



## DIRECT ASSISTANCE



IOM CONTINUES PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE MIGRANTS AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

*IOM conducted a humanitarian operation to assist 3 Tajik, 19 Uzbek and 70 Kyrgyz migrants in their return and reintegration.*

*Besides, the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to provoke a crisis in the labor market, where the first workers to be laid off in labor-intensive sectors are usually temporary workers. In this connection, IOM Kazakhstan provided integration assistance to 50 internal vulnerable migrants by obtaining new professions and stabilizing their permanent earnings.*

Photo of a shoemaker in Kostanay

As part of “Community Stabilization through Returned Migrant Reintegration in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan during and after COVID-19” Project, IOM-Kyrgyzstan and IOM’s NGO partners have trained 39 local authorities and social workers in six pilot districts in Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad regions on reintegration of returning migrants. The training was based on the earlier developed Reintegration Handbook both in Russian and Kyrgyz that includes economic, social, psychosocial, and COVID-19 modules.

Photo of a Kyrgyz migrant receives food aid





PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

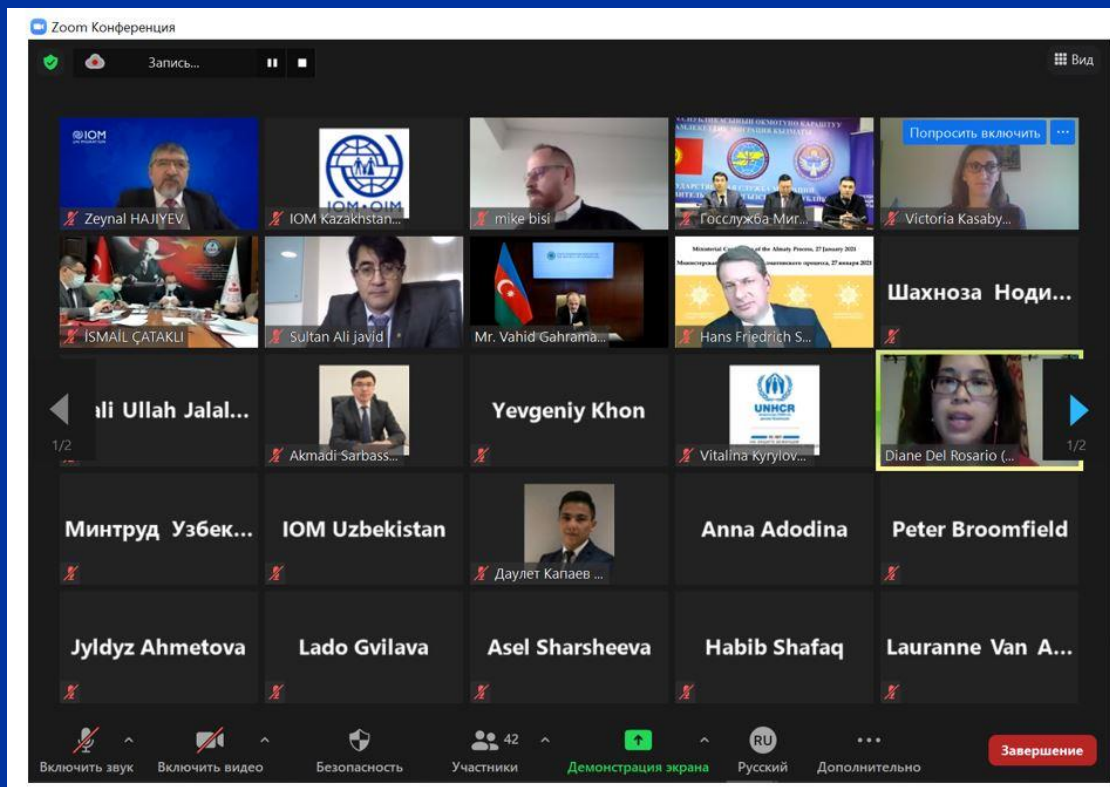
COVID-19 MIGRATION CHALLENGES IN CENTRAL ASIA DISCUSSED AT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ALMATY PROCESS

On 27 January 2021, the IOM and the UNHCR organized the Ministerial Conference of the Almaty Process to discuss solutions to regional challenges posed by the complex dynamics of refugee protection and migration in Central Asia, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Almaty Process brought together high-level officials of member states and observers: The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan to discuss results of joint work achieved so far and future activities to support migrants and refugees in the region.



АЛМАТИНСКИЙ ПРОЦЕСС ALMATY PROCESS

<https://kazakhstan.iom.int/news/covid-19-migration-challenges-central-asia-discussed-almaty-process-ministerial-conference>



### ADDRESSING MIGRANTS' HEALTHCARE NEEDS

On 21 January 2021, IOM Tajikistan took part in the multisectoral working meeting on promoting migrants' health. The meeting was initiated by the Republican Center on Healthy Lifestyle Promotion and was attended by representatives of the Tajikistan Red Crescent, National centers on Tuberculosis and AIDS Control and migration services. Participants raised the need for the multisectoral Joint Action Plan on promoting migrants' health and suggested possible activities for 2021. IOM shared experience on multisectoral approach to address health needs of migrants that include peer education, working with Tajik diaspora and outreach work in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan jointly with migration services. Participants highlighted the good quality of the recent brochure on the prevention of STIs and HIV among migrant workers that IOM Tajikistan developed jointly with the national partners. Tajik Red Crescent asked for the electronic version of the IOM brochure to publish additional copies for distribution among returned Tajik migrants in the Sughd Oblast. During the discussion, national specialists asked IOM for the technical support in developing multisectoral Joint Action Plan for 2021 and new National Programme on Promoting Healthy Lifestyle.



Photo of the multisectoral working meeting on promoting migrants' health, 21 January 2021

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITIES WITH VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH AT THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES IS PROVIDED BY IOM KYRGYZSTAN

Law enforcement agencies represent an integral part of the National Referral Mechanism and play vital role in identifying and protecting victims of trafficking, as well as investigating and prosecuting the crime. However, rather than focusing almost exclusively on criminal prosecutions to combat



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human trafficking, it is more crucial first to pay attention to the needs or rights of victims to avoid unintentional secondary victimization to already traumatized persons.

Delivering more tailored and compassionate assistance to victims and refocusing attention on victims' rights and specific needs due to age, gender or ethnicity preclude discriminatory treatment and compose sustainable protection. During and upon identification, sufficient resources and facilities must be available to secure the victim's physical and psychological integrity and to prevent further trauma, including necessities such as food, shelter, medical care, means of income and psychological counselling. To support application of victim-centered approach by the Criminal Militia Service of the Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic, IOM Kyrgyzstan conducted refurbishment and re-equipping of two facilities (designed for pre-interview and interview) that shall be used for identification and further referral of victims of trafficking, victims of domestic violence and other categories of victims.



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

Contact IOM missions in Central Asia:

KAZAKHSTAN

[iomastana@iom.int](mailto:iomastana@iom.int)/[iomalmaty@iom.int](mailto:iomalmaty@iom.int)

KYRGYZSTAN: [iomkyrgyzstan@iom.int](mailto:iomkyrgyzstan@iom.int)

TAJIKISTAN: [dushanbe@iom.int](mailto:dushanbe@iom.int)

TURKMENISTAN [iomashgabat@iom.int](mailto:iomashgabat@iom.int)

UZBEKISTAN: [iomuz@iom.int](mailto:iomuz@iom.int)

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