concentrated in the Chui Region (Chui Valley) today. The second pole of population concentration is the crescent districts of the Jalal-Abad and Osh Regions, which are situated on the slopes of the Chatkal, Ferghana and Alai ranges descending into the Ferghana Valley. The second largest urban agglomeration – the city of Osh is also located here, which is home to 4.5 per cent of the population of the country – and another 17.5 per cent of the population live in the Kara-Suu, Nookat, Uzgen and Aravan Regions adjacent to Osh. In total, 25 per cent of the population of the republic is concentrated in the Osh Region, including the city of Osh itself. From the west, the Ferghana Valley is adjacent to the Suzak District, with the city of Jalal-Abad, as well as the Nookan and Ak-Suu districts of the Jalal-Abad Region; another 12 per cent of the republic's population is concentrated here. In total, 1.17 million people, or 19 per cent of the population of Kyrgyzstan, currently live in the Jalal-Abad Region. From the south, the Ferghana Valley borders with three more districts of the Batken Region, where 493,000 people live, or 8.2 per cent of the population of the Republic.

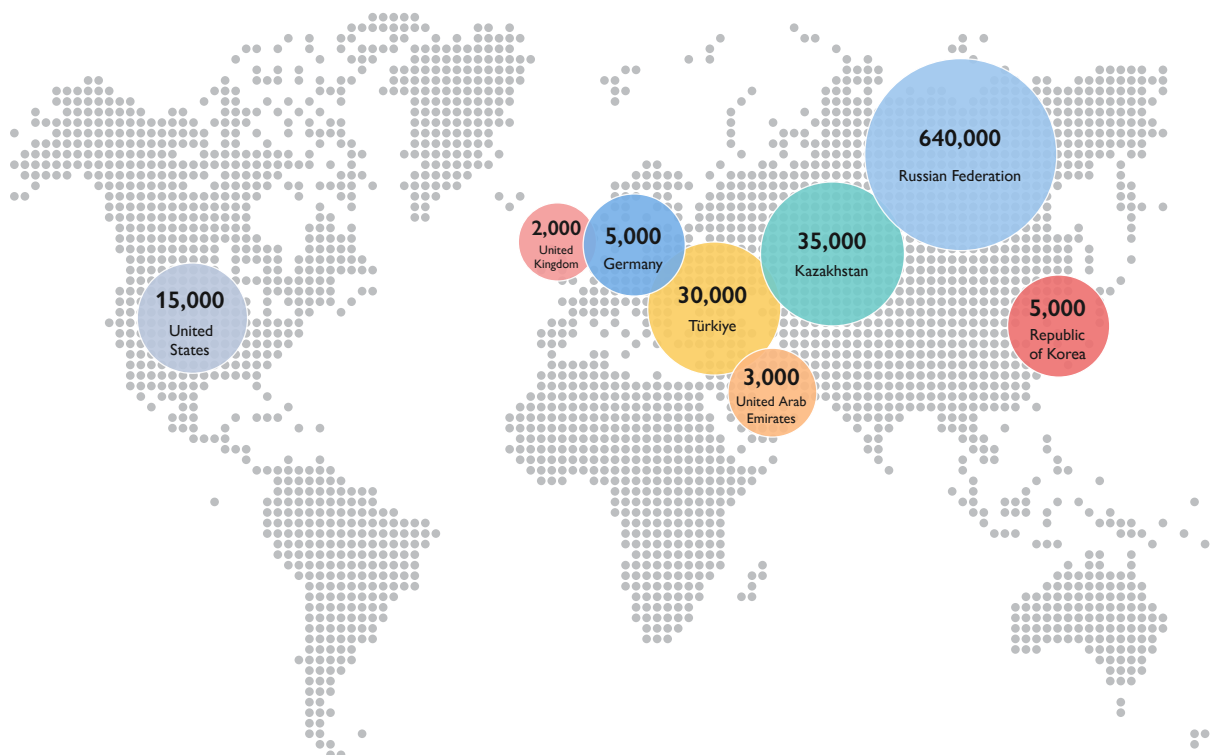
The Chui and Jalal-Abad Regions – 36 per cent and 27 per cent of the territory of which is located below 1,500 m. above sea level – are the most comfortable for living; these regions are among the most populated ones in Kyrgyzstan. But the living space of the Chui Region is smaller than that in the Jalal-Abad Region, considering the overall size of the latter. It should be borne in mind that the suitability for permanent stay is determined not only by the height above sea level, but also by the slope steepness, which is very significant in the Tien Shan mountain system. Despite the difference in the area, the size of the comfortable living space of the Batken and Osh Regions can be considered comparable to a certain degree. The Talas Region is also quite close to them. The least comfortable for living are the largest in area, but also the most high-mountainous Naryn and Issyk-Kul Regions, almost two thirds of which are located at more than 2,500 m. above sea level. Taking into account that about 6,000 sq² at an altitude of 1,600 m. above sea level in the Issyk-Kul Region is occupied by water area of the Issyk-Kul Lake, then the living space of this region turns out to be the smallest.

Source: UNFPA, 2017.

1.3. EXTERNAL MIGRATION: SUSTAINABLE MIGRATION DESTINATIONS AND LEVEL OF REMITTANCES

The number of Kyrgyz citizens with migration registration by destination countries in 2018 is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Number of registered migrants, 2018



Source: SMS KR, n.d. (data as of March 2021).

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

SMS KR, as an authorized body in the field of migration, continues its deliberate work with all categories of migrants. SMS KR has developed a draft strategic document titled “The Concept of State Migration Policy until 2030”, which is at the stage of completion.

Migrant workers contribute to the economic growth of the country not just by earning a livelihood, but also by sending remittances to their relatives in Kyrgyzstan. As shown by the study Joint Report on Migration in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Russian Federation, conducted by RCE (2017), a significant labour outflow causes shortage of qualified specialists, uneven economic development of the regions, depopulation and increased number of depressed territories. In recent years, there has been a decrease in agricultural workers, part of the sown area is not developed, and livestock number is decreasing. Labour migration is one of the factors impacting on the demographic situation in the country and the reduction in human resources, primarily those of working and reproductive age (ibid.).

Text box 2. Level of remittances from Kyrgyz migrant workers

Mostly young people aged 18–30 years are engaged in labour activity outside the republic; their share is about 48 per cent of the total number of external migrants from Kyrgyzstan. The vast majority of external labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan (over 95%) are working on the territory of the States that are part of the Eurasian Economic Union. From 2015 to 2017, the number of external labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan increased, their incomes also increased and, accordingly, the amount of remittances to the country from labour migrants. According to the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, in 2016, the amount of remittances to Kyrgyzstan made up USD 1.991 billion, and for 8 months of 2017, migrant workers transferred USD 1.552 billion to Kyrgyzstan. Compared to the same period in 2016, the amount of remittances increased by 20.3 per cent. In addition, the number of migrants from Kyrgyzstan on the territory of the Russian Federation who carry out labour activities based on labour contracts is increasing. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, as of 1 July 2017, 110,677 labour contracts were concluded with citizens of Kyrgyzstan on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Source: RCE, 2017.

1.4. ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATIC MIGRATION: TOWARDS INVESTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Since Kyrgyzstan as a high-mountainous country is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change crises, issues related to climate change adaptation should become a priority, both in terms of migration processes management, and in the field of preventive measures to address forced environmental and climatic migration. The problem of reducing and minimizing damage from environmental and climatic hazards should also be considered both at the level of posing problems and finding solutions.

Features of the relief and geographic prerequisites are of fundamental importance in migration trends. The rapid growth and concentration of the population takes place in the territories that make up the “fertile crescent”, where more than 60 per cent of the sown area and the biggest share of national crop production is located. The Chui, Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken Regions account for 87 per cent of vegetable production and 77 per cent of grain production, including 74 per cent of wheat and barley and 100 per cent of rice. The authors of the report, Seitov Avdeev et al. (UNFPA, 2017) believe that the rapid population growth in these areas may pose a threat not only to the environmental situation in places of population gathering, but also to agriculture due to possible decrease in cultivated areas, and, consequently, for food security of the republic as a whole.

Population growth in the country and growth of settlements in the zones most comfortable for human life increase the anthropogenic burden on the environment. Sharp changes in natural and climatic balance increase the risks of living in certain territories, and therefore migration is considered as a solution that reduces such risks. Environmental migration of the population is already a fact in Kyrgyzstan. Constant and more frequent landslides in the south of the country have shown that people’s lives and their properties are in the zones of varying risk degrees. Earthquakes pose another danger. Migration is a pragmatic solution to avoid danger early or involuntarily in order to minimize potential damage. In a semi-structured interview, the head of a diaspora association spoke about a whole village in the Kara-Kuldzha district that emigrated to the city of Krasnoyarsk, the Russian Federation in the late 1990s, after the earthquake and landslide that hit their village. Reconstruction and State aid were insufficient for most of this village people, which forced a decision to emigrate (see chapter 4: Analysis of online survey data in this report).

Nevertheless, scientific and practical understanding of environmental and climatic challenges and migration trends is lacking not only in migrants and their diasporas, but also in communities, in the decision-making system, and in the business environment in Kyrgyzstan. While functional and programmatic planning of actions for climate adaptation, prevention and preparedness of the population and communities to natural and human-induced disasters are either deployed to other priorities (for example, towards daily survival, jobs and income search), or are disregarded due to narrow and specific approaches that systemically prevail in Kyrgyzstan, as well as throughout the world today. It needs interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches to resilience and adaptation to climate crises and related social, medical and economic crises at the community level and in the decision-making system.

As the subject of climate remains outside of migrants' attention, as well as outside of the focus of the sending and returning-migrant communities, the migratory flows and their possible connection with the conditions of the natural sites, climate, and with ecological disasters may remain misunderstood and therefore, impact on adequate planning and solutions.

Text box 3. Natural, technogenic and anthropogenic risks of climatic and environmental disasters associated with increased migration trends

Due to its geographical location, the country is prone to all-natural disasters, except for tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. From the point of view of human-induced and anthropogenic impacts on the environment (such as water, air pollution, waste and biodiversity), risks are created by industrial and processing enterprises, enterprises burning coal, fuel oil, vehicles, people creating waste and others. In Kyrgyzstan, there are too many tailing dumps* of former and current mining and processing enterprises located in hazardous places. In particular, four uranium storage facilities built in 1958 on the territory of Min-Kush Village are causing great threat to Ferghana Valley. In the event of an avalanche, earthquake or landslide, the warehouses may be flooded, and radioactive waste will fall into the waters of the rivers and the Toktogul reservoir, which supplies water to Ferghana Valley. In addition, due to the high mountains of the republic, many settlements are located above the line of favourable living conditions.

As a result of soil salinization and water logging at the beginning of 2015, about 5,000 ha. were not used, and more than 18,242 ha. were degraded. According to the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, in 2015, 89.1 per cent of the population had access to drinking water, and 28.6 per cent had access to sewerage. In the middle of the last century, glaciers occupied 4 per cent of the territory of the republic. Over the past 30 years, their volume decreased by 25–30 per cent, and their area by 40 per cent due to global warming and drying up of the Aral Sea. There is a problem of poor water management. Water losses range from 20 to 30 per cent.

In terms of land improvement and infrastructure development, the work-related projects of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank provided access to drinking water for the population. The policy of solid household waste processing is currently reduced to creation of landfills where waste is dumped. Waste management issues are under consideration. In particular, construction of waste processing plants and introduction of separate waste collection were planned repeatedly. However, there are no results still.

There is particular emphasis on the issue of ecology of the Issyk-Kul Region and Issyk-Kul Lake, which attracts many vacationers. In particular, the Issyk-Kul Region accounts for the largest share of production and consumption waste (93%) out of 115 million tons of waste. First of all, this is due to the operation of Kumtor, a gold deposit development enterprise. The reason for pollution of the lake water area and the coastal strip is the anthropogenic impact caused by tourism activities of economic entities and discharge of untreated water through the rivers. In order to avoid the loss of the lake's attractiveness as a tourist site, efforts should be made to establish water management and proper operation of treatment facilities to prevent waste and chemicals discharge.

Air quality is one of the main indicators of the quality of life. According to the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, the volume of emissions of pollutants into the air from controlled stationary sources in 2015 amounted to 61,000 tons, which is 44 per cent more than that in 2011. The capital is among one of the most polluted areas of the country, where the main pollutants are tetraphenylphosphonium cations (TPP) released by vehicles and entities that use coal and firewood as fuel. More than 70 per cent of all atmospheric emissions in the republic are accounted for Bishkek and Chui Regions. The major air pollutants are enterprises of energy complex, mining enterprises, enterprises of chemical and construction industries, enterprises of housing and communal services and the private sector. The main pollutants affecting public health are formaldehyde, benzo (a) pyrene and heavy metals, as well as particulate matter (dust). This creates the risk of various diseases (such as respiratory diseases and neoplasms). On the other hand, there is no active work on recycling of plastic, packaging and others that would help to reduce pollution.

Note: * A *tailing dump* is a complex of special hydraulic structures and equipment designed to store waste of mineral processing called tailings.

Source: UNFPA, 2017.

CHAPTER 2

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey methodology of the 2021 research with the working title “Update and Inventory of the Kyrgyz Diaspora Members/Groups List of Some Large Communities Abroad (in Some Countries of Destination and/or Permanent Residence in Migration)” is not much different from the methodology of the first mapping of the diasporas of the Kyrgyz migrants abroad that was conducted in 2015. Two survey tools were updated and adapted to the needs of the benchmarking (online survey questionnaire and SSII with compatriots, diaspora leaders and activists); while the third tool (SSII with the representatives of the government ministries/institutions) was not applied in this year’s research.

An update or inventory of the diaspora mapping was carried out in view of the subsequent development of a communication strategy to involve Kyrgyz migrants and diasporas abroad in climate change adaptation initiatives, as well as other development initiatives in Kyrgyzstan.

The tasks of database inventory of active members of the Kyrgyz diaspora organizations abroad and Kyrgyz migrants who consider themselves part of the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad included the following:¹

- Collect profiles of organizations and individual migrants as members of the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad, indicating their main characteristics;
- Identify diaspora organizations and diaspora members who contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan or are interested in it;
- Identify communication channels of diaspora members and existing groups in social networks, as well as mass media, which the diasporas trust;
- Identify diaspora-friendly conditions that should be created in Kyrgyzstan for the return or involvement in the development of various sectors in Kyrgyzstan;
- Assess the level of interest and readiness to invest with segmentation of sectors indicating problems and obstacles in implementation;
- Collect level of information and knowledge of respondents about climate change, migration due to environmental reasons (such as forced migrants pushed out by environmental reasons), as well as their attitudes and perceptions and contribution (monetary or otherwise) preferences in relation to the environment, climate, forced migration associated with environmental and climatic reasons);
- Develop a database of diaspora organizations and their membership base (participants, contributions, state of accounting for donations and investments, charity activities and others);

¹ All data collected as part of the mapping is protected by the IOM Data Protection Principles (IOM, 2009).

- Review successful diaspora engagement programmes and developed recommendations for their potential application in Kyrgyzstan;
- Evaluate the extent to which they are currently engaged as opposed to wishing to be engaged) in supporting their communities of origin. The research also aimed to help shed light on what diaspora-led initiatives need to be supported and boosted by government authorities to contribute to the development of local activities in the respective countries of origin.

When developing tools for online survey (questionnaire) and SSII, approaches of gender-disaggregated data collection and obtaining gender-sensitive analytics and conclusions were applied.

The survey was partly aimed at updating the 2015 mapping data and the inventory of databases and communication platforms used by Kyrgyz migrants who may also be members of diaspora associations abroad.

Since the time of the diaspora survey in 2015, the term “diaspora” has not been introduced into the legislation, the terminology of the first mapping will be used. The term “diaspora” means all representatives of former or current citizens of Kyrgyzstan who have been migrating abroad for at least 12 months at the time of the survey, as well as their children and grandchildren over 18 years old living with them or separately outside Kyrgyzstan, that is, abroad. The status of stay/residence (permanently/non-permanently, officially/unofficially) in the country of destination and the ethnic origin of the respondents are not of fundamental importance. Diaspora associations/unions of Kyrgyz migrants abroad are official organizations that unite people, natives or immigrants from Kyrgyzstan (Jeenbaeva, 2015).

The main focus of this inventory are as follows:

- (a) Clarification and strengthening of the contact database of labour migrants abroad (mainly in the Russian Federation, as well as in some other countries with a high concentration of labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan, such as Germany, Kazakhstan and Türkiye);
- (b) Benchmarking (comparative analysis with previous mapping) and/or measurements of existing statuses and trends among labour migrants in key demographic, educational and professional aspects, as well as perception and attitudes towards savings, investment, financial, social and public decisions and projects;
- (c) Study and clarification of the main communication channels and platforms used by migrants and members of diaspora associations in their work, leisure, logistics and creativity;
- (d) Membership status of respondents in diaspora associations and communities;
- (e) Issues related to climate change and climate action, environmental migration, forced migration associated with climate change (such as migration due to lack of water, frequent natural disasters, landslides and earthquakes, droughts, floods and soil degradation).

Throughout the study, measures have been taken to ensure security and anonymity of respondent data in online questionnaire and SSII in accordance with the IOM Data Protection Principles.

2.1. SAMPLE OF THE SURVEY: PLANNED DESIGN AND ELEMENTS OF RANDOMNESS

It should be noted that the sample of online survey on migrants and diaspora members was a priori biased, since it targeted those migrants who already use online and mobile communication means; similarly, there are demographic trends such as the age of respondents (younger people who are Internet and mobile device users), as well as participation in online groups (more women than men).

As this survey implies that access to communities of Kyrgyz migrants is possible only through active members and leaders of migrant associations abroad – as well as moderators of online communities and specialized groups by country, city, community, specialization and professional interests – then migrants in the sphere of “coverage” or “influence” of moderators of mobile channels, chats, groups and online pages, groups and communities formed such a tendentious (already rather non-random) field. From this field, a random sample were those who were directed to online questionnaires and those who answered either hoping to win a prize, because of responsibility to their moderators or for any other reason, some of which are indicated in the results of this study.

There were 16 respondents selected through the sample design (see section 3.1 for description of sample design), while 5 were selected by snowballing out of those who filled out the online survey form and who agreed to participate in additional interviews (which made up 25% of the sample). All 4 respondents of the random snowball turned out to be either leaders or activists of initiative groups or diaspora associations; this speaks rather of the bias of the entire survey sample in favour of the active compatriots who are often members of some diaspora associations.

The geography of the current 2021 survey sample relied to some extent on the geographic coverage from the 2015 diaspora mapping. A list of destination countries with the largest number of communities from Kyrgyzstan was then identified. Thus, in 2021, diasporas, diaspora leaders and activists, migrants and compatriots in cities of the Russian Federation, such as Altai Republic, Irkutsk, Moscow, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Saint Petersburg, Sakhalin, Surgut, Yakutsk and Yekaterinburg were covered; as well as in countries such as Afghanistan, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Oman, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uzbekistan.

2.2. TOOL 1: ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

The questionnaire survey was conducted online through the Survey Monkey platform. The distribution channels of the questionnaire included social networks (pages and groups of compatriots abroad in online platforms, such as Instagram, Facebook, VKontakte and Classmates), communication mobile platforms (Telegram, WhatsApp chats, groups and channels), as well as through email and posting on websites of partner NGOs, government agencies and foreign offices of MFA KR.

The survey team communicated with group administrators to obtain information, as well as posted the questionnaire and provided a link to the questionnaire in the target groups of potential respondents.

Table 1. Details of the online questionnaire survey

Tools	Sample	Available databases and primary contact lists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The questionnaire is posted in Survey Monkey; data collection was carried out in the SPSS database for 5 weeks. SSIs were conducted in individual video calls and telephone interviews, depending on the situation of the respondents (access to Zoom, Skype, mobile and other online or telephone systems). Audio recording of the interview and transcript were prepared for the analytical phase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target number of collected questionnaires was in the range of 800–1,000 individual forms fully completed in the online session. Planned number of collected SSII was from 20 to 25 individual audio recordings of responses to SSII tool questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of users in 77 online groups was about 219,251. Web pages and websites of 35 foreign offices of MFA KR. The design of a database of leaders and activists of diaspora associations, as well as the available lists of potential respondents were prepared for the SSII sample (see the detailed description of the SSII sample in the section 2.3. Tool 2: Semi-structured in-depth interview).

Source: Tables are based on the results of the 2021 survey (unless otherwise indicated).

The questionnaire survey was carried out according to the following workplan:

- (a) Approval of the questionnaire by the survey team in the Kyrgyz and Russian languages;
- (b) Creation of the contact lists of active migrants and their communication platforms/groups through which an online questionnaire survey could be carried out according to the sample design;
- (c) Development of instructions for conducting a survey for leaders of diaspora organizations, moderators of WhatsApp groups and others;
- (d) Recruitment of group administrators through social networks;
- (e) Conduct of a test survey with potential respondents;
- (f) Amendment of the online questionnaire;
- (g) Launch of the online survey;
- (h) Data collection monitoring according to the sample design, countries' representativeness, completeness and submission of answers in order to avoid "garbage" when questionnaires are filled out, tracking the dynamics of answers submission, adjusting the length of the online questionnaire tools;
- (i) Completion of the data collection in the online survey and start of the data processing;
- (j) Analysis and reporting;
- (k) Synthesis and recommendations.

2.3. TOOL 2: SEMI-STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW

In total, it was planned to collect from 20 to 25 SSII from among the members of diaspora associations, as well as among those who are not members of any of the diaspora associations. Selection of respondents was carried out using the snowball method. Respondents who took part in the survey were given an opportunity to choose their participation in the SSII.

The results of the interviews were presented in audio recordings and text transcripts. The field data collection report was prepared by the data collector (see [chapter 3. Field data collection](#)).

The SSII was conducted according to the following plan:

- (a) Approval of the structure and questions of the interview in Kyrgyz and Russian languages;
- (b) Creation of a list of potential respondents and selection of respondents according to the sample design;
- (c) Development of the interview guide;
- (d) Conduct of a test interview with one representative of the diaspora association;
- (e) Making additions and changes to the interview structure and questions;
- (f) Conduct of interviews (Written answers to interview questions in the SSII were in Parts A and B, while audio recordings of answers to interview questions in the SSII were in Parts C, D, E and F);
- (g) Processing of collected written forms, audio recordings and transcripts.



CHAPTER 3

FIELD DATA COLLECTION

Between 28 January and 3 March 2021, survey data were collected through Survey Monkey. The questionnaire survey included 48 questions and was structured in two languages (Kyrgyz and Russian). The online questionnaire was tested with the participation of 6 compatriots from among the leaders of diasporas (public associations) and representatives of journalism and academia, who commented on the improvement of the questionnaire survey. The distribution of survey questionnaire among migrants was carried out in six ways:

- Recruiting and training mobilizers in destination countries (20 people (17 from the Russian Federation; 1 from Italy; and 2 from Kazakhstan)) and providing them the link to the survey;
- Mailings to the email addresses of respondents (200 addresses);
- Publication of the link to the questionnaire survey in groups of compatriots abroad in social networks Facebook (85 groups), VKontakte (32 groups) and Odnoklassniki (Russian language social media translated as Classmates) (10 groups);
- Mailing in messenger application groups of WhatsApp (62 groups) and Telegram (36 groups);
- Targeted advertising on Facebook and Instagram.

During the first seven days of online survey from 28 January to 5 February, there were 816 questionnaires collected, of which 428 were fully completed (completion rate made up 52%). Over the next three weeks, from 6 to 28 February, the total number of completed questionnaires was 1,439, of which 793 were fully completed (55% completion rate). Data collection stopped on 2 March 2021.

To motivate respondents in completing the online questionnaire, the survey team offered prizes in the form of cash prize draw, but only for those who fully answered the questionnaire and indicated their contact phone number. The prize fund amounted to KGS 30,000 (10 prizes of KGS 3,000 each). There were 10 winners randomly selected using random.org generator. The prize winners were determined on 10 March 2021, a total of 7 women and 3 men, and among them: 6 winners from the Russian Federation (5 in Moscow, 1 in Yekaterinburg), 2 from Kazakhstan (1 in Nursultan, 1 in Almaty), 1 from Türkiye, and 1 from Kyrgyzstan. Regarding the receipt of the prize, 4 winners asked to transfer money to their relatives in Kyrgyzstan (3 people asked to transfer to their mother, 1 asked to transfer to a daughter), 1 respondent asked to transfer it to his balance in Kyrgyzstan, the other five people asked to send money by Zolotaya Korona.

A total of 1,439 completed questionnaires in the online survey were collected:

- 93 completed questionnaires by the link in Facebook;
- 11 completed questionnaires by mailing to the email addresses of respondents;
- 1,338 completed questionnaires by link to the Survey Monkey web page.

There were 21 semi-structured interviews (consisting of written completed forms and audio recordings of conversations) with representatives of diaspora associations of Kyrgyz compatriots abroad and individual Kyrgyz migrants in the destination countries.

3.1. SEMI-STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

SSIs were conducted in Kyrgyz and Russian with 21 respondents, including the following categories (sample design):

- 5 heads/leaders of Kyrgyz diaspora associations abroad;
- 4 migrants who know and have experience in contributing to aid and/or investment initiatives in Kyrgyzstan (including climate and ecology);
- 4 migrants who responded to the invitation for semi-structured interview in questionnaire survey (random sample of those who agreed to further interview);
- 4 migrants interested (already showed the initiative) in contributions and investments to the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan;
- 4 migrants invited on recommendation of the compatriot respondents of SSI (random snowball method).

The gender representation is 12 women and 9 men.

Table 2. Representation of respondents by country and sample method

	Diaspora leaders	Experience of contributing (design and random)	Interested in contributing (design and random)	Survey snowball (random)	Total respondents by country
Russian Federation	3	0	1	1	5
Canada	0	1	0	1	2
Germany	0	2	1	0	3
United States	0	1	0	1	2
Switzerland	1	0	0	0	1
Republic of Korea	0	0	1	0	1
Belgium	0	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	0	1	1
China	0	0	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	1	0	0	1
Scotland	0	1	0	0	1
Qatar	1	0	0	0	1
United Kingdom	0	0	1	0	1
Total by sample design	5	6	5	5	21

- 5 respondents from the Russian Federation (3 diaspora leaders, 1 random design, 1 snowball);
- 2 respondents from Canada (1 snowball, 1 with experience of assistance);
- 3 respondents from Germany (1 with experience of assistance, 1 interested in input, 1 random design);
- 2 respondents from the United States (1 with experience of assistance, 1 snowball);
- 1 respondent from Switzerland (1 diaspora leader);
- 1 respondent from the Republic of Korea (1 interested in input);
- 1 respondent from Belgium (1 snowball);
- 1 respondent from Austria (1 snowball);
- 1 respondent from China (1 random design);

- 1 respondent from Ukraine (1 with experience of input);
- 1 respondent from Scotland (1 with experience of input);
- 1 respondent from Qatar (1 diaspora leader);
- 1 respondent from the United Kingdom (1 random design).

3.2. DIASPORA GROUPS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND CLOSED GROUPS IN WHATSAPP AND TELEGRAM

From 21 December 2020 to 10 March 2021, data were collected on the existing communication channels between diasporas/compatriots and migrants in social networks, including Facebook, VKontakte, Instagram, Odnoklassniki (Classmates), as well as messenger applications WhatsApp and Telegram. Data collection was carried out in the following stages:

- (a) Search and clarification of diaspora/migrant groups in social networks. The search and clarification was carried out based on the researchers' own database collected since 2016, including the contacts of the Mekendeshter Forum of 2016–2018 and the Council on Relations with Compatriots Abroad.
- (b) Clarification of diaspora/migrant groups through leaders of associations abroad. Clarification of diaspora groups in social networks was carried out based on the researchers' own database collected since 2016, including contacts of the Mekendeshter Forum 2016–2018, the Council on Relations with Compatriots Abroad and SMS KR.
- (c) Clarification of diaspora/migrant groups identified by Survey Monkey;
- (d) Partners:
 - RCE
 - Central Asia on the Move
 - Solidarity Center
 - SMS KR
 - Trade Union of Migrants
 - Insan Leilek

The data of the collected groups are included in the database of diaspora groups and associations in accordance with the methodology principles. To conduct the survey, contacts were established with the administrators and moderators of groups in social networks, who assisted in the dissemination of the online questionnaire among the group members, publication of posts with a link to the questionnaire survey, as well as moderation of participants' comments. Conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

- For group administrators and moderators, it is necessary to hold meetings to improve effective interaction with diaspora leaders and members;
- IOM should consider holding of separate meetings with diaspora leaders and administrators to present planned activities for the coming year, as well as discuss the products implemented by the Organization;
- Provide information on ongoing activities on the IOM pages (website, social networks), as well as a brief report on the implementation of these activities;
- Create a consolidated online calendar of activities that will present IOM activities, including those planned in the diasporas.

3.3. PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF A MIGRANTS' DATABASE

The preliminary design of a database of migrants interested in a communication platform through diaspora associations was proposed to collect data on diaspora groups and associations. The main characteristics of the database are as follows:

- Association name;
- Location: country;
- Location: city;
- Address (street, house number);
- Status of the association (public foundation, public association, initiative group, etc.);
- Association specifics (such as community, doctors, builders or teachers);
- Year and month of association establishment;
- The number of participants/members of the association (% men, % women);
- Approximate age of participants/members of the association;
- Link to a group on social pages and/or messenger applications or others;
- Link to the website of the association;
- Full name of the leader/administrator;
- Contacts of the association leader/administrator.

Creation of the database took place in several stages:

- Development of online survey questionnaire and links on Survey Monkey;
- Dissemination of the survey among diaspora leaders, calling and data clarification (including the channels of MFA KR and SMS KR);
- Clarification of diaspora data received from SMS KR.

As of 10 March 2021, the database includes the following:

- 182 diaspora organizations;
- 85 Facebook groups that cover 317,899 people;
- 32 VKontakte groups with coverage of 25,856 people;
- 50 Instagram groups with coverage of 729,424 people;
- 30 Classmates groups with coverage of 376,854 people;
- 62 WhatsApp groups with coverage of 6,410 people;
- 36 Telegram groups with coverage of 41,994 people.

With an average coverage of 1,498,437 social network users (perhaps there are repeated ones, that is, the same participants within different groups; one needs to understand this count 2 to 5 times more than the real number of individual group members).

Certain difficulties of the field data collection are as follows:

- There are few activities of diaspora organization leaders in the dissemination of information about the survey. The content of the questionnaire – in the opinion of the diaspora leaders – and the number of questions caused low level of distribution of this questionnaire among migrants and diaspora members. Also, in the comments from the diaspora leaders, distrust regarding the proposed drawing was spelled out since they had not previously encountered such an approach to motivate participation in the survey. Also, there is lack of willingness to distribute the questionnaire.
- There is closeness of groups in messenger applications, including WhatsApp, as well as low activity of these groups' administrators. Many groups in their rules prescribe a ban on polling and drawing money prizes. In addition, WhatsApp groups are created for specific interests or regions, which limits the number of members of these groups. Also, group administrators restrict or prohibit posts or messages that do not correspond with the content of these groups.
- Lack of interest of government agencies in creating and updating a database of diasporas abroad.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS OF ONLINE SURVEY DATA

The online survey included Kyrgyz migrants and active compatriots involved in the work of diaspora associations and groups, as well as processes of development, assistance, project activities and investments in Kyrgyzstan and in the country of their permanent residence. Common features of all respondents are as follows: (a) they are migrants who use online tools and mobile Internet applications; and (b) they are members of communication groups, channels, pages on topics of interest to migrants, including regional and compatriot relations, as well as annual events and dates migrants celebrate while staying abroad and participating in the life of the Kyrgyz diaspora.

4.1. KYRGYZSTANIS ABROAD: MIGRANTS, COMPATRIOTS AND DIASPORA

One of the tasks of this mapping is clarification of the framework and practical definitions of the subjects of external migration from Kyrgyzstan to more than 42 countries of the world. When talking about Kyrgyz migrants, Kyrgyz compatriots and Kyrgyz diaspora abroad, it is usually about former and current citizens who temporarily left Kyrgyzstan, underwent or are undergoing adaptation/integration in the destination countries, who decided to stay in countries of permanent residence in migration for various reasons, and at the same time continue to maintain contact with the village homeland and extended motherland in Kyrgyzstan. The details of the differences in these three terms are important. The most widely used term (“migrants”) refers to the migration process of Kyrgyz people to other geographic locations outside of Kyrgyzstan in search of job, education or family reunification. As for compatriots, this refers to the status of current and former citizens of Kyrgyzstan, which confirms cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic relationship between migrants and their small and destination country.² This is reflected in the regulatory framework in relation to Kyrgyz migrants who have lived abroad for a long time and who wish to support development in Kyrgyzstan, as well as to be associated with Kyrgyzstan through social, cultural, educational, economic and investment initiatives and projects. The term “diaspora” implies a certain community, unity and stabilization of immigrants from Kyrgyzstan in the country of permanent residence for quite a long time, but with the aim to continue communication with Kyrgyzstan and with people from there despite the geographical, socioeconomic, cultural and technological separation and due to common language, cultural, spiritual and historical roots.

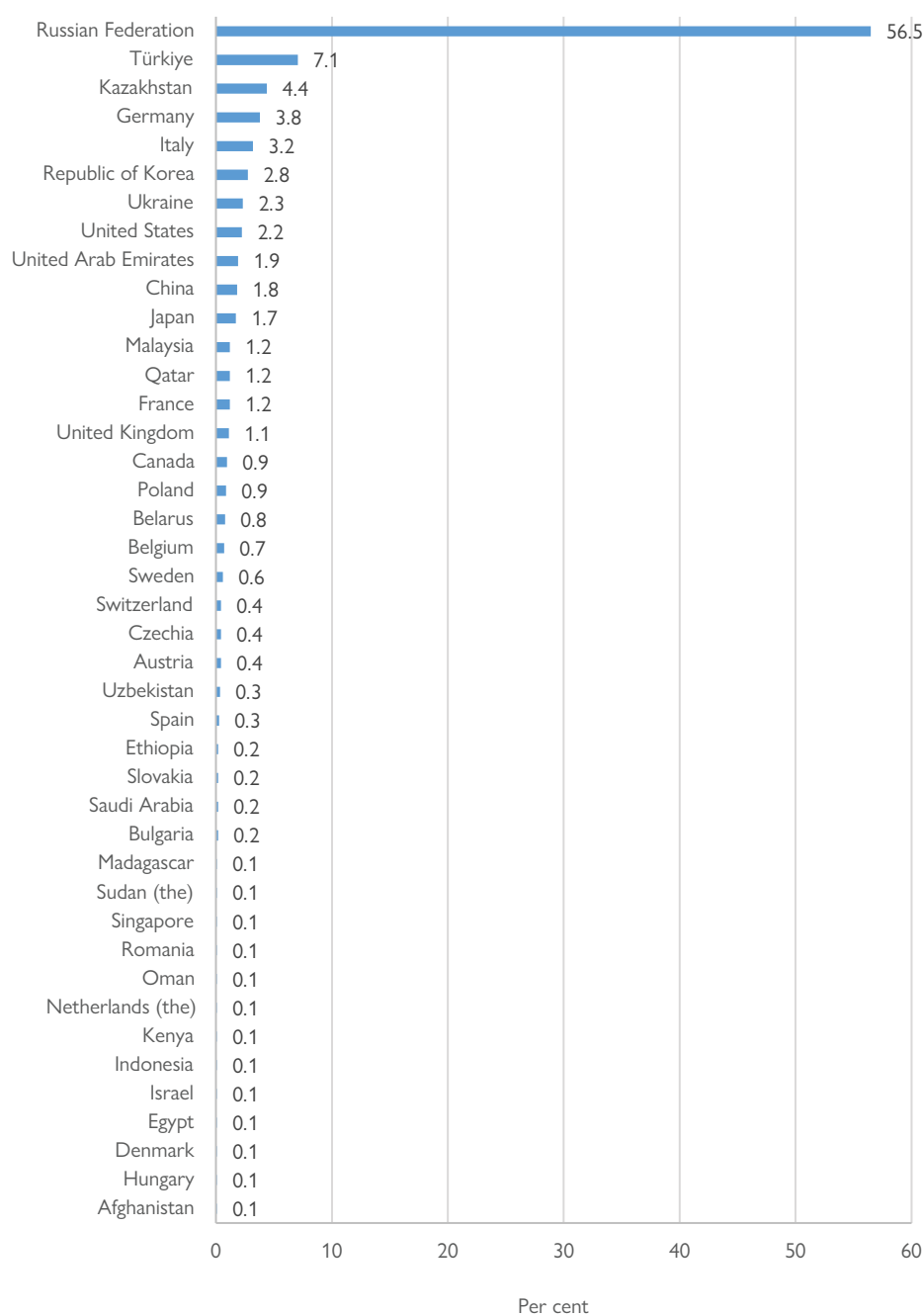
² (a) Compatriots abroad (hereinafter referred to as compatriots) – Kyrgyz citizens permanently residing outside the territory of Kyrgyzstan; (b) abroad – outside the territory of Kyrgyzstan; (c) citizenship – presence of nationality or citizenship, respectively, of Kyrgyzstan or a foreign State; (d) a citizen of Kyrgyzstan residing abroad – a person who has Kyrgyz citizenship legally residing in the territory of a foreign State; (e) stateless person – a person who is not a citizen of Kyrgyzstan and does not have evidence of belonging to the citizenship of another State; (f) participants (parties) in the relations of Kyrgyzstan with compatriots – State authorities of Kyrgyzstan and local government bodies; (g) identity – native language, traditions and customs of compatriots, peculiarities of their cultural heritage and religion (Source: No. 183, Article 3 of Government of Kyrgyzstan, 2013).

4.2. COUNTRIES OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE AND THE NUMBER OF YEARS IN MIGRATION

The Russian Federation is the country of permanent residence for 56.5 per cent of the respondents, followed by Türkiye with the largest number of respondents; 7.1 per cent of respondents named this country of their permanent residence, 4.4 per cent indicated Kazakhstan, 3.8 per cent said Germany, 3.2 per cent indicated Italy, and 2.8 per cent said Republic of Korea.

The sample included a little more than 2 per cent of respondents permanently residing in Ukraine and the United States, more than 1 per cent in the United Arab Emirates, China and Japan, 1.2 per cent from Malaysia, Qatar and France, and 1.1 per cent from the United Kingdom. Less than 1 per cent are residing in other countries, such as Canada, Poland, Belarus, Belgium and Sweden.

Figure 2. Country of permanent residence in migration

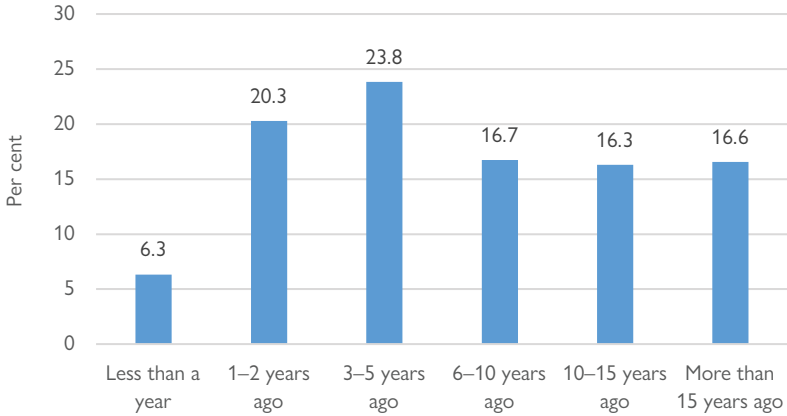


Source: Graphs are based on the results of the 2021 survey (unless otherwise indicated) and elaborated by the authors.

Note: n = 1,161.

It can be assumed that those 16.6 per cent of respondents who left Kyrgyzstan more than 15 years ago are already the so-called “core of stabilization” of the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad, since they have been in emigration for a long time and continue to maintain ties with Kyrgyzstan. In addition, 33 per cent of respondents who migrated 6 to 15 years ago are potentially almost-core or near-core of the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad. The 44.1 per cent of respondents who left Kyrgyzstan from 1 to 5 years ago are relatively recent and therefore more “peripheral” diaspora members; many of them are already stable and active diaspora participants and contributors, but whether they will join the core of the diaspora within the next 10 years is not yet certain. There are also very recent migrants in the sample; 6.3 per cent are migrants who left Kyrgyzstan less than one year ago (Figure 3).

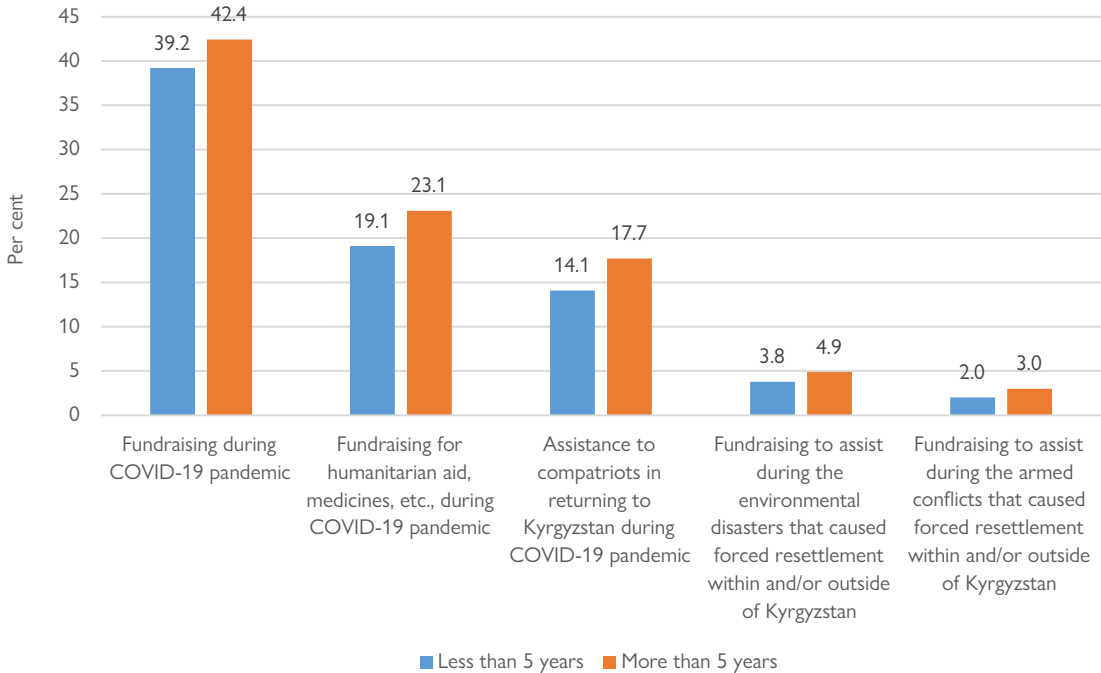
Figure 3. Duration of respondents’ departure from Kyrgyzstan



Notes: % of n = 1,154. Responses to the question: “As a migrant, how long ago did you leave Kyrgyzstan?”

Migrants who have been in migration for more than 5 years have a slightly higher tendency to participate in aid collection initiatives (such as in emergencies or a pandemic) in Kyrgyzstan (Figure 4).

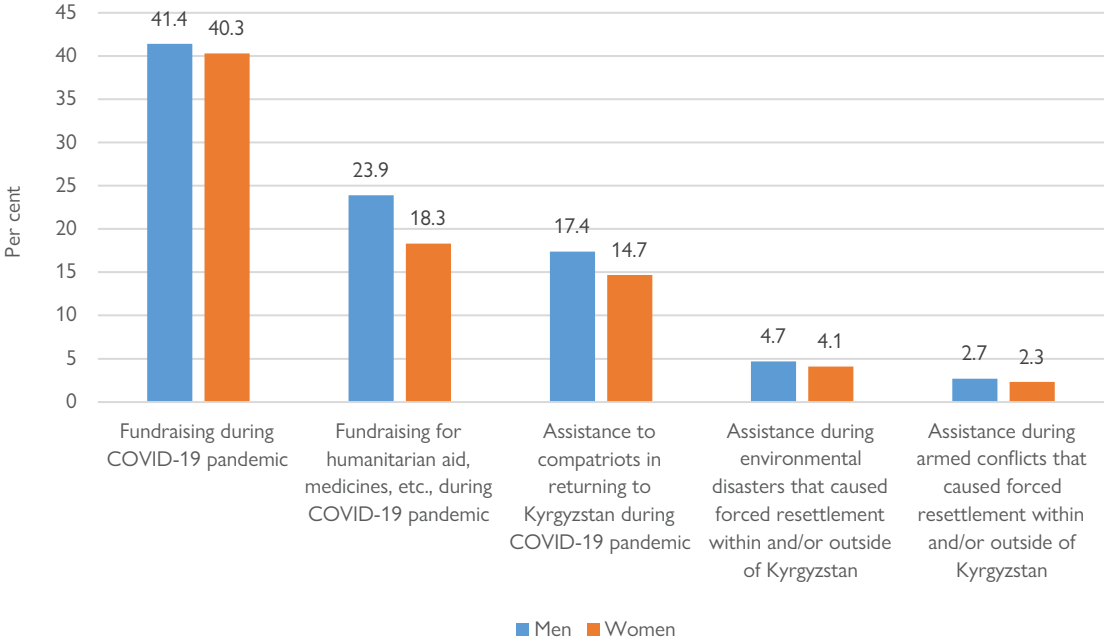
Figure 4. Duration of respondents’ migration-related participation in diaspora initiatives during emergencies



Notes: n = 775. Responses to the question: “How long a respondent is in migration relative to participation in the diaspora initiatives during emergencies?”

There is almost no difference between men and women in their activities providing charitable and gratuitous assistance on social and environmental issues (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Gender of the respondents in migration relative to participation in diaspora initiatives during emergencies



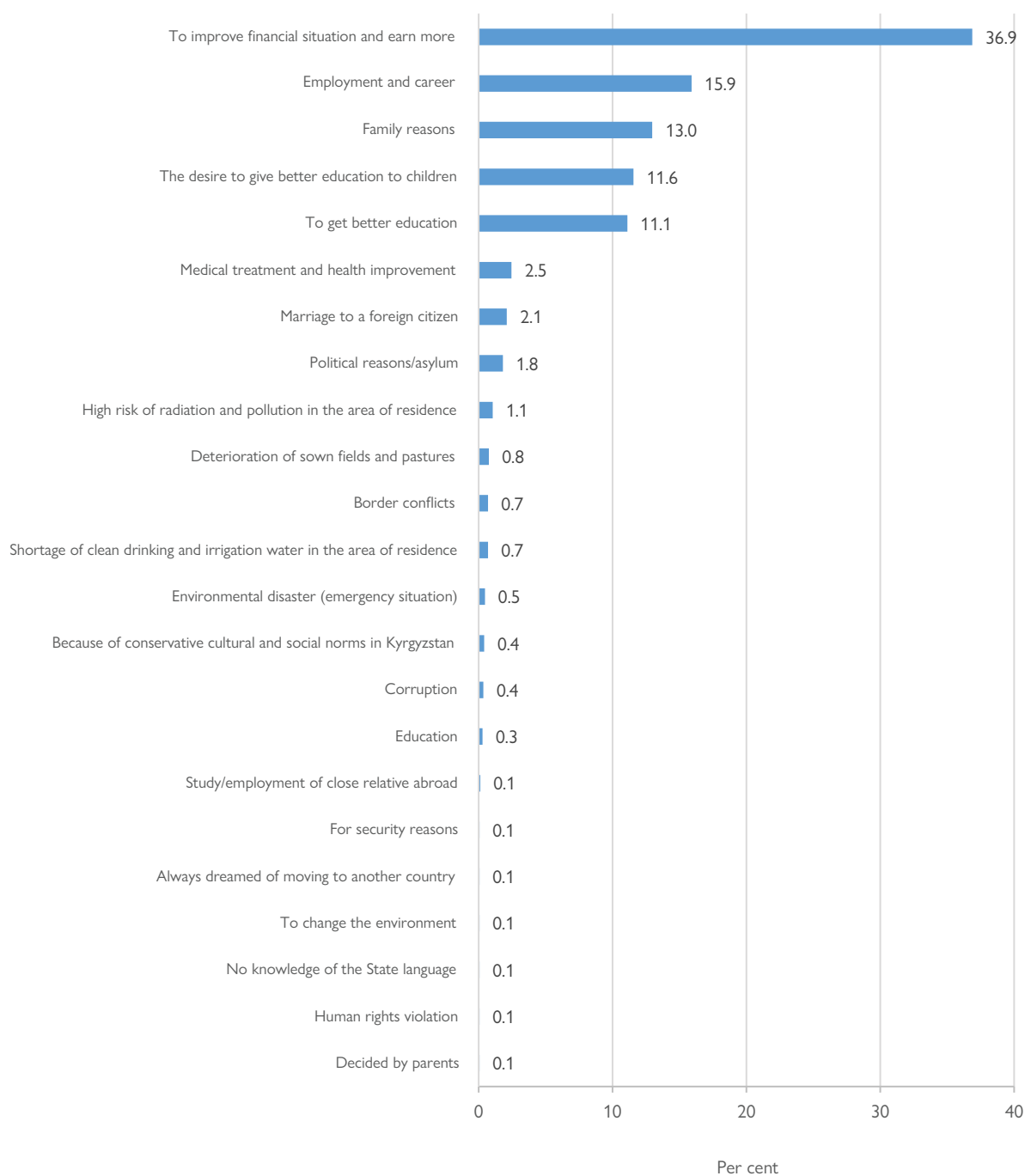
Note: n = 775.

Perhaps membership in diaspora associations of Kyrgyz people abroad gives more donors of financial and other aid for organizations and initiatives in Kyrgyzstan, that is, 35 per cent of respondent donors are members of diasporas, and 13 per cent of respondent donors are not members of the diaspora organizations.

4.2.1. Reasons for migration and trends of the five-year mapping cycle

Of the respondents, almost 37 per cent left Kyrgyzstan to improve their financial situation and earn money, Almost 16 per cent left for employment and career, 13 per cent left for family reasons, almost 12 per cent left to provide better education to children, 11.1 per cent left to get better education for themselves; almost 4 per cent of the respondents named environmental degradation, disasters and border conflicts as the reasons for leaving Kyrgyzstan, and slightly less than 2 per cent mentioned political reasons/political asylum (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Main reasons for leaving Kyrgyzstan



Note: % of n = 1,116.

IN THE 2015 MAPPING

The 12 per cent of respondents left Kyrgyzstan more than 15 years ago. Almost 37 per cent of respondents left from 6 to 15 years ago; 39 per cent of respondents left from 1 to 6 years ago; and 10 per cent of respondents left less than 1 year ago.

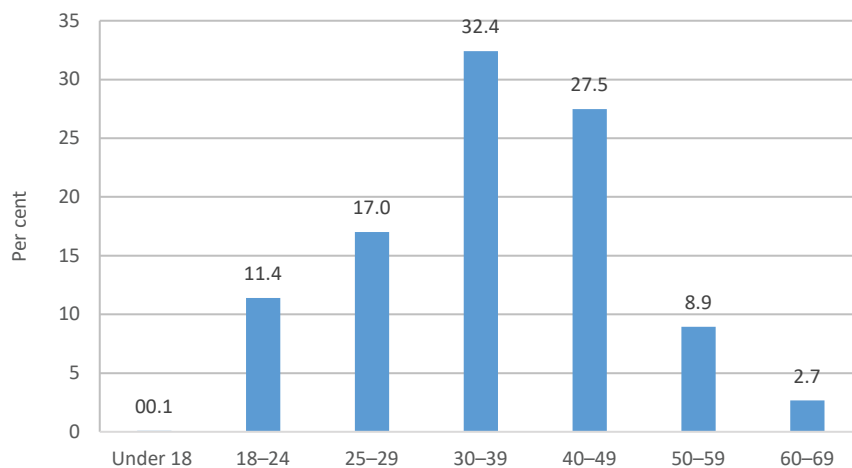
The following countries of permanent residence in migration were named: Russian Federation (26%); Germany (14%); the United States (11.5%); Türkiye (7.7%); the Republic of Korea (2.6%); Kazakhstan (2.2%); Italy (2%); France (2%); and Ukraine (1.4%).

Of the respondents, 39 per cent left Kyrgyzstan for education, 38 per cent left for employment/business, 7 per cent of the respondents indicated marriage, and 5.6 per cent left for family reunification. Also, 5.6 per cent indicated political reasons/asylum as the reason for leaving Kyrgyzstan.

4.2.2. Age, sex and matrimonial data of respondents and their “homeland”

As expected, among the respondent migrants, there were adults, mainly aged 30 to 50 years (almost 60% of the sample). At the same time, at least 28 per cent of the sample turned out to be young people between 18 and 30 years old. Also, among the respondents, there was a little more than 11 per cent of Kyrgyz migrants aged 50 and over (Figure 7).

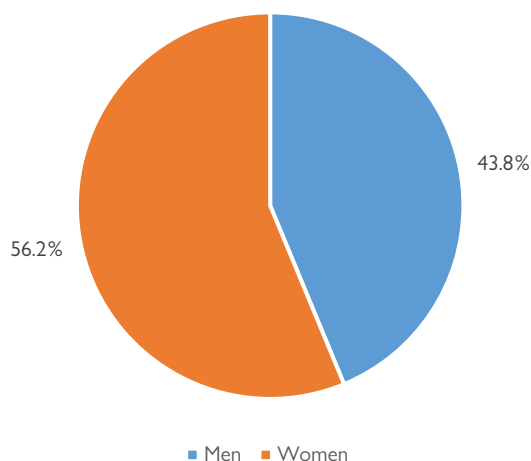
Figure 7. Age of respondents



Note: % of n = 1,052.

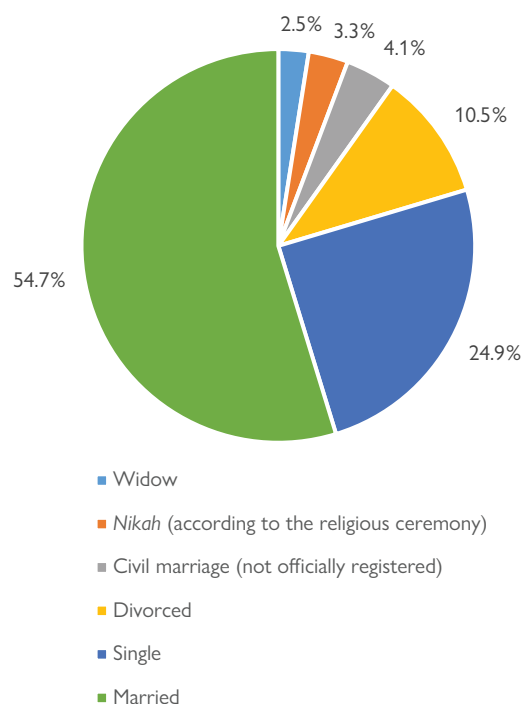
Of those who took part in the survey, 56.2% were women and 43.8% were men (Figure 8). Among them, almost 55 per cent of the respondents are married, 10.5 per cent are divorced, almost 25 per cent of respondents are single, 4.1 per cent are in a civil marriage, 2.5 per cent are widows, and 3.3 per cent are married according to the *Nikah* tradition (Muslim marriage ceremony) (Figure 9).

Figure 8. Gender of respondents



Note: n = 1,049.

Figure 9. Marital status of respondents



Note: % of n = 1,052.

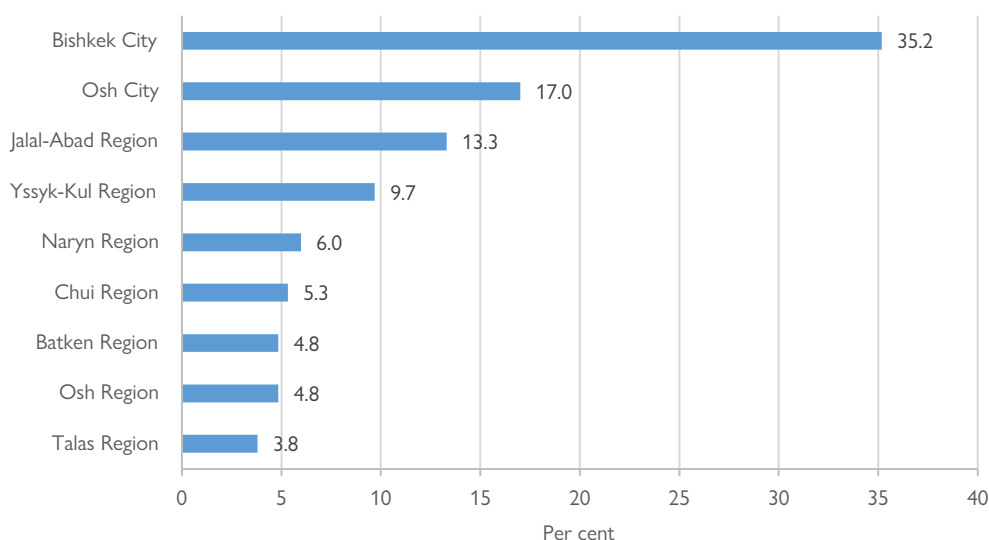
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Of the respondents, 48 per cent are women and 52 per cent are men, among them, 50 per cent are aged 30 to 50, 41 per cent of the respondents are young people aged 18 to 30, and 8.2 per cent are aged 50 and older.

More than half of the respondents (56%) are married, 6 per cent are divorced, 32 per cent are single, 3 per cent are in a civil marriage (that is, not officially registered), and 3 per cent are widows.

To the question “Which region of Kyrgyzstan do you consider your homeland?” there were 1,052 answers. Bishkek happened to have the largest share in the sample, that is, 35.2 per cent of respondents indicated Bishkek as their homeland. Perhaps the wording “homeland” is more symbolic than physical, that is, it does not necessarily mean that this is where the respondents were born but rather was interpreted as the capital of their extended motherland. In there was a similar question, but it had a slightly different meaning to the respondents (that is, the question was in regards to where they were born rather than where their homeland was. It is likely that Bishkek, as the capital of Kyrgyzstan, is becoming a homeland for the migrants that grow to associate the capital with the extended motherland. Further in descending order, the other answers are: 17 per cent indicated Osh City, 13.3 per cent said Jalal-Abad Region, 9.7 per cent said Issyk-Kul Region, 6 per cent said Naryn Region, and 5.3 per cent said Chui Region; 4.8 per cent each indicated Osh and Batken Regions as their homeland, and almost 4 per cent of the respondents were from Talas in the sample (Figure 10.1).

Figure 10.1. Kyrgyz city or region considered as respondents' homeland



Notes: % of n = 1,052. Responses to the question: "Which region/city in Kyrgyzstan do you consider your homeland?"

IN THE 2015 MAPPING

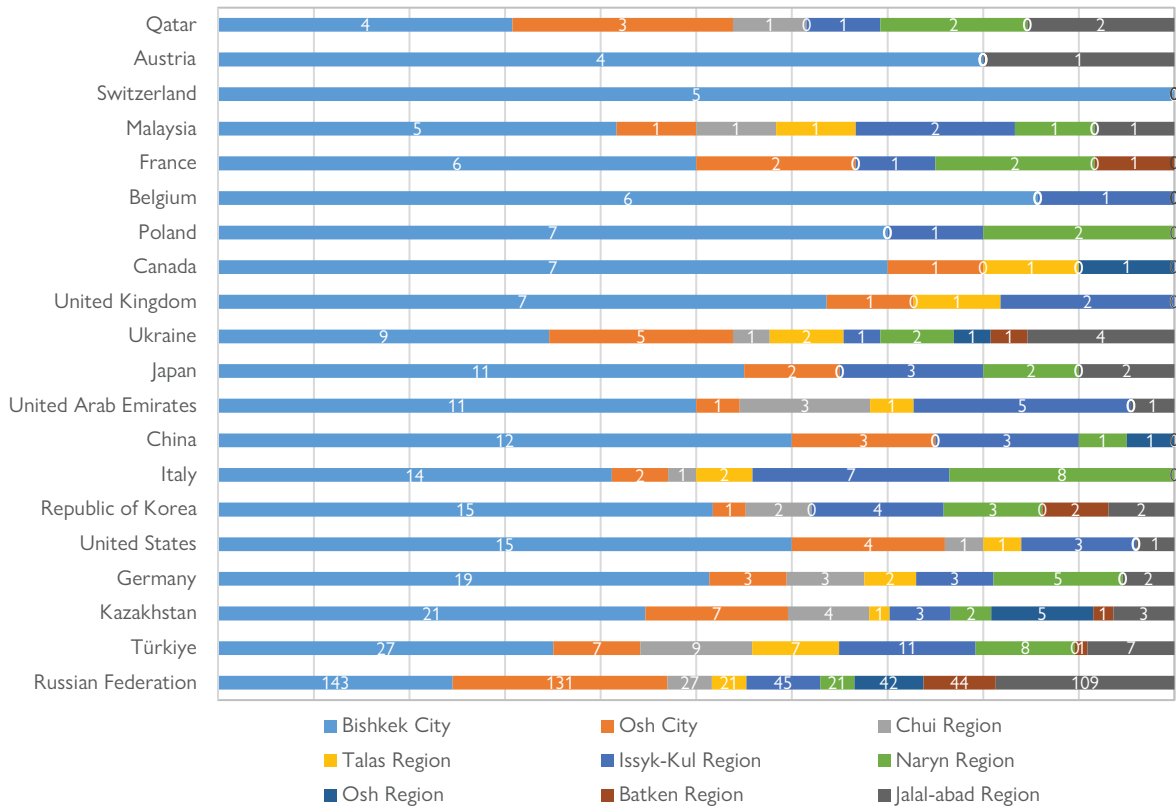
Respondents were asked to indicate the cities and villages where they lived before reaching 18 years of age; this meant the homeland of respondents.

There were 18 per cent of natives of Bishkek, and 6 per cent of Osh.

By regions, there were 8 per cent of respondents from Jalal-Abad Region, 24 per cent from Issyk-Kul Region, 6 per cent from Naryn Region, 39 per cent from Chui Region, 17 per cent from Osh Region, 3 per cent from Batken Region, and 3 per cent of respondents from Talas Region.

This quantitative survey supports the general notion about the existing regionalism among the native Kyrgyz population in Kyrgyzstan and the related tribal self-identification of the migrants while they are in Kyrgyzstan. These often become more pronounced/deemed important when people are abroad, i.e. in migration. Thus, many of the migration networks and migrants' concentrations in certain geographies abroad, specific countries and cities have links to specific geographies within Kyrgyzstan, that is, Kyrgyz regions and towns. In terms of migrants' "representation of regions" (the homeland of respondents) in the countries of permanent residence in migration, immigrants from all seven regions, as well as from the cities of Bishkek and Osh, tend to be represented in countries such as the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, with the predominant number of respondents from cities of Bishkek and Osh, as well as from the Jalal-Abad and Osh Regions. Quite large shares of immigrants from the Issyk-Kul Region are observed in countries, such as the United Arab Emirates, Italy, the United States, Türkiye, China, the United Kingdom, Poland and Belgium. Also, a large proportion of immigrants from the Naryn Region are observed in countries, such as Türkiye, Germany, Italy, Poland, France and Qatar. Whereas a small representation of immigrants from the Batken Region can be traced only in countries, such as France, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Türkiye. Interesting is the proportion of immigrants from the Talas Region: the share of immigrants from Talas in the Russian Federation is the smallest (along with the share of immigrants from the Naryn and Chui Regions). In Kazakhstan, the share of immigrants from the Talas Region is the smallest in comparison with the share of immigrants from other regions of Kyrgyzstan. The largest share of immigrants from the Talas Region is observed in Canada, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Ukraine and Türkiye. In countries such as Switzerland, only immigrants from Bishkek reside; in Austria, only immigrants from Bishkek and the Jalal-Abad Region; and in Belgium, only immigrants from Bishkek and the Issyk-Kul Regions (see Figure 10.2 by colour codes from the total number of respondents in countries of permanent residence).

Figure 10.2. Representation of regions (hometown of the respondents) in countries of permanent residence in migration

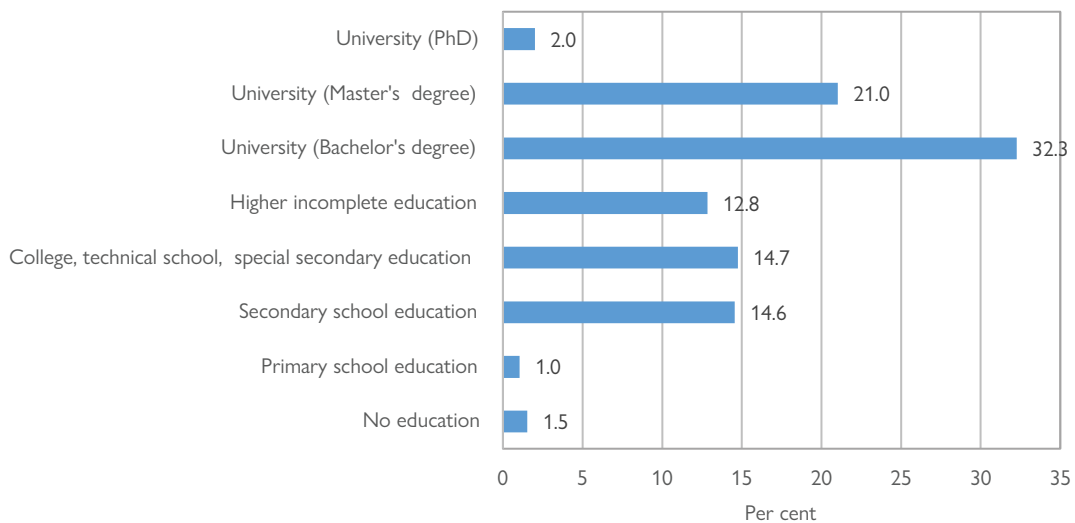


Note: n = 1,050.

4.2.3. Level/areas of education and employment

In terms of education, 32.3 per cent of respondents indicated a university degree at bachelor level, 21 per cent of respondents have a master’s degree and 2 per cent have a doctorate degree. There are 1.5 per cent of respondents (about 16 people in the sample) without education, 1 per cent with primary school education, almost 15 per cent of the respondents each have secondary school and secondary technical education, and almost 13 per cent mentioned incomplete higher education (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Education level of the respondents



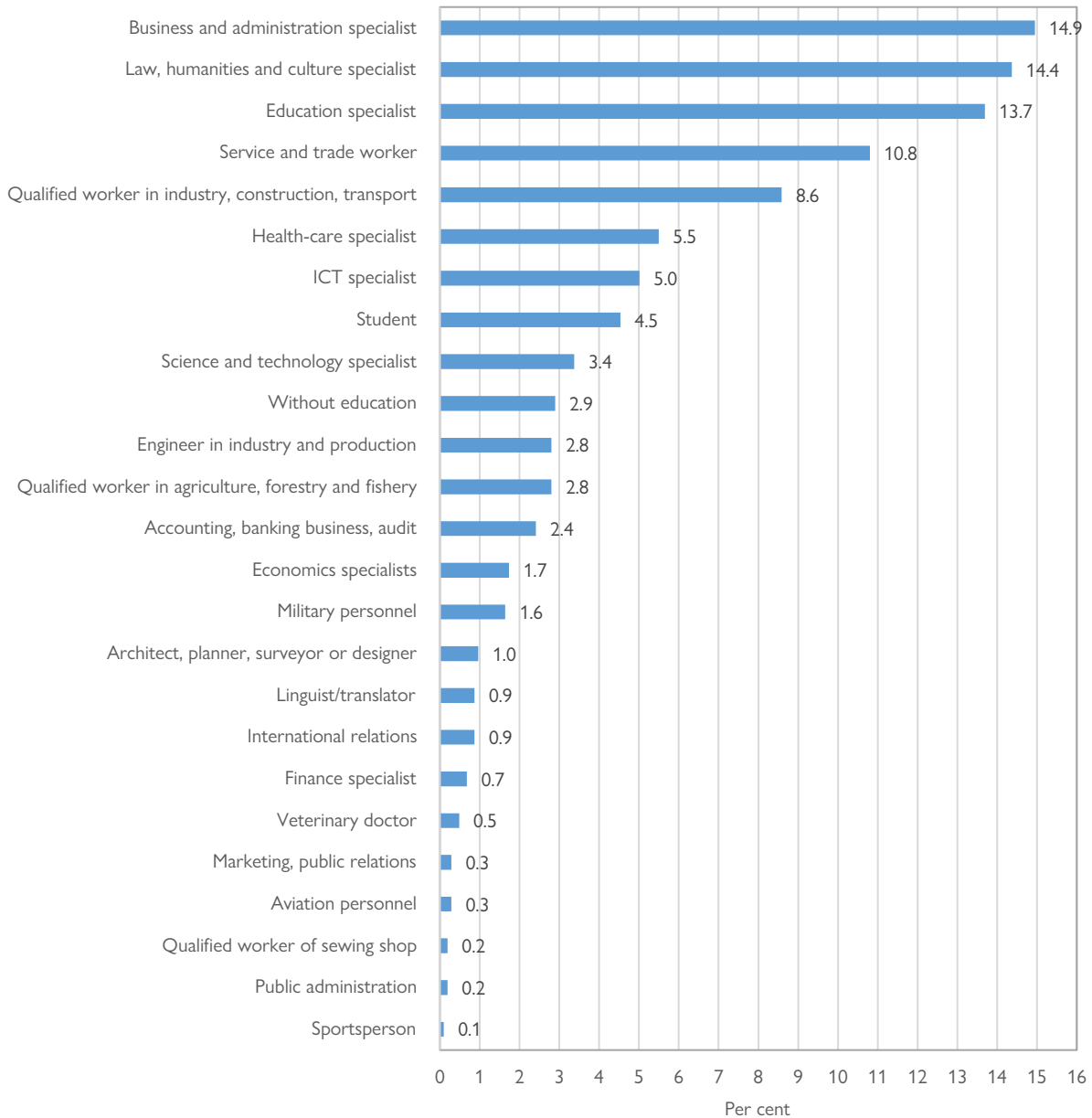
Note: % of n = 1,051.

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The largest number of respondents turned out to have a university degree at bachelor level (38%), and only 4 per cent of the respondents indicated their education as five-year higher education or basic university education. Slightly over 30 per cent had master's degree, and 5 per cent with the academic degrees of doctors and candidates of science.

The 10.3 per cent of respondents graduated from technical schools and colleges, and about 11 per cent finished general secondary school.

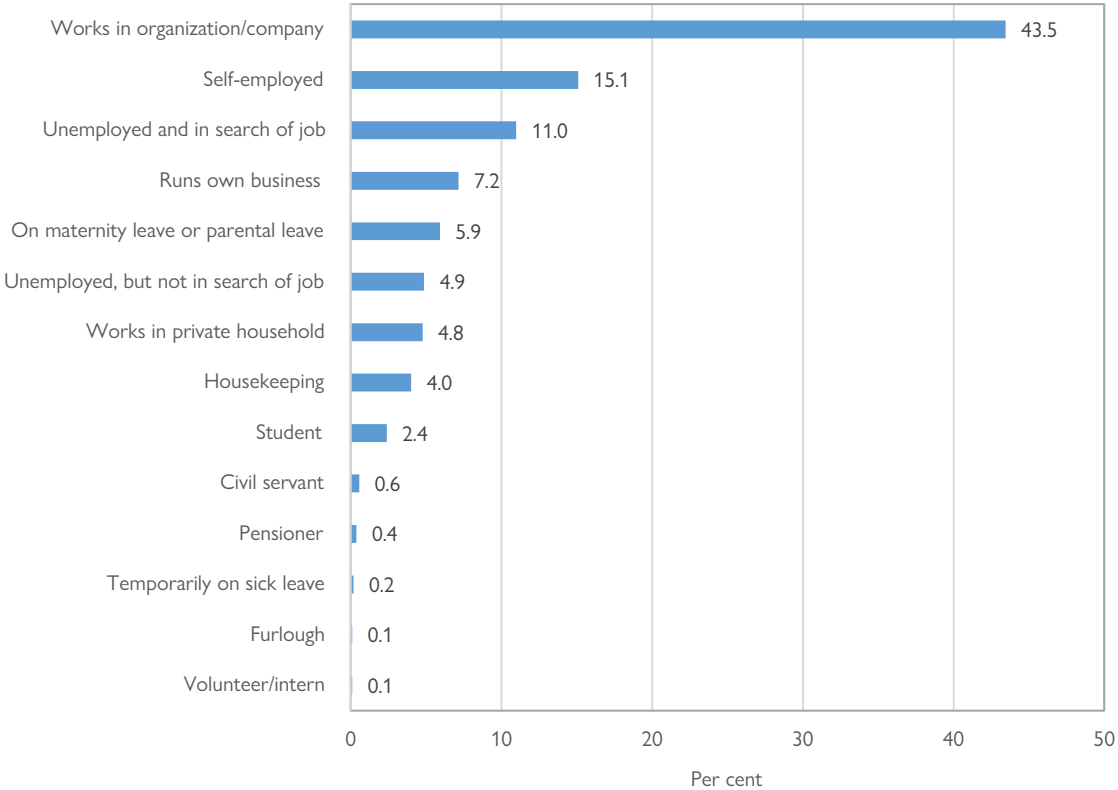
Figure 12. Respondents' specialties obtained as a result of education



Note: % of n = 1,037.

The education spheres of respondents are diverse and extensive, but the most common qualifications included business and management (14.9%), law and the humanities (14.4%), education (13.7%), services and trade (10.8%), skilled workers in industrial sectors (8.6%), as well as health professionals (5.5%) and ICT (5%), while about 5 per cent of respondents were still students at the time of the survey (Figure 12).

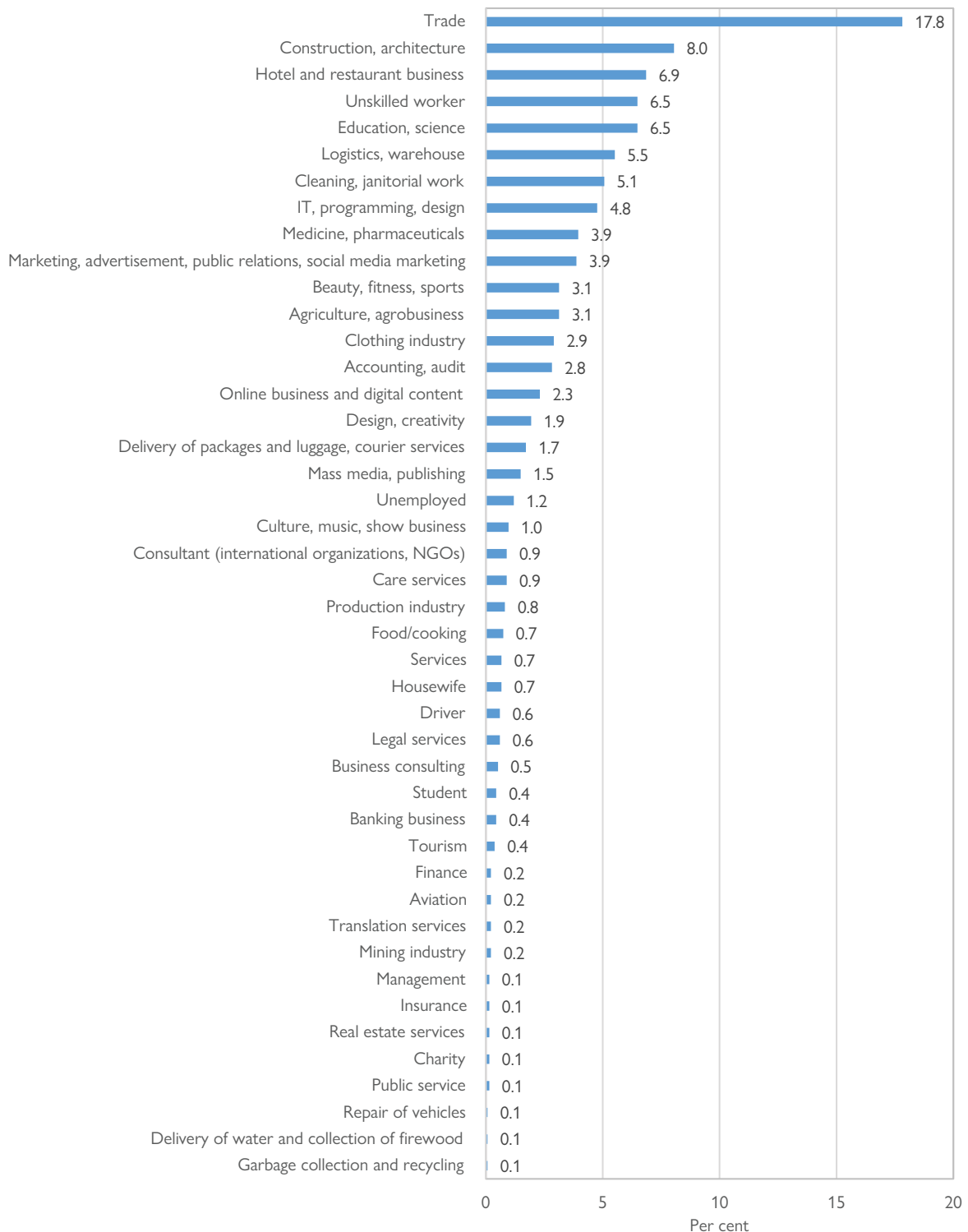
Figure 13. Current employment status of respondents



Note: % of n = 1,047.

It can be concluded that the goals of finding employment and improving family income of majority of migrant respondents were achieved: almost 44 per cent of respondents work in an organization/ company, while 15.1 per cent are self-employed in migration and 7.2 per cent of respondents run their own business. The 15 per cent of respondents turned out to be unemployed, but almost 5 per cent of them are not looking for a permanent job, that is, it can be assumed that they depend on their family members. Almost 6 per cent of respondents indicated that they were on maternity leave (Figure 13).

Figure 14. Current sphere of activity of respondents



Note: n = 978.

At the time of the survey, almost 18 per cent of respondents were employed in trade, 8 per cent in construction, almost 7 per cent in hotel and restaurant business, and almost 5 per cent in ICT and programming (Figure 14). Usually, Kyrgyz migrants are employed in services sector; for example, in the Russian Federation, migrants work as labourers; 6 per cent of the entire sample mentioned this area as their main activity; 5.5 per cent mentioned logistics and warehouse, 5 per cent are cleaners and groundskeepers, 3 per cent are in sewing services, 2 per cent are in delivery and courier services, and 1 per cent are in nursing services.

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The most common qualifications were in education (12.4%), engineering (9.7%), economics (9.4%), law (5.7%), science (5.4%), in the fields of health care and medicine (6%), finance and business (6%), and ICT (5%).

By the time of the survey, 15 per cent of respondents had working experience in their diploma specialties, and 9.3 per cent had no working experience in their specialties.

The 6 per cent of respondents worked in general education, 3.3 per cent in health care and medicine, 2.7 per cent in science and higher education, and 2.4 per cent of respondents worked as engineers.

The 3.5 per cent of respondents were employed in trade (including in commerce, trade, marketing and logistics), 3.2 per cent in the field of ICT and programming, 1.3 per cent in hotel and restaurant business (including tourism and service sector), and only 0.3 per cent in construction industry.

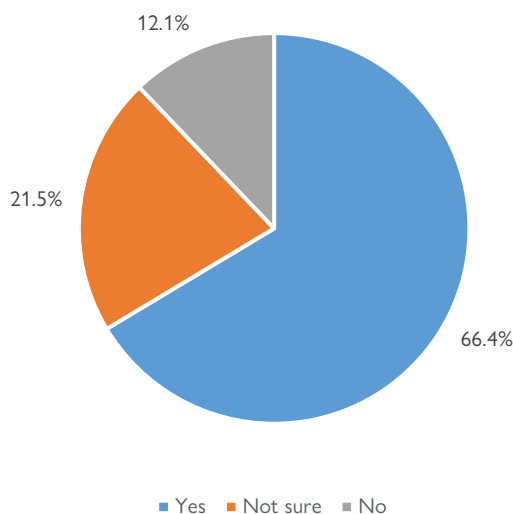
The 50 per cent of respondents worked in an organization/company, 14.2 per cent were employers or business owners, 10 per cent were self-employed to support their families and 5.4 per cent were students.

The 11.6 per cent of respondents turned out to be unemployed, but 5.4 per cent of them were not looking for a permanent job and depended on other members of their family. Less than 1 per cent of respondents indicated that they were on maternity leave.

4.3. READINESS AND OBSTACLES TO THE RETURN TO KYRGYZSTAN

A little more than 66 per cent of respondents intend to return to Kyrgyzstan for permanent residence, 12.1 per cent answered no, and almost 22 per cent were not sure (Figure 15.1).

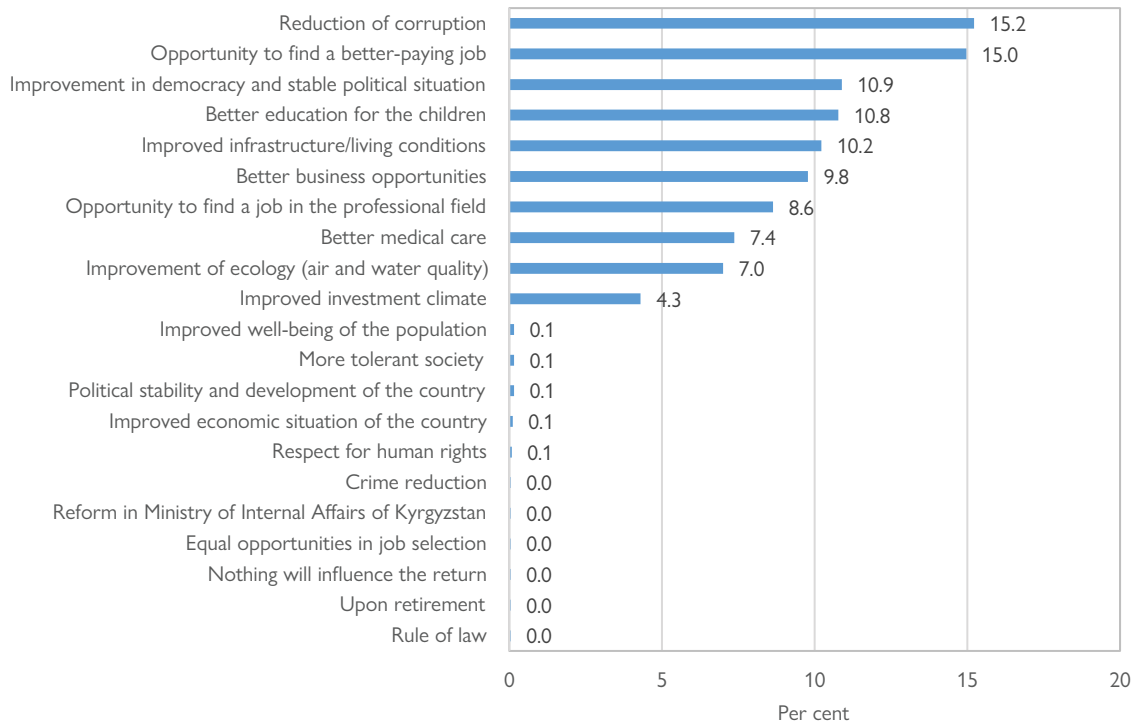
Figure 15.1. Desire to return home for permanent residence in the future



Notes: % of n = 997. Responses to the question: "Are you going to return to Kyrgyzstan for permanent residence in the future?"

Of the respondents, 15.2 per cent indicated a decrease in corruption as the main factor that could have a positive impact on their decision to return to Kyrgyzstan. The 15 per cent indicated an opportunity to find a well-paying job, almost 11 per cent indicated improvement in the sphere of democracy and stability, and 10.8 per cent stated better education for children. The 10 per cent each indicated improved infrastructure and living conditions and better business opportunities. As many as 7 per cent of respondents (about 70 migrants from the sample) indicated that improving the environment (air and water quality) could contribute to their decision to return to Kyrgyzstan for permanent residence (Figure 15.2).

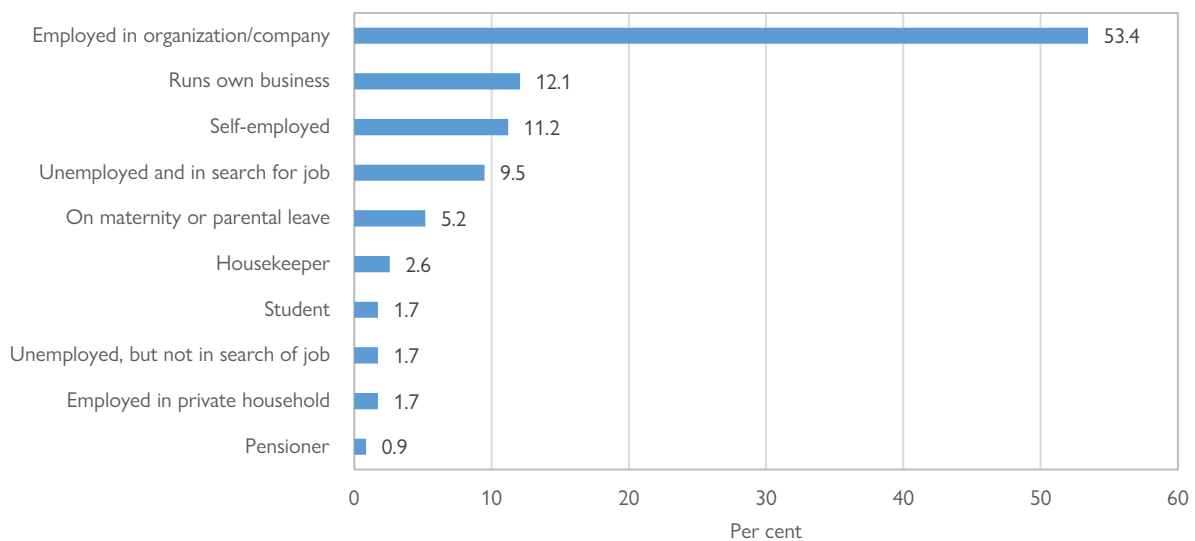
Figure 15.2. Changes that contribute to the decision to return home



Notes: n = 974. Responses to the question: “Which changes in Kyrgyzstan would contribute to your decision to return home?”

Among the respondents who chose the answer improved investment climate as a condition for return to their homeland, slightly more than half (53.4%) work in an organization/company, 12.1 per cent run their own business, 11.2 per cent are self-employed, almost 2 per cent are students, and 1.7 per cent work in a private household. In addition, 9.5 per cent of respondents advocating improved investment climate in Kyrgyzstan are unemployed and in search of work at the time of the survey, 5.2 per cent are on maternity leave (most likely women), and 2.6 per cent are engaged in housekeeping (which can also mean that the respondents are women) (Figure 15.3).

Figure 15.3. Respondents’ current employment status on investment climate as a factor in the decision to return home



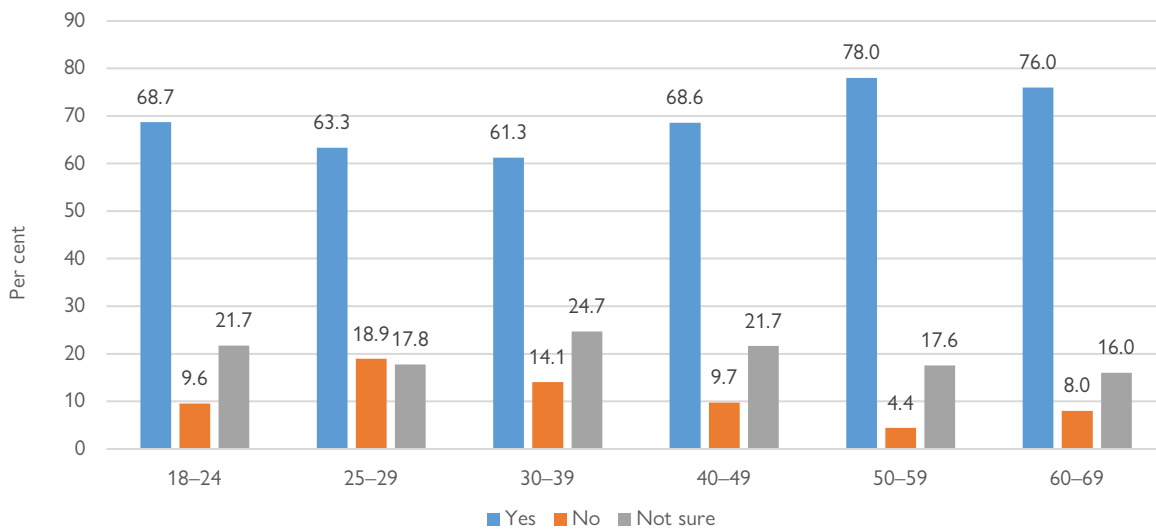
Notes: n = 116. Among 4.3 per cent of respondents who believe that improved investment climate would promote the decision to return home.

IN THE 2015 MAPPING

Ten most popular reasons that could motivate compatriots to return to Kyrgyzstan (in descending order):

- (a) Improvement of infrastructure/living conditions (16.9%)
- (b) Reduced corruption (15.4%)
- (c) Better opportunities for starting a business (11.5%)
- (d) Better education for children (10.8%)
- (e) Opportunity to find a job in my professional field (10.2%)
- (f) Opportunity to find better-paying job (9.8%)
- (g) Improvement in the field of democracy (6.8%)
- (h) Improved investment climate (6.2%)
- (i) Better health care (5.9%)
- (j) Be close to family, parents and relatives (1.8%)

Figure 16. Age of respondents relative to intention to return home for permanent residence in the future

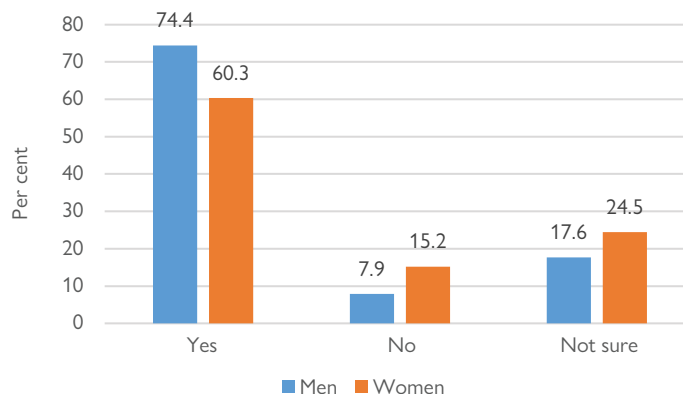


Note: n = 997.

The respondents aged 30 to 39 years (61.3%) are least of all intended to return to Kyrgyzstan for permanent residence, while in young people under 30, the tendency of intentions to return is higher (68.7% of respondents aged 18 to 24, 63.3% are between the ages of 25 and 29). The highest intention to return was observed among the respondents aged 49 to 69 years (on average 74%) (Figure 16).

Among men, there is a higher tendency (14% more) to return to Kyrgyzstan for permanent residence, possibly due to the fact that most men have families in Kyrgyzstan while they are migrating to earn money (Figure 17). Whereas migration of women, in addition to low earnings, happens for marriage, for career or for emigration (which is confirmed by semi-structured interviews).

Figure 17. Gender of respondents relative to intention to return home for permanent residence

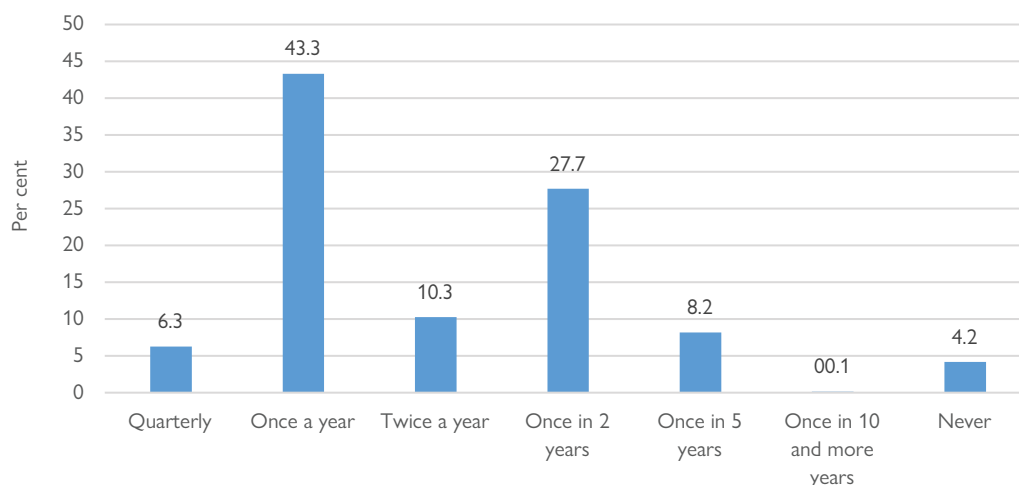


Note: n = 994.

4.4. REGULARITY OF VISITS TO KYRGYZSTAN

As for frequency of their visits to Kyrgyzstan, 4.2 per cent of respondents indicated that they never come, but 6.3 per cent of respondents visit Kyrgyzstan often, that is, on a quarterly basis. Almost 54 per cent of respondents come to Kyrgyzstan once or twice a year, and almost 36 per cent come to Kyrgyzstan only once or twice every two to five years (Figure 18).

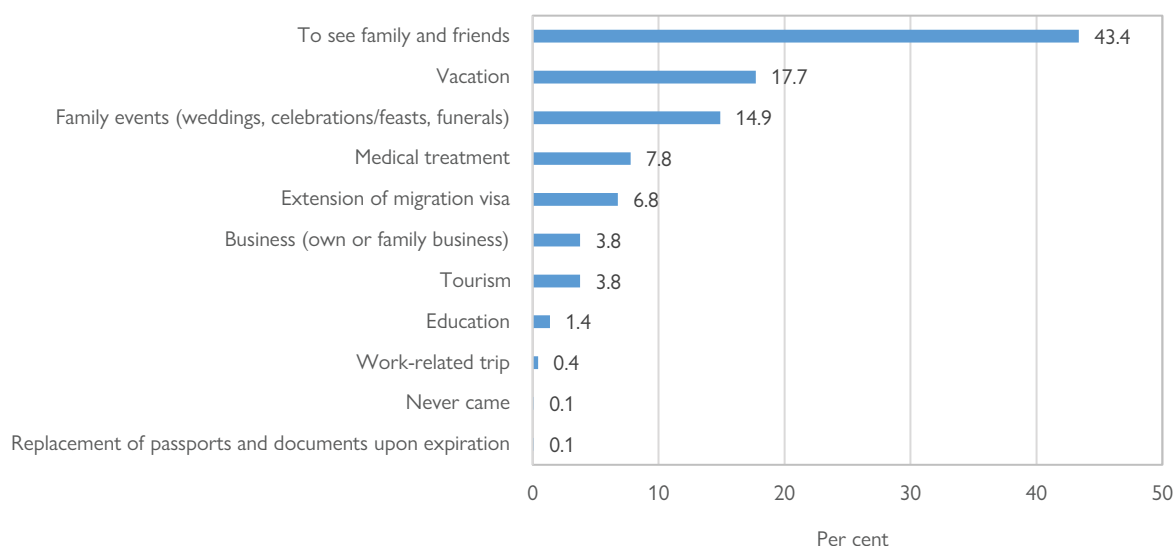
Figure 18. Frequency of visit to Kyrgyzstan



Notes: n = 672. Responses to the question: "How often do you visit Kyrgyzstan?"

Almost 44 per cent come to visit family and friends, 17.7 per cent come for vacations, 3.8 per cent for tourism, 14.9 per cent for family events, 7.8 per cent for treatment, and almost 4 per cent on business issues (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Reasons for visits to Kyrgyzstan



Note: n = 666.

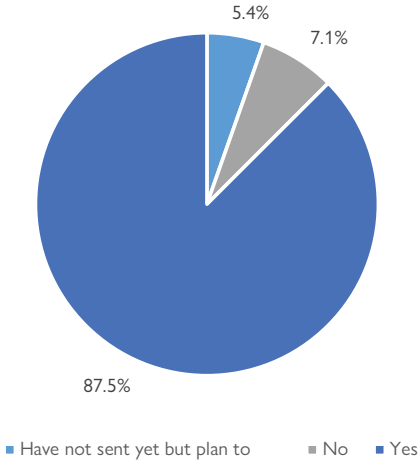
IN THE 2015 MAPPING

Of the respondents, 7 per cent do not come to Kyrgyzstan, while 6 per cent of respondents come on quarterly basis. The respondents mostly come to Kyrgyzstan once a year (34%). There are 18 per cent of the lucky ones who come to Kyrgyzstan twice a year. Slightly more than 36 per cent of respondents come once or twice within two to five years. The 79 per cent of respondents come to Kyrgyzstan to visit their family and friends, only 13 per cent on vacation and as tourists, and 8 per cent for business and work.

4.5. REMITTANCES OF KYRGYZ MIGRANTS AND GENDER ASPECTS OF DISTRIBUTION DECISIONS

Of the sample, 87.5 per cent send money to family members and close relatives, 7.1 per cent did not send, and 5.5 per cent have not sent yet but plan to (Figure 20).

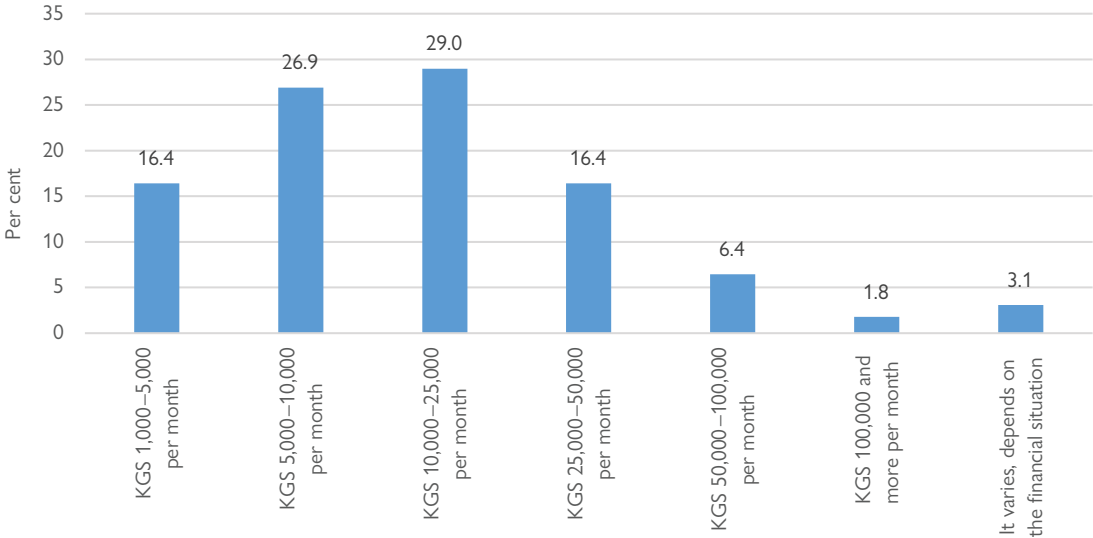
Figure 20. Sending money to family in Kyrgyzstan



Notes: n = 687. Responses to the question: “Do you send money to your family members and close relatives who stay in Kyrgyzstan?”

When it comes to amounts of remittances, it is secure to say that from the average monthly amounts sent (or to be sent) by migrants to their relatives in Kyrgyzstan, nearly half (that is, 43.3% out of 621 respondents who sent remittances) is up to KGS 10,000 (USD 118), and between KGS 10,000 to KGS 50,000 per month (USD 591) from another nearly half of the migrants (45.4%). There are 6.4 per cent of those who sent (or willing to send) between KGS 50,000 and KGS 100,000 (USD 591–USD 1,182), while there is almost 2 per cent of those sending more than KGS 100,000 (USD 1,182) per month in remittances back to Kyrgyzstan (Figure 21).

Figure 21. Average amount of monthly remittances



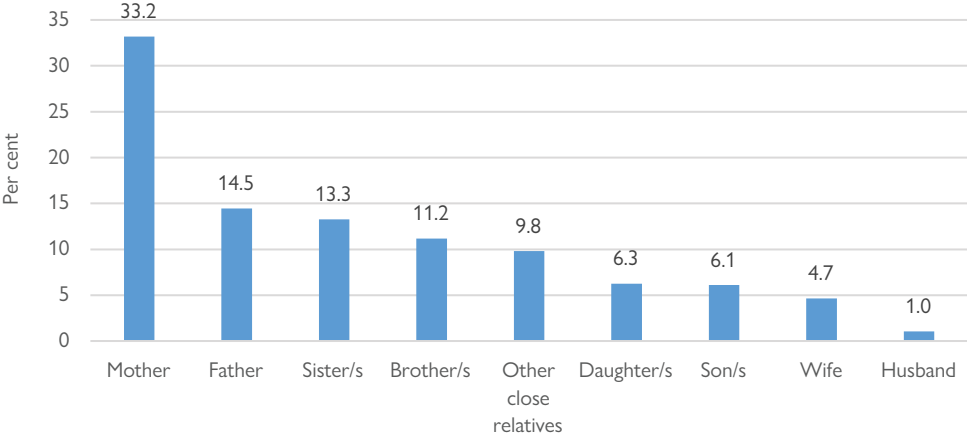
Notes: % of n = 621. Responses to the question: “Please indicate approximate amount that you send (or plan to send) on average per month.”

IN THE 2015 MAPPING

In 2014, 12 per cent of respondents sent financial aid to their relatives in Kyrgyzstan in the amount of up to USD 1,000; 10.5 per cent of respondents sent from USD 1,000 to USD 5,000; 5 per cent sent from USD 5,000 to USD 10,000; and 5 per cent sent USD 10,000 and more. The 8.5 per cent of respondents did not send any financial resources to their relatives in Kyrgyzstan.

It should be noted that 33.2 per cent of respondents indicated the mother as the main recipient of remittances, while father was indicated by almost 15 per cent. The 13.3 per cent of respondents sent money to their sisters, 11.2 per cent sent to their brothers, 6 per cent of respondents sent to daughters and sons, almost 5 per cent to wives, and only 1 per cent to husband (Figure 22).

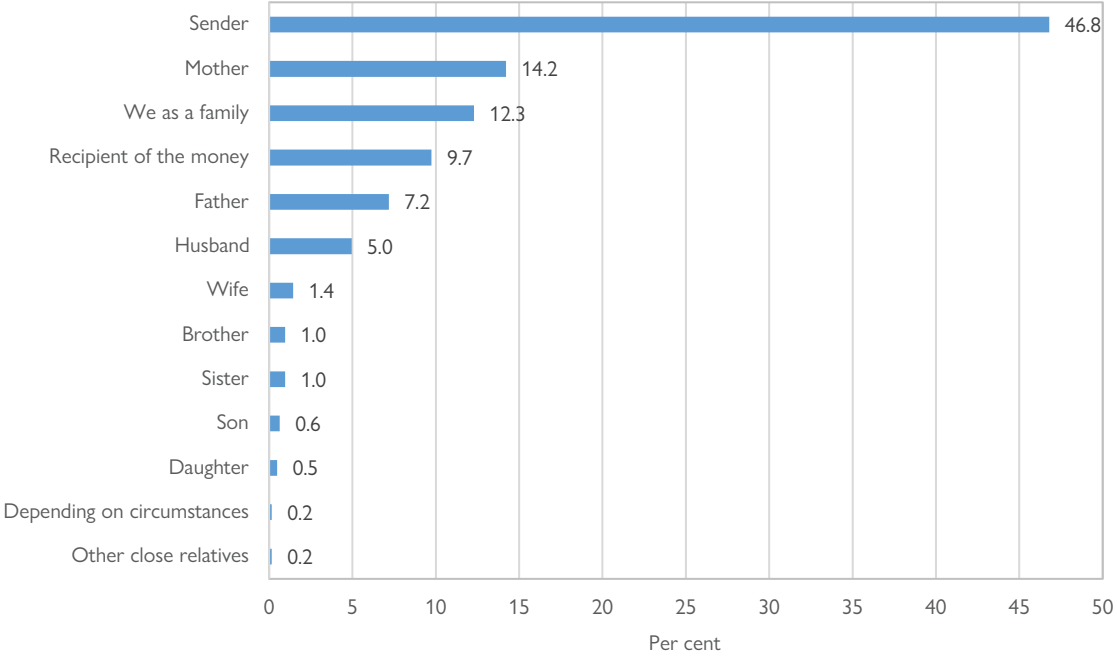
Figure 22. Family member who receives the remittances



Notes: n = 623. Responses to the question: "Which of your family members do you send money to?"

Almost 47 per cent of respondents decide for themselves how the funds sent by them are distributed; however, 14.2 per cent of respondents indicated that their mother decides how received funds will be spent and 7.2 per cent indicated their father. The 5 per cent of respondents indicated that the husband makes the decision on distribution of money, while just over 1 per cent indicated that the wife makes such a decision. A little more than 12 per cent of the sample indicated "we as a family", that is, they make a decision on the distribution of transferred funds jointly (Figure 23).

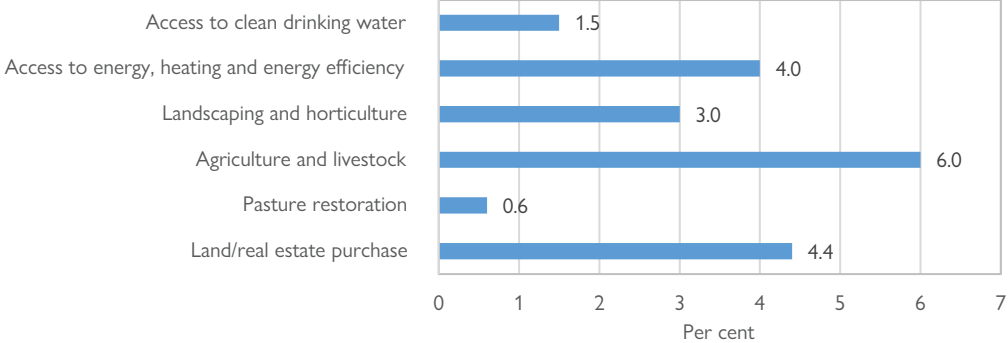
Figure 23. Family or relative who decides on the distribution of funds



Notes: % of n = 626. Responses to the question: "Who in your family or among close relatives makes a decision regarding distribution of funds?"

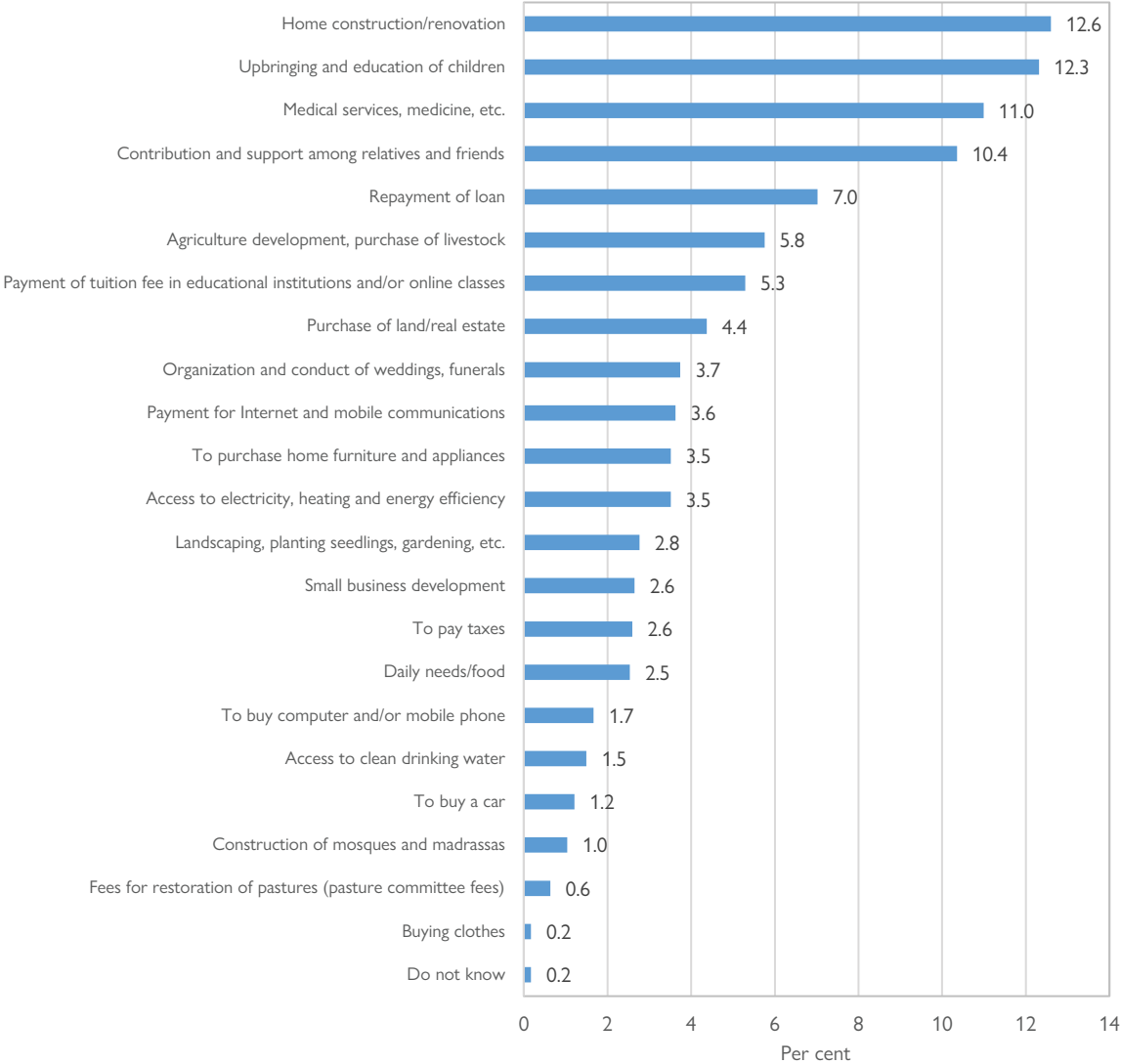
Very few respondents indicated that money transferred by migrants is spent on environmental or environment-related initiatives (land/real estate purchase (4.4%), pasture restoration (0.6%), agriculture and livestock (6%), landscaping and horticulture (3%), access to energy, heating and energy efficiency (4%), and access to clean drinking water (1.5%). These are of the total number of answers to the survey question (from the answers of 608 sample respondents) (Figure 24).

Figure 24. Per cent of money transferred by migrants spent on environment or environment-related initiatives



Note: n = 608.

Figure 25. Types of needs spent in Kyrgyzstan



Notes: n = 608. Responses to the question: "Please specify to what needs the funds you send are spent in Kyrgyzstan."

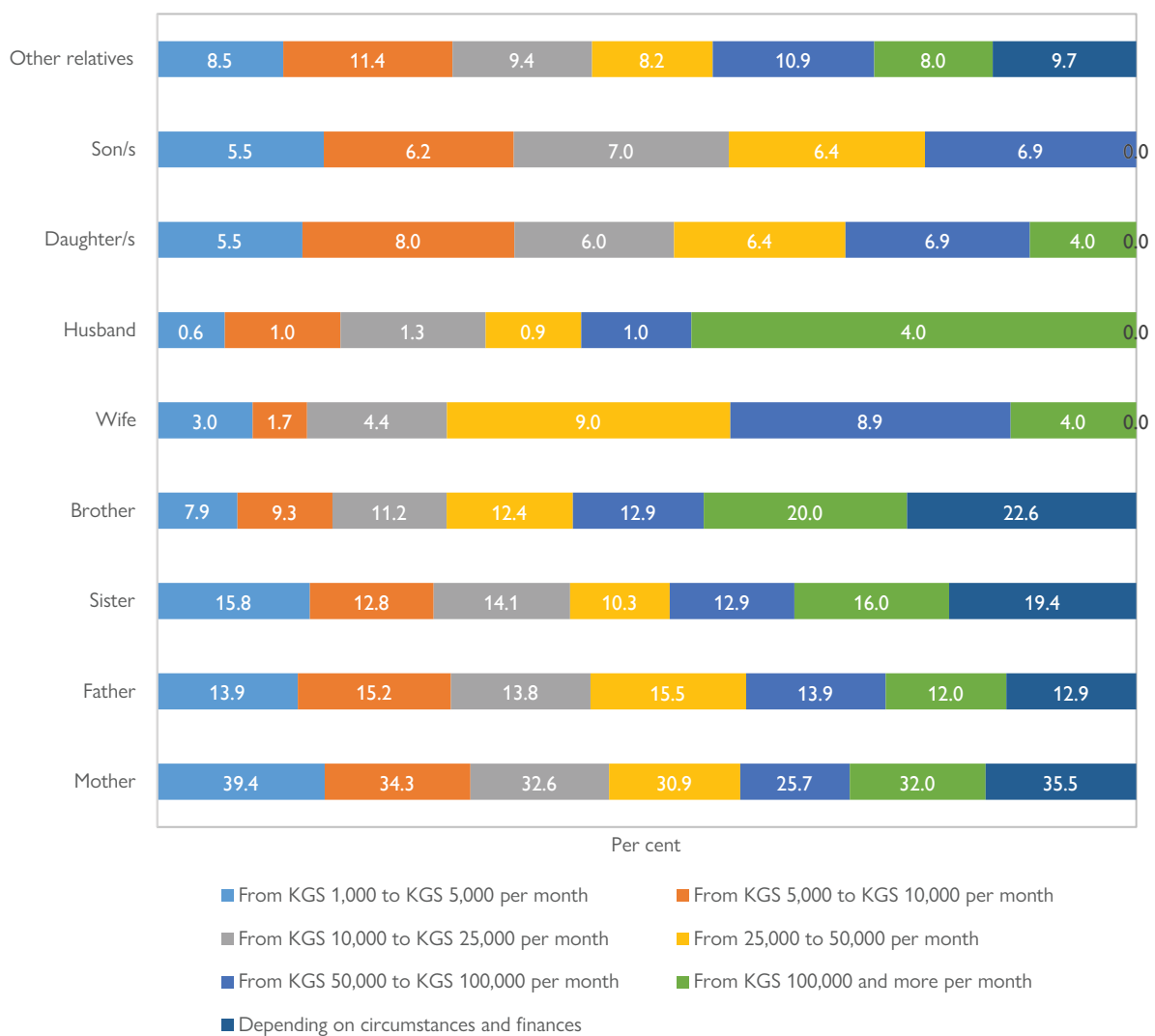
In Figure 26, the following trend is observed: larger amounts are sent to wives and husbands, as seen in the proportions of respondent remittances. For example, almost 22 per cent of money transfers to wife in the amount of 25,000 to more than KGS 100,000 per month were transferred (the total share of remittances of respondents for such amounts of transfers). And remittances to husband in the amount of 25,000 to more than KGS 100,000 per month were transferred by almost 6 per cent (the total share of remittances of respondents for such amounts of transfers).

Different amounts are sent to mothers and fathers, more or less evenly, but mothers more often received smaller remittances in the amount of KGS 1,000 to KGS 5,000 (total share of 39.4% of respondent remittances), and fathers received larger remittances in the amount of KGS 25,000 to KGS 50,000 (15.5% of remittances of respondents).

In addition, respondents more often sent larger amounts to their siblings; for example, sisters received remittances from KGS 100,000 and more from 16 per cent of respondents, and brothers received from 20 per cent of respondents.

Daughters and sons received almost equal shares of remittances, including amounts from KGS 50,000 to KGS 100,000 (both almost 7% for daughters and sons). But daughters were also transferred 4 per cent of respondent money transfers from KGS 100,000 and above, while sons were not sent such amounts.

Figure 26. Amount of remittances relative to which family member or close relative are the recipients of money

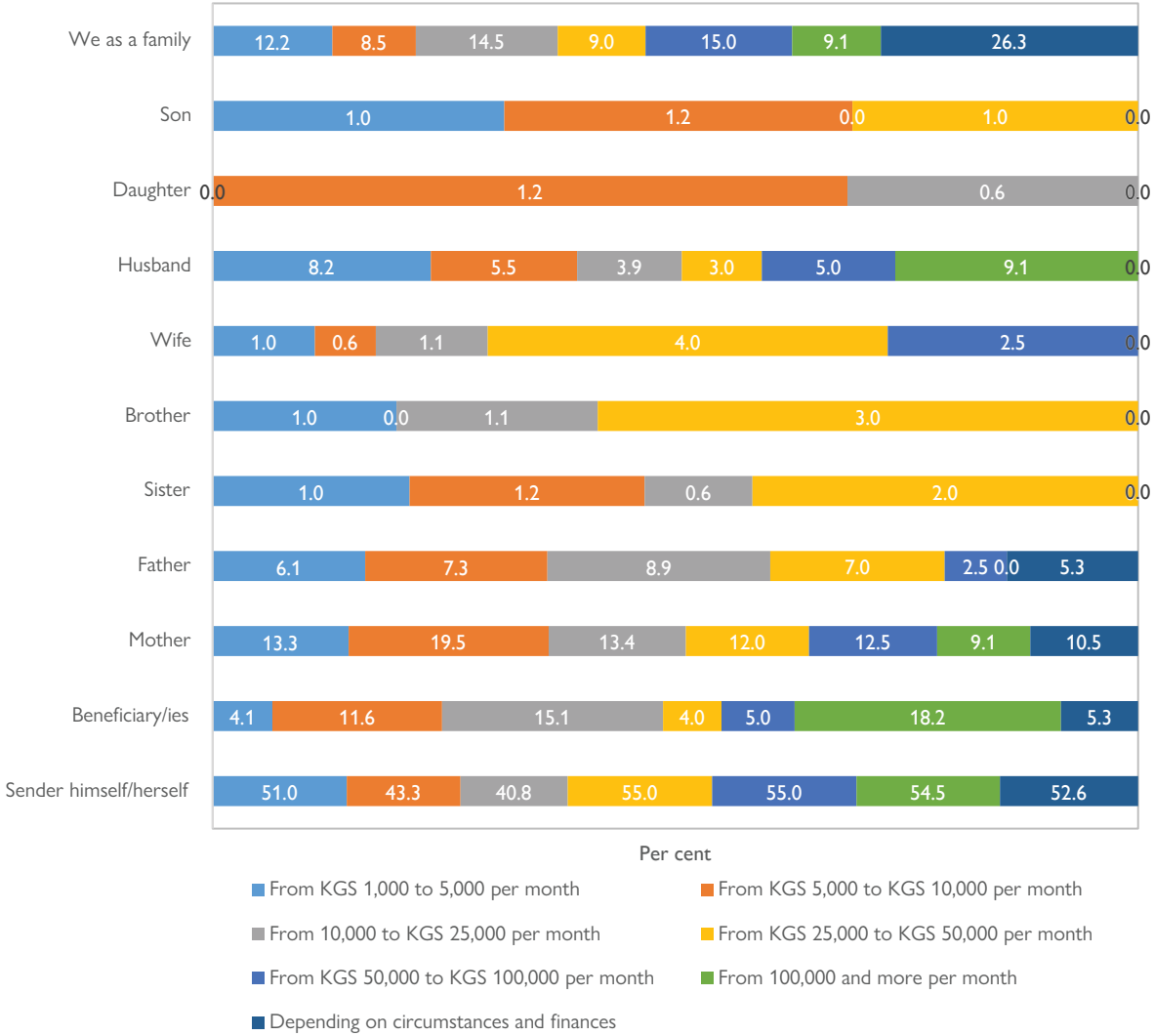


Notes: n = 613. Percentages and totals are based on responses. There are multiple responses.

In Figure 27, the following trend is observed: As to who decides on the distribution of funds transferred by the amount: mothers and husbands, as well as “as a family” make decisions on amounts of KGS 100,000 and more (9.1% of respondent remittances for both categories of “decision makers”), while fathers and wives do not make decisions on such amounts. Fathers are more involved in decisions on the distribution of financial resources from KGS 5,000 to KGS 25,000 (the total share of almost 24% of respondent remittances).

Daughters make decisions only on two types of financial resources: from KGS 5,000 to KGS 10,000 and from KGS 10,000 to KGS 25,000 (only 1.8% of respondent remittances). And sons take part in making decisions on the distribution of funds for amounts from KGS 5,000 to KGS 50,000 (only 3.2% of respondent remittances).

Figure 27. Amount of remittances relative to the family members or close relatives who decide on funds distribution

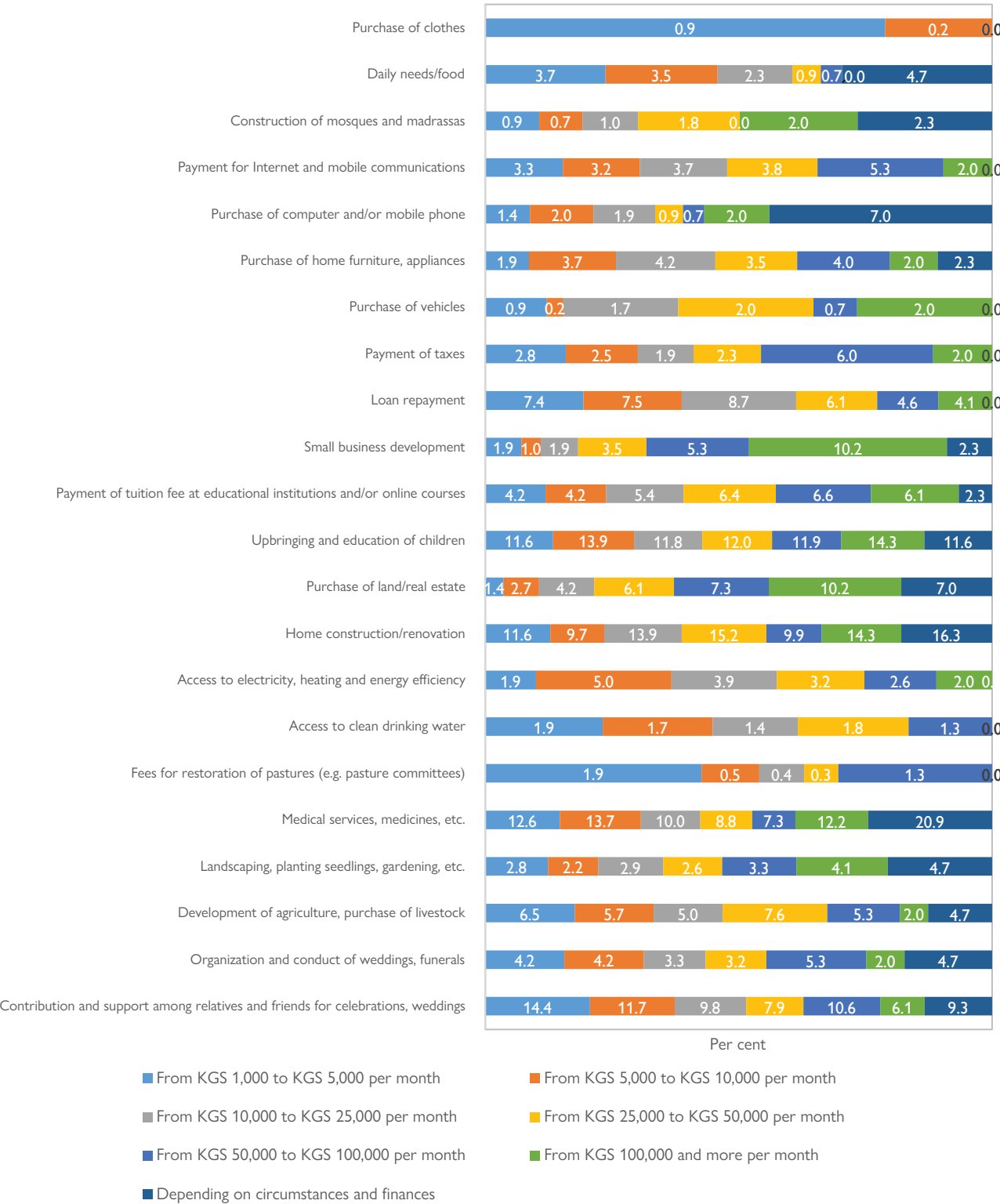


Notes: n = 611. Percentages and totals are based on responses. There are multiple responses.

In Figure 28, the following trend is observed. The most predictable expenses of respondents are associated with amounts from KGS 1,000 to KGS 10,000; the amounts of such remittances are spent across the entire spectrum of expenses suggested in the questionnaire. It should be noted that large remittances from KGS 100,000 and more are mainly spent on the following: building/repairing a house (14.3%), raising and education of children (14.3%), medical services and medicines (12.2%), purchase of land/real estate (10.2%) and small business development (10.2%), deposits and support of relatives and friends (6.1%), loan repayment (4.1%), payment of university tuition fee (6.1%) and landscaping, seedlings and gardening (4.1%). In the category of money transfers “In different ways, depending on the circumstances and

finances”, there is an interesting trend in the shares of expenses, the most significant are the following (in ascending order): for everyday needs and food (4.7%), buying a mobile phone or personal computer (7%), building and repairing a house (16.3%) and medical services and medicines (20.9%).

Figure 28. Amount of remittances relative to the needs money is spent for

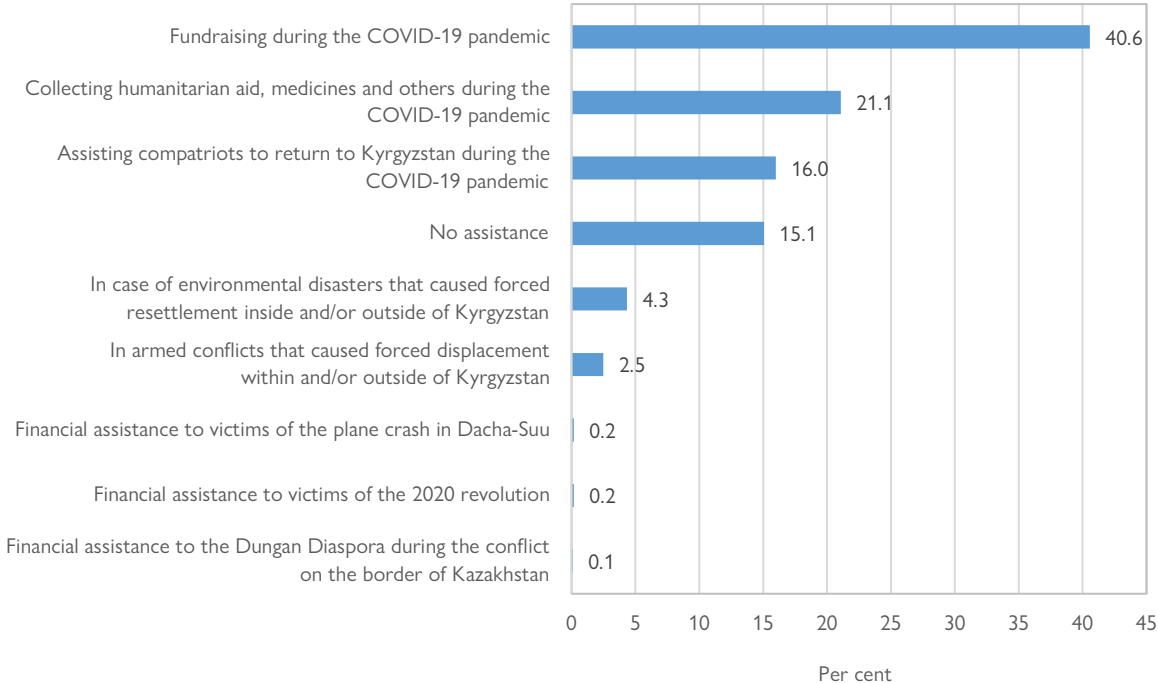


Notes: n = 597. Percentages and totals are based on responses.

4.5.1. Contribution to the development of Kyrgyzstan: Assistance provided to initiatives and projects in Kyrgyzstan

Migrants are active participants in charitable and gratuitous assistance and fundraising during emergencies in Kyrgyzstan. The degree of responsiveness and ability to raise a lot of money “many a little makes a mickle” for Kyrgyzstan became indicative during the COVID-19 pandemic, including among diaspora associations, communities and spontaneously assembled groups calling for help. Almost 41 per cent of respondents participated in fundraising during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. A little more than 21 per cent of respondents participated in the collection of humanitarian aid, medicines and others during the pandemic. The 16 per cent assisted compatriots in returning to Kyrgyzstan during the pandemic. There are 4.3 per cent of respondents (31 people in the sample) who participated in the provision of charitable aid in cases of environmental disasters that affected forced displacement in and outside Kyrgyzstan. There are 2.5 per cent of respondents who participated in providing charitable aid during conflicts, and 15.1 per cent did not provide any assistance (Figure 29).

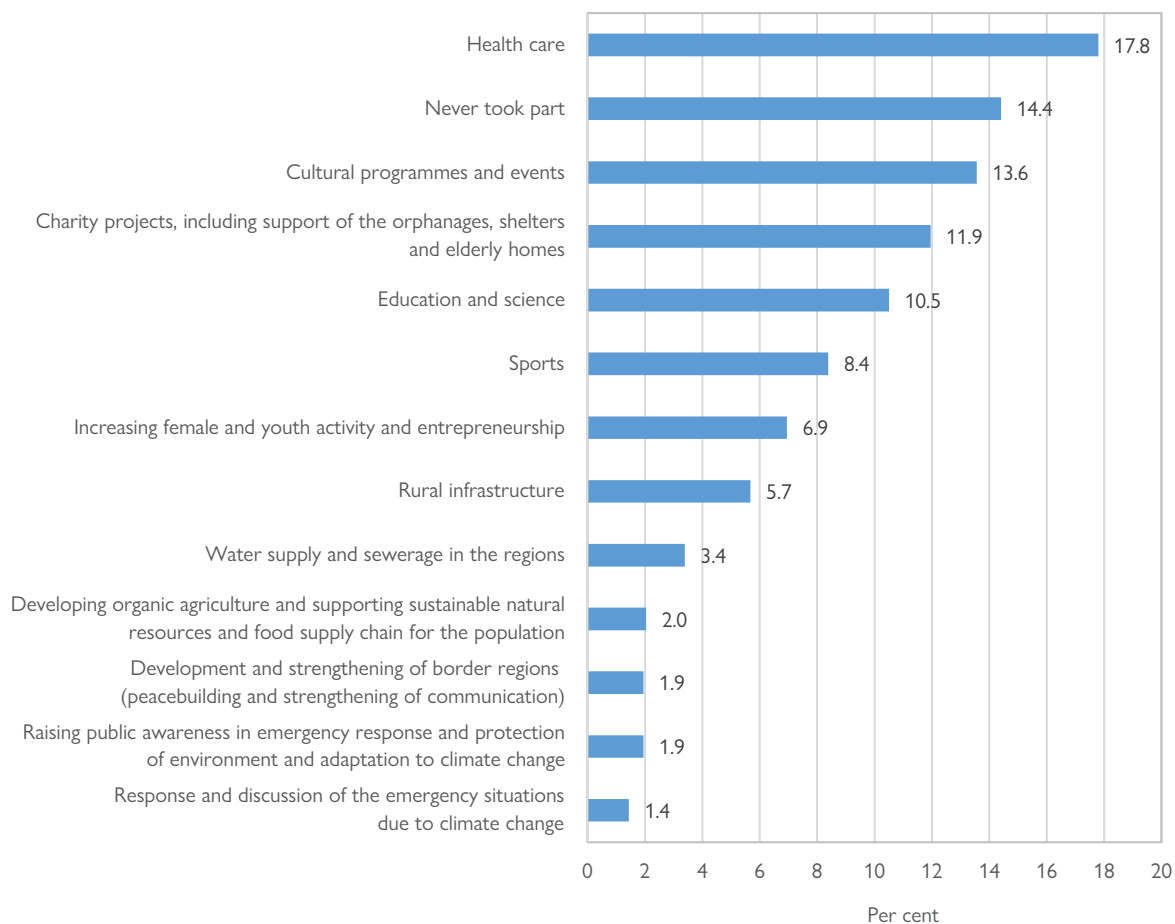
Figure 29. Participation in charitable initiatives during emergencies in Kyrgyzstan



Notes: n = 775. There are multiple responses. Responses to the question: “During emergencies in Kyrgyzstan, which initiatives of the Kyrgyz diasporas abroad and compatriot migrants did you participate in to provide charitable aid to Kyrgyzstan?”

Almost 18 per cent of respondents participated in supporting health-care initiatives, 14.4 per cent supported cultural programmes and events, almost 12 per cent took part in charities for social protection, almost 11 per cent in education and science, and 8.4 per cent in support of sports. Almost 7 per cent of the respondents engaged in initiatives to increase women’s and youth entrepreneurship, almost 6 per cent in initiatives for rural infrastructure development, 3.4 per cent in water supply and sewerage in the regions and from 1.4 to a little more than 2 per cent in initiatives on environmental issues, organic agriculture and emergency preparedness and prevention (Figure 30).

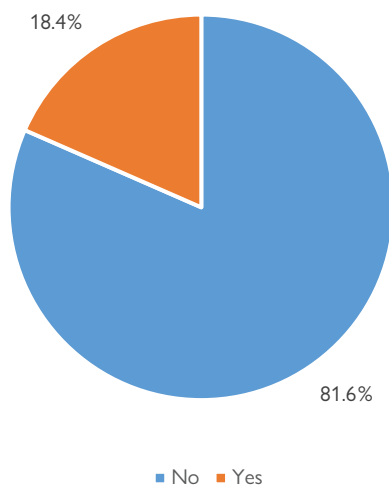
Figure 30. Participation in social and environmental initiatives that provide charitable aid



Note: n = 747.

Slightly more than 18 per cent of respondents supported organizations and businesses in Kyrgyzstan over the past two to three years (Figure 31); namely, they supported children’s homes and crisis centres, entrepreneurs, small- and medium-sized businesses, kindergartens, schools, universities, sports clubs and health centres, mosques, as well as research centres and technology companies.

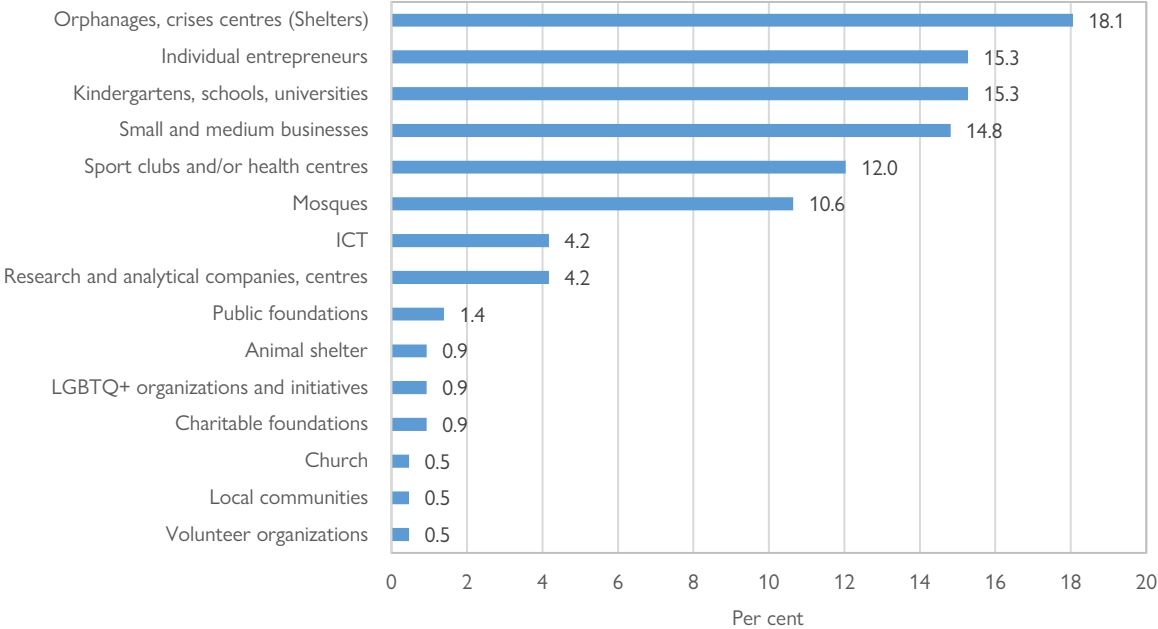
Figure 31. Support for organizations or businesses in Kyrgyzstan over the past two to three years



Notes: n = 678. Responses to the question: “Have you supported any organization or business in Kyrgyzstan over the past two to three years?”

Out of 121 respondents who supported organizations and businesses in Kyrgyzstan over the past two to three years, 1 out of 5 supported orphanages and crisis centres, 1 out of 6 supported kindergartens, schools, universities, individual entrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized businesses. One (1) out of 10 supported sports clubs, health centres and mosques, and ICT companies and research centres both received 4.2 per cent of support. Less than 2 per cent supported public funds and charitable initiatives of local communities and volunteer movements (Figure 32).

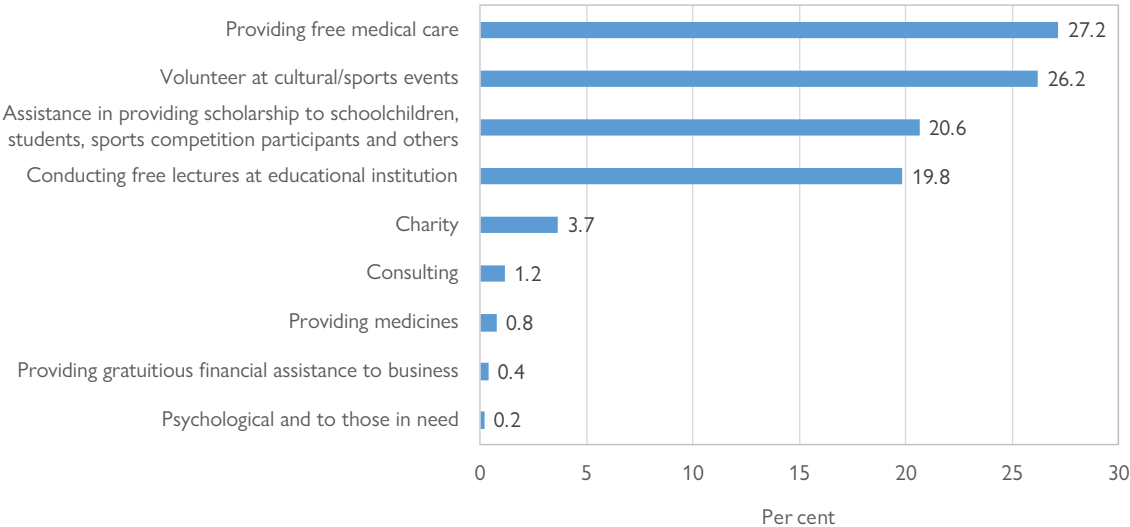
Figure 32. Organizations supported over the past two to three years



Notes: n = 121. Responses to the question: “Which type of organization have you supported over the past two to three years?”

A little more than 27 per cent of respondents provided support in the form of free medical care,³ and 26.2 per cent were volunteers during cultural and sports events. Almost 21 per cent of respondents provided assistance with scholarships for schoolchildren and students, almost 20 per cent gave free lectures in educational institutions, and almost 4 per cent supported charities (Figure 33.1).

Figure 33.1. Non-financial and gratuitous support provided to partners in Kyrgyzstan



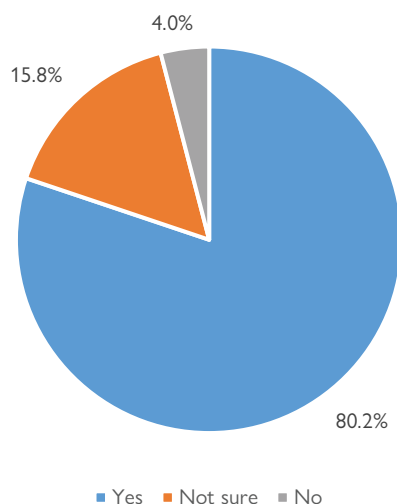
Notes: n = 410. Responses to the question: “Which non-financial and gratuitous types of support have you provided to partners in Kyrgyzstan?”

³ Probably, in part, these are medical specialists and personnel who returned to Kyrgyzstan to provide assistance during the pandemic in the summer of 2020.

4.5.2. Contribution to the development of Kyrgyzstan: Willingness or readiness to help and invest in sectors and regions in the future

A little over 80 per cent of the sample are willing to make any contribution to the development of Kyrgyzstan, 4 per cent are unwilling, and almost 16 per cent are not sure (Figure 33.2).

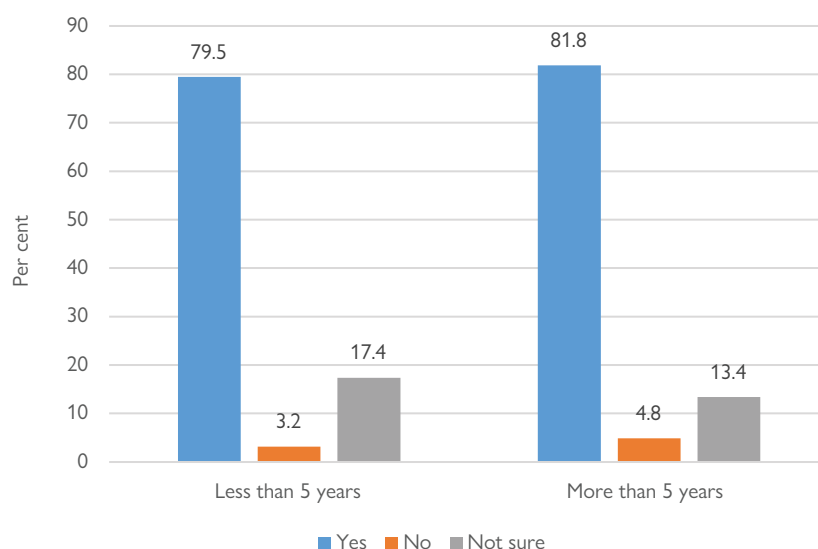
Figure 33.2. Interest in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan



Notes: n = 741. Responses to the question: “Are you interested in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan?”

Duration of stay in migration does not particularly strongly affect the interest in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan; those who are less than five years in migration are slightly less interested in investing in the development of Kyrgyzstan (almost 80%) than those who have been in migration for more than five years (almost 82%). However, those who are not sure about their contribution in Kyrgyzstan are more among those who have been in migration for less than five years; by 4 per cent less than (17.4%) among those who have been in migration for more than five years (13.4%) (Figure 33.3).

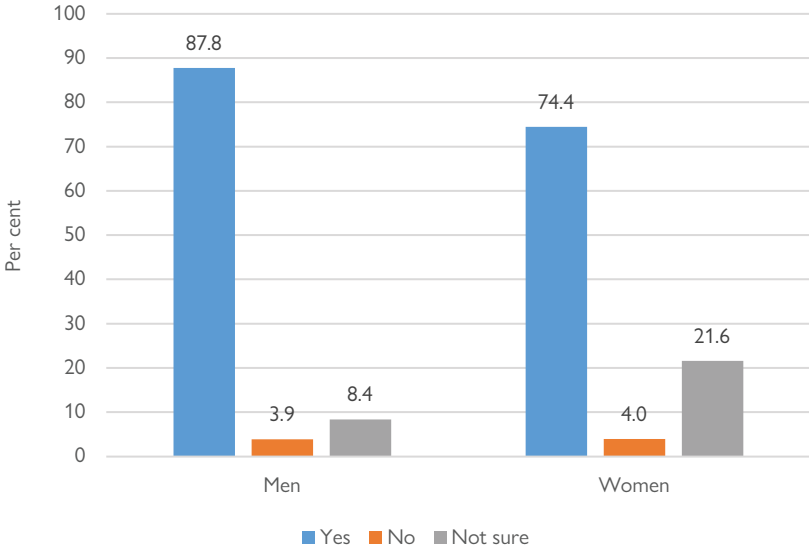
Figure 33.3. Willingness to contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan among those who left more or less than five years ago



Note: n = 732.

Male respondents (almost 88%) are much more interested in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan than female respondents (74.4%); women are much more unsure (21.6%) than men (8.4%) whether they are interested in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan (Figure 33.4).

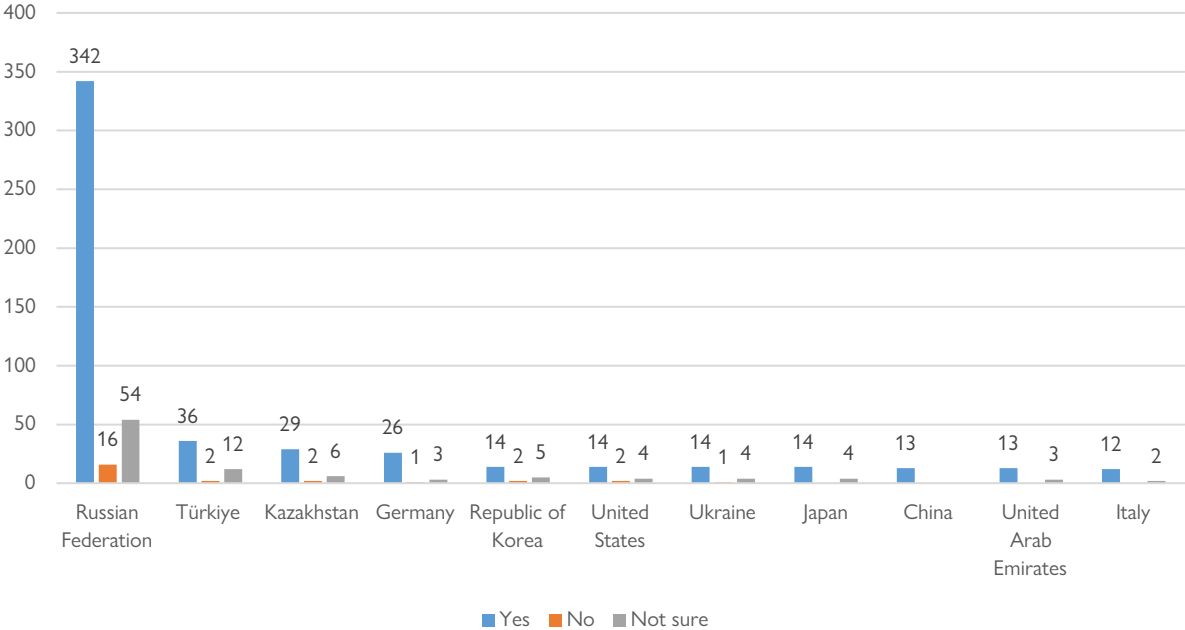
Figure 33.4. Willingness to contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan among men and women



Note: n = 738.

Among the respondents living in the Russian Federation, 342 respondents (83%) are ready to contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan, 16 respondents (4%) chose the answer “no”, and 54 respondents (13%) chose the answer “not sure”. In other countries, the shares are too small for analysis (Figure 33.5).

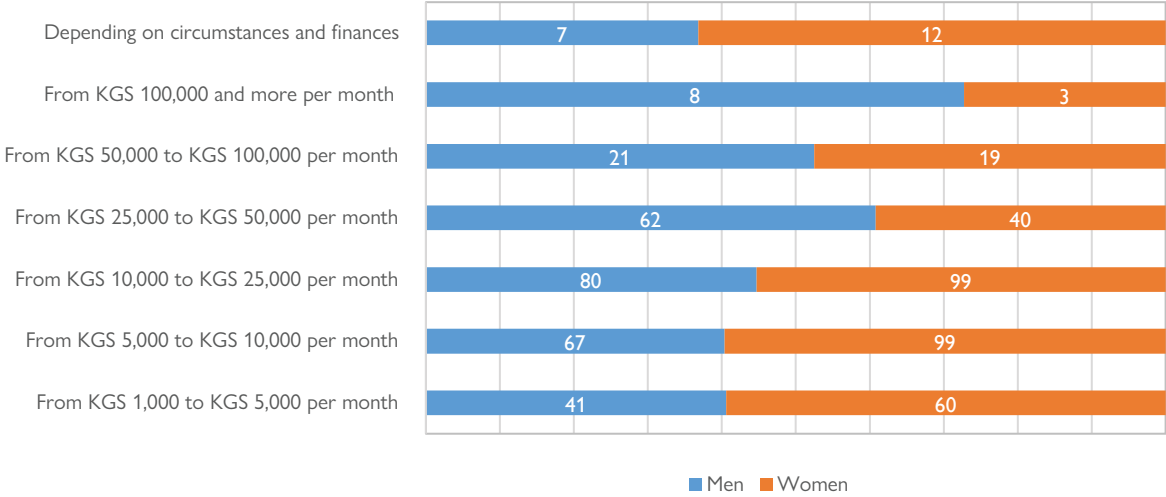
Figure 33.5. Willingness to contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan by countries of permanent residence in migration



Note: n = 738.

The amounts of remittances disaggregated by gender indicate that a large proportion of women (one third more women than men) send such amounts. A quarter more women than men send amounts from KGS 10,000 to KGS 25,000 per month. At the same time, a larger proportion of men compared to women (one third more) send remittances in the amount of KGS 25,000 to KGS 50,000 per month. However, amounts from KGS 50,000 to KGS 100,000 per month are sent by almost equal shares of both genders: 19 female respondents and 21 male respondents. Almost twice more men than women send money transfers in the amount of KGS 100,000 and more per month (Figure 33.6).

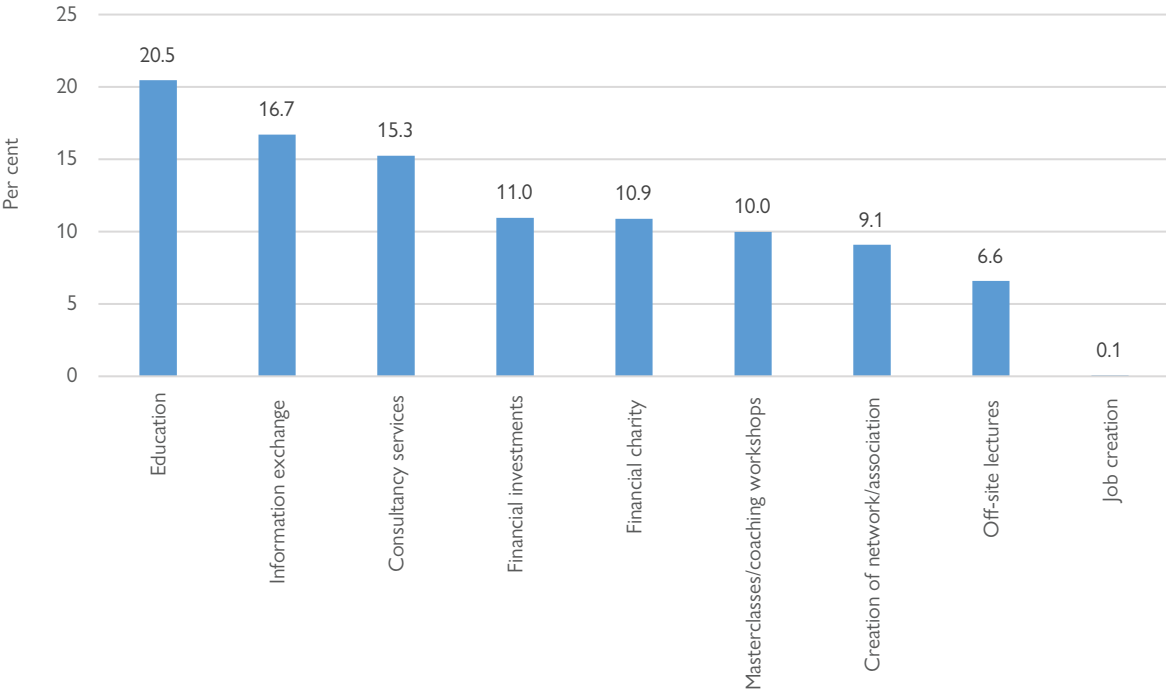
Figure 33.6. Amounts of remittances sent by men to Kyrgyzstan



Note: The number of men n = 286, and the number of women n = 328.

The respondents would like to conduct training/education (20.5%), information exchange (16.7%), consulting services (15.3%), financial investments (11%), financial charity (10.9%), master classes and coaching workshops (10%), networking/associations (9.1%) and visiting lectures (6.6%); less than 1 per cent would like to contribute to job creation (Figure 33.7).

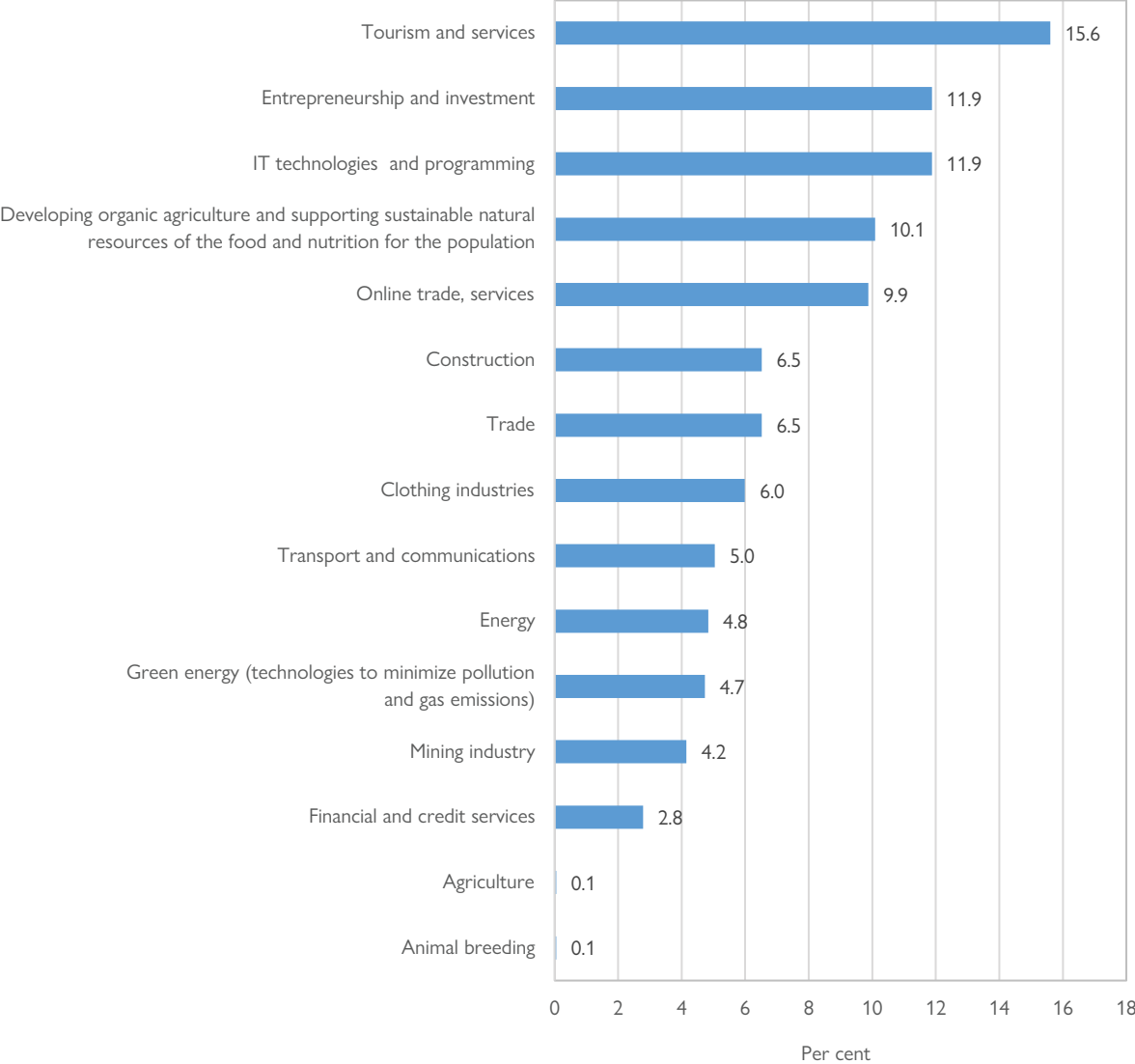
Figure 33.7. Proposed contributions to the development of village and/or extended motherland



Notes: n = 556. Responses to the question: "What contribution would you like to propose to the development of your village homeland and/or extended motherland?"

In business, about 16 per cent of respondents would like to contribute to the development of tourism and services sector; almost 12 per cent each to entrepreneurship and investment and ICT development, and almost 10 per cent to online commerce and services development. The 10.1 per cent of respondents would like to contribute to the development of business in the field of organic agriculture, and almost 5 per cent to green energy (Figure 34.1).

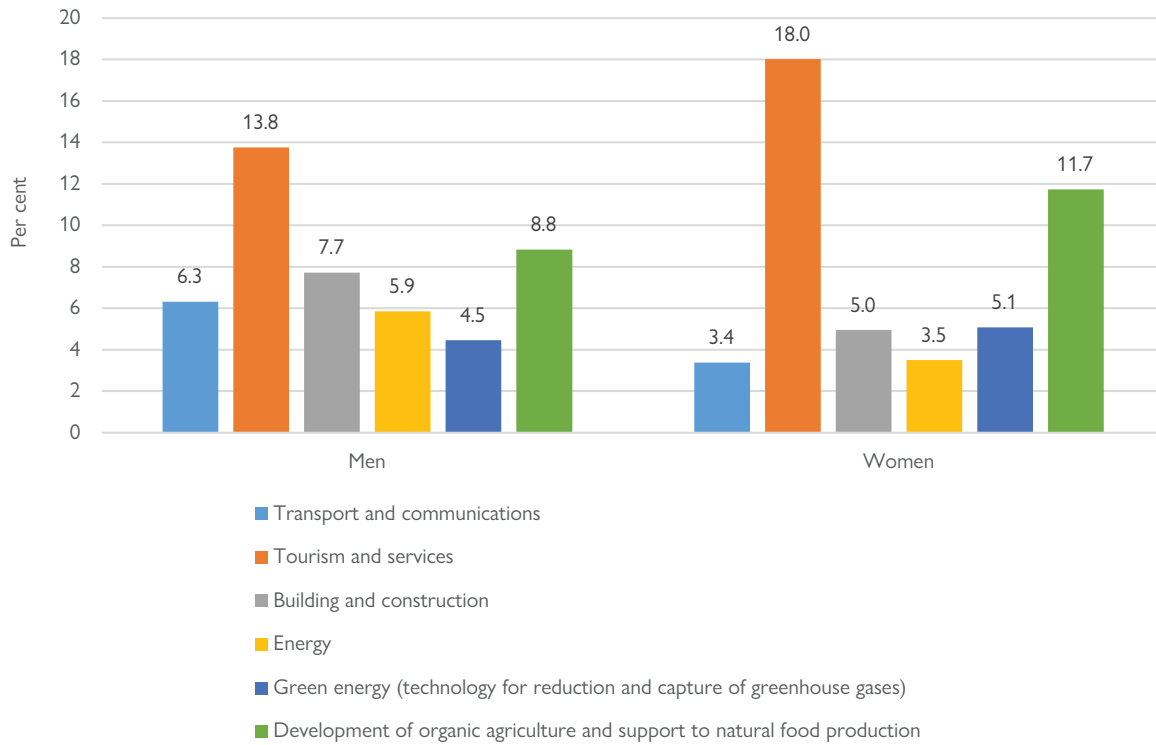
Figure 34.1. Preferred sectors in Kyrgyzstan to contribute to



Notes: n = 557. Responses to the question: “Which sectors of the economy and business in Kyrgyzstan would you like to contribute to?”

In terms of potential interest in contributing to economy and business that are linked (can be associated with) to environmental and/or climate action, the following gender variations are important: women are more likely to contribute to green, organic, ecological than men. For example, almost 12 per cent of women interested in contributing to economy and business are willing to contribute to the development of organic agriculture and natural food production compared to only almost 9 per cent of men, and 5.1 per cent of women are interested in contributing to the green energy sector compared to 4.5 per cent men. The other four sectors indicated on the figure (transportation, tourism, construction and energy) can be associated with the potential for an environmental and climate action improvements/correction; however, in all of them, men are interested more than women (Figure 34.2).

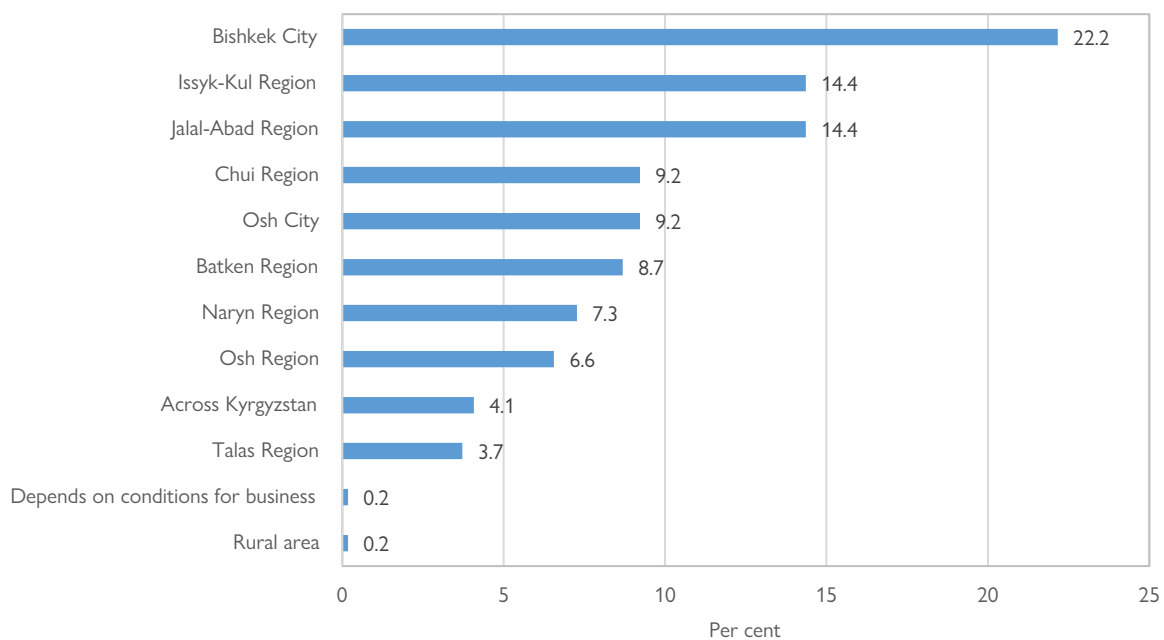
Figure 34.2. Gender variations in regards to intentions to contribute to the economy and business (with focus on environmental or climate action)



Note: Percentages and totals are based on responses.

The largest share of respondents is interested in investing in Bishkek (22.2%), followed in terms of popularity by the Issyk-Kul and Jalal-Abad regions (14.4% each). The 9.2 per cent of respondents are interested in investing in the Chui Region, and Osh City and 8.7 per cent in the Batken Region. The 7.3 per cent of respondents want to invest in the Naryn Region, and 6.6 per cent in the Osh Region. About 4 per cent want to contribute to the Talas Region, and there are also 4.1 per cent of respondents who are ready to contribute throughout Kyrgyzstan (Figure 35).

Figure 35. Preferred location in Kyrgyzstan for contributions



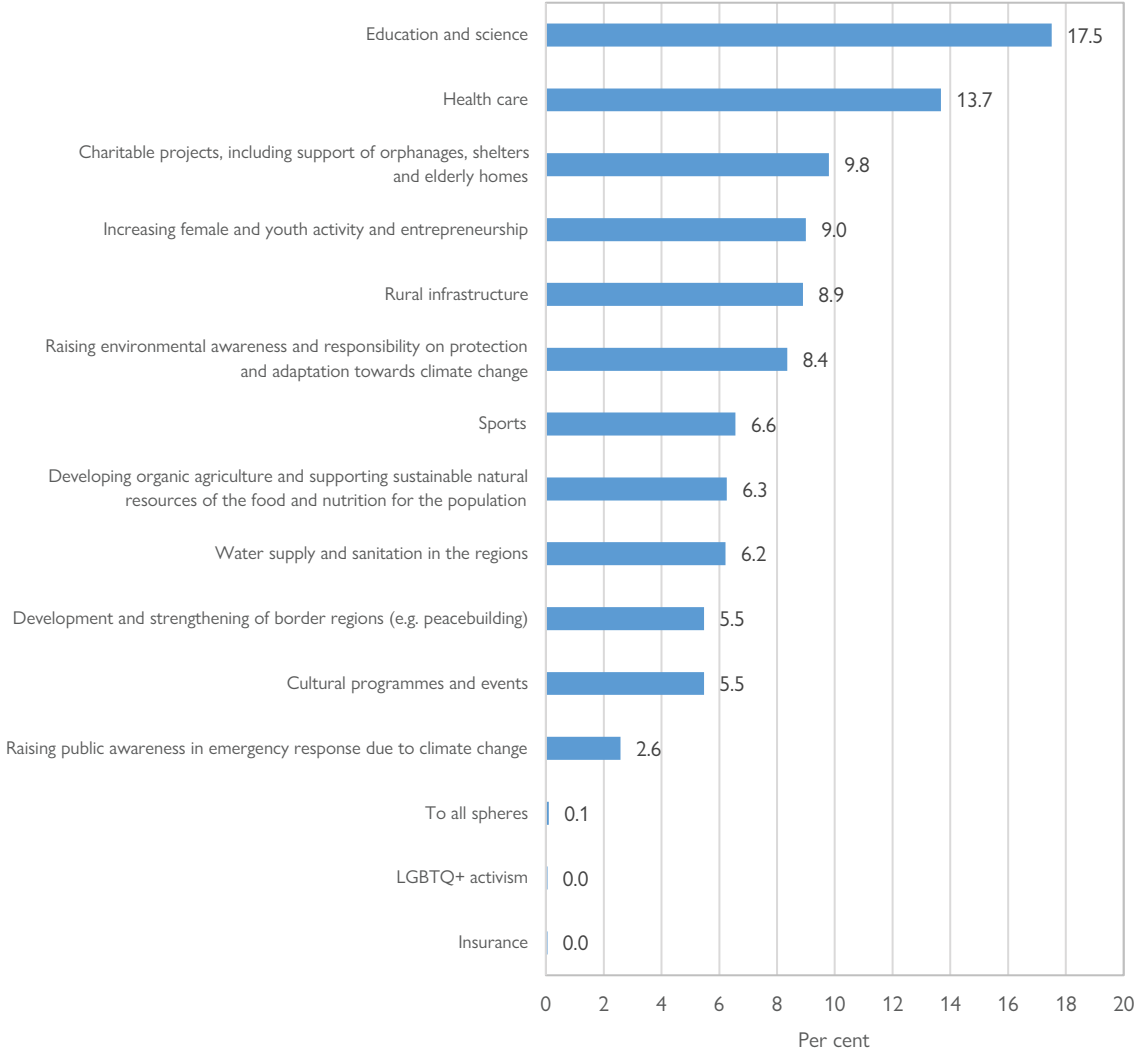
Notes: n = 564. Responses to the question: "What region, city or village in Kyrgyzstan would you like contribute to?"

More detailed information is given in Table A7 in the Annex as to which regions the respondents would like to invest in and which regions or villages they come from. The respondents tend to contribute specifically to those regions, villages or cities that they have identified as their homeland. For example, this is the case with the cities of Bishkek (86 respondents) and Osh (43 respondents), Tokmok (10 respondents), Kemin (4 respondents), Karakol (15 respondents), Kara-Balta (4 respondents), Cholpon-Ata (3 respondents), Toktogul (8 respondents), Batken (4 respondents), Kadamzhai (3 respondents), Kerben (7 respondents), Tash-Kumyr (4 respondents), Isfana (3 respondents), Aksy District (6 respondents), Alabuka District (4 respondents), Kochkor Village (5 respondents), Tosor Village (3 respondents), as well as the regions of Issyk-Kul (19 respondents), Talas (13 respondents)) and Naryn (16 respondents). In total, there are 23 respondents who are ready to contribute to the regions throughout Kyrgyzstan, including 6 people from Bishkek, 2 people from Osh, 1 from Bazar-Korgon, Tash-Kumyr, Nookat, from the village of Mirza-Aki (Uzgen district), as well as from Issyk-Kul Region (3 respondents), Jalal-Abad Region (2 respondents) and Naryn Region (1 respondent) (see details in Table A7 in the Annex).

4.5.3. Contribution to the development of Kyrgyzstan: Interest in supporting environmental initiatives in Kyrgyzstan and creating conditions for climate change adaptation

In terms of donations to the environmental projects and initiatives, 8.4 per cent of the sample indicated raising environmental awareness and responsibility, 6.3 per cent indicated development of organic agriculture, 6.2 per cent said water supply and sewerage in the regions, and 2.6 per cent answered raising awareness in emergency preparedness and response (Figure 36).

Figure 36. Preferred spheres and charities in Kyrgyzstan for contributions



Notes: n = 573. Responses to the question: “Which spheres of social and environmental protection and charities in Kyrgyzstan would you like to contribute to?”

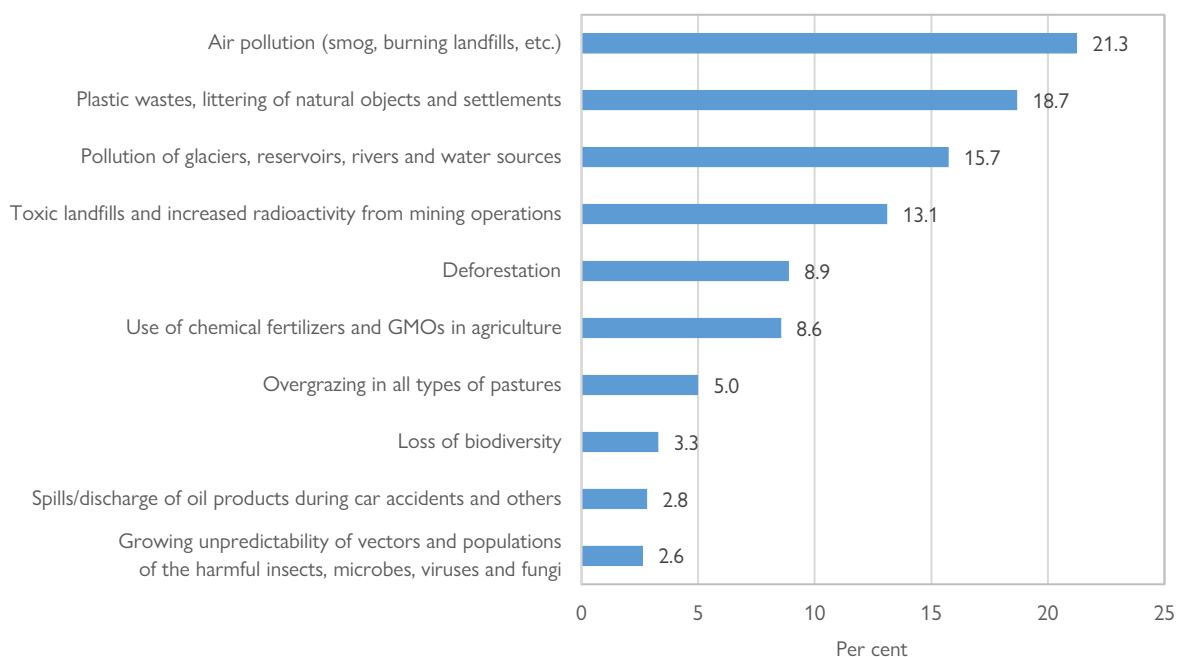
4.5.4. Priority environmental and climate issues to be addressed

The top priority environmental and climatic problems in Kyrgyzstan (see Figure 37, as well as Tables A6 and A7 in the Annex) were the following:

- 21.3 per cent of respondents indicated air pollution (such as smog and burning landfills), perhaps because a large proportion of all respondents come from Bishkek, where this problem has been very acute in the last three to five years;
- 18.7 per cent said plastic waste and littering of natural objects; the respondents from the most densely populated cities of Bishkek and Osh prioritized this problem, which is closely related to the size of landfills near settlements, as well as, of course, with a high level of activity regarding waste collection;
- 15.7 per cent answered pollution of glaciers, reservoirs, rivers and water sources, although the problem of pollution and destruction of glaciers by mining operations is much more acute from climate change perspective; less than one fifth of the sample mentioned this problem as a priority;
- 13.1 per cent said toxic burials and increased radioactivity; toxic burials and radioactivity most likely seem to respondents a problem at the State level/importance, and therefore regular people do not care much, especially since such problems are usually not solved individually or even at the community level;
- 8.9 per cent answered deforestation; surprisingly few respondents mentioned this problem as a priority, most likely they do not acknowledge the importance of forests as one of the main sinks of greenhouse gas emissions;
- 8.6 per cent said the use of chemical fertilizers and GMOs in agriculture; in the context of the country, even if there are about 10 per cent of those who consider chemical fertilizers and GMOs to be an environmental problem, this is already a pretty good indicator;
- 5 per cent indicated overgrazing on all types of pastures; here again, an unexpectedly low indicator is observed, despite the fact that many respondents come from agricultural regions; it is possible that the connection between the health of pastures, sod and grass cover as the main absorbers of greenhouse gas emissions is not entirely clear to them.

Only 3 per cent of respondents chose loss of biodiversity, and less than 3 per cent said oil spill during car accidents, as well as increasing unpredictability of growth of populations of harmful insects, microbes, viruses and fungi as priority environmental problems to be addressed. This fact again demonstrates a low level of understanding of the problems of climate change and ecosystem degradation in Kyrgyzstan, thus indicating that the lack of problem understanding delays its solution, and, above all, more thoughtful planning and policy development in this regard.

Figure 37. Environmental problems in Kyrgyzstan that need prompt solutions

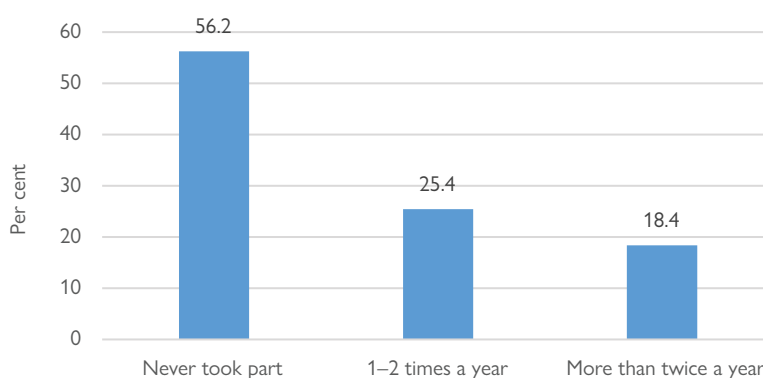


Notes: n = 825. Responses to the question: “In your opinion, which environmental problems in Kyrgyzstan need prompt solutions?”

4.5.5. Participation and interaction with compatriots in the destination country: Diaspora initiatives and activity of migrants

More than half of the sample (56.2% of respondents) have never participated in events related to Kyrgyzstan and organized by the diaspora. The 25.4 per cent participate in the events at least one to two times a year, and as many as 18.4 per cent of the sample are active and constant participants in the events organized by Kyrgyz diaspora abroad (Figure 38).

Figure 38. Frequency of participation in Kyrgyzstan-related and diaspora-organized events



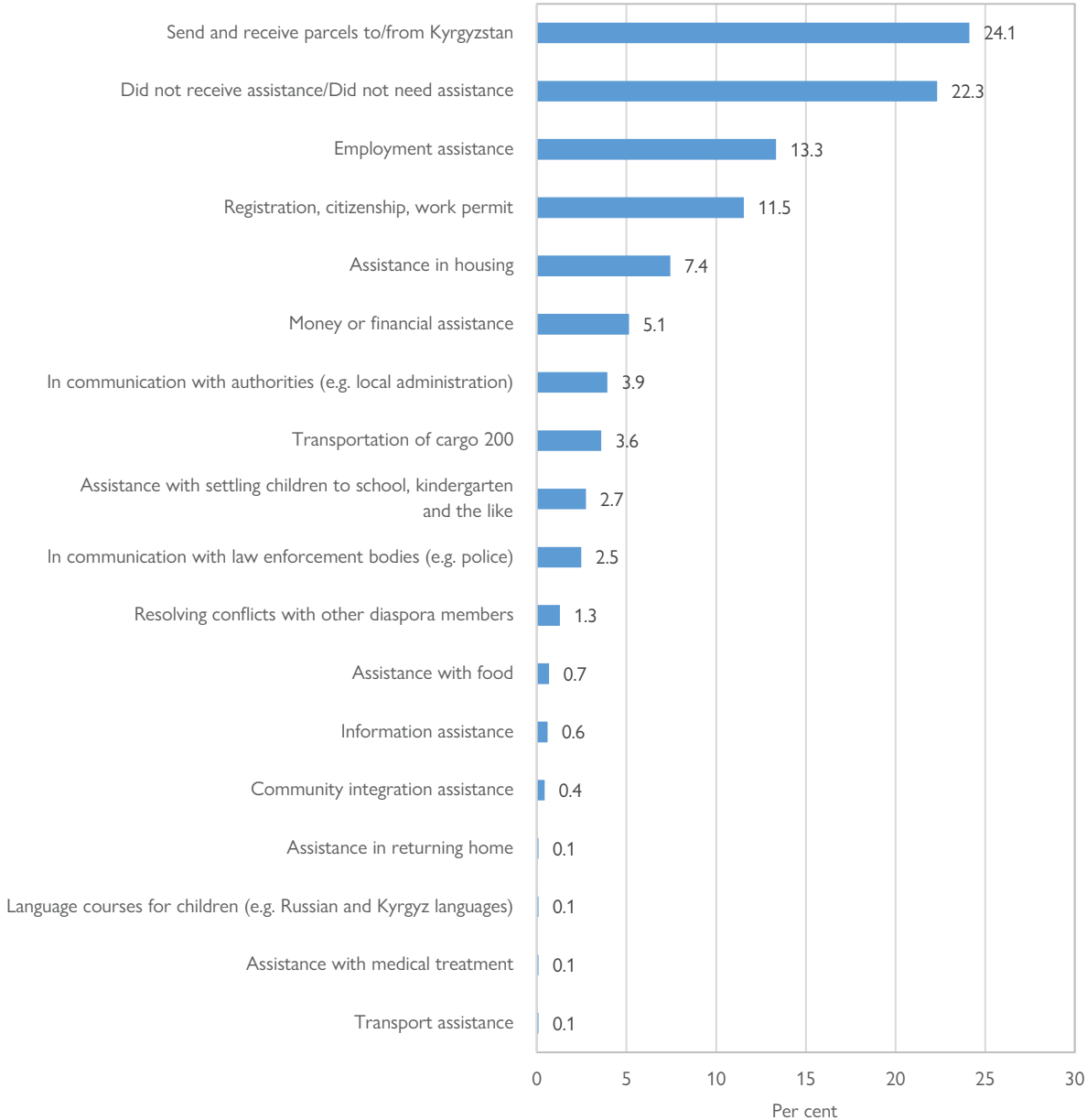
Notes: % of n = 964. Responses to the question: “How often do you take part in the events related to Kyrgyzstan and organized by the diaspora?”

IN THE 2015 MAPPING

About half of the respondents (45%) have never taken part in the events of diaspora associations of compatriots in their host countries; 25 per cent are active participants in diaspora events, and 30 per cent participate in diaspora events at least once or twice a year.

The 22 per cent of the sample indicated that they did not need help from the diasporas while being in migration, but the remaining 88 per cent needed and received assistance from fellow countrymen and migrant associations in their countries of permanent residence. For example, 24.1 per cent received assistance in sending and receiving parcels from Kyrgyzstan, 13.3 per cent in employment, 11.5 per cent in registration, obtaining citizenship and other official documents, 7.4 per cent received help with housing, as well as in enrolment of migrant children in educational institutions (3% of the sample). In addition, 5.1 per cent received assistance in the form of cash, almost 4 per cent received assistance from the diaspora in dealing with authorities in the countries of their permanent residence, 2.5 per cent of respondents received assistance from the diaspora in communicating with law enforcement agencies, and 1.3 per cent in resolving conflicts with other diaspora members. Only 3.6 per cent (about 34 people in the sample) received assistance from fellow countrymen and diaspora associations with transportation of “cargo 200” (Figure 39).

Figure 39. Assistance received from fellow countrymen or migrant associations in the country of permanent residence in migration



Notes: n = 855. There are multiple responses.

To the question “What opportunities do communication channels create for you?” a larger number and greater share of respondents showed interest in receiving help from communities and diaspora associations than to the question of received help. Thus, the reasons for communication and participation in diasporas and the reasons for using social networks and mobile applications for communication are identical, pragmatic and practical: they keep in touch to get help. Almost 25 per cent of respondents communicate to send or receive parcels to and from Kyrgyzstan, 18.5 per cent to get help with finding a job, and less than 12 per cent each to get help with housing and with citizenship registration, work permits and the like (Figure 40).

Figure 40. Perception on opportunities from communication with compatriots or migrant associations in the country of permanent residence in migration

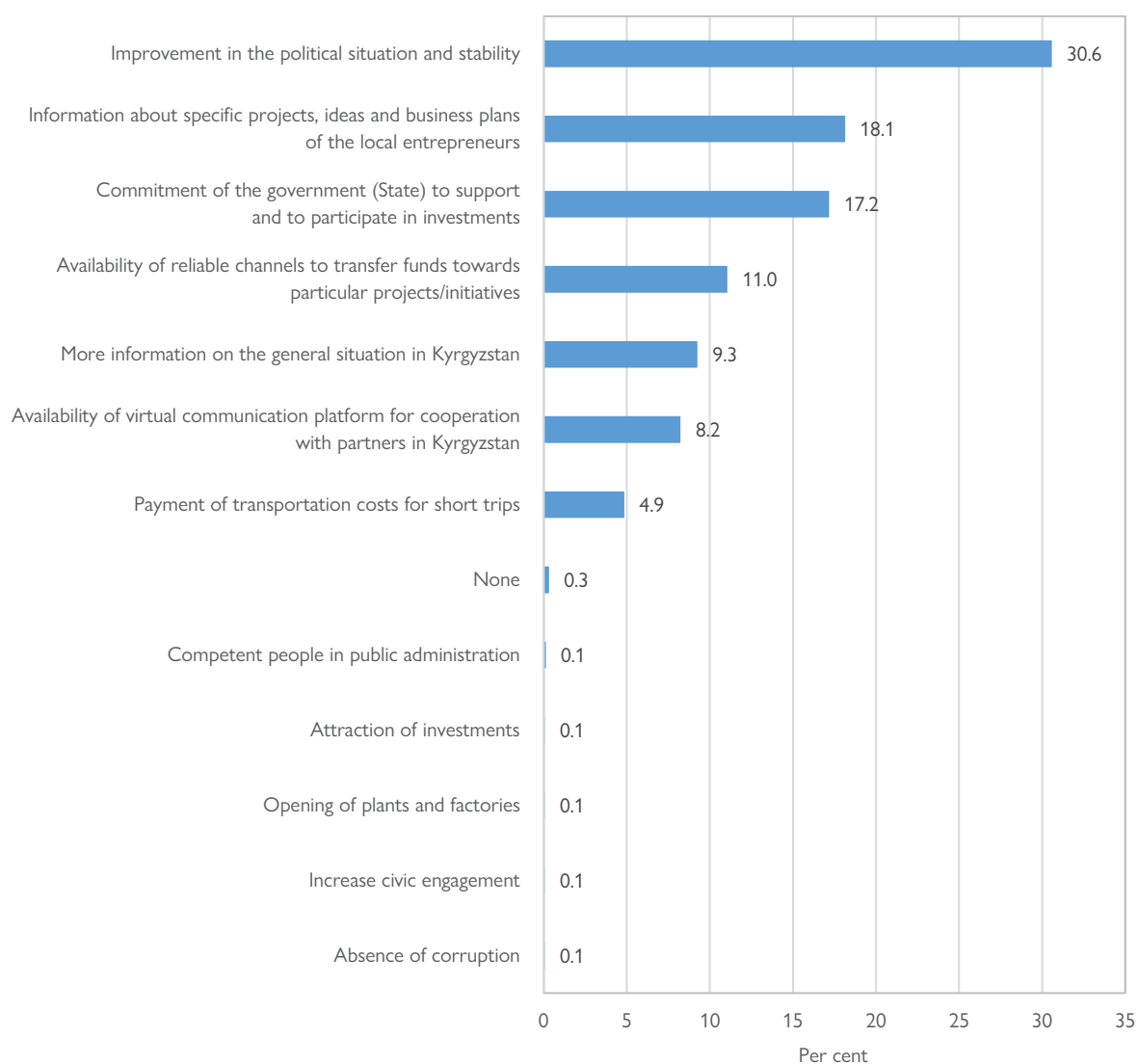


Notes: n = 608. There are multiple responses.

4.5.6. Reasons and obstacles for better interaction of compatriots with each other within the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad and with partners in Kyrgyzstan

The following can help strengthen migrants' interest in taking part in development initiatives in Kyrgyzstan: 30.6 per cent indicated improvement of political situation and stability, 18.1 per cent indicated information on specific projects, ideas and business plans, 17.2 per cent indicated obligations from the part of the State, 11 per cent indicated the availability of reliable channels for funds transfer, and 8.2 per cent of the sample indicated availability of a virtual communication platform for cooperation with partners in Kyrgyzstan (Figure 41).

Figure 41. Changes to support interest in participation to initiatives for Kyrgyzstan's development

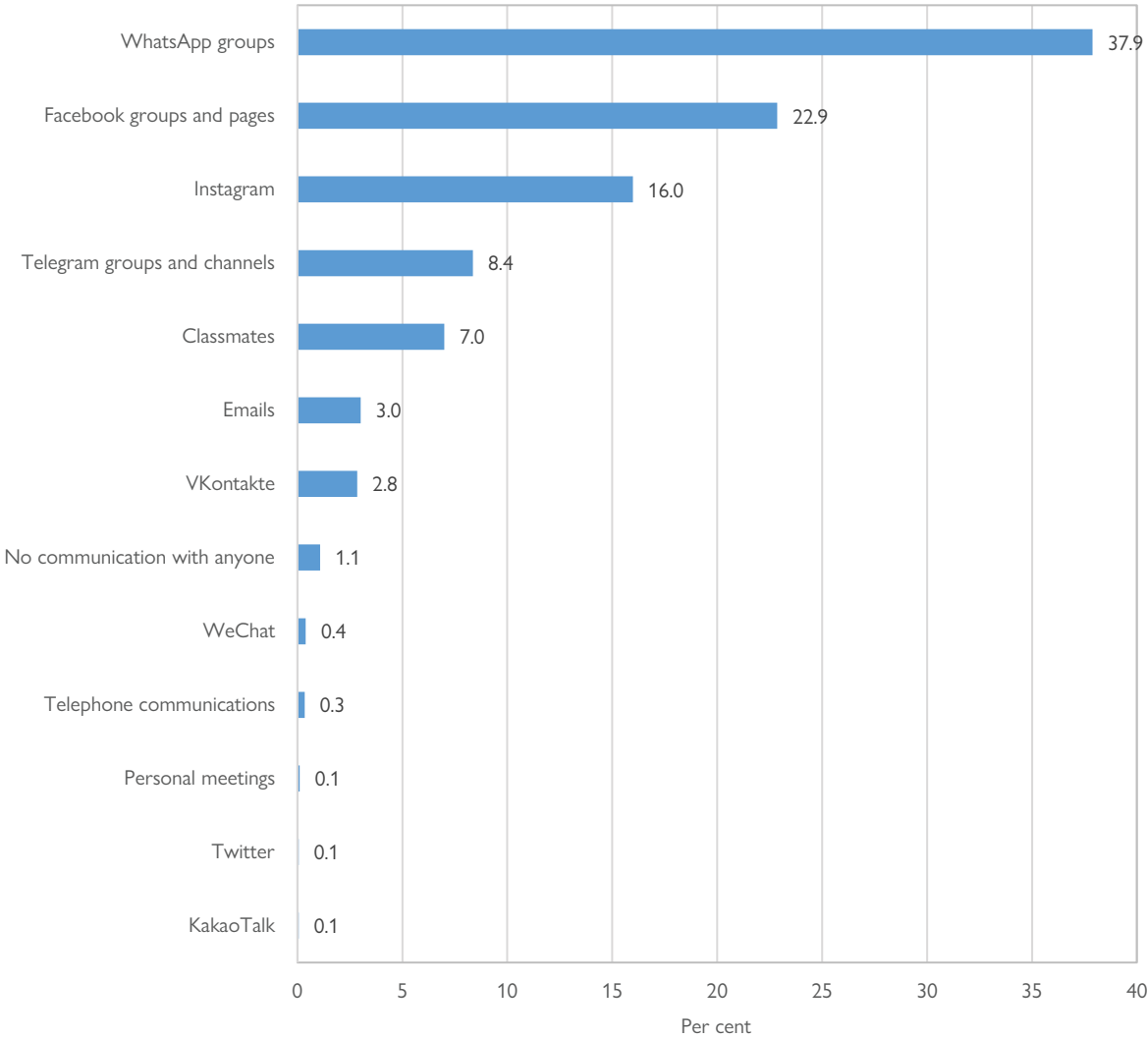


Notes: n = 680. Responses to the question: "Which changes would support your interest in taking part in the initiatives of Kyrgyzstan's development?"

4.5.7. What communication channels are used and what communication platforms are needed

WhatsApp is the most common communication channel for respondent migrants between themselves, which makes up almost 38 per cent of the sample. Also, Facebook (22.9%) and Instagram (16%) are leading as communication channels for Kyrgyz migrants abroad. Telegram channels and groups are used by slightly more than 8 per cent of the sample, and the sample also included regular users of social networks Odnoklassniki (Classmates) (7%) and VKontakte (2.8%) (Figure 42).

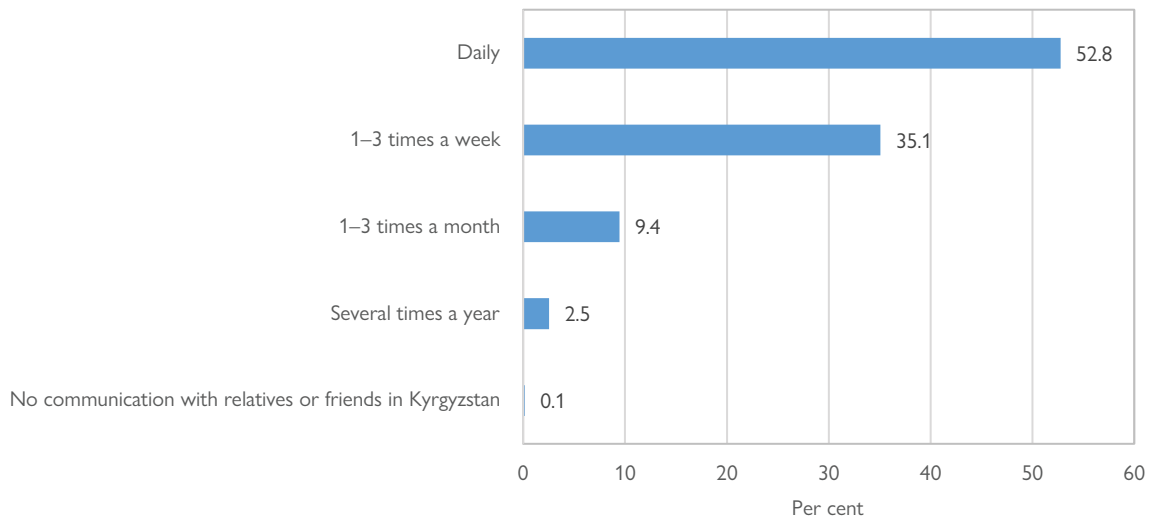
Figure 42. Channels used for communicating in country of permanent residence in migration



Notes: n = 850. Responses to the question: “Which communication channels do you use to communicate with your compatriot migrants in the country of your permanent residence in migration?”

Almost 53 per cent of respondents communicate with their relatives and friends through online and mobile channels daily. The 35.1 per cent communicate from one to three times a week, and 9.4 per cent from one to three times a month (Figure 43).

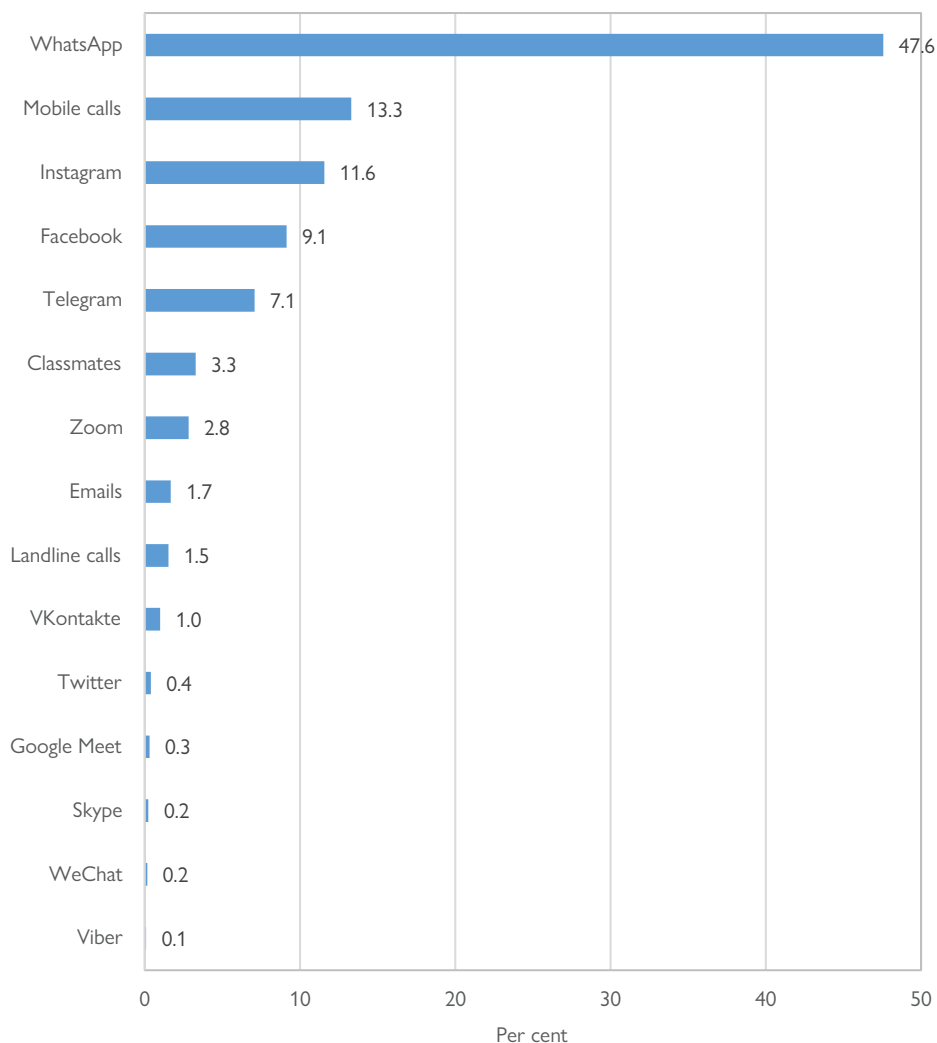
Figure 43. Frequency of communication with family and friends in Kyrgyzstan



Notes: n = 667. Responses to the question: “How often do you communicate with your relatives and/or friends/acquaintances in Kyrgyzstan?”

To communicate with their family, relatives and friends, the respondents use WhatsApp (47.6%), mobile calls (13.3%), Instagram (11.6%), Facebook (9.1%), Telegram (7.1%), Classmates (3.3%) and Zoom (2.8%), and there are almost 2 per cent of respondents who communicate via email.

Figure 44. Means of communicating with family and friends in Kyrgyzstan



Notes: n = 667. Responses to the question: “Which means do you use to communicate with your family members, relatives and friends in Kyrgyzstan?”

IN THE 2015 MAPPING

The frequency of communication of compatriots with their relatives, friends and acquaintances in Kyrgyzstan is daily for 28 per cent of the respondents; from one to three times a week for 45 per cent; from one to three times a month for 19 per cent; and several times a year for the 7 per cent. Compatriots actively use electronics, ICT, social media and mobile devices to communicate with their relatives in Kyrgyzstan: 17 per cent of respondents use Skype, 15 per cent use WhatsApp, 15 per cent use Facebook, 13.2 per cent through mobile calls, 9 per cent via email, 9 per cent use Viber, 8 per cent use Classmates, and 4 per cent by fixed-line phone.

CHAPTER 5

ANALYSIS AND CONSOLIDATION OF SEMI-STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW DATA

This study consolidated the interview results through three research questions:

- (a) Is there a relationship between the structure or level of organization of diaspora associations and the approach to building working and educational projects and investment ties between the migrants' native towns (i.e. village homeland), the extended motherland and the migration destination countries/towns?
- (b) Is participation in the diaspora associations a truly unifying, structuring and stabilizing factor in order for international remittances of Kyrgyz migrants to be saved and/or invested in development projects in Kyrgyzstan?
- (c) What interests, projects and initiatives of leaders and activists of the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad can speak/testify that their leadership is aimed at establishing communication channels both for work, recreation, logistics and creativity in the destination countries, and for the development projects in Kyrgyzstan?

SSII with compatriots abroad included questions of a sociodemographic nature about the respondent, as well as about the organizational structure of the diaspora organization, which were completed in writing by the interview participants before the telephone interview. In the Zoom ("telephone") interview/conversation, the rest of the SSII questions were asked.

In total, 21 people from 13 countries took part in the SSIs. Participants were included in the sample based on the following characteristics:

- Heads and leaders of diaspora organizations;
- Migrants with knowledge and experience of contributing to aid and/or investment initiatives in Kyrgyzstan;
- Migrants who are interested (who have already shown their interest) in contributions and investments in the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan.

Demographic data of the interviewees, information about diaspora structure, as well as the status of membership in associations were the answers to the SSII questions part A and part B:

- 9 respondents of 21 are men and 12 are women.
- Average age of SSII participant is 43 years old.
- All participants have experience of membership in diaspora organizations, or in informal initiative groups.⁴ There are 13 representatives of diaspora organizations with legal status and 6 members of informal initiative groups. One (1) respondent participates in the events of compatriots, but

⁴ As part of the SSII analysis, initiative groups are groups of compatriots in social networks that are permanently operating or created for specific purposes.

there is no diaspora association in the destination country. One other respondent was a member of an informal group of women from Kyrgyzstan. After three years of existence, the group broke up “due to the fact that the group members were not quite ready to equally invest energy, time and knowledge in order to unite our fellow citizens and carry out the work for which this group was created” (according to Respondent no. 10, female, 53 years old, from the United States, ex-head of the initiative group, has experience).

- The activities of most associations are geographically limited to the country of official registration or the location of the leader/office of the association.
- Almost every association has an official page on Facebook; for communication within the association or with compatriots in other countries, mainly WhatsApp messenger is used.
- On average, the duration of association existence is eight years.
- In addition to cultural events, diaspora organizations are working to support and provide advice to newly arrived compatriots.
- Members of associations are not yet ready to pay membership fee regularly; fundraising is carried out when necessary and on a voluntary basis.
- All age categories are present, from children to people of retirement age; about 40 per cent of members of associations are women.
- The respondents most often named NGOs that mediate charitable assistance as their partners in Kyrgyzstan.

5.1. KYRGYZ DIASPORA ABROAD AND THE PRINCIPLES OF UNIFICATION

Is there a relationship between the structure or level of organization of diaspora associations and the approach to building working and educational projects and investment ties between the migrants' native towns (i.e. village homeland), the extended motherland and the migration destination countries/towns?

The response to the first survey question about the relationship between the structure or level of organization of diaspora associations and the extent to which a responsible or thoughtful approach to building working, educational, project and investment ties in a small and destination country is evidenced by this section on the principles of unification in the context of life in migration. The most common answers to the question about the principle of uniting people in countries of permanent residence in migration included the following: (a) preservation of the tradition and culture of the Kyrgyz people; (b) mutual support of compatriots; (c) for work or study; (d) holding events; and (d) association of fellow countrymen.

One of the respondents spoke about the chronology of changes in personal motives of compatriots for unification.

“ At first, many people gather according to their ethnic origin, due to the desire to be in cultural environment that they used to. Then, to find people who could be useful in looking for work and connections. According to my observations, usually such acquaintances and connections do not last long. The next stage is when people form small groups of interests, age, intellectual level and social status. Usually, such groups consist of four to six people, nothing more.

– Respondent no. 10, 53-year-old woman from the United States, ex-head of the initiative group, has experience supporting charity projects back home

It is assumed that belonging to a homeland is rather a significant connecting factor for the joint activities of compatriots, including those in different countries.

“ Here we were able to organize small regional communities of natives from the regions of Issyk-Kul, Osh, Jalal-Abad, Batken, Naryn, Talas and Chui. And these seven communities are still subdivided into district communities. These district communities are subdivided into village communities. And it seems to me that in this regard, we are approaching the perfection of supporting each other. The Kyrgyz diaspora is divided into cells; small Jamaats help their fellow countrymen who are in trouble, and money is collected faster.

– Respondent no. 4, 36-year-old man from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora organization

Stability or, on the contrary, the instability of diaspora communications between compatriots is not guaranteed by the country or the region, and divisions exist everywhere.

“ It is very difficult to unite Kyrgyz or Kyrgyzstanis in Canada, because everyone has their own personal goals and ambitions. Some of them do not want to communicate.

– Respondent no. 14, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora organization

Participation and interaction with compatriots in the destination country is sometimes competitive (divisions along regional, ethnic and religious grounds); however, the difficulties of migration experience and the desire to stabilize in migration and help others in this matter prevail and play the role of a unifying motive. Since participation in diaspora and compatriot groups and associations allows for more efficient and better-quality employment for migrants, this is also a strong motivator for uniting migrants abroad. Organized diaspora ties are welcomed; more trust is built both among migrants and among organizers of charitable assistance initiatives, as well as among initiators of business, economic, social and environmental projects, including investment initiatives.

“ I created diaspora to overcome such misunderstandings among migrants as tribalism, regionalism, religious divisions and sectarianism. Instead of separating from everyone, I wanted to join them. We work on legislation, to educate young people, participate in sports competitions and help young people to participate in such events and fight for sports titles and recognition. There is already more than 2,000+ people in our organization, but 257 active people can be included in one WhatsApp group, and it turns out that they are those active people in the diaspora. The Kyrgyz have such an expression “Kyrgyz is always looking for his relatives”, that is how they come to the Russian Federation. I came through my relatives, at first in Krasnoyarsk, and then slowly moved to Abakan.

– Respondent no. 19, 45-year-old male from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association

The desire to help as “migrant solidarity” – to each other, migrants, compatriots, those who stayed in Kyrgyzstan – is one of the powerful motives for unification. The majority of compatriots, regardless of their plans to return to Kyrgyzstan, have a great desire to help Kyrgyzstan in any possible and not complicated format. Some of them are already providing some assistance, and all of them, one way or another, participated in charity events during the outbreak of the COVID-19 in 2020 in Kyrgyzstan.

Two respondents were pessimistic about their involvement in development initiatives in Kyrgyzstan. Thus, one of them believes that compatriots who have no relatives in their homeland are not interested in maintaining contact with Kyrgyzstan.

“ We are apprehensive for the country, of course, but I will not say that I really empathize very much, to be honest. Yes, and I see this in many here, everyone worries only for his family as it were, supports, perhaps, I'm kind of biased. But basically, all migrants who leave are in search of something better, you know, for the family, for themselves, for their children. Oh, well. Those who, for example, have no one there, I know several families with no one is left there, someone left for the Russian Federation, someone somewhere else. We have no ties with Kyrgyzstan at all, that is, they are absolutely. They even here do not seek to communicate with their people, so they move on.

– Respondent no. 9, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora organization, group of those interested (who have already shown their interest) in contributions to the regions, projects in Kyrgyzstan

(Similar views from Respondent no. 4, 36-year-old male from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora organization.)

However, the majority of SSIs did not confirm this statement, because respondents who do not see their future or the future of their children in their homeland still want to contribute to the development of the country. The second respondent has extensive experience of contributing and expresses dissatisfaction with the dependent attitude of his compatriots.

“ After they (donors) stopped funding, no one arrived. This dependent, parasitic attitude always knocks me off balance. Only 10 or 15 per cent of this aid is beneficial, whereas people are used to receive it. For 25 years of experience, I sort of have cooled down from such patriotic or maximalistic sentiments.

– Respondent no. 15, 56-year-old woman from Germany, diaspora organization member, has experience on contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

The threat in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic also served as the basis for improving management, organization and efficiency in uniting the efforts of compatriots from different countries.

“ We help not only in emergency situations, I would say, but these emergencies (for example, a pandemic) motivate people to help more, because here many compatriots are already established entrepreneurs, businessmen and at such moments they did not stand aside; they helped.

– Respondent no. 4, 36-year-old male from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora organization

At that, partners from among the recommended individuals and organizations that provide reports on the use of funds received were selected. Transparency of disbursement procedures and provision of reporting documents turned out to be extremely important for donors within the diaspora.

“ I always grow circumspect a little about various donations, because the money may not reach the addressee. ... We are just looking for ways how, to whom, what exactly is needed, and how to do it all so that I also have some kind of invoices for purchases and others in order to be accountable to society.

– Respondent no. 15, 56-year-old woman from Germany, diaspora organization member, has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

“ In our Scottish community, we created Biz Birgebiz because we needed transparency, something so we could keep them accountable. We made Biz Birgebiz together as a GoFundMe. They gave us photo reports on all the money we raised. We collected about USD 24,000.

– Respondent no. 12, 46-year-old woman from Scotland, has experience of making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

Diaspora members are more responsible in choosing a partner and building financial ties, since the rules of the diaspora require reporting. Moreover, diaspora members collectively decide on the selection of projects for investment, which allows them to discuss all pros and cons.

“ We always discuss any issues in the board of directors, just because someone alone does not make such decisions and does not do everything he wants, because it is strictly regulated by the Government. Transparency should be in all organizations. Every year, we provide reports to our members, including financial ones. Everything is transparent, and everyone sees everything; therefore, we are discussing all of this.

– Respondent no. 9, 41-year-old, woman from Canada, head of a diaspora organization, a group of those interested (who have already shown their interest) in contributions to the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

A compatriot who supports projects individually does not require any official reporting. However, when it comes to efficiency in building ties with the migrants' village homeland and the so-called extended motherland, then, regardless of the status of a compatriot (whether one is a member or not of any diaspora organization), the efficiency of the organizers is not enough; there are other factors that are important to convince migrants to contribute to causes.

The head of diaspora organization in the Republic of Korea talks about humanitarian aid in the form of medical supplies offered by a Korean charity organization for Kyrgyzstan during the pandemic. However, two 40-foot containers were not received due to the high cost of freight.

Compatriots demonstrate their willingness to provide more help to the regions. This trend can be seen in cases of humanitarian aid during a pandemic, as well as in development initiatives. With all the assistance provided by compatriots from abroad, there is a focus on certain tasks, while some important needs may

be overlooked. Shared calendars are a useful tool for coordinating the work of the diaspora with projects in Kyrgyzstan, including the following:

“ Here in Germany, in any case, there are many associations doing some useful activities to unite them all so that there is a calendar on who does what activity so that they do not overlap.

– Respondent no. 1, 34-year-old male from Germany, from a group of those interested (who have already shown their interest) in contributions to the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

Compatriots may be aware of the priority tasks, but they have to choose from according to their financial capabilities.

“ The main problem in our village is, of course, drinking water and running water. According to preliminary data, we calculated that a lot of money would be needed. ... And we thought, let us start with the gym, since it will not require as much money as water supply.

– Respondent no. 2, 38-year-old male from China, member of the initiative group, random sample

5.2. CONDITIONS FOR BETTER INTERACTION BETWEEN MIGRANTS AND THEIR DIASPORA ASSOCIATIONS, BETWEEN DIASPORAS AND SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES IN KYRGYZSTAN IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

The answer to the question, “Is participation in the diaspora associations a truly unifying, structuring and stabilizing factor in order for international remittances of Kyrgyz migrants to be saved and/or invested in development projects in Kyrgyzstan?”, analyses the following aspects:

- Conditions that motivate compatriots abroad to be involved in the development of Kyrgyzstan by overcoming obstacles for better interaction with diasporas and compatriots;
- Ways to improve cooperation between diaspora associations and specific settlements and authorities at the local community level;
- Lessons, experience and elements of assistance and mutual assistance that a compatriot individually and within diaspora associations abroad showed to each other and benefited from such interaction, which can be tried and scaled up for assistance projects in Kyrgyzstan.

However, the main obstacle faced by migrants in development initiatives implementation is the lack of feedback from Kyrgyzstan.

“ There are problems with communication, with correspondence. The second problem we faced was the inertness of local people, their unwillingness and inability to be open to something new.

– Respondent no. 10, 53-year-old woman from the United States, ex-head of the initiative group, has experience of supporting charity events

The respondents have repeatedly made attempts to provide gratuitous assistance, but they failed to build the required communications.

“ We initiated a large project in the field of health care and wanted the specialists to come. Our society (diaspora associations) was ready to pay for their accommodation, flights and meals, so that they would come and see this project – this digitalization in the field of health care. All letters remained unanswered by Kyrgyzstan. No, even at the level of a piece of paper; there is no responsibility on the part of the government agencies in Kyrgyzstan. I can confidently spell this out – there are such obstacles at the level of government agencies. They just do not want to hear us, listen and continue to work.

– Respondent no. 13, 43-year-old, woman from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association

Diaspora associations need local partners who are expected to manage the initiatives.

“ We wrote a couple of times, and wrote to the mayor’s office, and to the ayil okmotu. But we were simply given the addresses and contact details of those in need. It would, of course, be good (about involvement of the State (author’s note)), but no matter how hard we tried, we kept getting an address, and we just had a destination where we had to send all this (money, aid).

– Respondent no. 5, 28-year-old male from Germany, member of the initiative group, random sample

At the same time, migrants implementing projects request support from the State. The most cited request is co-financing. Technical and expert support, as well as simplification of bureaucratic procedures were mentioned, but much less often.

“ There is also a 1+1 programme, which previously worked in Ukraine, Tajikistan, Republic of Moldova and so on. Many of our compatriots entrepreneurs want to invest in Kyrgyzstan, but they need support from the State, from the Ministry of Finance, so that they can subsidize half of this money, help, lend, and the like.

– Respondent no. 4, 36-year-old man from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association

Judging by the initiatives that are implemented, the responsiveness of State bodies at local government level is higher.

“ It is necessary to fundamentally reconsider the role of State institutions and not towards control, but towards attracting investments from the Kyrgyz people abroad, to provide motivation and bonus programmes for this.

– Respondent no. 12, 46-year-old woman from Scotland, has experience of making donations and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

In this view, it makes sense to conduct communications between a migrant and his homeland through local (municipal) government bodies.

“ For me, for example, even in the case of water supply system, if we collect the required amount of money, could the State, on its part, participate in the design there, send specialists; they, for sure, work in some ministries, in some institutes, competent specialists, for example, in this area. And then they can calculate technically, make an estimate, then lobby all this through the institutes, then they also need to get permission from certain State institutes.

– Respondent no. 2, 38-year-old man from China, member of the initiative group,
random sample

Thus, according to the proposal of one of the interview participants, *ayil okmotu* can monitor needs and submit priority projects for consideration by compatriots at permanent communication platforms.

“ They (*ayil okmotu*) should organize chats, communities, contact everyone and identify and formulate any projects with the communities.

– Respondent no. 2, 38-year-old male from China, member of the initiative group,
random sample

“ And look what happened, that is, since we are from Issyk-Kul, we applied to the governor and explained our diaspora structure, our readiness to cooperate with the administration of the Issyk-Kul Region. The administration of the Issyk-Kul Region did with a good grace in this regard. They invited me to their place; we travelled all over the Issyk-Kul Region. In each district we spoke, talked about our experience in entrepreneurship.

– Respondent no. 4, 36-year-old man from the Russian Federation,
head of a diaspora association

There are good exceptions to the rule, real success stories, despite all the conditions and conventions that hinder the promotion of joint work.

“ At the level of local *ayil okmotu*, at the level of regional *akimiat*, they are ready to cooperate in every possible way. One comes with ideas, they answer well, we support, we can do everything. As a result, the head of our district, *akim*, he still managed to include our gym in the plan of the State. He promised and included it in the plan and began to build at the expense of the State.

– Respondent no. 2, 38-year-old man from China, initiative group member,
random sample

Respondents are annoyed and worried about the current situation in the country.

“ So much money is sent, where it all goes? The situation in Kyrgyzstan itself is so unstable that people do not even want to invest there. They simply don't believe anymore.

– Respondent no. 9, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora association, a group of those interested (who have already shown their interest) in contributions to the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

Creation of conditions for business development in the regions would stimulate migrants to return, but still conditions and resources, which many times exceed the possibilities in Kyrgyzstan, are becoming the main mechanism for retaining Kyrgyz migrants in Russian Federation and other countries of the world.

“ Conditions have not been created in Kyrgyzstan for us to create humanly comfortable conditions for ourselves and our business. In the Russian Federation, motivating conditions have been created for individual entrepreneurs (IE) in farming, for example, I can receive 250,000 rubles as an individual entrepreneur, engage in farming with a guarantee of job creation. It is necessary to work with such a grant from the State for at least one year and submit reports. In Khakassia, Kyrgyz cattle farmers show the best results in cattle breeding (out of 100 rams, they get offspring and profit, the Kyrgyz grow their herds well); they work better than local Russians and Khakass. Conditions in Abakan are calmer. The mayor and the head of the region check the lands every day, communicate directly with the people, solve problems; they found a stolen phone for me in three days, for example. In Kyrgyzstan, there is no such support from government agencies.

– Respondent no. 19, 45-year-old man from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association

5.3. WILLINGNESS OR READINESS TO INVEST, MONEY TRANSFERS, INCLUDING THROUGH COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS AND SPECIAL FUNDS

Diasporas and their members are ready to further invest financially in the development of the village homeland and the extended motherland, village homeland and the extended motherland.

“ They (compatriots) themselves called our consulate and said: “Where do they collect money? I want to transfer money. Those girls who transferred large sums, I am very grateful to them.”

– Respondent no. 12, 46-year-old woman from Scotland, has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

In terms of money transfers, the following trend is observed in the responses of respondents. Compatriots whose closest relatives stay home send money regularly and in larger shares of their income than compatriots who are in migration with their relatives. The latter send money in cases of need.

“Of course, I came, first of all, for the sake of my relatives, so that my brothers would live well, so that they would not face such difficulties that I faced. I would say I transfer some 20 per cent (about the amount of remittances in relation to family income).

– Respondent no. 6, 43-year-old woman from Austria, initiative group member, interested (had already shown her interest) in contributions and investments in the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

On average, the share of remittances in family income of migrants ranges from 10 to 20 per cent. Typically, senders know how funds are used.

“I know, for kid’s shoes, for school, for food, for potatoes, for everything, just to live. To my relatives in Uzgen on my mother’s side, constantly every month for EUR 30–40, someone is short of something there. I constantly send and of course, my heart hurts seeing how they live, what they live on, how they are treated. It is just a nightmare.

– Respondent no. 8, 40-year-old woman from Belgium, head of a diaspora association, chosen from snowball method

However, there is a demand for ordering and systematization of such cash contributions.

“And many people cannot afford certain facilities. But if these local specialists unite, then it is possible to build these facilities together for the money of several people. When you talk about a project, you announce the amount, but it is often too much for one person, and when several people, several dozen people unite, it will be not so expensive then.

– Respondent no. 2, 38-year-old man from China, member of the initiative group, random sample

Several respondents noted that it was possible to unite efforts of compatriots through online communication platforms.

“There is no information available, no platform where you can find out everything that would help us a lot.

– Respondent no. 14, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora association, chosen from snowball method

During the pandemic, when many compatriots abroad tried to help the country, the lack of necessary information and reliable contacts created obstacles or delayed the process.

“ To be honest, I just couldn't find a school principal in my area many years ago, but the computer room could have been created with the help of the Russian Embassy, but I couldn't find a responsible school, and so I left.

– Respondent no. 7, 58-year-old man from the Russian Federation, diaspora association member, random sample

In this regard, the interviewees suggested creating an information resource containing potential development projects, as well as areas for charitable aid.

“ Diaspora organizations of Kyrgyz migrants could unite, communicate, exchange experience, since there are so many talented, knowledgeable, experienced specialists among us. Such a platform could open the way for many people, create conditions, for example, we could devote one to two hours a week to such communication and training. You can send us your questions, and we will try to share our knowledge and experience. The State should help in this regard. Whether someone is in England, in another European country. After all, this is a powerful force. Universities can be attracted. Diasporas can be directly connected with local authorities, at the aimak or village level, information should be received openly, and organizations and specialists could take on the work with which they can help. Then we will hear not only Bishkek, but also the voice of the village. However, it is necessary to make sure that everything works like a dream, according to the rules, according to the norms, and not this “kyrgyzchylyk style” – a single behavioural standard is needed in order for it all to work. You need to clearly distinguish between personal and professional issues. One head is good, but two heads is better. We need to work in a team; we learn from each other; each has its own strong side, weak side. We will support each other, teach each other. It is with such cooperation that the norm and the creation of rules and order begins.

– Respondent no. 20, 35-year-old female from the United Kingdom, head of the initiative group, random sample

On the other hand, the participants also see the point in creating a development fund, where the funds of migrants (diasporas) from different countries will be accumulated to finance projects and charity activities.

“ In the future, it would simply be possible to open some kind of a fund, a unified development fund. So that not the State controlled it, even if there will be some organization of representatives of the Kyrgyz diasporas.

– Respondent no. 16, 30-year-old woman from Qatar, head of the diaspora association

At that, the management of the fund is seen in the person of the diaspora or an NGO.

“ From the non-governmental sector, most likely (about who could head the fund (author's note)), because most of the compatriots abroad are losing confidence in government agencies. I, too, would not send money to replenish the balance of our State.

– Respondent no. 16, 30-year-old woman from Qatar, head of a diaspora association

One of the diaspora association heads believes that the diaspora leader should also work towards motivating community members to participate in the national development initiatives.

“ First of all, we are talking about young professional specialists who could take part in solving strategic issues for the country. However, as noted by the interviewee, young diaspora members are not interested in participating in classical events held by the diaspora, namely at “toys” (banquets) and concerts. This group needs to be brought to business sites.

– Respondent no. 13, 43-year-old woman from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association

Considering this statement, as well as the responses of respondents about the types of activities of the diasporas in the destination countries, the following could be concluded: cultural events and advisory activities, which many diaspora associations are engaged in, do not create an environment for creation and development of the initiatives to support and invest in Kyrgyzstan.

Better coordinated and strategically developed system is needed for cooperation of diasporas between themselves and with various partners in Kyrgyzstan (State, municipalities, local communities, business, youth, women, activists and community leaders).

“ There should be some kind of a structure in place in order to consolidate all diaspora public organizations from all over the world, so that it would go from one hand, not so chaotically. Here I am sitting sending something, no one sees, but on the ground, at some level, I can solve some small problems. This is also a plus. On the other hand, when we get together, when we are consolidated, some fund, some kind of consolidated association would be able to collect this from all over the world. Let it regulate our actions so that we, too, do not remain unheard, unseen, unaccepted, namely between us and between the State body, there should be some kind of organization that would regulate these public organizations from all over the world, all these receipts, aid, all these charitable deeds.

– Respondent no. 13, 43-year-old woman from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association

5.4. CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO IMPROVE COOPERATION BETWEEN DIASPORA ASSOCIATIONS AND THE NATIONAL HOMELAND, INCLUDING THROUGH COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS AND SPECIAL FUNDS

The respondents in the relationship between the diaspora and the country understand the State as the country. According to the SSII results, the following challenges in the relations between diasporas and the State have been identified so far.

First, quite often, the diasporas in their destination countries perform functions of diplomatic services. Citizens of Kyrgyzstan are accustomed to seeking advice from diaspora associations, whose members do not receive monetary remuneration for the work performed.

“ Well, we are meeting halfway; they consider us employees of the civil service. All the same, we need to work so that people do not feel indignant. We need to talk to people. There are not enough documents; we need to talk. And it turns out, I am here between the consular department of the embassy – the intermediary.

– Respondent no. 7, 58-year-old man from the Russian Federation, diaspora association member, random sample

Secondly, members of diaspora organizations do not feel that the relationship is mutually beneficial. Diplomatic services, and government institutions in general, in critical situations turn to the diasporas for help; whereas the State itself, as a rule, forgets about the diasporas, which have the status of public organizations.

“ For example, this year you turn to us for help, but usually the diaspora bodies are in last place. Nobody pays attention to us; they look at us as if we should work for free. Well, this is also wrong. And when they need something, they always turn to the diasporas, like our embassy. Problems – they call, they say: “Please, there are people left, here they are left on the beach.”

– Respondent no. 17, 57-year-old woman from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association, chosen from snowball method

Thirdly, the voice of the diasporas must be heard, as well as supported or marked in some way in order to consolidate the “good practice”.

Diasporas provide significant assistance to the country and need recognition.

“ I know a lot of guys who do a lot for their homeland, for their country. But even the State does not express gratitude to these guys. They could write some piece of paper and say: Well done, you have done a lot for the country. We believe you; you will do more. This piece of paper would give an incentive, motivation 10 times more.”

– Respondent no. 3, 42-year-old man from Ukraine, diaspora association member, has experience in contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

In case of constructive dialogue between the diaspora and the State, as the interviewees emphasized, there will be real opportunities for the development of the country.

“ And for one and a half years, we have been very actively cooperating with the administration. From the part of the administration, it was easy to use its administrative resources, organize a platform, invite us, and organize a business meeting – a regular meeting with compatriots. As a result, the administration wrote letters of thanks, letters of gratitude, certificates of honour, some kind of recognition to each of our activists. And from the administration, I saw a little recognition of my compatriots. And this is what our compatriots were actually happy about. That is, they realized that all this help that they provided to their homeland was not in vain. I mean, they were heard, seen, recognized in the end. The guys said, “You were great. Without you, it would be hard for us.” From this period, our compatriots began to work doubly, initiative groups were created and money were sent to their village for construction of facilities. That is, here, the spirit returned from the State, from the administration of the Issyk-Kul Region, in this case, there was a counter response. And these small recognitions, in a sense, are enough for our compatriots. Now, if this is done in each region, each region will work with its fellow countrymen abroad, fellow countrymen are ready to do a lot for this region and the administration understands this more and more.

– Respondent no. 4, 36-year-old man from the Russian Federation,
head of a diaspora association

At that, individual respondents noted the need for participation of different diasporas and members of diasporas, not only privileged ones, and those who achieved ambitious goals.

For such cooperation to take place, the respondent considers it necessary to invite the heads of local administrations and acquaint them with the activities of local diasporas.

“ Before we interest our diasporas or investors, we must work very carefully within Kyrgyzstan. To prepare, give them a ready area where they can invest and where they can get results. Our migrants abroad do not know enough in which areas there are good projects. When you do not know, you are looking by yourself. This experience is too expensive, and it loses money. And when the governors or our local governments give ready-made projects, here is such a project, we give such conditions: you will not pay taxes, come and invest. And each region should attract its own guys, their fellow countrymen.

– Respondent no. 3, 42-year-old man from Ukraine, diaspora association member,
has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

Another respondent also talks about his experience of communication with local administration. The Naryn Community Foundation solves local problems and unites the efforts of local authorities and compatriots abroad. When creating the foundation of the Naryn community in Moscow, the governor of the region came and awarded the title of honorary citizens of the region (according to Respondent no. 17, 57-year-old woman from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association, chosen from snowball method).

5.5. ON POSSIBLE RETURN TO KYRGYZSTAN, UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES, INVESTING IN CLIMATE PROJECTS

Regarding the question “What interests, projects and initiatives of leaders and activists of Kyrgyz diaspora abroad can speak/testify that their leadership is aimed at establishing communication channels both for work, recreation, logistics and creativity in the host countries, and for development projects in Kyrgyzstan?” the following sections of the report provide insights to motivations to return to Kyrgyzstan, communication channels and understanding of environmental and climate problems and readiness to work on projects related to them, as well as justification as to why and how to build communication channels and platforms and funds for these purposes.

5.6. WILLINGNESS TO RETURN, OBSTACLES AND MOTIVATION TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY

First-generation migrants often have nostalgic moods, but the desire to create a better life for their children stops them.

“ But we are conscious people. There are a lot of things to be analysed. Upon analysis, we understand that today there still is an old system in Kyrgyzstan; a system of corruption still exists, and we do not see any prospects in this regard. Therefore, I have to wait every time I am going to return. I have to postpone it for two to three years each time, but there are intentions.

– Respondent no. 3, 42-year-old man from Ukraine, diaspora association member, has experience of making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

Fear of an obsolete system and a bureaucratic machine that stands in the way of life causes cancellation of plans to return to their homeland.

“ Of course, I thought about it. But the only thing that stops me, as I said above, is a terrible bureaucratic machine that can impede advancement of an idea, which, instead of motivating, threatens safety of my invested funds, that is, if one’s luck changes. These are the two most basic issues.

– Respondent no. 11, 53-year-old male from Switzerland, head of a diaspora association

Basically, a better life implies good education.

“ What a person needs to be given ... a person needs to be given a good education, to teach him how to live correctly, that’s it. A person, if he has arms, legs, thank God, he will earn enough and that is it.

– Respondent no. 9, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora association, has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

The next most popular answer to the question about the conditions for returning is the answer about a decent job:

“ *If I had an interesting job that I liked and the salary was normal, I would return ... maybe.*

– Respondent no. 8, 40-year-old woman from Belgium, head of a diaspora association, chosen from snowball method

Reduction and complete elimination of corruption is also one of the primary conditions for the return of compatriots.

“ *I am confident in myself; if I return, I will get a job somewhere. But the wages are scanty. To do this, one needs some kind of capital, personal investment in one's own business. One needs to do something besides working somewhere in a State structure. For example, if I become a teacher, I do not want to take money from students but just want to teach them.*

– Respondent no. 16, 30-year-old woman from Qatar, head of a diaspora association

All three respondents, who do not associate their future with Kyrgyzstan, indicated differences between their views and that of local society. Each of them feels comfortable in the destination country and prefers to visit the relatives in Kyrgyzstan for a short time.

“ *Over the past 15 years, I left after the first revolution. Nothing has changed at all. It even gets worse every year, and I understand that tatterdemalions come to power every time. There is no such person who will come and work. And there will probably not be for another 100 years, unfortunately.*

– Respondent no. 9, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora association, a group of those interested (already shown their interest) in contributions to the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

Half of the respondents do not associate the future of their children with Kyrgyzstan.

“ *At the moment, I don't see it, because I think that if they were already born here and think freely, they say what they think and do so. It will be very difficult for them in Kyrgyzstan.*

– Respondent no. 15, 56-year-old woman from Germany, diaspora association member, has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

Thus, in contrast to the desire to help the village homeland and the extended motherland (a.k.a. national homeland), there is a reluctance to leave “a civilized country and return to corruption and smog”. Migrants do not trust authority institutions and do not see opportunities to be included in decision-making processes. As a consequence, it is considered more effective to participate in development initiatives outside of politics and while being in another country.

“ I certainly miss my homeland very much. And before the birth of my daughter, before I started a family here, 50 per cent of my soul was for me to return. But for the sake of safety and the future of my daughter, I still do not think that I will ever really return to Kyrgyzstan to stay.

– Respondent no. 6, 43-year-old woman from Austria, initiative group member, interested (already shown the interest) in contributions and investments in regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

Migration experience pushes for an involuntary comparison between the life in their current place of stay and life in Kyrgyzstan.

“ Yes, the education sector, the environmental sector and the health sector. Because ecology is again connected with education, how people feel about removing their garbage after them. I would also like to pay great attention to projects in support of people with disabilities and children. Because in Kyrgyzstan, it is generally at a zero level. For example, I would also gladly support a project with our girls to open an educational centre or even a kindergarten for children with Down syndrome or autism.

– Respondent no. 6, 43-year-old woman from Austria, initiative group member, interested (have already shown interest) in contributions and investments in the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

As a rule, political institutions, the state of ecology and climate, and the maturity of civil society are subject to comparison.

“ Education, first of all. There may be health care, but I cannot provide any help there. Education, well, the provision of all kinds of educational services in the regions, support for children, probably some kind of school programmes. So that children can better learn the general education programme. Because basically they do not get what children in Bishkek get, for example, such a quality of education. I would strengthen support for girls in Kyrgyzstan. Anyway, some subconscious preference is given to boys, even in families, and I just would like girls to have more voices, to express their opinions for equality, probably.

– Respondent no. 14, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora association, chosen from snowball method

All respondents, including those who do not plan to return to their homeland, are willing to support and invest in Kyrgyzstan. Among the most attractive sectors for diasporas are education, health care, ecology, support for women and culture.

“ Education, culture, again the environmental part, waste processing, sanitary conditions. I am very concerned about the ecology. For example, I don't go to the Issyk-Kul Lake.

– Respondent no. 10, 53-year-old woman from the United States, ex-head of the initiative group, has experience in supporting initiatives in Kyrgyzstan

“ In general, I am more interested in educational projects, for example, to give children this initial orientation towards sincere, Kyrgyz traditional things. I would love to support projects to protect women who have experienced violence. We have women's houses where a woman can hide from violence. I would like to support such projects as well.

– Respondent no. 15, 56-year-old woman from Germany, diaspora association member, has experience in contributing and investing in projects in Kyrgyzstan

5.7. PARTICIPATION AND INTERACTION WITH COMPATRIOTS IN THE DESTINATION COUNTRY AS SOURCES OF DIASPORA MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOMELAND, THE MOST PRACTICAL INTERACTIONS ON DIASPORA ASSISTANCE TO KYRGYZSTAN

Most of the respondents stood at the origins of diaspora organizations establishment. Earlier, before their arrival in the countries of permanent residence, there were no Kyrgyz diasporas there.

“ When I arrived at Ukraine, I also saw that there was nothing here either. We created our diaspora, an international organization of Kyrgyz people in Ukraine, and I headed it myself for five years, then passed it on to the guys. Now it continues its work.

– Respondent no. 3, 42-year-old man from Ukraine, diaspora association member, has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

An independent path of adaptation, without acquaintances and without referring to the diaspora, is noted by respondents as long and difficult.

“ Unfortunately, I did not know the diaspora at that time. I made a lot of mistakes that I could avoid; I figured it out on my own. And it was long, expensive and very painful. And that is why I am open now. I tell everyone what things should not be done.

– Respondent no. 1, 34-year-old male from Germany, a group of those interested (who have already shown their interest) in contributions to the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

Conversely, any support from the diaspora or individuals is highly valued.

“ Due to the fact that she arrived two to three years earlier than me, she already explained the culture and food. It really was a good help from her, because when you come to another country for the first time, you do not even know what is what. And any information was to help us then.

– Respondent no. 18, 42-year-old woman from the Republic of Korea, a group of those interested (who have already shown their interest) in contributions and investments in the regions

Members of diaspora associations use WhatsApp messenger to communicate with family members and with each other. WhatsApp and Facebook are also used for announcements and news within the diaspora. Recently, Zoom has been gaining popularity, which is used for business purposes. Thus, one of the respondents conducted a lecture for students in their homeland through Zoom (Respondent no. 14, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora association, chosen by snowball method).

“ Our diaspora ties with entrepreneurs are getting stronger. We have organized a Zoom conference for over 1,000 entrepreneurs. We have invited representatives of diaspora leaders from the regions there, so we now want to help our producers export their products to the Russian Federation.

– Respondent no. 4, 36-year-old man from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association

Basically, communication channels are used by diaspora members to exchange information, consult newly arrived participants, send parcels back to their homeland and others. However, existing online groups have potential for development.

“ I maintain very close ties with our farmers, and when they call for knowledge or technology, I help everyone. They come to Ukraine. I organize meetings for them; they make purchases here. I help everyone in this regard. We have WhatsApp group. For example, a group of gardeners, a group of agrarians and farmers. We discuss issues in this group, most of all, they discuss what information is needed. I try to give it too.

– Respondent no. 3, 42-year-old man from Ukraine, diaspora association member, has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

“ We have a group called Fellow Students, and it is in that chat that we have people from all over the world. Therefore, all over the world, all specialists are united in the group Fellow Students. We exchange some new methods, information there. During the pandemic, it helped us a lot.

– Respondent no. 13, 43-year-old woman from the Russian Federation, head of a diaspora association

It can be assumed that initiatives related to the homeland discussed in groups of people from the same village or region are moving forward much faster and more efficiently than national projects.

“ Yes, we were talking (in WhatsApp with a group of people from one village) about construction of water supply canal. For this purpose, they collected money, supported some projects, and collected money. Once, we bought a computer and a printer for our school and gave it. Well, we did this for a particular school.

– Respondent no. 14, 41-year-old woman from Canada, head of a diaspora association, chosen by snowball method

Many respondents prefer to send funds for development. Thus, compatriots encourage education of their family members.

“ But this is, of course, for education, we do not send money just for the sake of it. We send money only to achieve some goal. Because we believe that this might discourage people, if one constantly receives cash like a salary, I think that this is not entirely correct.

– Respondent no. 11, 53-year-old man from Switzerland, head of a diaspora association

5.8. POTENTIAL INTEREST OF DIASPORA MEMBERS IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, RESILIENCE IN RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL DISASTERS

With one exception, the respondents themselves or those close to them did not face problems caused by climate change. As a consequence, they have no experience related to contribution to this sector. It often happens that respondents became forced emigrants due to health problems of their children, which was associated with natural environment deterioration.

“ Yes, I left Bishkek because my child is sick. Now he feels well; he is in the sixth grade at the gymnasium. He is a very smart boy. But in Bishkek, he could not breathe. When he was born, we went from one hospital to another, because it was dirty. He is allergic; he cannot breathe, and we moved here.

– Respondent no. 1, 34-year-old male from Germany, a group of those interested (who have already shown their interest) in contributions to the regions and projects in Kyrgyzstan

Air pollution harms not only children, but also the elderly. Migrants worry about their parents in the cities of Kyrgyzstan.

“ We think that parents will probably need to move to Issyk-Kul for some time in winter. This idea came about because of the air quality in Bishkek.

– Respondent no. 5, 28-year-old man from Germany, initiative group member,
random sample

Along with polluted air, the highlands are also part of the ecosystem and geographic context of Kyrgyzstan, which also forces people to migrate.

“ We lived in the highlands [in Kyrgyzstan], so my sister moved here [Russian Federation], because she constantly used to have high blood pressure and headaches. I told her that climate was better in the Russian Federation and if she moved here, maybe it will be better for her. And so she moved over here. She now feels very well; she recovered. While there [in Kyrgyzstan] the doctors said that she had two to three years left to live.

– Respondent no. 17, 57-year-old woman from the Russian Federation,
head of a diaspora association, chosen from snowball method

Emergencies and natural disasters happen more frequent in Kyrgyzstan; the sights of earthquakes, landslides and other natural disasters chased on the memory of the respondents, which served as a push-out factor for emigration abroad.

“ In the 1990s, because of earthquakes and landslides near the village of Kalinin, Kara-Kuldzha District, the whole village migrated to Krasnoyarsk, and they began to call themselves “We are Kaliningraders”. Many people migrated being impoverished after natural disasters and cataclysms. The whole village moved to Krasnoyarsk; a landslide covered the entire village of Kalinin, since there was not enough help from the State, and they could not rebuild their houses, then everyone moved to Krasnoyarsk one after another. Trees were cut down in the area. When the trees were gone, the soil began to shift and slide more often. It covered the whole village in the 1990s. Then “commerce” just started to develop. People began to migrate from the south to the north of Kyrgyzstan, because not only is the climate good in the north, but there are more opportunities to earn money around Bishkek. Since there are constant environmental disasters in the south, we bought a house in Kara-Balta, in the Sokuluk District of the Chui Region, where the climate is good and there are fewer risks of cataclysms. However, now many of my friends and relatives say that they do not want to return to their homeland, because Bishkek has become the leader in air pollution. That is, people see the ecological instability of Kyrgyzstan and choose what they think is more environmentally stable, for example, in a less polluted city in the Russian Federation.

– Respondent no. 19, 45-year-old male from the Russian Federation,
head of a diaspora association

The same respondent mentioned catastrophic situation with the increased cases of liver and kidney transplantations in young people from Kyrgyzstan, which he associates with poor nutrition, namely, with the fact that the markets of Kyrgyzstan are stuffed up with products with expired shelf life and hazardous chemical composition.

“ In addition, I recently helped a guy from Talas to raise funds for his mother, who underwent kidney transplantation. There are a lot of such cases; we heard that this is because of the very poor quality of food (in Bishkek, expired goods with incorrect production dates are common thing). In principle, we should not have had these diseases so badly. Very young healthy guys and girls come to us with such requests today for financing kidney transplantation operations.

– Respondent no. 19, 45-year-old man from the Russian Federation,
head of a diaspora association

The following topics often emerge, which diaspora members consider the most priority ones: ecology of the city of Bishkek, forecasts and prevention of earthquakes, agricultural safety, environmental safety, waste recycling, greening of the city of Bishkek and regions, melting of glaciers, clean water in the regions and ecological tourism.

Regarding the air in Bishkek:

“ Recently, [British Broadcasting Corporation] BBC constantly broadcasts about the air in Bishkek, and this is bad news. Even if such things are happening in our capital, what will happen now? I understand this problem as a very big task of uniting for survival of our future generations. After all, their future depends on ecology. It is necessary to attract knowledgeable specialists, consult with knowledgeable people and find a way out of the situation. We do not need to reinvent the wheel, because there are already solutions, technologies, approaches in place in Europe and America. Management of transport systems, correct landscaping, correct urban planning, location of schools and shopping centres, the removal of large objects outside of overcrowded centres.

– Respondent no. 20, 35-year-old woman from the United Kingdom,
head of the initiative group, random sample

About Issyk-Kul:

“ I can give a very simple example: the Issyk-Kul Region is a biozone. There are a lot of rain-fed lands around the Issyk-Kul Lake, which now need to be managed. All this must be completely distributed to our farmers so that they can engage in intensive gardening. Intensive gardening is done only by drip irrigation; drip irrigation requires chemical fertilizers. These chemical fertilizers, once there is small snow or rain, get to the Issyk-Kul Lake. Environmental safety is not observed at all in our country, and they are generally not approached competently. We must make food safety, agricultural safety and environmental safety as a priority today. If there are any projects in this area and aid is collected, I will, of course, actively participate because I worry about my homeland, my country and my family.

– Respondent no. 3, 42-year-old man from Ukraine, member of diaspora associations,
has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

About waste management:

“ I think waste handling is very important. That is, I am shocked sometimes when I see plastic scraps on trees and when you walk not along the central streets, but along other streets. It is required to somehow solve the garbage problem, solve the garbage recycling. And to solve the problems of transport, that is, there are fewer cars and may be technical condition of cars, at least for a start. That is, allow only clean cars and good gasoline. Maybe start with this and, of course, all green spaces, if they were well cared for or people to take care of the trees.

– Respondent no. 15, 56-year-old woman from Germany, diaspora association member of Kyrgyzstan

On clean drinking water:

“ I am very interested in [supporting projects on clean water] more than music and/or concerts. For example, provision of remote regions [in Kyrgyzstan] with clean drinking water are rare as private initiatives. High infant mortality is often linked to dirty water, poor sanitary conditions and catastrophic state of toilets. Most intimate moments of human life are much too often in a catastrophic state.

– Respondent no.10, 53-year-old woman from the United States, ex-head of the initiative group, has experience in investing to the development initiatives in remote areas of the country

On melting of glaciers:

“ Melting of glaciers, for my part, if I find funding for this, or maybe I earn and invest in it myself, then I would, of course, make a film about these problems for the Western audience, a documentary about it.

– Respondent no. 11, 53-year-old male from Switzerland, head of a diaspora association

About solar energy:

“ Now everyone in the world is switching to solar energy, energy from wind, from water – to green energy. We could make green energy, and for this, we need people who work in this area and donors can be attracted. Because of this, our dirty city, while we have 300 sunny days a year.

– Respondent no. 12, 46-year-old woman from Scotland, has experience in making contributions and investments in projects in Kyrgyzstan

Despite the fact that the respondents are not professionally familiar with the climate change topic, some of them are ready to help financially to study the problem and for training. One of the respondents showed his willingness to serve as a mediator in studying the experience of solving these problems in the destination country.

“ Maybe I myself do not know anything in this area, but I can bring together such people who will give good lectures or experiences and share their experience and knowledge. So, I think this will also help in some way.

– Respondent no. 18, 42-year-old woman from the Republic of Korea,
a group of those interested (already shown their interest)
in contributions and investments in the regions

Other respondents would like to provide support for preventive measures, research and advocacy.

“ This is how we can help from our part, of course. In this sense, we could think about creating some kind of a fund that would finance research on these issues and information work, promotion of information work in order to raise awareness of people about urgency of such a problem, because many people still do not understand what reckless use of natural resources might cause.

– Respondent no. 11, 53-year-old male from Switzerland, head of a diaspora association

The majority of migrants are not ready to make contributions on preventive or preparatory projects related to environmental protection or climate, since this is too incomprehensible, remote and not related to their daily survival. Some are willing to develop this discussion and consider contributing, but so far, there is no idea how and in what exactly.

“ It is difficult to reach mutual understanding in large groups; environmental initiatives are not clear to people. It is difficult to work with large groups of people, because people understand initiatives differently. They can look at something wrongly and negatively. I had such an experience, God forbid. After all, what troubles the Kyrgyz is feasts and celebrations: “Kyrgyzdy emne kyinayt – toi tamashasy kyinayt”. There is a katysh – a kind of a rate between relatives (the amount agreed upon in the circle of friends, like a slate club or contributions to a general meeting or celebration). And the Kyrgyz are also tormented by huge interest rates on loans. Many people migrated because they could not repay their loans. There were cases when people felt sorry for victims of environmental disasters, but among them, there was not a single one who would like to improve something from the environmental part in order to prevent disasters such as landslides or mudflows, especially to raise money for this. For such environmental and disaster prevention initiatives, decisions at the State level are needed first of all. The trust of the people is needed so that people could cooperate and assist the Government in such measures and programmes. We need explanatory work as to why disasters occur, how to prevent them, how to prepare the population and communities to minimize the consequences, how to reduce the damage to citizens. Only in this case, environmental problems will become of interest to people, while

ecology as it is without connection to life and risks for the community; anyone will hardly understand such projects. For projects to prevent environmental disasters, people do not lend or collect money. People are not ready for this yet. Even for emergencies, such as the landslide in Uzgen, no money was raised. Even if someone gives KGS 300, then it will be difficult to beg KGS 3,000 from them. One needs to understand that a person must be full, shod, his personal problems solved, and health improved, and only then a person can think about ecology or culture or politics. After all, there are many people who are not able to solve their own problems.

– Respondent no. 19, 45-year-old male from the Russian Federation,
head of a diaspora association

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. SURVEY'S KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following findings from the online survey provide an updated diaspora mapping (that is, inventory stocktaking for a five-year period between 2015 and 2021).



Finding

The Kyrgyz migrants who are close to or part of the diaspora abroad are mostly young, with almost a third of the survey respondents younger than 30 years of age, while more than half of respondents are women.



Recommendation

These age and gender groups should be given more attention in the diaspora development, since these can be current and future members and leaders of the diaspora organizations. Younger migrants may stay longer abroad, and they are more likely to use the online and mobile means of communications, stay in touch with communities and projects in Kyrgyzstan, and continue to contribute part of their income for the development of Kyrgyzstan in various formats.



Finding

Many respondents have willingness and readiness to invest in various sectors and regions of Kyrgyzstan as individuals and as members of the diaspora associations. Kyrgyz migrants continue providing intensive financial help (including humanitarian support) and expert help to each other not only in the country of permanent residence in migration (through a widespread and accepted notion of a “migrant solidarity”), but also through the initiatives and projects in Kyrgyzstan. Some well-coordinated work took place to collect financial, humanitarian and technical assistance for Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyz migrants abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic and political crisis. Remittances are a kind of manifestation of migrant solidarity towards prospective migrants in Kyrgyzstan, and also in some sense and in some cases “as a preventative measure” so that children and young people are better prepared for life and can choose “non-migrant future”. Amounts and directions of remittances, from small to large, go mainly for consumption, as well as for investments in education, business and real estate. Migrants want to contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan through various sectors, projects and initiatives.



Recommendation

While emergency relief donations can be collected rapidly, perhaps a more systematic approach towards charitable funding and project initiatives need to be developed to accommodate contributions from the diaspora. The diaspora fund was discussed in the SSIs, and some of the diaspora activists have developed ideas about such fund and its possible activities.



Finding

In terms of willingness to return to Kyrgyzstan, this is what most of the respondents in the survey sample wanted, but few respondents have the conditions and opportunities for such a return. In addition, migrants have a persistent fear of what difficulties they may face in the country and in the society, which may have pushed them into migration in the past, and possibly more than once. Many migrants have stabilized within the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad and may feel more comfortable in the Kyrgyz diaspora environment abroad than in any other environment in Kyrgyzstan.



Recommendation

Perhaps better online content can be developed for the diaspora about the ongoing situation in the business sector and in regards to opportunities for investments, project financing and initiatives, including those on climate change action. Better content is needed about cultural, social and educational aspects of life in Kyrgyzstan that may be of interest to the Kyrgyz diaspora and migrants abroad.



Finding

Members of the diaspora associations abroad and migrants who are not part of such associations actively use modern means of communication via the Internet and mobile devices and channels. The technological effectiveness of online communication and tools is not an obstacle, but rather is optimally useful both in the personal life of migrants and in the cooperation of migrants with each other and with the diaspora associations, as well as with relatives, business partners and beneficiaries in Kyrgyzstan. There are some obstacles for a better interaction between migrant compatriots with each other, within the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad, as well as diaspora leaders and activists with State, regional and municipal partners, as well as with partners in business and civil society sectors. Communication with the diaspora and wider migrants' circles abroad becomes more complicated with the increased number of diverse online groups, chats, mailing lists and websites that were organized by migrants and compatriots in order to carry out a variety of their own tasks.



Recommendation

In order for the fragmentation of information flow to not split and diminish the communication capabilities of these online groups and their participants, it would make sense to consolidate the sources and cross-points of information exchange on issues that are interesting and vital for migrants and the diaspora abroad could solve many problems both in interaction and in handling presentation of useful information, content and news. This content management for the diaspora was mentioned on several occasions in the forum of the *Mekendeshter*⁵ and compatriots and quite a few content providers with similar brands sprang up in the last decade (that is, the One Million Kyrgyz Stories (OMKS) groups on social media, *Jerdeshter*, *Boordoshtor* and *Mekendeshter*). However, they have yet to ensure the much-needed interactivity of information flows, tailored and packaged products and services for migrants, as well as improving the work of diaspora associations both within the organization and in cooperation with external partners. These are yet to be developed and achieved.

⁵ The word *Mekendeshter* is translated often as the Kyrgyz diaspora and compatriots abroad.



Finding

The survey confirmed that the regional and tribal identification of the migrants while they are in Kyrgyzstan as well as abroad play a certain role in how the migration networks and migrants concentrations operate in a variety of geographies abroad, that is, where in specific countries and cities migrants have relatives, friends, i.e. *jerdesh* (translated as close countryman and/or acquaintance with geographic and tribal affinities, Kyrgyz language) and links to specific geographies within Kyrgyzstan, such as Kyrgyz regions and towns.



Recommendation

Thus, the communication campaigns and content of the online communication platform can be adjusted to a specific regional appeal, that is, when it comes to environmental and climate action. For example, more national-level or nationwide appeals to the Kyrgyz migrants/diaspora abroad can be made in the three countries where there are Kyrgyz migrants representing all seven regions of the country (including cities of Bishkek, Osh and Jalal-Abad among the largest shares) – Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. While a more regional and specifically local appeals can be made to the diaspora/migrant networks that are active in the following: (a) in Belgium, China and the United Arab Emirates, for those migrants from the Issyk-Kul Region who would be interested in funding projects in Issyk-Kul; (b) appeals in Germany and Qatar for the migrants from the Naryn Region; (c) in the Republic of Korea, for the migrants from the Batken Region; (d) in Canada and Malaysia for the migrants from the Talas Region; and (e) in Austria, for the migrants from Jalal-Abad Region.



Finding

When it comes to remittances, 88 per cent (626 respondents) of the sample sent money to family members and close relatives monthly, and another 5 per cent in the sample are those who had not sent remittance before but plan to do so. This could mean that at any time when previous volume of remittances dwindles, there is a renewable reserve of 5 per cent of migrants that are likely to go through this experience of sending remittances at least once or more times in their lifetime abroad. This shifting in waves of sent remittances needs to be taken into account when the demographic trends catch up with the migration trend, that is, as the labour force ages and there will be fewer migrants in the “working age adult” category. Comparing this to 2015, there is generally a much higher share of respondents sending remittances. In 2015, those who sent remittances in the amounts higher than USD 1,000 per year was only at 32.5 per cent of the total sample, while between 2014 and until 2021, sending the amounts of USD 1,000 and higher annually became more widespread, at 65 per cent of those who sent remittances or 52 per cent of the total sample of the survey respondents in 2021. Thus, up until 2021, the most common practice of remitting between KGS 10,000 to KGS 50,000 per month (on average from USD 118 to USD 591 per month, which is from USD 1,418 to USD 7,091 per year) is done by 45 per cent of the remitting sample, or 36 per cent of the total sample of the survey respondents. And there is a stable 6 per cent of migrants remitting amounts between KGS 50,000 and KGS 100,000 per month (that is, between USD 591 to USD 1,182 per month, which is between USD 7,092 to USD 14,183 per year) and 2 per cent of the remitting migrants sending amounts higher than KGS 100,000 per month (that is, more than USD 1,182 per month, which is more than USD 14,183 per year). Thus, it would be estimated that 36 per cent of migrants’ families in Kyrgyzstan receive annually between USD 1,500 and USD 7,000, while another 8 per cent of migrants’ families in Kyrgyzstan receive transfers of USD 7,000 to USD 14,000 annually.



Recommendation

Some estimates of volume of diaspora funding can be made based on the above findings.



Finding

In business, about 16 per cent of respondents would like to contribute to the economy and business through development of the tourism and services sector, 12 per cent to entrepreneurship and investment, 12 per cent to ICT development, and almost 10 per cent to online commerce and services development. The 10 per cent of respondents would like to contribute to the development of business in the field of organic agriculture, and 5 per cent to green energy. Among them, women are more likely to contribute to green/organic/ecological energy than men. For example, 12 per cent of women interested in contributing to economy and business are willing to contribute to the development of organic agriculture and natural food production compared to only 9 per cent of men, and 5 per cent of women are interested in contributing to the green energy sector compared to 4.5 per cent of men.



Recommendation

Women would be more likely to respond to the call for climate action support, and this should be given some attention when planning communication work.



Finding

Remittances are almost twice as likely to be sent to women in the family, particularly to mothers (33% of respondents sending remittances to Kyrgyzstan indicated that the mother is the main recipient of remittances, while the father was indicated by 15 per cent); but mothers more often received smaller remittances in the amount of KGS 1,000 to KGS 5,000 (total share of 39.4% of respondent remittances), and fathers received larger remittances in the amount of KGS 25,000 to KGS 50,000 (15.5% of remittances of respondents). Women, especially mothers, are twice as likely to receive the remittances; they are also twice as likely as men to decide how to spend their migrant family member's remitted cash (14% of respondents indicated that their mother decides how received funds will be spent and 7% indicated their father). Larger amounts are sent to wives and husbands (23% of respondents transferred the amounts of KGS 25,000–KGS 100,000 plus per month to wives, while only 6% the same amounts were sent to husbands). Sisters received remittances of KGS 100,000 per month and more from 16 per cent of respondents, and brothers received from 20 per cent of respondents. Daughters received remittances in the amounts of KGS 100,000 and above from 4 per cent of respondents, while sons did not. As to who decides on the distribution of funds transferred by the amount, mothers and husbands, as well as “as a family”, make decisions on amounts of KGS 100,000 and more (9% of respondent remittances for both categories of decision makers), while fathers and wives do not make decisions on such amounts. Fathers are more involved in decisions on the distribution of financial resources from KGS 5,000 to KGS 25,000 (the total share of 24% of respondent remittances). Daughters make decisions only on two types of financial resources: from KGS 5,000 to KGS 10,000 and from KGS 10,000 to KGS 25,000 (only 1.8% of respondent remittances). And sons take part in making decisions on the distribution of funds for amounts from KGS 5,000 to KGS 50,000 (only 3.2% of respondent remittances).



Recommendation

There is a possibility for a communication programming on climate action for diaspora remittances with gender-disaggregated approach.



Finding

Very few respondents indicated that money transferred by migrants is spent on environmental or environment-related initiatives. In this study, the following initiatives were envisioned to be either directly related to environmental initiatives or are adjacent to them on one way or another (due to link to nature sites, ecosystems and biodiversity): (a) land/real estate purchase (4.4%); (b) pasture restoration (0.6%); (c) agriculture and livestock (6%); (d) landscaping and horticulture (3%); (e) access to energy, heating and energy efficiency (4%); and (f) access to clean drinking water (1.5%).



Recommendation

With this data, it could be possible to estimate the volume of funding possible for environmental and climate action from all the shares those respondents are willing to support/contribute to such initiatives. For example, to the remitting respondents and their annual amounts, the average 3 per cent of those who spent on these environment-related initiatives and the average 5 per cent of those who had contributed to initiatives related to environmental and climate action and those who are planning to do so (including for such areas as green energy, village infrastructure, water and sewerage, eco/organic agriculture, raising eco awareness, emergency preparedness) can be applied to any of the above estimates to gauge the possible amounts of remittances that could be directed at climate action. Thus, the average 3 per cent to 5 per cent of respondents having spent on and interested in supporting the environmental and climate action programmes can be among those who remit small and large amounts of cash back to their families in Kyrgyzstan.



Finding

Migrants and diaspora organizations are very good at collecting charitable gifts and financial aid for emergencies; 21 per cent of respondents participated in the collection of humanitarian aid, medicines and others during the pandemic crises in 2020. The 16 per cent assisted compatriots in returning to Kyrgyzstan during the pandemic. Only 4.3 per cent of respondents (31 people in the sample) participated in the provision of charitable aid in case of environmental disasters that resulted in forced displacement in and outside Kyrgyzstan. The 2.5 per cent of respondents participated in providing charitable aid during conflicts. The 15 per cent did not provide any assistance, and this is perhaps where growth can be initiated.



Recommendation

Instead of focusing only on emergencies, perhaps diaspora organizations and migrant groups abroad could plan for emergency preparedness, link up on environmental and climate initiatives focused on preventative, educational and long-term planning activities. For example, the existing gravitation towards cultural programmes and events (14.4% of respondents had contributed to this), social protection charities (12% of respondents had contributed to this), education and science initiatives (11% of respondents had contributed to this), as well as women and youth entrepreneurship activity (7% of respondents had contributed to this) could all integrate elements of programming on environmental and climate awareness, adaptation, resilience and emergency preparedness for local communities in the village homeland and eventually for the extended motherland.



Finding

The 80 per cent of the sample are willing to make contributions to the development of Kyrgyzstan, 4 per cent are unwilling, and 16 per cent are not sure about contributing. There is more certainty and tendency towards willingness to contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan among those migrants who have been in migration for more than five years. Men (88%) are more interested in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan than female respondents (74%); women are much more unsure (21.6%) than men (8.4%) whether they are interested in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan. The largest proportion of those who are ready and willing to contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan are in the Russian Federation (83%), 16 respondents (4%) chose the answer “no”, and 54 respondents (13%) chose the answer “not sure”. In other countries, the shares are too small for analysis.



Recommendation

A very specific targeted programme can be developed for the Kyrgyz diaspora organizations in the Russian Federation and replicate for other destination countries in regards to climate action contributions through such activities that the respondents are interested in: (a) as trainings (20.5% of those who are willing to contribute); (b) information exchange (17% of those who are willing to contribute); (c) consultancy services (15% of those who are willing to contribute); (d) financial investments (11% of those who are willing to contribute); (e) financial charity (11% of those who are willing to contribute); (f) workshops (10% of those who are willing to contribute); (g) networking/associations (9% of those who are willing to contribute); and (h) visiting lectures (7% of those who are willing to contribute); less than 1 per cent would like to contribute to job creation.



Finding

Interest in regional and municipal contribution can have a geographic appeal for directing diaspora contributions as follows: the largest share of respondents is interested in investing in Bishkek (22%), followed in terms of popularity by the Issyk-Kul and Jalal-Abad regions (14.4% each). There is a consistent 9 per cent of respondents who are interested in investing in the Chui and Batken regions and in Osh City. The 7 per cent of respondents want to invest in the Naryn Region, and 6.6 per cent in the Osh Region. About 4 per cent want to contribute to the Talas Region, and there are also 4 per cent of respondents who are ready to contribute throughout the entire Kyrgyzstan. The respondents tend to contribute specifically to those regions, villages or cities that they have identified as their homeland. For example, this is the case with the following cities in descending order of the proportions of respondents interested in investing in them: Bishkek, Osh, Issyk-Kul, Naryn, Talas, Tokmok, Kemin, Karakol Kara-Balta, Cholpon-Ata, Toktogul, Batken, Kadamzhai, Kerben, Tash-Kumyr, Isfana, Aksy District, Alabuka District, Kochkor Village and Tosor Village.



Recommendation

A communication platform and its content, as well as the targeting, can be designed in accordance with these geographic and municipal tendencies taken into account or prioritized.



Finding

There seems to be high awareness of some of the most visible (physically as well as through social media and news) environmental problems in Kyrgyzstan. Between 3 and 21 per cent of the entire survey sample indicated a range of urgent environmental problems that need to be addressed. Here, they are listed in descending order of proportions of respondents selecting these options: (a) air pollution (smog, burning landfills); (b) plastic waste and littering of natural objects; (c) pollution of glaciers, reservoirs, rivers and water sources; (d) toxic burials and increased radioactivity; (e) deforestation; (f) use of chemical fertilizers and GMOs in agriculture; (g) overgrazing on all types of pastures; (h) loss of biodiversity; (i) oil spill during car accidents; and (j) increasing unpredictability of growth of populations of harmful insects, microbes, viruses and fungi. However, in terms of donations to the environmental projects and initiatives, much lower proportions of respondents indicated interest in investing in environmental and climate actions, that is, only 8.4 per cent of the sample indicated interest in investing in raising environmental awareness and responsibility; 6.3 per cent indicated interest in development of organic agriculture; 6.2 per cent in water supply and sewerage in the regions; and 2.6 per cent in raising awareness in emergency preparedness and response.



Recommendation

The gap between knowing about the environmental and climate-related problems and the need for action and contributions can be highlighted, addressed and narrowed by better targeted messages, programming, events and actions for the diaspora communication channels (online, offline, groups, forums, business projects), and products and services (training materials, workshops, online content and communication platform design and packaging).



Finding

The variety and urgency of needs that the diaspora organizations and networks have been effective with solving and assisting the migrants is very high. The 88 per cent of respondents needed and received assistance from fellow countrymen and migrant associations in their countries of permanent residence for a variety of needs, including in descending order of proportions of answers: (a) sending and receiving parcels from Kyrgyzstan (24%); (b) employment (22%); (c) registration, obtaining citizenship and other official documents (12%); (d) housing (7%); (e) enrolment of migrant children in educational institutions (3%); (f) assistance in the form of cash (5%); (g) assistance from the diaspora in dealing with authorities in the country of permanent residence and cargo 200 (4%); (h) assistance from the diaspora in communicating with law enforcement agencies (3%); and (i) resolving conflicts with other diaspora members (2%).



Recommendation

The communication platform for migrants and diaspora can be informed about such useful and supportive elements of diaspora support abroad that is becoming systematic, reliable and perhaps sought out or planned for. Some of the best and most illustrative cases could be prepared for the communication purposes to attract more migrants into the well-organized, ethical and responsible diaspora networks and unions.



Finding

Despite 88 per cent of survey respondents having turned to the diaspora for help, the participation in the diaspora events seems to be low. More than half of the sample (56%) never participated in events related to Kyrgyzstan and organized by the diaspora. The 25 per cent participate at least one to two times a year in the events, and as many as 18 per cent of the sample are active and constant participants in the events organized by Kyrgyz diaspora abroad. Compared to the 2015 data, the level of participation in the diaspora events seems to have fallen (25% of the 2015 survey sample were active participants

of the diaspora events); however, this is not a trend, rather there may be waves of migration, differing levels of involvement and willingness to donate time to diaspora organization that are also linked to the demographic trends, as well as to how recent the migration experience had been and if it was associated with the peripheral role within existing diaspora unions.



Recommendation

The diaspora events and communication channels need to be better informed about the needs and interests of the Kyrgyz migrants and be better suited for their time management needs and location possibilities; more online events could be part of the solution.



Finding

The following conditions were noted by the survey respondents as those that would encourage Kyrgyz migrants to take part in development initiatives in Kyrgyzstan in descending order of proportion of answers: (a) political stability (30.6%); (b) improved and accessible content on business ideas, initiatives and projects in Kyrgyzstan (18%); (c) better effectiveness and clear responsibility of the participating State institutions in the ongoing and future initiatives (17%); (d) availability of reliable channels for funds transfer (11%); and (e) availability of a virtual communication platform for cooperation with partners in Kyrgyzstan (8%).



Recommendation

These conditions raised by the migrants need to be communicated to the partner government institutions and civil society, businesses, and research and training organizations that work in the field of migration, environment and climate change so that the key stakeholders could prepare the necessary conditions for accommodating Kyrgyz diaspora's wish to help the village homeland and the extended motherland in a variety of ways with the support and welcome from the local and national partners in Kyrgyzstan. The requests for a communication platform had been voiced before, in the 2015 mapping of the diaspora, and it is becoming more distinct. Thus, 8 per cent of migrants (most of these are linked to the diaspora organizations of the Kyrgyzstanis abroad) are in need of a communication platform for specifically streamlining their cooperation with all above categories of partners in Kyrgyzstan.



Finding

Many of the migrants and diaspora members are active users of the online communication tools and applications. For 38 per cent of the migrants, WhatsApp is the most common communication channel for keeping in touch between themselves in the country of permanent residency in migration, while 48 per cent of migrants use WhatsApp for keeping in touch with family and friends in Kyrgyzstan. Facebook (23%) and Instagram (16%) are the leading social media platforms for the Kyrgyz migrants between themselves, and much less for communicating with relatives in Kyrgyzstan, with 9 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. Odnoklassniki (Classmates) groups and Telegram channels are used by 7 per cent and 8 per cent respectively, while Zoom is used by 3 per cent, and email by 2 per cent of the total sample.



Recommendation

While developing a communication platform for the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad and channelling of the migrants' remittances to support climate action initiatives in Kyrgyzstan the pattern of use of the social media and online channels must be taken into account from the design, content, product and service placement perspectives, as well as from the perspective of growing audiences and interactivity of the online tools.

6.2. SEMI-STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS' KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The insights from the SSIs with the members and leaders of the diaspora provided an improved picture of the available diaspora unions and their level of managerial, policy, ethical, economic and communicative capabilities and preferences. The capacity of the diaspora organizations for self-organization, financial and political autonomy – and the possibility for investments, financial contributions towards a variety of causes, including the ecological and climate action, and emergency preparedness – were understood in connection with the diaspora fund accumulation and management, as well as developing and expanding the communication platform type of capabilities.



Finding

Belonging to a homeland is a significant connecting factor for joint activities of the compatriots, including those staying in different countries. The unification based on professional principle using the example of individual cases has demonstrated stable connections.



Recommendation

There must be a study on identifying the connecting factors for migrants from various regions to promote professional and business interests that would eventually raise a certain level of consensus on ethical issues (that is, ecological and climate) and support among the migrants and diaspora members and leadership.



Finding

One of the main factors in uniting migrants in countries of permanent residence in migration is the migrants' solidarity among those who understand migrants' path, difficulties, dangers, risks and the cost of migration experience. Participation in a diaspora association becomes an opportunity for such migrants to share this experience, warn, protect, help and more often facilitate the migrant experience of the next wave or generation of migrants.



Recommendation

The communication strategy to reach out to the organized diasporas and individual migrants can rely on the notion of migrant solidarity and the support of initiatives; climate action, in particular in Kyrgyzstan, could draw from that experience too.



Finding

Membership in a diaspora association does not yet imply a mandatory payment of membership fees, but there is a growing understanding that constant membership fees improve the level of organization and affect the scale of initiatives that could be undertaken by the diaspora to develop the organization itself and help diaspora members and other Kyrgyz migrants, who are not members of the association, as well as for development projects in Kyrgyzstan.



Recommendation

There is a growing awareness that basic management framework is needed for migrants' alliances and diaspora organization if they want to undertake any meaningful initiatives. Thus, establishment of a board within the associations as an advisory, decision-making and monitoring body, as well as the requirements for accountability of the main leaders and project managers within the associations – and hence the accountability of organizations and communities that receive assistance or contributions – are the most important practices both for strengthening the diaspora associations and may represent the signs of growing confidence in the diaspora from members and partners. Membership in a diaspora association strengthens the responsibility in terms of selection of partners for building business relationships and, in general, in the conduct of office work.

**Finding**

In addition to cultural events, support in the form of advice to newly arrived compatriots by the diaspora associations' members is common.

**Recommendation**

A higher diversification of commonly practiced help and advice to compatriot migrants needs to be communicated with clarity and transparency in the most accessible online platforms and social media.

**Finding**

The majority of respondents have demonstrated their readiness to participate in development initiatives in their village homeland and extended motherland. The conditions for their participation are transparency in the use of funds and full accountability of the implementers.

**Recommendation**

The registration of an official Kyrgyz diaspora fund with a board where the key leaders of the most effective and respected diaspora associations are members of the steering committee – alongside some industry leaders, including the key online banking and communication stakeholders – is a kind of organization that is required. Its legitimation needs to be well-thought through and accountability proven at the start of the joint fund.

**Finding**

Compatriots show a desire to provide more help to the regions and village communities in Kyrgyzstan.

**Recommendation**

It will be highly beneficial to link this qualitative data with the survey data on regional and geographic interests for financial and other help to be provided to the regions and village homeland by migrants in the country of permanent residence abroad.

**Finding**

The main obstacle faced by migrants in the implementation of development initiatives is the lack of feedback from Kyrgyz State institutions.

**Recommendation**

The diaspora associations could develop and suggest to the State institutions (as well as to other regional and local partners in Kyrgyzstan) a standardized feedback form, channel or system that would be suitable and effective for the purposes of communicating specific information between partners.

**Finding**

At the same time, compatriots admit that when implementing projects in Kyrgyzstan, they need government assistance (not financial but organizational, logistical and legitimation assistance).

**Recommendation**

The diaspora associations could develop and share their vision of the kind of help and support they need when it comes to government support to the diaspora initiatives for the development in Kyrgyzstan.

**Finding**

According to the initiatives being implemented, the responsiveness of the State bodies at the level of local administrations is higher. In this regard, the role of a liaison in communications between a migrant and one's homeland is often assigned to local authorities.

**Recommendation**

Collecting case studies on cooperation work with the local authorities and municipal councils and communities would help develop a structured approach to cooperation, with clear remits and responsibilities of all key stakeholders of the process, including the diaspora abroad.

**Finding**

Cultural events and advisory activities, which many diaspora associations are engaged in, do not create an environment for generating initiatives among compatriots abroad for the development of the village homeland and the extended motherland.

**Recommendation**

Specific fundraising design of the events needs to be developed alongside experienced fundraiser experts, as well as with an incremental staged process of growth of such initiatives in terms of number of projects and volumes of financing.

**Finding**

Most diaspora leaders voiced that when a constructive dialogue appears between the diaspora of migrants abroad and the State, there will be real opportunities for the development of the country.

**Recommendation**

It would be best if the diaspora leaders, together with their membership, could come up with a set of characteristics and attributes of a constructive dialogue in an operationalized sequence. A vision of such constructive dialogue could be shared with the State institutions, and a mutual plan could be developed with inputs from all stakeholders of the process.

**Finding**

The dispersion of mobile and online tools creates conditions for an increased disunity and fragmentation of communication of migrants abroad across a large number of groups in social networks and mobile applications. This trend reflects the digital nature of global changes related to ICT, and thus behavioural trends and priorities in communications, in particular, among migrants from Kyrgyzstan. This does not in any way affect membership in the diaspora associations, and even more so in officially registered organizations of Kyrgyz migrants in the countries of permanent residence in migration due to the fact that the priority of official and formal attitude towards any business, public and project associations prevails in these countries. The same prioritization is true about the corresponding documentary, registration and accounting flow of information and confirmations/verifications. That is, for official work as a diaspora association, migrants need confirmation that informal online groups are associated with any official or recognized organizations with a recognizable leader(s) or a recognized and accepted initiative confirmed by facts of good practice.

**Recommendation**

While there is value in officially registered organizations, it is also important to keep the diaspora in a more natural state of its evolving formation. Although there are some difficulties related to the growing and strengthening of the diaspora groups, the legitimization of the migrants groups and organizations must come first from people, its members and beneficiaries, while the recognition by any State authorities is a bonus and perhaps an access stage that is necessary to graduate to a certain level of trust.

6.3. CONCLUSIONS OF INVENTORY MAPPING OF THE KYRGYZ DIASPORA IN MIGRATION

While the 2015 mapping provided the first conceptualization of the diaspora of the Kyrgyz people abroad, the 2021 diaspora inventory mapping helped upgrade the vision of the diversity of migrant groups abroad and their approaches to a unified and effective diaspora work in the countries of permanent residency. Additional conclusions can be drawn about some aspects of the state of migrants, compatriots and their diaspora associations, as the Kyrgyz diaspora has been studied as a phenomenon, as a construct, and also as a reality of Kyrgyz compatriots in different countries of the world who were invited to take part in the online survey and telephone/Zoom interviews. The 2021 study is thus based on the earlier mapping's conclusions in regards to the Kyrgyzstanis, former and current citizens, compactly living in more than 42 countries that were conceptualized as a diaspora, a transnational phenomenon that lives its own life, needs recognition and studying, creates discourses and narratives, constructs the realities of its subjects and needs communion or belonging to sometimes "mythical", and sometimes quite real homeland, which is geographically, spatially, culturally and linguistically intertwined with today's Kyrgyzstan (Jeenbaeva, 2015). And migration had been recognized as a process that keeps producing the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad during the last 15 to 30 years.

In principle, the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad can be viewed as a multilayered and complex phenomenon consisting of several subgroups or levels, which can be categorized by the number of years spent in migration in a particular country, as well as in connection with cultural–ethnic and socioeconomic self-identification with Kyrgyzstan. Today, the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad is made up of both compatriots and migrants who live outside Kyrgyzstan from 1 to 15 years or longer, and who have nostalgia, affection and longing for the village homeland and for the extended motherland that is Kyrgyzstan.

The diaspora consists of a stabilized core⁶ – those who left Kyrgyzstan more than 15 years ago and settled steadily in the country of permanent residence in migration. The peripheral or recent migrants are those who, although they have not yet settled abroad, are a stable part of those groups of compatriots who send remittances to Kyrgyzstan, thereby supporting their families and communities in their village homelands and extended motherland. Thus, many compatriots have citizenship and residence permits outside of Kyrgyzstan, but they keep in touch with people from Kyrgyzstan and with relatives and friends in Kyrgyzstan, mainly through cultural and ethnic events in the country of permanent residency abroad, as well as through assistance on specific project initiatives.

As this mapping has reaffirmed, the Kyrgyz migrants are not only a reflection of their village homeland and the extended motherland. Kyrgyz migrants become "mirrors" or "reflectors" of those countries, cultures and systems that they approach, like the shores to which they become "docked", get used to, integrate in or alternatively, do not get used to and do not integrate into. Migrants reflect the facets of society and the economy, where they were able to get new opportunities or new grounds for growing, increasing income and well-being through work and education. Many migrants have already taken root in these destination countries. The longer they stay in other countries, the further they become both from Kyrgyzstan, and possibly from those values that kept them within the radius of their village homeland and the extended Kyrgyz motherland. However, provision of financial and humanitarian assistance, making a contribution to the development of Kyrgyzstan and the desire to help and be involved in the lives of their relatives and friends in Kyrgyzstan still remains the driver that directs annual cash flows in the amount of USD 1 to USD 2 billion remittances from Kyrgyz migrants from all over the world to their family members and loved ones throughout Kyrgyzstan.

One of the main factors in uniting migrants in countries of permanent residence in migration is the mutual solidarity of migrants with those who understand their path, difficulties, dangers, risks and the cost of migration experience. There is a growing awareness that basic management framework is needed for migrants' alliances into diaspora unions if they want to undertake any meaningful initiatives. Thus, establishment of a board within the associations as an advisory, decision-making and monitoring body,

⁶ Approach borrowed from the Tajik research report on diaspora from 2018 (IOM, 2015).

as well as the requirements for accountability of the main leaders and project managers within the associations, and hence the accountability of organizations and communities that receive assistance or contributions, are the most important practices for strengthening the diaspora associations and are the signs of growing confidence in members and partners.

Members of diaspora associations abroad and migrants who are not part of associations actively use modern means of communication via the Internet and mobile devices and channels. The technological effectiveness of online communication and tools is not an obstacle, but rather is optimally useful both in the personal life of migrants and in terms of cooperation of migrants with each other and with diaspora associations, as well as with their relatives, business partners and beneficiaries in Kyrgyzstan.

Consolidation of the source and point of information exchange on issues that are interesting and vital for migrants and the diaspora abroad could solve many problems both in interaction and in handling presentation of useful information, content, as well as ensuring the interactivity of information flows, packaged products and services for migrants, as well as improving the work of diaspora associations both within the organization and in cooperation with external partners.

There is a clear relationship between the way the diaspora association is structured and organized and the success of approaches to building good educational projects and investment ties with the village homeland and extended motherland. In those countries where there is an organized association of compatriots and migrants, leaders usually stood out as those who took responsibility for both the organization and the results of its operation. Such leaders attract similar activists and volunteers, which is then reflected in their approach to work, partners, efficiency, transparency and eventually on the sustainability of the organization. The leaders of organized groups, specialized and professional clubs and associations, as a rule, become the main drivers and representatives of migrants and compatriots in these countries. They carry out both managerial and representative (political and diplomatic) work of diaspora; the representatives of public and municipal sectors of Kyrgyzstan, as well as its business structures are ready to cooperate with them. In the destination countries, such diaspora leaders become key holders of information on both migrant statistics and security issues, as well as official relations of migrants and compatriots with local government and business representatives in countries of permanent residence in migration. Organized and officially registered diaspora associations have organizational, financial and fiscal advantages, as well as greater trust from the part of organization members, other migrants, partners and government officials. Systemic transparency, joint decision-making, as well as the level of closeness and mutual understanding between diaspora association members and State and municipal structures in Kyrgyzstan are highly valued and become a sign of a good quality association of migrants and compatriots abroad.

Thus, membership in diaspora associations becomes a truly unifying, structuring and stabilizing factor so that Kyrgyz migrants scattered all over the world can consider themselves a part of Kyrgyz identity and involvement in the life of Kyrgyzstan, even having lived abroad for more than 15 years. However, to enable membership in diaspora associations to contribute to saving and investment of international remittances of Kyrgyz migrants in development projects in Kyrgyzstan, it is necessary to build and foster broader cultural, psychological, spiritual and ethical, as well as somewhat technological competencies and opportunities for both migrants and compatriots and for their associations. At the same time, it is necessary to build approaches in cooperation between diasporas and local authorities, entrepreneurs and civil sector representatives in Kyrgyzstan to ensure mutual understanding of interests and opportunities, transparency and business ethics, cooperation formats and project ideas to address practical and priority problems and tasks on the ground in Kyrgyzstan. Formats and approaches, as well as very simple motivating mechanisms supporting migrants and compatriots, should be built into any processes for requesting financial, expert, technological or cultural and educational assistance from the part of Kyrgyz diaspora abroad.

Up until now, there have been many examples of projects and initiatives from leaders and activists of Kyrgyz diaspora abroad, many of them have been absolutely gratuitous and mostly charitable. Kyrgyz migrants, compatriots and diaspora associations have shown their ability to quickly respond to emergencies, raise financial and humanitarian aid, as well as volunteering activities and support in the most difficult times for Kyrgyzstan. It can be said that the leadership of many diaspora associations strives for interaction and mutual assistance, migrant solidarity in the destination countries, as well as development and implementation of innovative ideas and technologies aimed at the development of both the capital and regions of Kyrgyzstan. The assistance provided by migrants and compatriots to their loved ones in Kyrgyzstan can vary in amounts from 10 to 20 per cent of family income of compatriots abroad. Although a larger share of these remittances goes to the survival of families and close relatives of migrants, there is still a so-called safety cushion or “soften the blow” of relative stability of Kyrgyz compatriots abroad, which many of them are ready to transform into investments in Kyrgyzstan.

Geographic, climate and environmental factors are closely related to migration trends. Features of the relief and geographic prerequisites are of fundamental importance in population migration trends. Kyrgyzstan, as a high-mountainous country, is in the top of the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change crises, and so, issues related to climate adaptation should become a priority, both in migration processes governance, and in terms of preventive measures to avoid forced ecological and climatic migration. The problem of reducing and minimizing damage from environmental and climatic risks also should be considered both at the level of posing problems and at the level of finding solutions.

There is a need for administrative and programmatic planning of action for climate adaptation, prevention and preparedness of the population and communities to the risks of natural and human-induced disasters. These are often left outside the attention of key players or the attention is turned towards competing priorities (for example, towards daily survival, jobs or income search). Also, climate is often disregarded because of siloes, that is, narrow and specialized approaches that systemically prevail in Kyrgyzstan, as well as throughout the world today. There is a need for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches to resilience and adaptation to climate crises and related social, medical and economic crises at the community level, as well as within the decision-making system. And so long as this is left without the attention of migrants and the migrants' sending and receiving communities, the migration flows and their relationships with natural sites, climate and environmental disasters will remain incomprehensible and as a result, without the adequate planning and decisions that are necessary.

ANNEX 1

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE (JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2021)

Fill out the questionnaire and get an opportunity to win KGS 3,000!

**Survey for migrants and members of Kyrgyz diasporas abroad:
Form communication platform**

In the upper right corner, select the language (Kyrgyz or Russian)
convenient for you when filling out the questionnaire

Dear compatriots, Kyrgyzstanis in migration!

We invite you to fill out the survey questionnaire titled “Updating the list of members/groups of Kyrgyz people in migration from some large communities in destination countries” within the framework of the national project “Kyrgyzstan: Leveraging Diaspora Funding for Climate Action” implemented by the IOM Mission in Kyrgyzstan and funded by the IOM Development Fund.

Survey results will be used in a generalized form and anonymity of responses will be strictly observed.

We have a special prize fund for those respondents who fully answered the questionnaire. The prize fund amounts to KGS 30,000 (10 prizes of KGS 3,000 each). Winners will be randomly selected using the random.org generator.

1. To win a prize, please specify:

- Contact phone number with the codes of the country, city/village or mobile operator: _____ (This number will be entered to random.org generator.)
- I do not wish to take part in prize fund, but I will answer the questions of the questionnaire.
- No, I do not agree. (Complete the survey. Just show “Thank you, good luck!” message.)

2. What country are you in when filling out this questionnaire? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- Kyrgyzstan (temporarily returned from migration because of pandemic, emergency, etc.)
- Kyrgyzstan (country of permanent residence) – (Here, the respondent needs to answer questions 44–47 and then stop.)
- Russian Federation
- Kazakhstan
- Türkiye
- Republic of Korea
- China
- Italy
- Germany
- France
- Austria
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- United Arab Emirates
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan
- Belarus
- Ukraine
- Others (Please specify) _____

3. As a migrant, how long ago did you leave Kyrgyzstan? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)
- Less than a year
 - 1–2 years ago
 - 3–5 years ago
 - 6–10 years ago
 - 10–15 years ago
 - More than 15 years ago
 - Others (Please specify) _____
4. Please specify the country of your permanent residence in migration. (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)
- Russian Federation
 - Kazakhstan
 - Türkiye
 - Republic of Korea
 - China
 - Italy
 - Germany
 - France
 - Austria
 - Sweden
 - United Kingdom
 - United States of America
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Tajikistan
 - Uzbekistan
 - Belarus
 - Ukraine
 - Others (Please specify) _____
5. What is the main reason for your departure from Kyrgyzstan? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)
- Shortage of clean drinking water and irrigation water in the area where I live
 - High risk of radiation and pollution in the area where I live
 - Natural disasters (emergencies, avalanches, mudflows, earthquakes)
 - Deteriorated condition of cultivated fields and pastures
 - Political reasons/political asylum
 - Conflicts in border areas
 - To obtain medical treatment and improve health
 - To improve financial status of the family and earn more money
 - To give better education to children
 - Family reasons
 - Employment and career
 - To obtain better education
 - Others (Please specify) _____
6. Please specify your age.
- Under 18 (If you select this answer, the survey will end automatically.)
 - 18–24
 - 25–29
 - 30–39
 - 40–49
 - 50–59
 - 60–69
 - 70+

7. Please specify your sex.

- Man
- Woman
- Others (Please specify) _____

8. Please specify your marital status. (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- Single
- Married
- Civil marriage (without official registration)
- Nikah* (according to religious ceremony)
- Divorced
- Widow
- Others (Please specify) _____

9. What region, city or village of Kyrgyzstan do you consider your homeland? (Please specify where do you originate from.)

- Bishkek City
- Osh City
- Others (Please specify region, city or village) _____

10. Please specify your education level. (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- No education
- Primary school education
- Secondary school education
- College, technical school, specialized secondary education
- Higher incomplete education
- University (Bachelor's degree)
- University (Master's degree)
- University (PhD)
- Others (Please specify) _____

11. Please specify specialties obtained as a result of education. (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- Business and administration specialist
- Science and technology specialist
- Health specialist
- Education specialist
- IT specialist
- Specialist in law, humanities and culture
- Qualified industry, construction, transport worker
- Qualified worker in agriculture and forestry, fish farming and fishing
- Veterinarian
- Engineer in industry and production
- Architect, civil engineer, surveyor or designer
- Worker in services and trade
- Serviceperson
- Student
- Others (Please specify) _____

12. Please specify your current employment status. (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- Work in organization/company
- Work in private household
- Self-employed
- Run own business
- Housekeeping
- On maternity leave or parenting leave
- Unemployed and in search of job
- Unemployed, but not in search of job
- Others (Please specify) _____

13. Please specify your current sphere of activity. (You may choose 3 appropriate answers for you.)

- Construction, architecture
- Agriculture, agribusiness
- Trade
- Clothing industry
- Accounting, audit
- Mass media, publishing
- Marketing, advertisements, public relations, social media marketing
- Design, creativity
- Beauty, fitness, sports
- Hotel and restaurant business
- Culture, music, showbusiness
- Logistics, warehouse
- Medicine, pharmaceuticals
- Education, science
- IT, programming, design
- Online business and digital content
- Cleaning, groundskeeper
- Garbage collection and recycling
- Delivery of packages and luggage, courier services
- General labourer
- Delivery of water and firewood collection
- Others (Please specify) _____

14. Are you going to return to Kyrgyzstan for permanent residence in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

15. Please specify what changes in Kyrgyzstan would contribute to your decision to return to your homeland? (You may choose 3 appropriate answers for you.)

- Opportunity to find a job in my professional sphere
- Opportunity to find better-paying job
- Better medical care
- Better education for children
- Improved investment climate
- Better condition for business
- Improvements in democracy and stable political situation
- Reduction of corruption
- Improved infrastructure/living conditions
- Improved ecology (air, water quality)
- Others (Please specify) _____

16. What associations of Kyrgyz migrants do you know about in your country of destination? (Choose only one answer and specify the name(s).)

- Know (please, list all associations known to you) _____
- Do not know any
- Others

17. Are you a member of any associations/communities/organizations/groups of migrants (official and unofficial)? (Choose only one answer and specify the name(s).)

- Yes, I am a member (Please specify) _____
- No
- Others

18. How often do you take part in various events related to Kyrgyzstan and organized by the diaspora, for example, celebration of Nooruz, Independence Day and other events? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)
- o Never took part
 - o 1–2 times a year
 - o More than twice a year
 - o Others (Please specify) _____
19. Have you received assistance from fellow countrymen or migrant associations in the country of your permanent residence in migration? (You may choose several most appropriate answers for you.)
- o Assistance with housing
 - o In employment
 - o Money
 - o To send/receive parcels to/from Kyrgyzstan
 - o Enrolment of children to school, kindergarten, etc.
 - o In resolving conflicts with other diaspora members
 - o In obtaining registration, citizenship, work permit
 - o In communication with authorities (local administration, prefecture, etc.)
 - o In communication with law enforcement bodies (militia, police, etc.)
 - o Transportation of cargo 200
 - o Others (Please specify) _____
20. During emergency situations in Kyrgyzstan, have you participated in the initiatives of diasporas of Kyrgyzstanis abroad and compatriot migrants to provide gratuitous or charitable assistance to Kyrgyzstan? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)
- o Fundraising during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - o Collecting humanitarian aid, medicines, etc. during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - o Assisting compatriots to return to Kyrgyzstan during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - o During environmental disasters that caused forced displacement inside and/or outside Kyrgyzstan
 - o In armed conflicts that caused forced displacement within and/or outside of Kyrgyzstan
 - o Others (Please specify) _____
21. For improvements in social infrastructure and charity in Kyrgyzstan, have you participated in the initiatives of diasporas of Kyrgyzstanis abroad and migrant compatriots to provide gratuitous or charitable assistance? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)
- o Health care
 - o Sports
 - o Education and science
 - o Cultural programmes and events
 - o Infrastructure in rural areas
 - o Water supply and sanitation in the regions
 - o Work with the public in emergency response and preparedness and reducing the risks of emergencies due to climate change
 - o Raising environmental awareness and responsibility for nature conservation and adaptation to climate change
 - o Developing organic agriculture and supporting the sustainability of natural sources of food and nutrition for the population
 - o Development and strengthening of border regions (i.e. peacebuilding and strengthening of ties)
 - o Charitable projects, including support for orphanages, crisis centres (shelters), homes for the elderly
 - o Increasing women's and youth activity and entrepreneurship
 - o Others (Please specify) _____

22. What communication channels do you use to communicate with fellow migrants in the country of your permanent residence in migration? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)

- Facebook groups and pages
- Instagram
- Classmates
- VKontakte
- WhatsApp groups
- Telegram groups and channels
- Mailing lists
- Others (Please specify) _____

23. Please list the names of pages, groups, channels, mailing lists that you use to communicate with fellow migrants in the country of your permanent residence in migration. (You may choose several most appropriate answers and specify the names of groups and channels.)

- Facebook groups and channels (Please specify names) _____
- Instagram (Please specify names) _____
- Odnoklassniki (Classmates) (Please specify names) _____
- VKontakte (Please specify names) _____
- WhatsApp groups (Please specify names) _____
- Telegram groups and channels (Please specify names) _____
- Mailing lists (Please specify names) _____
- Others (Please specify) _____

24. What opportunities does participation in such communication channels in the country of permanent residence in-migration create for you? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)

- Assistance with housing
- Employment
- Money
- To send/receive parcels to/from Kyrgyzstan
- Enrolment of children to school, kindergarten, etc.
- In resolving conflicts with other diaspora members
- In obtaining registration, citizenship and work permit
- In communication with authorities (local administration, prefecture, etc.)
- In communication with law enforcement bodies (militia, police)
- Fundraising for cargo 200 transportation
- Others (Please specify) _____

25. Are you interested in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan? (Choose only one answer.)

- Yes
- No (Go to question 30)
- Not sure (Go to question 30)

26. Which areas of social and environmental protection and charity in Kyrgyzstan would you like to contribute to? (You may choose 5 most appropriate answers.)

- Health care
- Sports
- Education and science
- Cultural programmes and events
- Infrastructure in rural areas
- Water supply and sanitation in the regions
- Raising public awareness in emergency response and preparedness and reducing the risks of emergencies due to climate change
- Raising environmental awareness and responsibility for nature conservation and adaptation to climate change
- Developing organic agriculture and supporting the sustainability of natural sources of food and nutrition for the population
- Development and strengthening of border regions (i.e. peacebuilding and strengthening of ties)
- Charitable projects, including support for orphanages, crisis centres (shelters), homes for the elderly
- Increasing women's and youth activity and entrepreneurship
- Others (Please specify) _____

27. What spheres of economy and business in Kyrgyzstan would you like to contribute to? (You may choose 5 most appropriate answers.)
- IT, programming
 - Online trading and services
 - Financial and credit services
 - Entrepreneurship and investments
 - Clothing industry
 - Trade
 - Transport and communications
 - Tourism and services sector
 - Construction
 - Energy
 - Green energy (technologies for reducing and absorbing greenhouse gas emissions)
 - Development of organic agriculture and support of sustainability of natural sources of food and nutrition for the population
 - Mining industry
 - Others (Please specify) _____
28. To what region, city/village of Kyrgyzstan would you like to contribute to? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)
- Bishkek City
 - Osh City
 - Batken Region
 - Jalal-Abad Region
 - Issyk-Kul Region
 - Naryn Region
 - Osh Region
 - Talas Region
 - Chui Region
 - Others (Please specify) _____
29. What contribution would you like to offer in the development of your small and destination country? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)
- Consulting services
 - Training
 - Master classes
 - Visiting lectures
 - Financial charity
 - Financial investments
 - Exchange of information
 - Creation of a network/association
 - Others (Please specify) _____
30. What changes would strengthen your interest in taking part in the development initiatives in Kyrgyzstan? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)
- Improvement of political situation and stability
 - Information about specific projects, ideas and business plans of local entrepreneurs
 - More information about the general situation in Kyrgyzstan
 - Availability of reliable channels for transferring funds to specific projects/initiatives
 - Payment of transportation costs for short trips
 - Availability of a virtual communication platform for cooperation with partners in Kyrgyzstan
 - Obligations on the part of the State (government) to support and receive participation/contributions
 - Others (Please specify) _____

31. How often do you visit Kyrgyzstan? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- Quarterly
- Twice a year
- Once a year
- Once in two years
- Once in five years
- Never (Go to question 33)
- Others (Please specify) _____

32. Please specify the most common reasons for your visits to Kyrgyzstan. (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)

- Vacation
- Tourism
- To see family and friends
- Business
- Education
- Medical treatment
- Extension of migration visa
- Family events (wedding, *toy*, *ash*, funeral)
- Others (Please specify) _____

33. Do you send money to family members and close relatives who stay in Kyrgyzstan? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- Yes
- No (Go to question 38)
- We haven't sent yet, but we plan to send
- Others (Please specify) _____

34. If yes, please, specify approximate amount that you transfer (or plan to transfer) on average a month? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- From KGS 1,000 to KGS 5,000/month
- From KGS 5,000 to KGS 10,000/month
- From KGS 10,000 to KGS 25,000/month
- From KGS 25,000 to KGS 50,000/month
- From KGS 50,000 to KGS 100,000/month
- From KGS 100,000/month and more
- Others (Please specify) _____

35. Whom of your family members and close relatives do you send money to? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)

- Mother
- Father
- Sister(s)
- Brother(s)
- Wife
- Husband
- Daughter(s)
- Son(s)
- Other close relatives
- Others (Please specify) _____

36. Who in your family and among close relatives decides on the distribution of funds? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)
- Sender himself/herself
 - Recipient(s)
 - Mother
 - Father
 - Sister
 - Brother
 - Wife
 - Husband
 - Daughter
 - Son
 - We as a family
 - Other close relatives
 - Others (Please specify) _____
37. Please indicate what needs the funds you sent to Kyrgyzstan are spent on. (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)
- Contributions and support among relatives and friends for celebrations, weddings, commemorations (*koshumcha*)
 - Organization and conduct of weddings and funerals
 - Development of agriculture and purchase of livestock
 - Landscaping, planting seedlings, gardening, etc.
 - Medical services, medicines, etc.
 - Fees for pasture restoration (pasture committees)
 - Access to clean drinking water
 - Access to electricity, heating and energy efficiency
 - Construction/renovation of the house
 - Purchase of land/real estate
 - Upbringing and education of children
 - Payment of tuition fee in an educational institution and/or online education
 - Small business development
 - Loan repayment
 - Payment of taxes
 - Purchase of vehicle
 - Purchase of home furniture and appliances
 - Purchase of computer and/or mobile phone
 - Payment for Internet and mobile communication
 - Construction of mosques and *madrassas*
 - Others (Please specify) _____
38. Have you financially supported any organization or business in Kyrgyzstan over the past two to three years?
- Yes
 - No (Go to question 40)
39. What type of organization have you supported over the past two to three years? (You may choose several most appropriate answers).
- Kindergartens, schools, universities
 - Orphanages, crisis centres (shelters)
 - Research and analytical companies, centres
 - ICT companies or Internet start-ups
 - Sports clubs and/or health centres
 - Mosques
 - Individual entrepreneur
 - Small and medium business
 - Others (Please specify) _____

40. What non-financial or gratuitous types of support did you provide to partners in Kyrgyzstan? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)

- Conducting free lectures at the educational institution
- Volunteer at cultural/sports events
- Provision of free medical care
- Assistance in providing scholarships to schoolchildren, students, participants in sports and other Olympiads, competitions, etc.
- Others (Please specify) _____

41. How often do you communicate with your relatives and/or friends/acquaintances in Kyrgyzstan? (Choose only one answer that you think is the most appropriate.)

- Daily
- One to three times a week
- One to three times a month
- Several times a year
- I do not communicate with relatives, friends and acquaintances in Kyrgyzstan (Go to question 44)
- Others (Please specify) _____

42. What communication means do you use to communicate with family members, relatives and friends living in Kyrgyzstan? (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)

- Landline phone calls
- Mobile phone calls
- Email
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Odnoklassniki (Classmates)
- VKontakte
- WhatsApp
- Telegram
- Zoom
- Google Meet
- Others (Please specify) _____

43. If your children/grandchildren/close young relatives have not left Kyrgyzstan yet, how likely is it that they will stay or choose Kyrgyzstan for permanent residence? (Choose an answer for each opinion depending on how much you agree.)

	Most likely yes	Possibly	No answer	Unlikely	Most likely no
They will go to another country.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The youngest/one of the children will choose/stay in Kyrgyzstan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
They all will choose/stay in Kyrgyzstan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

44. In your opinion, what environmental problems in Kyrgyzstan need urgent solution? (You may choose 5 most appropriate answers.)

- Use of chemical fertilizers and GMOs in agriculture
- Loss of biodiversity
- Pollution of glaciers, water bodies, rivers, water sources and soil
- Deforestation
- Overgrazing on all types of pastures
- Toxic landfills and increased radioactivity from mining operations
- Plastic waste, littering of both natural objects and settlements
- Spill/discharge of oil products during car accidents, etc.

- o Growing unpredictability of vectors and populations of harmful insects, microbes, viruses and fungi
- o Air pollution (For instance, smog, burning landfills, etc.)
- o Others (Please specify) _____

45. Please indicate sources of information about Kyrgyzstan. (You may choose several most appropriate answers.)

- o Know from relatives and friends
- o Diaspora associations/communities of Kyrgyz migrants abroad
- o Embassies, consulates
- o Mass media in the country where I live
- o Mass media in Kyrgyzstan
- o Email
- o Facebook
- o Twitter
- o Instagram
- o Classmates
- o VKontakte
- o WhatsApp
- o Telegram
- o Zoom
- o Google Meet
- o Others (Please specify) _____

46. Would you agree to be contacted by us for an additional interview? (Please specify your contact details.)

- o Yes. (Please indicate how to address you by name and your contact telephone number with the code of the country, city or mobile operator.) _____
- o No, I do not agree.

47. Comments and wishes

[Final screen for those who do not want to participate in the survey]

Thank you and good luck!

[Final screen for those who answered all the questions of the questionnaire]

Thank you for your participation in the survey.

This will help channel the contribution of Kyrgyz migrants abroad to the development initiatives in Kyrgyzstan.

ANNEX 2

INFORMATION ON PRIZE WINNERS FOR MOTIVATION TO TAKE PART IN THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

Information on prize winners

No.	Women (W) and men (M)	Country	Money transfer status
1	W1	Almaty, Kazakhstan	Gold Crown
2	W2	Moscow, Russian Federation	To transfer to daughter Aiday in Bishkek
3	M1	Moscow, Russian Federation	Gold Crown
4	W3	Moscow, Russian Federation	Gold Crown
5	W4	Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation	Gold Crown
6	W5	Türkiye	To transfer to mother in Kyrgyzstan
7	M2	Kara-Balta, Kyrgyzstan	To balance in KGS
8	W6	Moscow, Russian Federation	Gold Crown
9	W7	Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	To transfer to mother's mobile in Kyrgyzstan
10	M3	Moscow, Russian Federation	To transfer to mother in Kyrgyzstan to RSK Bank card

ANNEX 3

CROSS-TABULATED DATA OF ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

Table A1. Number of respondents' answers relative to the country of permanent residence in migration and participation in diaspora initiatives during emergencies

Diaspora initiatives during emergencies	Country of permanent residence in migration										
	Russian Federation	Kazakhstan	Türkiye	Republic of Korea	China	Italy	Germany	Japan	United States of America	United Arab Emirates	Ukraine
Fundraising during the COVID-19 pandemic	243	19	21	9	11	18	21	13	11	7	13
Collecting humanitarian aid, medicines, etc. during the COVID-19 pandemic	129	12	14	6	9	5	9	3	6	5	6
Assisting compatriots to return to Kyrgyzstan during the COVID-19 pandemic	104	5	13	3	4	5	4	1	6	2	4
During environmental disasters that caused forced displacement inside and/or outside Kyrgyzstan	28	4	6	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2
In armed conflicts that caused forced displacement within and/or outside Kyrgyzstan	17	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
No	82	7	12	9	2	0	4	6	4	2	4
Total	603	51	67	27	26	31	39	23	29	18	29

Note: n = 708.

Table A2. Number of respondents relative to the age of respondent and participation in diaspora initiatives during emergencies

Diaspora initiatives during emergencies	Age of respondents					
	18–24	25–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60–69
Fundraising during the COVID-19 pandemic	38	64	145	131	50	11
Collecting humanitarian aid, medicines, etc. during the COVID-19 pandemic	22	37	67	67	26	9
Assisting compatriots to return to Kyrgyzstan during the COVID-19 pandemic	19	24	52	48	21	9
During environmental disasters that caused forced displacement inside and/or outside Kyrgyzstan	2	8	15	12	7	3
In armed conflicts that caused forced displacement within and/or outside Kyrgyzstan	3	2	5	12	2	3
No	26	41	54	32	9	1
Total	110	176	338	302	115	36

Note: n = 774.

Table A3. Number of respondents relative to the country of permanent residence in migration and their participation in the diaspora initiatives to improve social infrastructure and charity in Kyrgyzstan

Diaspora initiatives for social infrastructure and charity	Country of permanent residence in migration										
	Russian Federation	Kazakhstan	Türkiye	Republic of Korea	China	Italy	Germany	United States	United Arab Emirates	Ukraine	Japan
Health care	136	6	12	3	3	8	7	3	3	5	2
Sports	69	3	6	1	3	1	2	0	2	4	1
Education and science	52	3	9	5	7	1	9	7	5	4	7
Cultural programmes and events	85	8	17	4	6	7	7	0	2	5	3
Infrastructure in rural areas	53	2	1	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	0
Water supply and sanitation in the regions	31	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Raising public awareness in emergency response and preparedness and reducing the risks of emergencies due to climate change	9	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	0
Raising environmental awareness and responsibility for nature conservation and adaptation to climate change	9	0	2	0	2	1	4	1	1	0	0
Developing organic agriculture and supporting the sustainability of natural sources of food and nutrition for the population	14	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	0
Development and strengthening of border regions (i.e. peacebuilding and strengthening of ties)	17	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Charitable projects, including support for orphanages, crisis centres (shelters), homes for the elderly	59	8	5	5	5	9	10	7	5	1	2
Increasing women's and youth activity and entrepreneurship	52	3	6	0	2	1	4	2	1	2	0
Did not participate	80	12	12	7	2	1	6	5	3	6	8
Total	666	46	72	26	38	36	50	30	28	29	23

Note: n = 672.

Table A4. Number of respondents relative to the country of permanent residence in migration and spheres of social and environmental protection and charity that they would like to contribute to

Spheres of social and environmental protection and charity	Country of permanent residence in migration									
	Russian Federation	Kazakhstan	Türkiye	Republic of Korea	China	Italy	Germany	United States of America	United Arab Emirates	Ukraine
Health care	176	11	12	6	8	3	9	8	7	6
Sports	85	5	5	1	6	1	4	2	5	4
Education and science	187	15	22	8	13	3	19	8	11	7
Cultural programmes and events	55	7	9	3	4	3	5	1	1	3
Infrastructure in rural areas	109	8	11	3	7	2	6	5	1	4
Water supply and sanitation in the regions	86	3	6	4	4	0	2	3	2	3
Raising public awareness in emergency response and preparedness and reducing the risks of emergencies due to climate change	31	2	6	0	2	0	2	1	1	1
Raising environmental awareness and responsibility for nature conservation and adaptation to climate change	89	6	12	2	4	3	13	2	4	2
Developing organic agriculture and supporting the sustainability of natural sources of food and nutrition for the population	84	2	10	1	5	0	6	0	3	2
Development and strengthening of border regions (i.e. peacebuilding and strengthening of ties)	88	3	3	2	1	1	2	2	3	1
Charitable projects, including support for orphanages, crisis centres (shelters), homes for the elderly	98	7	16	7	4	5	11	4	4	6
Increasing women's and youth activity and entrepreneurship	91	5	15	6	7	3	8	7	5	4
Total	1 179	74	127	43	65	24	87	43	47	43

Note: n = 489.

Table A5. Number of respondents relative to the country of permanent residence in migration and spheres of economy and business that they would like to contribute to

Spheres of economy and business	Country of permanent residence in migration										
	Russian Federation	Kazakhstan	Türkiye	Republic of Korea	China	Italy	Germany	United States of America	United Arab Emirates	Ukraine	Japan
IT, programming	116	13	12	4	7	2	13	4	9	4	6
Online trading and services	89	11	19	5	10	1	6	3	5	4	8
Financial and credit services	21	3	3	1	1	1	5	1	2	4	2
Entrepreneurship and investments	134	8	15	5	8	4	11	3	3	5	6
Clothing industry	75	4	6	1	4	1	3	1	3	4	1
Trade	84	6	8	1	4	2	1	0	3	4	1
Transport and communications	57	2	8	1	3	1	5	1	1	2	2
Tourism and services sector	166	11	20	8	8	3	15	7	8	5	7
Construction	92	5	5	0	1	3	4	1	2	3	3
Energy	62	3	4	2	3	2	4	2	3	1	1
Green energy (technologies for reducing and absorbing greenhouse gas emissions)	48	8	6	2	3	1	4	4	2	1	3
Development of organic agriculture and support of sustainability of natural sources of food and nutrition for the population	120	8	11	7	5	5	6	6	2	3	3
Mining industry	51	4	4	2	4	1	2	0	1	1	0
Total	1 115	86	121	39	61	27	79	17	9	41	24

Note: n = 492.

Table A6. Priority environmental problems to be solved based on respondents' homeland

	Use of chemical fertilizers and GMOs in agriculture	Loss of biodiversity	Pollution of glaciers, water bodies, rivers, water sources and soil	Deforestation	Overgrazing on all types of pastures	Toxic landfills and increased radioactivity from mining operations	Plastic waste, littering of both natural objects and settlements	Spill/ discharge of oil products during car accidents, etc.	Growing unpredictability of vectors and populations of harmful insects, microbes, viruses and fungi	Air pollution (for instance, smog, burning landfills, etc.)	Total
Bishkek City	55	31	127	76	44	105	169	25	15	192	839
Osh City	33	8	49	30	20	45	55	7	13	77	337
Issyk-Kul Region	9	3	18	11	6	14	18	3	2	20	104
Jalal-Abad Region	6	2	15	9	5	13	18	3	3	25	99
Issyk-Kul Region, Karakol	7	2	10	7	3	11	12	1	2	14	69
Naryn Region	4	2	11	6	1	11	11	0	0	15	61
Talas Region	6	4	11	6	2	6	10	1	1	12	59
Chui Region, Tokmok	1	1	5	2	2	6	8	1	1	9	36
Jalal-Abad Region, Toktogul District, Toktogul	3	0	5	2	1	6	5	1	1	5	29
Naryn Region, Kochkor District, Kochkor Village	1	0	4	3	1	4	4	0	1	3	21
Batken Region	3	1	4	2	2	3	4	2	2	1	24
Batken Region, Kyzyl-Kiya	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	8
Jalal-Abad Region, Tash-Kumyr	1	0	3	0	2	3	3	1	0	2	15
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Tosor Village	2	2	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	3	21
Issyk-Kul Region, Issyk-Kul District, Cholpon-Ata	2	2	3	1	1	3	3	0	2	4	21
Chui Region, Jaiyl District, Kara-Balta	0	1	4	3	1	3	3	0	0	5	20
Batken Region, Batken	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	8
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District	2	0	4	4	1	2	2	0	0	4	19
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kerben	1	2	4	2	1	2	2	0	1	5	20
Jalal-Abad Region, Ala-Buka District	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	11
Jalal-Abad Region, Suzak District, Suzak Village	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	12
Issyk-Kul Region, Ak-Suu District	1	0	1	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	12
Issyk-Kul Region, Balykchy	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	8
Issyk-Kul Region, Ton District, Bokonbayevo	0	1	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	10
Naryn Region, At-Bashi District, At-Bashi Village	1	0	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	15
Naryn Region, Jungal District	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	11
Osh Region, Alai District	2	0	3	0	2	2	2	0	0	3	14
Osh Region, Kara-Kulzha District	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	2	15
Osh Region, Kara-Kulzha District, Kara-Kulzha Village	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	7
Osh Region, Nookat District, Aibek Village	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	9
Osh Region, Uzgen District, Mirza-Aki Village	2	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	12
Chui Region, Zhaiyl District	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	6
Chui Region, Ysyk-Ata District	2	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	9

	Use of chemical fertilizers and GMOs in agriculture	Loss of biodiversity	Pollution of glaciers, water bodies, rivers, water sources and soil	Deforestation	Overgrazing on all types of pastures	Toxic landfills and increased radioactivity from mining operations	Plastic waste, littering of both natural objects and settlements	Spill/ discharge of oil products during car accidents, etc.	Growing unpredictability of vectors and populations of harmful insects, microbes, viruses and fungi	Air pollution (for instance, smog, burning landfills, etc.)	Total
Chui Region, Kemin District, Kemin	2	0	1	3	0	2	2	1	0	5	16
Chui Region, Ysyk-Ata District, Kant	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	2	11
Batken Region, Sulyukta	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District, Kadamzhai	3	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	13
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District, Kyrgyz-Kyshtak Village	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District, Chauvai Village	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Batken Region, Leilek District	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
Batken Region, Leilek District, Isfana	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	6
Batken Region, Leilek District, Arka 2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Zherge-Tal Village	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kara-Suu Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kyzyl-Tuu Village	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Jalal-Abad Region, Ala-Buka District, Ala-Buka Village	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Jalal-Abad Region, Bazar-Korgon District, Bazar-Korgon	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Jalal-Abad Region, Bazar-Korgon District, Akman Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Jalal-Abad Region, Jalal-Abad	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	6
Jalal-Abad Region, Karakul	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	5
Jalal-Abad Region, Nookan District, Nookan Village	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Jalal-Abad Region, Suzak District, Kara-Cholok Village	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	6
Jalal-Abad Region, Toguz-Toroguz District, Kazarman Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Jalal-Abad Region, Toktogul District, Nichke-Sai Village	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	8
Issyk-Kul Region, Ak-Suu District, Ak-Suu Village	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
Issyk-Kul Region, Ak-Suu District, Kereg-Tash Village	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Kyzyl-Suu Village	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	9
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Saruu Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Tilekmat Village	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Issyk-Kul Region, Issyk-Kul District, Grigorievka Village	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	5

	Use of chemical fertilizers and GMOs in agriculture	Loss of biodiversity	Pollution of glaciers, water bodies, rivers, water sources and soil	Deforestation	Overgrazing on all types of pastures	Toxic landfills and increased radioactivity from mining operations	Plastic waste, littering of both natural objects and settlements	Spill/ discharge of oil products during car accidents, etc.	Growing unpredictability of vectors and populations of harmful insects, microbes, viruses and fungi	Air pollution (for instance, smog, burning landfills, etc.)	Total
Issyk-Kul Region, Issyk-Kul District, Chyrpykty Village	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Issyk-Kul Region, Ton District	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Tyup District, Tyup Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4
Naryn Region, Ak-Tala District	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Naryn Region, At-Bashi District	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	4
Naryn Region, Naryn	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Naryn Region, Jumgal District, Tugol-Sai Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Naryn Region, Kochkor District, Kum-Dobo Village	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	6
Naryn Region, Naryn District	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
Osh Region, Aravan District	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Osh Region, Uzgen	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Osh Region, Kara-Kulzha District, 1-May Village	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	6
Osh Region, Kara-Kulzha District, Karaguz Village	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
Osh Region, Nookat District	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	5
Osh Region, Nookat District, Nookat	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	7
Osh Region, Nookat District, Bel Village	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	7
Osh Region, Uzgen District	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Talas Region, Bakai-Ata District, Ak-Dobo Village	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
Talas Region, Talas District, Kozuchak Village	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
Talas Region, Manas District, Manas Village	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Chui Region, Zhaiyl District, Suusamyр Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
Chui Region, Kemin District, Orlovka	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	9
Chui Region, Kemin District, Almaly Village	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
Chui Region, Panfilov District, Kaindy	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	6
Chui Region, Sokuluk District, Manas Village	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Chui Region, Sokuluk District, Sokuluk	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	3	12
Chui Region, Sokuluk District, Chat-Kel Village	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	5
Chui Region, Ysyk-Ata District, Tuz Village	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	5
Chui Region	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Osh Region	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Orgochor Village	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	4

	Use of chemical fertilizers and GMOs in agriculture	Loss of biodiversity	Pollution of glaciers, water bodies, rivers, water sources and soil	Deforestation	Overgrazing on all types of pastures	Toxic landfills and increased radioactivity from mining operations	Plastic waste, littering of both natural objects and settlements	Spill/ discharge of oil products during car accidents, etc.	Growing unpredictability of vectors and populations of harmful insects, microbes, viruses and fungi	Air pollution (for instance, smog, burning landfills, etc.)	Total
Batken Region, Batken District, Byzhum Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region, Batken District, Kara-Bak Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District, Kara-Kyshtak Village	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kosh-Dobo Village	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kuluktobo Village	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Uch-Korgon Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Nookan District, Kyzyl-Kyrgyzstan Village	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Nookan District, Shamaldy-Sai Village	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Jalal-Abad Region, Suzak District	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Jalal-Abad Region, Suzak District, Aral Village	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Jalal-Abad Region, Toktogul District, Sary Sogot Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Issyk-Kul Region, Ton District, Tort-Kul Village	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Naryn Region, At-Bashi District, Acha-Kaindy Village	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Naryn Region, Jumgal District, Chaek Village	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Osh Region, Alai District, Koryl <i>ayil okmotu</i>	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Osh Region, Nookat District, Kashkaldak Village	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Osh Region, Nookat District, Yntymak Village	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Osh Region, Uzgen District, Kurshab Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Talas Region, Talas	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Talas Region, Talas District	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Chui Region, Kemin District, Kara-Bulak Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Alamudun District, Arashan Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	190	75	370	216	122	317	424	64	60	493	2 331

Note: In response to the question: "What region, city or village in Kyrgyzstan do you consider your homeland? (Please specify where do you originate from.)"

Table A7. Preferred Kyrgyz region, city or village to contribute to and the indicated homeland in Kyrgyzstan

	Bishkek City	Osh City	Batken Region	Jalal-Abad Region	Issyk-Kul Region	Naryn Region	Osh Region	Talas Region	Chui Region	Across Kyrgyzstan	Rural area	Depending on conditions for business	Total
Bishkek City	86	4	8	10	21	10	2	3	22	6	1	0	173
Osh City	15	43	5	3	1	1	22	0	2	2	0	0	94
Batken Region, Batken District, Buzhum Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region, Batken	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Batken Region, Kyzyl-Kiya	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District, Kadamzhai	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District, Kara-Kyshtak Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District, Kyrgyz-Kyshtak Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region, Kadamzhai District, Chauvai Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region, Leilek District	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Batken Region, Leilek District, Isfana	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Batken Region, Leilek District, Arka 2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kerben	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Jerge-Tal Village	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kara-Suu Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kosh-Dobo Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kuluktobo Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Kyzyl-Tuu Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Aksy District, Uch-Korgon Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Ala-Buka District	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

	Bishkek City	Osh City	Batken Region	Jalal-Abad Region	Issyk-Kul Region	Naryn Region	Osh Region	Talas Region	Chui Region	Across Kyrgyzstan	Rural area	Depending on conditions for business	Total
Jalal-Abad Region, Ala-Buka District, Ala-Buka Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Bazar-Korgon District, Bazar-Korgon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Bazar-Korgon District, Akman Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Jalal-Abad	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Karakul	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jalal-Abad Region, Tash-Kumyr	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Jalal-Abad Region, Nookan District, Kyzyl-Kyrgyzstan Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Nookan District, Nookan Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Nookan District, Shamaldy-Sai Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Suzak District	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Suzak District, Aral Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Suzak District, Kara-Cholok Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Suzak District, Suzak Village	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jalal-Abad Region, Toktogul District, Sary Sogot Village	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jalal-Abad Region, Toktogul District, Toktogul	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Jalal-Abad Region, Toktogul District, Nichke-Sai Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Ak-Suu District	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Issyk-Kul Region, Ak-Suu District, Ak-Suu Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Ak-Suu District, Kerege-Tash Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Balykchy	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Issyk-Kul Region, Karakol	0	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16

	Bishkek City	Osh City	Batken Region	Jalal-Abad Region	Issyk-Kul Region	Naryn Region	Osh Region	Talas Region	Chui Region	Across Kyrgyzstan	Rural area	Depending on conditions for business	Total
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Kyzyl-Suu Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Saruu Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Tilekmat Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Jeti-Oguz District, Tosor Village	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Issyk-Kul Region, Issyk-Kul District, Cholpon-Ata	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Issyk-Kul Region, Issyk-Kul District, Grigorievka Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Issyk-Kul District, Chyrpykty Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Bosteri Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Ton District	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Ton District, Bokonbayevo	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Issyk-Kul Region, Ton District, Tort-Kul Village	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region, Tyup District, Tyup Village	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Naryn Region, Ak-Tala District	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Naryn Region, At-Bashi District	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Naryn Region, At-Bashi District, At-Bashi Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Naryn Region, At-Bashi District, Acha-Kayndy Village	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Naryn Region, Naryn	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Naryn Region, Jungal District, Tugol-Sai Village	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Naryn Region, Jungal District	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Naryn Region, Jungal District, Chaek Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Naryn Region, Kochkor District, Kochkor Village	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Naryn Region, Kochkor District, Kum-Dobo Village	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Naryn Region, Naryn District	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

	Bishkek City	Osh City	Batken Region	Jalal-Abad Region	Issyk-Kul Region	Naryn Region	Osh Region	Talas Region	Chui Region	Across Kyrgyzstan	Rural area	Depending on conditions for business	Total
Osh Region, Alai District	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Osh Region, Alai District, Korul <i>ayil okmotu</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Aravan District	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Uzgen	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Kara-Kulzha District	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	5
Osh Region, Kara-Kulzha District, 1-May Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Kara-Kulzha District, Karaguz Village	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Kara-Kulzha District, Kara-Kulzha Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Osh Region, Nookat District	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Nookat District, Nookat	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Osh Region, Nookat District, Aibek Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Osh Region, Nookat District, Bel Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Nookat District, Kashkaldak Village	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Nookat District, Yntymak Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Uzgen District	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Uzgen District, Kurshab Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osh Region, Uzgen District, Mirza-Aki Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Talas Region, Bakai-Ata District, Ak-Dobo Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Talas Region, Talas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Talas Region, Talas District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Talas Region, Talas District, Kozychak Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Talas Region, Manas District, Manas Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Tokmok	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	10
Chui Region, Jaiyl District	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

	Bishkek City	Osh City	Batken Region	Jalal-Abad Region	Issyk-Kul Region	Naryn Region	Osh Region	Talas Region	Chui Region	Across Kyrgyzstan	Rural area	Depending on conditions for business	Total
Chui Region, Jaiyl District, Kara-Balta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Chui Region, Jaiyl District, Suusamyр Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Ysyk-Ata District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Chui Region, Kemin District, Kemin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Chui Region, Kemin District, Orlovka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Kemin District, Almalyy Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Kemin District, Kara-Bulak Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Panfilov District, Kaindy Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Sokuluk District, Manas Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Sokuluk District, Sokuluk Village	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Chui Region, Sokuluk District, Chat-Kel Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chui Region, Ysyk-Ata District, Kant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Chui Region, Alamudun District, Arashan Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chui Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Issyk-Kul Region	1	0	1	0	19	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	24
Talas Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	13
Naryn Region	2	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	1	0	0	19
Osh Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Batken Region	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Jalal-Abad Region	2	0	2	27	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	34
Total	125	52	49	81	81	41	37	21	52	23	1	1	564

Note: Cross-tabulation of responses to the questions: “What region, city or village in Kyrgyzstan would you like to contribute to?” and “What region, city or village in Kyrgyzstan do you consider your homeland? (Please specify where do you originate from.)”

ANNEX 4

SEMI-STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW STRUCTURE AND QUESTIONS

Address to migrants and representatives of diaspora associations of Kyrgyzstan abroad to participate in a semi-structured in-depth interview

February 2021

Recommended text for inviting potential respondents and obtaining their consent to participate in the interviews:

Good day. My name is _____. I am a consultant to the office of IOM in Kyrgyzstan. We conduct the survey on the interests and preferences of Kyrgyz migrants and representatives of diaspora associations of Kyrgyz people abroad in uniting professional or cultural efforts in joint projects. We are also studying existing communication channels that help Kyrgyz migrants keep in touch with each other, with the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad, as well as with village homeland and the extended motherland in Kyrgyzstan. This survey, and in particular your responses to interviews, will help in creating a communication platform. The communication platform will work, first of all, for the benefit of our citizens and migrants, to maintain communication with each other. We adhere to data confidentiality policy; the anonymity of the answers will be strictly observed, and survey results will be used in a generalized form.

For your convenience, we have divided the interview into six parts: A, B, C, D, E and F. We invite you to fill in A and B parts of the interview in writing. To receive answers to other questions in parts C, D, E and F, we will contact you by phone (mobile or Zoom).

Recommended instructions for entering written answers of the interview, contact details and permission for audio recording of telephone interviews:

Thank you that you agreed to answer the questions of our interview as part of the survey “Update and Inventory of the List of Diaspora Members/Groups from Some Large Communities in Destination Countries” within the framework of the national project titled Kyrgyzstan: Leveraging Diaspora Funding for Climate Action, implemented by IOM and funded by the IOM Development Fund. We study the existing communication channels that help Kyrgyz migrants keep in touch with each other, with the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad, as well as with village homeland and the extended motherland in Kyrgyzstan. This work helps to improve communication between migrants. As a result of the survey, a list of participants in the diasporas and associations of Kyrgyz people living in migration will be developed (Annex 1), which will serve as a basis for creating a communication platform for migrants. We adhere to the data confidentiality policy; the anonymity of the answers will be strictly observed, and survey results will be used in a generalized form.

Please provide written answers to the questions in parts A and B of this interview and send it by email _____

To receive answers to other questions (parts C, D, E and F), we will contact you by phone.* (Please indicate convenient ways to get through to you (mobile number with WhatsApp, Telegram, Zoom or Google capabilities.) _____

* We will conduct audio recording of the telephone interview and we hope for your consent.

**Semi-structured in-depth interview questions with migrants and representatives of
Kyrgyz diaspora associations abroad**

February 2021

Written responses to parts A and B can be entered here.

A. Who are you and where are you now?

1. Full name of respondent _____
2. Your email address and/or contact number (mobile phone) _____
3. Age: _____ Gender: _____
Education: _____ (degree, higher education institution)
4. What sphere do you work in? _____
5. Country and city of permanent residence in migration _____
6. Reasons for migration _____
7. Are you a leader, administrator or moderator of any diaspora association, formal or informal, of Kyrgyzstanis living abroad?
Yes. Indicate status _____ No. Why _____
(For example, Russian Federation initiative group) (For other questions, we will contact you by phone.)

(Go to question 11.)

B. Your diaspora association and your personal contribution to its development

8. What are the principles of uniting people in countries of permanent residence in migration? _____
9. What is the name of your association? _____
10. Which countries and cities does the association actively operate? (Indicate address, etc.) _____
11. Please give a link to the group on social networks and messenger applications (WhatsApp, Telegram, etc.) _____
Official website (if any) _____
12. When was your association or group created? (Indicate year.) _____
13. What types of activities are carried out by your association or group in the countries of permanent residence in migration? And in Kyrgyzstan? _____
(More details may be discussed by phone; see question 28.)
14. Is there a membership fee in the association? How much is it? Do you collect funds in the association for some purposes and assistance? _____
15. How many registered members are there in your association? What percentage of them are active members/participants, including ratio of men to women? (Activity means: do they pay membership fees, do they participate in collecting money and assistance, in promotions, in special events of the diaspora, assistance in sending cargo 200, etc.) _____
16. What age groups are present in your association? _____
17. Are you a member of any chat groups, channels or online communities of compatriots based on interest (WhatsApp, Telegram, etc.)? Please specify the name and social media. _____
18. Does your association maintain communication with the organizations, NGOs, activists, local communities etc. in Kyrgyzstan? If yes, in what areas, and what communication channels do you use? If no, why? What barriers prevent such communication? _____
19. In your opinion, in which sectors of development of Kyrgyzstan the associations could take part? In what form? _____

20. For additional interviews, please recommend two people you know who are or have contributed to the development of Kyrgyzstan.
- Has an experience of contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan
Full name _____
Link to profile in social networks _____
 - Has interest in contributing to the development of Kyrgyzstan
Full name _____
Link to profile in social networks _____

For other questions, we will contact you by phone. Thank you for your answers!

Questions of telephone interview (Parts C, D, E and F)

C. Diaspora vision, migrants within the associations, their interests and initiatives

- What obstacles/difficulties did you face in the implementation of projects and initiatives (charitable, private, local communities etc.) in the development of Kyrgyzstan? _____

- What conditions should be created for your personal interest and involvement in the initiatives aimed at the development of your village homeland and the extended motherland? _____

- What conditions are required to improve cooperation between diaspora associations and the large/ homeland of the members of these associations? _____

D. Adaptation in destination country and links with compatriots abroad and in village homeland and the extended motherland

- Did any of your compatriots abroad (for example, diaspora associations) help you in solving difficulties after arriving in the destination country? _____

- Do you maintain personal or professional ties with the Kyrgyz people who now live in Kyrgyzstan, in which regions? What communication channels do you use for this purpose? _____

- Do you send money transfers to family members and close relatives who stay in Kyrgyzstan? What percentage of your income do you send home? Do you know what the funds you send are spent on? _____

E. Contribution of diasporas in climate action

- Have you or your loved ones ever had to change their place of residence due to climate change or to avoid natural disasters? (mudflows, floods, avalanches, frequent earthquakes, deterioration in the quality of air, water, etc.) _____
- To what extent are you interested in climate change adaptation as a sector to support and contribute to? Which areas need urgent support and funding? _____

- Under what conditions could you and your diaspora community participate in climate change adaptation actions? _____

F. On potential return to Kyrgyzstan and contribution to the development of village homeland and the extended motherland

- 30. Have you thought about returning to Kyrgyzstan, if so, when and under what conditions? For example, how important it is for you to have decent jobs, career and/or personal development opportunities?

- 31. Do you see a future for your grandchildren and children in Kyrgyzstan? _____

- 32. Even if you do not return, will you participate in development initiatives in Kyrgyzstan? If so, in which sector? In what form? _____

- 33. What should be the communication platform for Kyrgyz diasporas and migrants abroad? Will the database be useful for you to communicate and exchange useful information and to strengthen ties between the compatriots abroad? _____

Thank you for participating in the interview!
Your understanding and vision are very valuable to us.

ANNEX 5

LIST OF SEMI-STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW RESPONDENTS

Out of 21 interviews, 3 interviews were conducted in Kyrgyz language (respondents from the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) and 18 interviews in Russian.

Respondent no.	Date and time of the interview	Association name	Location: Country, city
Heads and leaders of diaspora associations			
1	9 February 2021	International Association of Entrepreneurs	Russian Federation, Moscow
2	10 February 2021; 3 p.m.	Kyrgyz–Swiss organization: Bridge to Kyrgyzstan (Brücke nach Kirgisistan)	Switzerland, Lucerne
3	11 February 2021; 7 p.m.	XPOO, NUK , “ORDO”	Khakassia, city of Abakan
4	13 February 2021; 11 a.m.	Kyrgyzstan-Ural	Russian Federation, Yekaterinburg
5	13 February 2021; 7 p.m.	Kyrgyz Community	Qatar, Doha
6	12 February 2021; 3 p.m.	Edinburgh Society of Kyrgyzstanis	Scotland
7	14 February 2021; 2 p.m.	“Agrarian platform of Kyrgyzstan”	Ukraine
8	15 February 2021; 3 p.m.	Kyrgyz–German Cultural Society	Germany
9	16 February 2021; 11 p.m.	Pianist, laureate of republican competitions	United States
10	16 February 2021; 4 p.m.	Founder of trade and transport company “Goldmark Group Limited” in Guangzhou	China
11	2 March 2021	Chairperson of the Rostov Kyrgyz National–Cultural Autonomy	Rostov-on-Don
12	5 March 2021; 8 p.m.	Informal Telegram group “Appeal to the German customs of Kyrgyzstanis on corruption in connection with R. Matraimov”	Germany
13	8 March 2021; 1 p.m.	Kyrgyz Society in the United Kingdom	United Kingdom
14	16 February 2021; 7 p.m.	Director General of the Central Asian Association of Culture and Art	Republic of Korea
15	16 February 2021; 2 p.m.	Kyrgyz–German IT Community	Germany
16	27 February 2021; 11 p.m.	Head of the NGO “Kyrgyzstanis in Canada”	Canada
17	2 March 2021	Initiative group member	Austria
18	28 February 2021; 11 p.m.	President of the Kyrgyz Association in Alberta (Kyrgyz Association in Canada)	Canada
19	1 March 2021; 8 p.m.	Chairperson of the regional branch of the all-Russian public organization “Kyrgyz Congress”	Russian Federation, Krasnodar
20	1 March 2021; 9:45 p.m.	Head of the Kyrgyz Community Centre in Chicago	United States
21	2 March 2021	Chairperson of Kyrgyz in Belgium and Friends	Belgium

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