

Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of GCM (Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration) in Tajikistan

1. Methodology for preparing the voluntary GCM reviews

In accordance with Article 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan "The Republic of Tajikistan is a sovereign democratic secular state governed by the rule of law. Tajikistan is a social state whose policy is aimed at creating conditions that ensure a decent life and free human development". The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan considers the issue of regulating migration processes relevant for the country since it is not only a country that sends labor abroad, but also a country that receives labor resources from other foreign countries. In this regard, interdepartmental cooperation has been established between the ministries and departments of the country, international and non-governmental organizations, which is aimed at discussing issues related to the regulation of migration processes in the country. The Republic of Tajikistan supported the adoption of the GCM and joined it in 2018.

The Interdepartmental Commission for the Regulation of Migration Processes, which includes representatives of many ministries and departments dealing with migration issues, operates in the Republic of Tajikistan. When drafting regulatory legal acts on migration processes, meetings of members of the commission are organized, at which the provisions of the GCM with its 23 goals are necessarily taken into account. It should be noted that the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, along with other states, recognizes the GCM and considers it a very important document for the country in the field of regulating migration processes. The first voluntary review of Tajikistan on the implementation of GCM was prepared in 2020.

To date, a second review has been prepared on the basis of data received from state bodies, the media, publications from the Internet, studies of international organizations and national experts.

2. Policy and enabling environment

As noted in the previous report, the Government, in cooperation with the scientists, representatives of the development partners and civil society, in order to create a real basis for the sustainable socio-economic development of the country within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, developed the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030. Thus, this Strategy is the main document for the long-term development of the socio-economic development of the country and is implemented within the

framework of the medium-term programs. All strategies and programs, as well as the plans for the socio-economic development of the country, implemented in the country, are developed, and implemented in coordination with this strategy.

On the basis of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 and taking into account the objectives of the GCM, a draft National Strategy on Migration for the period up to 2030, the Concept for the Development of Productive Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2040, and the Roadmap of the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2022-2026 are being developed.

To date, the population of the Republic of Tajikistan is more than 9.5 million people. Every year, the number of the able-bodied population increases by an average of 1.8%, which in turn obliges the Government to consider the issue of creating conditions for the effective employment of the able-bodied population.

The issue with employment has been identified as one of the priority goals of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 and the relevant specific tasks and activities have been planned:

- stimulate the creation of productive jobs;
- create a competitive internal labour market environment;
- increase the impact of vocational education;
- increase the share of formal employment in the economy;
- diversify the ways of external labour migration;
- development and implementation of information systems of interrelated cooperation in the framework of external labour migration;
- development of programs of legal and socially protected labour migration;
- strengthening efforts to ensure the safety and social protection of migrant workers and members of their families, including through bilateral agreements on the temporary organized transit of nationals and pension benefits;
- establishing of a gender-sensitive pre-departure training system for migrant workers and members of their families, including legal and other information support, short-term vocational and language training through resource centres;
- development of a database of sectoral and territorial requirements of the country and major countries importing labour.

3. Progress towards GCM objectives

Achievements: signing of the following agreements: readmission, organized recruitment, social security, information interaction in electronic format, Memorandums of the establishment of Advisory Service Centers for potential migrants from Tajikistan, expansion of interaction with countries of destination in the legalization of migrants from Tajikistan who have committed minor administrative violations and the lifting of the ban on entry, improvement of the legislative framework on certain aspects of migration, increasing the human and institutional capacity of employees at all levels in regulating migration processes.

More detailed information about achievement please see below.

Objective 1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

One of the main problems in accounting for the movement of migrant workers is the discrepancy between official statistics and the statistics of the host countries of migrant workers - citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan. Currently, it is planned to regulate the registration of migrant workers within the framework of the Unified Electronic Program "Visa and Border", implemented by the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. Work in this direction continues and is currently working with partners to get funding.

It should be noted that in order to improve the methodology for collecting information on migration issues, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Population is studying a possibility of creation of a single form that would reflect all indicators of migration processes (the number of Tajik citizens who went for migration abroad (broken down by age, gender), the number of Tajik citizens returned home, the number of dead bodies of Tajik citizens repatriated by the migrant receiving countries, the number of crimes committed by and against our migrants, the number of citizens in the list of reentry bans, the completion identification requests, citizenship, obtaining a passport of a citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan and a foreign passport containing electronic data carriers, information on the legislation regulating the migration process, etc.

In connection with this, it is proposed, with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration/UN Migration Agency in Tajikistan, to develop and publish on various internet platforms an annual Migration Profile of the country, which will include information on all aspects of migration processes.

Objective 2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

In accordance with National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030, the top priority of long-term development of Tajikistan is improving the standards of living of population based on sustainable economic development. In order to achieve it, the following strategic development objectives are defined for the next 15 years:

- Ensure energy security and efficient use of electricity;
- Exit from communication dead-lock and turn country into a transit country;
- Ensure food security and people's access to good quality nutrition;
- Expand productive employment.

In the area of productive employment policy, the following priorities have been identified:

- stimulating the creation of productive jobs;
- development of a competitive domestic labor market;
- increasing the impact of vocational education;
- increasing the share of formal employment in the economy;
- diversification of external labor migration.

The key areas of activities

The following is defined as the main areas of activities in the field of development of labor market and employment:

In the field of stimulating the creation of productive jobs:

- Provision of support to small and medium-sized businesses in order to create employment in high-tech innovative sectors, in the social sphere, including taking into account the empowerment of youth and women;
- Development of a package of incentives and opportunities for productive employment of persons with disabilities;
- Cross-sectoral actions aimed at developing national capacity for labor market assessment and forecasting (including in the regional context), population resettlement systems and production location, stimulating the development of a network of local transport links that promote the creation of new industries and workplaces, especially in regions with a high level unemployed and poor population.

In the area of creating competitive domestic labor market:

- Introduction of public-private partnership tools and principles of program-earmarked financing of regional employment promotion programs;
- Improving the quality of competitive environment through optimization of sectoral privileges and preferences;
- Development of a national system to promote the growth of labor productivity;
- Development of labor market infrastructure;

- Implementation of special programs aimed at increasing employment prospects for people with special needs (women, persons with disabilities, returning low skilled migrants);
- Strengthening social support mechanisms for unemployed people.

In the field of increasing the impact of vocational training:

- Creation of competitive environment, including the development of educational institutions;
- Development of the system of engineering - technical education;
- Development of programs and mechanisms for assessing the competencies of specialists (national system for mapping competencies);
- Development of sustainable mechanisms to ensure an access of youth / graduates of educational institutions to the systems of employment promotion/ job search.

In the area of increasing the share of formal employment in the economy:

- Development of incentives package for legal business activity, including the development of tax support system for the growth of legal labor activity;
- Cross-sectoral activity aimed at improving the business environment, including towards the development of the regulatory and legal framework for the protection of the rights of owners and hired labor, the development of «public order» system, and the social responsibility of business.

In the field of diversification of external labor migration:

- Development of a gender-sensitive system of pre-departure training for migrant workers and members of their families, including legal and information support, short-term vocational and language training based on resource centers;
- Development of programs for legal and socially protected labor migration.

Expected results

It is assumed that the implementation of the planned measures to promote employment, which provides productive employment and conditions for the development of human capital, will lead to the following results:

- Ensured balance of quantity and quality of the working population and jobs; reduced number of population without job (unemployed or inactive);
- Increased level of employment of men and women in sectors with rapid development prospects;
- Strengthened mechanism of analysis and forecasting of labor market, taking into account the demographic structure of gender groups; labor market information is updated at least twice a year;
- Established national system to promote sustainable growth of labor productivity;

- Ensured reduction of territorial disparities of employment; reduced pressure on internal migration;
- Improved employment of people with special employment problems (people with disabilities, parents of disabled children, single mothers, persons of pre-retirement age, single mothers, returning low-skilled migrants, etc.);
- Reduced level of youth unemployment;
- Ensured consistent reduction of informal employment, bringing the share of formal employment to at least 70% of the total number of employed people;
- In 2030 at least 50% of men and women, of total employed people, will have professional education;
- The level of working people with disabilities, of the total number of people with disabilities, will be at least 15% by 2030;
- Increased awareness and professional training to work at the foreign labor markets;
- Increased social security of migrant workers and their family members.

For implementation of the National Development Strategy of Tajikistan was developed the Mid-term Development Programme for the period from 2016-2020 and from 2021 -2025.

Objective 3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

In order to make our citizens more aware, the Migration Service of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and its structural subdivisions pay special attention to conducting explanatory work and providing information to the population of the country on labour migration issues. In 2021, as in previous years, explanatory work was actively carried out among the population of the country. In general, in 2021, 2,920 meetings and conversations were held in the regions and districts of the republic with the participation of 248,529 citizens of the country. In 2021, 38,662 people applied to the Migration Service and its structural units for consultations for receiving of consultation. In 2020, 24,327 people applied (for the first half of the year - 18,288 people, and the second - 6039 people).

It should be noted that the main activity of the Migration Service of the country is the consultation of citizens in person. Citizens of the Republic apply in three ways - in person, in writing and by telephone. By the end of December 2021, the following applications to the Office of the Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan and its subdivisions have been made - 38,662 people, of which: 36,889 people - applied in person, 61 people - in writing and 1,712 people - by phone.

Also, there are 4 state institutions "Centers for consultation and pre-departure training of migrant workers " in the structure of the Migration Service. These centers have been providing services to migrant workers on legal issues, preparation for work abroad, the procedure for obtaining a work permit, employment opportunities abroad, as well as obtaining a certificate of the knowledge of Russian, history of Russia and the legal framework of the Russian Federation.

In the main locations where services are provided to migrant workers, video surveillance cameras and equipment have been installed, including at the country's international airports, at the stations of the State Unitary Enterprise "Tajik Railway" in Dushanbe, at the Consultation Department of the Migration Service for the Migrant Workers and at all other locations where citizens apply in person and the announcements that all consulting services are provided free of charge are being made. At all border crossing points, there are notice boards with the rules for crossing the border in the state language and other foreign languages alongside the hotline numbers for reporting violations of the rights of the citizens of the republic, foreign citizens and stateless persons by the border services.

Training sessions are held for the employees of the service with the involvement of the employees of the Agency for State Financial Control and Combating Corruption of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and the International Center for Migration Policy Development in the field of migration signed on September 25, 2020, the creation of a Resource Center for Migrants was planned. The main purpose of this center is to provide potential migrants with accurate and timely information on safe, orderly, and regular migration.

Considering the importance of pre-departure training for migrant workers, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, with the assistance of the Resource Centre, has developed two projects of training modules, the first: "Guide to Basic Training and Orientation of Migrant Workers Before Going Abroad" and the second: "Guide to Special Training and Orientation for Migrant Workers". These guides cover all issues of labour migration, including the decision to look for a job abroad, involvement of the family members, the migration process itself, illegal migration, and human trafficking, etc. The inclusion of these training modules into the daily activities of the ministry's structures engaged in pre-departure training will improve the work outcome. Currently, both manuals have been handed over to the Ministry for consideration and approval in accordance with the established regulations.

Trainings were conducted to train instructors on pre-departure orientation for the migrant workers in accordance with the suggested modules. The training sessions demonstrated a good level of the instructors' qualification, their ability to

work with the audience, competently and fully answer all the questions of migrant workers.

An online data platform for the pre-departure modules for departing migrant workers has been created, which will allow migrant workers to undergo pre-departure training online.

Objective 5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

Objective 6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

At present, the provision of travel documents to Tajik citizens traveling abroad is based on the provisions of the legislation on identity documents, technical requirements for such documents, ensuring the security of travel documents from forgery and the process of their issuance from unauthorized access.

Access of potential migrants to the channels of regular migration is ensured by measures to widely cover this category of citizens with pre-departure training within the framework of organized recruitment, ensuring transparency of the recruitment procedure, vocational training for the qualifications in high demand in order to increase competitiveness in the labor market of the countries of destination, training migrants upon request and using the technical and methodological potential of employers. It is proposed to develop and launch a mobile application in the republic, which will contain procedures for all stages of employment and reduce the risks of corruption.

In particular, the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan has been making efforts to diversify external labour migration in the field of cooperation with many foreign countries.

After the adoption of the GCM on December 10, 2018, during the official visit of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon to the Russian Federation, held on April 16-17, 2019, a number of intergovernmental agreements were signed, including one on the organized recruitment of citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan for temporary employment in the territory of the Russian Federation. By the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan dated December 12, 2019, No. 614, this agreement was approved and entered into force. The implementation of this agreement will make it possible to recruit migrant workers - citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan to work in the territory of the Russian Federation in an organized manner in accordance with the needs of Russian employers.

Also, on February 4, 2019, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the State of Qatar on the Regulation of Labour in the State of Qatar was signed, which entered into force. At all stages of

labour migration: before migration, during work abroad and after return from abroad, the rights and interests of migrant workers will be protected.

All 10 guiding principles of the GCM are integrated into these signed agreements.

Also, within the framework of the visit of the Minister of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Republic of Korea in April of this year and a meeting with high-ranking representatives of this country, one Agreement and two Memorandums were signed in order to attract seasonal workers from the Republic of Tajikistan to various provinces of the Republic of Korea. These documents have been sent to the Parliament of the Republic of Korea for approval. Similar meetings were held with the heads of authorized departments of other countries in previous years.

On the part of private employment agencies of the republic, 1,943 citizens are employed abroad through organized recruitment. In particular, through the State Institution "Agency for Employment Abroad" of the Ministry, 1,610 citizens were employed abroad.

Objective 8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

With regard to the search for missing migrants from Tajikistan in the territory of the destination country (mainly the Russian Federation), the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the country involves international and non-governmental organizations. For example, the International Committee of the Red Cross has drafted the principles for interaction with the families of missing migrants, to which the Ministry of the Interior has made the following proposals:

- To facilitate their implementation these principles are to be divided into the following categories. For example: general; social, technical, informational, institutional, legal, etc.
- It is very important to include interaction with the representatives of the media and public authorities at the local level.
- Development of an algorithm for the cooperation in the exchange of information between the passport and registration services, criminal investigation units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, whose duties include the search for the missing persons, as well as involving forensic experts, the Committee of Emergency Situations, penitentiary service, etc.
- Improving the legal literacy of employees of various levels and profiles, who work in the services involved with the search for missing persons.

- Wide awareness of the population and the civil society about this problem.
- Preparation of the brochures and posters with a list of the public, non-governmental and international organizations, as well as volunteer movements, telephone numbers for the support staff.
- Creation of social clubs (including virtual) for information exchange and discussions and mutual support for families and friends of missing persons.
- Create a database of the missing persons and those who died due to the emergency and disasters of various types.
- Organize young active people to create the search teams.
- Since most Tajik migrants live and work in the Russian Federation, it is necessary to establish cooperation with the Russian offices of International Committee of Red Cross, IOM and other organizations, as well as with state structures that carry out functions to search for missing persons.

Objective 10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

One of the most acute problems that needs to be addressed and does not leave us indifferent is the problem of combating human trafficking in all its forms and types. Human trafficking in Tajikistan is a consequence of a complex transition to the market and other socio-economic factors. This criminal activity is an integral part of international organized crime and a source of financing for the transnational crime structures.

Export of our citizens outside the country by deception, on far-fetched pretexts, in order to exploit them as disenfranchised and cheap labour is the most common type. Most of these types of crimes are committed by organized criminal groups as part of migration processes. The lack of effective mechanisms for the distribution and regulation of labour migration flows contributes to the penetration of organized crime into these processes. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the country receives numerous complaints from our citizens when they, having paid the last money to fraudsters (and this is a significant sum of money) upon arrival at their destination for work become victims of deception, and subsequently, the most disenfranchised labour force. As a result, for a long time they are forced to work for a meager salary in order to feed themselves and save money to return home.

Trafficking in young women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation has developed in recent years. This is explained, in our opinion, by a fairly high and stable demand for this type of service. A typical scheme of trafficking in women is

as follows: recruitment under the guise of providing work and doing business, export abroad with false documents and forgery of personal data, transfer to the customer - a brothel holder for further exploitation. The chain of these actions indicates that trafficking in women is organized and, therefore, is the sphere of activity of transnational organized crime. Trafficking in girls and young women is not only a social and criminal problem, it is also a matter of women's health, as some traffickers use drugs as a means of coercing victims.

Recognizing the importance of addressing this problem and with a view to cooperation in the fight against transnational crimes, the Parliament of Tajikistan on 29 May 2002 ratified the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted on 15 November 2000 on the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the additional protocols on the prevention of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

In 2003, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan established a working group to study the problem of trafficking in persons and its prevention, on the basis of which an inter-ministerial commission to combat trafficking in persons was established under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, which includes competent representatives of ministries and departments.

The inter-ministerial commission, within the framework of its responsibilities, develops the basics of a state policy in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness of the activities to identify and eliminate the causes and conditions conducive to the occurrence of trafficking in human beings, collects, analyzes, summarizes and exchanges information on the scale, status and trends of trafficking in human beings, organizes and coordinates activities to prevent human trafficking, participates in the preparation of international treaties of the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of combating trafficking in persons and provides an annual report to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on its activities.

One of the most important steps of our government on the way to solve this problem was the introduction of some additions and amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan - the introduction of the regulations to make it a criminal offence to buy and sell people.

The Republic of Tajikistan is a party to a number of international instruments in the field of combating trafficking in persons, in particular, the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic on Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child

prostitution and child pornography, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In order to strengthen the fight against human trafficking, the country has adopted and successfully implemented the Comprehensive Program against Human Trafficking, for 2019-2021, and the legislative framework in this area is in the process of improvement.

Objective 14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

The Representation of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Russian Federation, within the framework of its competences and powers, provides free legal assistance to migrant workers citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan on the territory of the Russian Federation in the form of legal advice, in the form of written and verbal consultations, as well as assistance in drafting applications, complaints, petitions and other legal documents.

In 2021, the Representation received 23,554 requests from migrant workers and members of their families regarding assistance in solving various problems, including obtaining free medical services. After the intervention of the Agency and clarification of the rights of foreign citizens and the obligations of medical institutions in terms of providing services, in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Approval of the Rules for the Provision of Medical Care to Foreign Citizens in the Territory of the Russian Federation" from 6 March 2013 all of them have received medical assistance free of charge.

With the assistance of the Representation, the salary arrears of Tajik migrant workers in the amount of 17 million 882,294 rubles were repaid. The main reason for the delays and non-payment of wages to migrant workers was the failure to sign an employment contract between employers and migrant workers.

Also, 12 decisions of the district courts on the administrative expulsion of the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan were overturned and 4505 migrant workers were employed in the Russian Federation.

Consular officers of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Tajikistan abroad provide services for the preparation of documents certifying the identity of a citizen abroad, as well as title documents. In addition, consular officers are entrusted with the functions of a notary and civil registry offices.

Also, the main duties of consuls include the protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens of Tajikistan. For these purposes, the consuls approve the schedule of visits to places of deprivation of liberty of the host country, holding meetings and educational work with citizens on the ground, protecting their rights in court, as well as other duties.

The number of consular officers in the countries of destination is not always sufficient to cover all the problems of citizens of Tajikistan. Therefore, within the framework of the possibilities of the state budget, the staff of consular officers abroad is reviewed every year.

Objective 15. Provide access to basic services for migrants

Ministries and departments of the Republic of Tajikistan authorized in the field of migration provide various services to both foreign citizens and citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan who travel abroad for the purpose of carrying out labour activities.

As it was mentioned above, the Republic of Tajikistan is a country that sends labour abroad as well as receives labour resources from other foreign countries.

Migrant workers, foreign citizens come to Tajikistan to receive higher education, asylum-seekers and other foreign citizens who have resided in Tajikistan for a long time. Ethnic Tajiks come from Uzbekistan and they speak Tajik, students from Afghanistan speak Farsi. Students from India learn Tajik and Russian in educational institutions in the process of studying. Many foreign students live in the dormitories. Asylum seekers mostly enter from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and many of them speak Farsi. Tajikistan has opened a school "Somoniyon" for the children of Afghan refugees and migrant workers. Children of foreign migrants have access to education in schools, lyceums and higher educational institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan.

All migrants have access to health care. The attitude of the local population to migrants is positive and xenophobic conflicts are very rare.

With regard to external labour migration, in accordance with the data on the entry and exit of the citizens of the country across the state borders, in the first half of 2020, 129,807 migrant workers went abroad, in 2021, 373,773 migrant workers - citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan left the country. In 2021, out of the total number of migrant workers, 352,385 people left for the Russian Federation and 9,089 people left for the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the same time, in 2021, 147,362 migrant workers-citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan returned to the country, which is 38% more compared to the same period in 2020.

Over the past six years (2016-2021), there has been a decrease in the flow of migrant workers. So, in 2021, 373,773 citizens left the country for labour migration, which is 38.4% less compared to 2016 (517,308).

In order to reduce the total number of citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan traveling abroad for the purpose of employment, the Government of the Republic is taking the necessary measures aimed at creating new jobs within the republic,

vocational training of the unemployed people, providing microloan to open their own small business.

According to the data of the Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, in 2020, there were created 191,820 and in 2021, 40,775 jobs - permanent, temporary, seasonal, additional and restored - at the expense of the individuals and legal entities of the country. However, these jobs do not always meet the needs of the citizens both in terms of working conditions and payment.

Various departments, passport and registration services and district inspectors of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, local government, non-governmental and public organizations conduct awareness-raising campaigns to inform citizens about the need to comply with the legislation of the country of destination, knowledge of the language, possession of vocational qualification, about the risks of irregular migration, including those leading to human trafficking.

As we all know, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in many countries around the world and closures of the borders between the states have had a negative impact on the process of international labour migration. Thus, the Russian Federation, as the main host country of migrant workers - citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan, banned the entry of foreign citizens from March 18, 2020.

In order to provide the necessary and timely information to migrant workers the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Russian Federation, a telephone service was organized in the hotline mode in the central office of the Ministry and its structures. The necessary information is disseminated by the Ministry through the media and through the Tajik diasporas among migrant workers in the Russian Federation.

The Republic of Tajikistan is implementing the project "Empowering of Families Left Behind for Improved Migration Outcome in Khatlon, Tajikistan", which is aimed at reducing vulnerabilities of families left behind impacted by migration. The project is funded by Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF) and implemented by four UN Agencies. The project is in an early stage of implementation.

Objective 18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

In 2021, 72,738 citizens were involved in short-term courses of vocational training and recognition of the competence of adults and certification in vocational education institutions of labour and employment bodies and other educational institutions operating in the republic.

In particular, at the expense of the budget of the State Employment Program of the Republic of Tajikistan, 21,207 people were attracted to vocational training in

institutions of vocational education of adults and the professional skills of 11,513 citizens have been confirmed with the certificates.

At the same time, with the assistance of the labour and employment authorities, 29,671 persons were additionally covered by vouchers for vocational training courses through self-financing through other educational centres operating in the country.

During the reporting period, the forecast of the annual indicator of the program for the involvement of citizens in vocational training was provided at the level of 117.2%

Objective 21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

According to the Readmission Agreement, on September 13, 2021, a resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan was adopted, which approved the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on Readmission and the Executive Protocol on the Procedure for Implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on Readmission. A similar Agreement was signed between the Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2018.

However, the practice of implementing this Agreement has shown that the readmission procedure for the return of our citizens to their homeland is used very rarely. In most cases, so-called voluntary return is used.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, with the assistance of IOM, 3,007 Tajik citizens stranded at the Zhibek Zholy checkpoint (on the Kazakh-Uzbek border) have been returned to their homeland. For this operation, IOM missions in the three countries, as well as the government's of the States, have done a significant amount of work. According to IOM in Almaty, more than 100 Tajik citizens gathered at the Zhibek Zholy checkpoint (on the Kazakh-Uzbek border) and awaited their return to their homeland. During the pandemic, 189 vulnerable migrants who were forced to return as a result of the pandemic from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan were provided with one-time food assistance. In addition, 40 Moldovan families were returned to their homeland with the assistance of IOM.

In order to reintegrate returned migrant workers, a Roadmap for the economic and social reintegration of returned migrant workers in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2018-2021 was implemented, according to which departments and subordinate organizations have specific tasks for the implementation of this roadmap.

All returned migrant workers and members of their families have the opportunity to participate in various employment programs within the framework of the State Program for the Promotion of Employment for the period of 2020-2022.

In order to reintegrate returned migrant workers in 2019, 2020 and 2021, 24,013 and 24,443 and 39,041 citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan were employed in organizations and enterprises engaged in attracting foreign labour.

Within the framework of IOM project, in 2021, work was carried out on the reintegration of returned migrant workers in 5 districts of the southern part of Tajikistan. Reintegration work included information sessions for migrant workers on job search, vocational training, validation of skills acquired during migration, issues relating to the health of migrants, and the application of preventive measures against COVID-19. These information sessions were attended by 2500 returned migrant workers, including migrant workers who returned to Tajikistan on Covid-19 due to loss of work and income, as well as migrant workers who had a ban on re-entry into the Russian Federation due to administrative and other violations. Vulnerable migrant workers who lost their employment abroad and lacked sufficient income to support their families were provided with additional services in the form of fertilizer distribution for crop cultivation, psychological counselling, food packages and legal aid services. In total 100 migrant workers were reached. Of these, 14 were migrant women.

Migration officers were trained to provide reintegration assistance to returning migrant workers, as well as to facilitate group information sessions among the migrant workers.

Objective 22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

According to the current procedure, the assignment of pensions in the CIS countries is carried out on the basis of the Agreement on Guarantees of the Rights of Citizens of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the Field of Pension Provision date from 13 March 1992, which provides for the territorial principle of pension provision, namely pensions are assigned at the place of permanent residence. With the development of migration processes in the post-soviet space and the transition of most countries to insurance principles in pension provision, the issues of pension provision for migrants became more and more problematic. Since 2014, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation, on the one hand, and an interdepartmental group of representatives of interested ministries and departments from the Tajik side have held consultations on the need to conclude a new agreement that takes into account the interests of migrants.

On September 13, 2021, the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation in the Field of Pension Provision was signed. The key point of the new document are the principle of pension insurance on the basis of proportionality, that is, each party assigns a pension to its citizen in proportion to the insurance period (which involves the payment of insurance premiums for pension provision) that he/she earned in a given country. Thus, if a citizen of Tajikistan has legally worked in Russia for more than 20 years, he (she) has the right to a pension under Russian law on an equal footing with citizens of the Russian Federation. If part of a migrant's work activity falls on the Republic of Tajikistan, then in proportion to him (her), the relevant authorities of Tajikistan will also assign part of his (her) pension on the basis of national pension legislation.

Objective 23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

It should be noted that the Republic of Tajikistan is a participant in migration processes, such as:

- Prague Process, which is a targeted political process that promotes dialogue on migration issues and partnerships among the countries of the European Union, the Schengen Area, the Eastern Partnership, the Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Russian Federation and Turkey;
- Budapest - "Partnership on Migration in the Silk Road Region" with the aim of promoting dialogue and mutual cooperation in the field of migration flows management in the Silk Road region";
- Almaty Process, which is a regional consultative process on refugee protection and international migration, covering Central Asian countries. It is called upon to respond to multiple challenges posed by mixed movements and to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination of issues of mixed movements.
- Tajikistan is also represented in the Council of Heads of Migration Authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter referred to as the Council), which was established by the Agreement of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS on the Establishment of the Council of Heads of Migration Authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement), which was signed in Dushanbe on October 5, 2007. The Council is a body of sectoral partnership of Commonwealth of Independent States, which is intended for ensuring of coordination of partnerships and addressing of issues relation to migration policy.

4. Means for implementation

In the Republic of Tajikistan, ministries and departments are mobilizing their internal resources, institutional, human and information potential to implement the principles of GCM.

There is a need to strengthen the technical and methodological potential through the creation of databases, the organization of various trainings and training tours, the creation of platforms, forums for discussing problematic issues on Internet resources.

Irregular migration poses a threat to the national security of any state. As in other countries, in the Republic of Tajikistan there are difficulties with the expert assessment of the volume of irregular migration. One of the means of combating irregular migration is the adoption of the measures aimed at legalizing a certain part of irregular migrants, therefore, in the Republic of Tajikistan, on December 18, 2019, the Law "On Amnesty in Connection with the Legalization of the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons Illegally Staying in the Territory of the Republic of Tajikistan" (Amnesty Law) was adopted. The adopted Law on Amnesty allows foreign citizens and stateless persons, immigrants from former countries of the USSR, who entered the republic before December 31, 2016 and stayed in the country in violation of the rules of stay, legalize their legal status and obtain a residence permit of the Republic of Tajikistan.

5. The Next Steps

To implement GCM objectives, it is necessary to apply the imperative-dispositive method of regulation to the activities of the state bodies, when the Government instructs the state bodies to provide an annual report on the implementation and preparation of a review of GCM. Moreover, motivation should be based on the interests of the state itself to get a complete picture of the migration situation in the republic, related problems and the ways to solve them.

To achieve the objectives of the GCM, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, together with international organizations, plans to implement the following actions for the management of migration processes:

- Enhance migration policy to protect rights of migrant workers and members of their families;
- Enhance statistics and data collection on migration;
- Conduct various studies among returned migrants, as well as members of their families, to determine the impact of the economic crisis of the host country on migrant workers from Tajikistan;

- Continue providing reintegration support to returned migrant workers through State Employment of Population Program, as well as programs of international organizations;
- Strengthen the capacity of state migration authorities and civil society organizations to provide information on safe, orderly and regular migration at all stages of migration, as well as to provide reintegration assistance to returned migrants;
- Provide assistance to families of migrant workers, including women and children, who were impacted by the migration to receive basic services;
- Provide assistance to returned migrants and their family members to get vocational education courses and certification of skills obtained abroad, which will contribute to employment provision of population