

Tajikistan

Extended Migration Profile

2010

Building Migration Partnerships (BMP)

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Tajikistan

Extended Migration Profile



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Background

This Extended Migration Profile has been prepared in the framework of the “Building Migration Partnerships” initiative funded by the European Union’s Thematic Programme and running between January 2009 and December 2010. The overall objective of this initiative is to contribute to the implementation of the Joint Declaration agreed at the Prague Ministerial Conference "Building Migration Partnerships" (27-28 April 2009).

The “Building Migration Partnerships” initiative is jointly implemented by the Czech Republic (Ministry of the Interior), Hungary (Ministry of Interior), Poland (Ministry of Interior and Administration), Romania (Ministry of Administration and Interior), Slovakia (Ministry of Interior) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The beneficiaries of the initiative are the migration authorities of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan as well as Belarus (observer); specifically ministers and Heads of Departments of ministries and migration services of participating beneficiary countries holding main responsibilities in migration management as well as officials of these ministries at senior working level.

This Extended Migration Profile has been elaborated on the basis of a template prepared by the European Commission. It contains different statistical and analytical information, which aims to evaluate the overall migration situation in a given country. The objective is to facilitate co-operation between countries in the field of migration management: on the one hand by providing information on the migration situation in a given country, and on the other by providing a sound empirical and statistical basis for policy planning and development.

Part A of this Draft Extended Migration Profile outlines how migration has evolved during the last years. Furthermore, it gives a brief summary of key migration trends and issues in the last decade. Part B of the Profile provides an overview of the socio-economic conditions of the country in order to understand possible push/pull factors of migration in the country.

Part C analyses, on the one hand, migration patterns and recent trends and on the other hand provides an overview of existing data such as number and types of immigrants/emigrants, irregular immigrants/emigrants as well as diasporas abroad and remittances. Part C also identifies data gaps.

Based on the information and data presented in Part A, B and C, Part D summarises the key migration trends indicating main push and pull factors driving migration. Furthermore, the connections between different demographic and socio-economic factors and their implications for migration are explored and indications on future migration developments are elaborated upon.

Part E of the Profile describes special interests and priorities of the country. Migration policies and programmes and their effectiveness in managing migration and development challenges are described in Part F of this Profile, while part G aims to provide an overview of the impacts of migration on the socio-economic development and the effectiveness of related migration policies.

The main findings and analysis are presented in Part H of the Profile. This final part also indicates existing data gaps and suggests possible strategies to improve migration statistics. Furthermore, it proposes ways of making the migration Profile updateable, and presents key recommendations for policy makers to improve upon current migration management.

General Information¹



Capital:	Dushanbe
Area:	143,1 thousand sq km
Land boundaries:	total: 3,000 km (border states: Uzbekistan 910 km, Kyrgyzstan 630 km, Afghanistan 1,030 km, China 430 km)
Population:	6,920,3 thousand (1 January 2006); density of population: 48,4 persons per 1 sq km
Ethnic groups:	Tajiks (79,9%), Uzbeks (15,3%), Russians (1,1%), Kyrgyz (1,1%), other (2,6%)
Languages:	Tajik, Russian is broadly used in the state institutions and local authorities
President:	Emomali Rahmon
Head of the Government	Emomali Rahmon (Chairman of the Government)
Government type:	Republic

¹ Map: CIA World Factbook

(<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>);

General information: Official website of the President of Tajikistan (<http://www.president.tj/rus/>), official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan (<http://mfa.tj/>), CIA World Factbook

(<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>)

A. Introduction

A1. Development reality

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 in New York, when world leaders of 192 countries signed the Millennium Declaration and obliged to halve poverty in the world by 2015. The international community set up eight development goals: to halve poverty, reduce illiteracy, reduce child and maternal mortality, expand educational opportunities for all, promote gender equality, halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other major diseases, and improve the environment.

An analysis of the global achievement of the MDGs shows that there are various levels of progress. It may be concluded according to some indicators, that unless current trends are accelerated, the challenges identified by the Millennium Declaration such as faced by humanity and the least developed countries, including Tajikistan, are unlikely to be resolved by 2015. For Tajikistan, such problems include, *inter alia*: broadening gaps in socio-economic development between the country and highly advanced countries in the region, on the continent and globally; widening of income and consumption gaps between decile groups; deteriorating health services; deteriorating education services, thus effecting students' learning; aggravation of child and maternal health indicators; high infant and maternal mortality rates; environmental degradation; reduced forest areas; increasing erosion of pastures, hillsides and frequency of natural disasters; inequalities in education, employment and training of women, and their low representation in the government authorities; an increased volume of external borrowing; the deteriorating structure of government debt; a reduction of foreign direct investment; and the lack of co-ordination among international and foreign organisations operating in Tajikistan².

The last achievements in Tajikistan in this field and new tasks on achievements of MDGs are presented in the Report on MDGs achievement progress, published in 2010 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in co-operation with the Government of Tajikistan.

- **MDG One: Poverty³**

As a result of the two poverty reduction strategies implemented in Tajikistan, poverty, both relative and absolute (or extreme), tends to decrease consistently. From the start of implementation of the first Poverty reduction strategy (1999) to date, the relative poverty has declined from 83.4 to 46.7%. This means that during this period, poverty was reduced by 2.3% per year on average. The extreme poverty (\$1.08 PPP per day) is currently at 15.0%, with an annual 3.2% decline on average, i.e. much higher than the overall poverty decline. The poverty rate in rural areas is 6.1% higher than in urban areas. But rural areas have had a rapid decline in extreme poverty. This is very important when bearing in mind that 76.4% of the population of Tajikistan lives in rural areas.

- **MDG Two: Universal primary education**

The achievement of the above target by 2015 seems highly likely, provided appropriate measures are taken. The target set for coverage has already been achieved; however minor delays still affect the level of primary school attendance. Literacy among the population aged 15-24 is about 99% for men and about 1% less for women. The quality and status of the education system heavily depends on the financial capacity and prioritization of the sector by the Government. The state budget expenditure over

² Report of the Government of Tajikistan and UNDP: Millennium Development Goals Achievement Progress Report: Tajikistan, 2010, <http://www.untj.org/files/library/MDG-Tajikistan-2010-Rus.pdf>

³ Here and further the achievement progress is presented according to the 2010 Report <http://www.untj.org/files/library/MDG-Tajikistan-2010-Rus.pdf>

the last nine years for education in absolute terms has increased 26 times (from TJS 42 million in 2000 to TJS 1,070 billion in 2009). In 2009, from all sources of financing, the construction and reconstruction of 218 schools were completed, with 40,000 new teaching places for students. The financial crisis has inevitably affected the education system; in 2009, the education budget was reduced by TJS31 million TJS. The decrease is mainly accounted for by the universities.

In the 2008/2009 school year, the total number of all types of schools (primary, basic secondary, gymnasiums and lyceums) in Tajikistan was 3,817, in which around 1.7 million pupils were enrolled. More than 92% of school-age children are enrolled in general, primary and secondary vocational education. The graduation ratio (the ratio of successfully completed school under the curriculum for the appropriate age on completing the curriculum) is also sharply reduced by levels; in primary school, it is close to 100%, in basic school already at 83%, and in completed secondary education, it falls to 48%.

- **MDG Three: Gender Equality**

The national legislation is based on the principle of equality of men and women, which is formulated in the Constitution. Pursuant to international obligations, the national legislation reflects the country's commitment to its obligations in the field of women's rights in the areas of family, employment, and others - none of the legal documents of Tajikistan contains articles or rules that discriminate women, and, in general, all legal documents are gender neutral.

During the years of independence, from 1991 to 2010, Tajikistan made a decisive step towards understanding the need for gender transformation and the adoption of gender democracy. However, it requires specific and practical measures and mechanisms to ensure fulfillment of the State's obligations in this area. On the way to achieve de facto equality between men and women, a number of economic, political, cultural and other barriers must be overcome.

In 2007, the literacy ratio of women and girls aged 15 years and older was 96.4%. Basic education is predominant. In primary education, the ratio of girls to boys was 48.1% and 51.9%, respectively, and 47.6% and 52.4% in basic education, respectively. As girls approach the age of 15, that is, closer to Grade 9, their school enrollment is sharply reduced, and ultimately, about 17% of girls are out of school. The highest proportion of girls and women (38.8%) are trained in tertiary education institutions in the fields of pedagogy, 29.9% in health care and only 16.2% in industry-specialized universities.

The Labour Force Survey in 2004 showed that most of the economically active female population has a general secondary education, which indicates their relatively low enrollment in vocational education. Moreover, compared to men, a smaller percentage of women have a higher education, whereas the majority of women have basic and completed general education. This illustrates that most of the economically active female population has relatively low professional competitiveness. Gender inequality in employment in Tajikistan is already manifested in the weak participation of women in the labour market. This means that basic income – being a source for increasing household welfare, investing in human capital of family members, and increasing savings for the sustainable level of consumption in the future – is provided mainly by men. As a result, women are economically dependent on men, which increases their and their children's vulnerability. As in many parts of the world, women are more vulnerable than men in the labour market; the policy on gender equality traditionally focuses on maintaining women's position in employment.

In 2007, the proportion of women employed in the non-farm sector was 37.1% compared with 38.2% in 2008. Of the total average annual number of employed women, 6.3% are employed in industry, 54.5% in agriculture, forestry and fisheries; 0.9% in construction, 1.7% in commerce; 1.8% in transport and communications, 2.1% in utilities and consumer services, 9.7% in healthcare, 17.2% in education, 1.9% in science, culture and art, and 3.6% in public administration and lending.

In general, in Tajikistan, there has been a low level of female representation in the legislative bodies of state power; a small number of women in leadership positions in the executive branch and in organisations of various forms of ownership; no positive image of women politicians; women leaders in the media with persistent social stereotypes about women's public and social roles; and the patriarchal approach to gender equality. Thus, in 2008, in ministries and departments of Tajikistan, women held only 12% of senior positions of first deputies and 11% of deputies. In the executive branch, there is a very small number of women on senior posts. In the local authorities, 18% of women are provincial deputy governors and 6% of women hold the position of government executive of cities and regions, 5% of them are deputy chairs of cities and regions and 38% are vice-chairs of cities and regions.

- **MDG Four: Reduce Child Mortality and MDG Five: Improve Maternal Health**

Currently the access of infants, children and adolescents to health protection in the country is inadequate.

More than 180,000 children on average are born in Tajikistan each year. Out of these, approximately 10% are born with asphyxia and require emergency intervention immediately after birth. However, the quality of hospital care provided to children is a serious concern (lack of basic equipment in most hospitals across the country, no system for the regionalization of perinatal care services). There are inadequate efforts aimed at developing parental skills to improve not only growth and health, but also the psychosocial development and mental health of children and adolescents, which are also causes for concern.

There is not always precise control of births and deaths in young children. Not all infant deaths are registered. Frequently, deaths of live births are registered as stillborn, especially in home delivery cases. It has also been found that 13% of the children under 3 years of age and 12% of the children between 0-4 years of age have no birth certificates.

The **mortality rate of under-five children** is a serious concern. During 1990–1996, it reached 43-47%. It is known that the survival rate of children below 5 years of age determines the health of the population in general. This indicator in Tajikistan was 126 per 1,000 live births in 2000, 70 per 1,000 live births in 2005, and 53 per 1,000 live births in 2007. The highest rate was 64 per 1,000 in the Soghd region. Childhood diseases, such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, measles and malnutrition have caused more than 70% of infant mortality in children below 5 years of age.

Infant and child mortality rates in Tajikistan remain high, representing one of the main problems of the health sector and its partners. But in recent years, some progress has been made in this area. Regardless of the method of calculation, the overall child mortality rate has a clear downward trend, and the infant mortality rate tends to decline on a sustainable basis.

Improving **maternal health** is one of the important areas of public health and is closely connected with the status of the family, its material security, living conditions, and family relationships. According to official statistics of the Ministry of Health, maternal mortality has decreased almost twofold between 1990 and 2005 (from 97.7 to 33.2 per 100,000 live births, respectively). In 2009, the figure was 46.2 per 100,000 live births. Maternal mortality is conditioned by poor quality of services in antenatal, delivery and postnatal care, the lack of a functioning referral system, the lack of means of transport, especially in rural areas, and inadequate access to emergency obstetric care.

According to official statistics, more than 186,000 births are registered every year in Tajikistan. A major problem is still the high prevalence of home deliveries in some regions of the country. Home births are often carried out in unsafe conditions, without providing adequate medical assistance by medical staff, specially trained for emergency obstetric care. Despite the wide-ranging measures to improve

reproductive health, the majority of parturients leave maternal hospitals, without having received advice on high-quality contraceptive services.

- **MDG Six: Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other deceases**

In Tajikistan, the first cases of **HIV** were registered in 1991. Until 2003, these were single cases of a sporadic nature. Since 2003, the strengthened capacity of the HIV/ AIDS service allowed for improved diagnosis of HIV , resulting in many new HIV cases being identified and registered. This was achieved primarily due to an increase in the number of centers for AIDS prevention and control throughout the country, improved access to voluntary counseling and testing, and established laboratories, which contributed to an increase in the number of persons tested for HIV. The most prompt annual growth in the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases was in 2006-2009 and the first 5 months of 2010, which amounted to 1,698 cases (77%). In 2009, and for 5 months in 2010, the highest rates were recorded (431 and 351 cases, respectively). According to official data, as at 1 June 2010, 2,204 people were infected with HIV in Tajikistan. The HIV prevalence rate in Tajikistan, according to registration as of 1 June 2010, is 26.6 per 100,000 population (19.3 in 2008 and 22.3 in 2009). According to an expert estimate, the true number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan is currently about 10,000 people.

HIV cases were reported in 60 out of 66 cities and districts of the country. The number of deaths from the total number of people living with HIV has reached 261 persons (11.8%). Among the HIV-infected, 79% of HIV cases are recorded for men and 21% for women; 96.4% of cases were registered among people of 15-49 years of age, of which 83.4% of 20-39 years of age and 1.9% of children under the age of 14 years. Moreover, in recent years, the proportion of registered cases of HIV infection in women has increased from 14.8% in 2005 to 20.6% in 2009, the vast majority of whom are infected through sexual intercourse. The main cause of HIV transmission is still injection (to date, 54.3%), which, at this stage, is the driving force of the HIV epidemic in Tajikistan. However, the proportion of the HIV transmission through sexual intercourse is increasing (from 8% in 2004 to 28% as at 1 June 2010).

The situation related with **tuberculosis** due to a decline in living standards of the population, active internal and external migration, and the presence of high levels of drug-resistant forms of the disease, is one of the most pressing health problems in the country. The country has adopted the third national programme to protect the population from tuberculosis for 2010-2015 aiming at further reducing morbidity and mortality from tuberculosis among the population, to stabilize the epidemiological situation and provide full control of infection throughout the country.

Despite the considerable efforts made in the fight against tuberculosis, to date the situation of TB in the country remains troubled. The most problematic situation is in prisons, where the TB incidence and mortality rates are 15 times and 30times higher respectively than in the civilian sector. The TB morbidity in 2009 was 78.7 per 100,000 population (83.8 in 2008) and 1,200.0 in the penitentiary sector (in 2008 – 1270.0). In 2008, the number of infected women and men was 68.3 and 99.2 per 100,000 population, respectively. In addition, a trend towards a reduction in TB mortality is seen at the community level. In 2009, the death rate from tuberculosis was 5.9 cases per 100,000 population, which is one quarter less than in 2004.

In Tajikistan, **malaria** reached its peak in 1997 with about 30,000 registered cases. The deteriorating situation in the 1990s was associated with socio-political changes in the country, and as a result of massive population displacement through the area where malaria was endemic (in Afghanistan), disrupted public health services and a complete cessation of anti-malaria activities. In recent years, significant changes have been made in agricultural practices, such as expanding the area of rice cultivation, which has led to a substantial increase in breeding sites of malaria vectors. Given the complex epidemiological situation in the early 2000s, based on the Tashkent Declaration «Forward from

malaria control to elimination» signed by Tajikistan in October 2005, which underlined its political commitment to the elimination of malaria, the Government adopted a «Programme to combat tropical diseases (malaria) in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2006-2010». In the course of its implementation, the interventions have been implemented, aimed at reducing malaria morbidity, its containing within the country and preventing the restoration of transmission in areas where malaria had been eliminated earlier. As a result of these interventions, the situation with malaria in Tajikistan has considerably improved in recent years. In the malaria-affected 60 districts (out of the 65 districts) of the Republic, by 2009 in 31 districts, only 165 cases of malaria were registered, i.e. morbidity dropped by nearly 160 times.

Tajikistan will be experiencing major difficulties in achieving MDG 6. Though significant progress has been made in malaria prevention, there are still serious problems with TB and HIV /AIDS. Making progress on MDG 6 is constrained by inadequate access to basic health services and requires large investments in the fight against diseases.

- **MDG Seven: Ensure environmental sustainability**

Currently, Tajikistan has just begun searching for improved mechanisms for an integrated approach to solving the problems of socio-economic development, taking environmental issues into account.

Cross-sectoral mechanisms for integrating environmental policies into the broader concept of sustainable development are to be developed. There is a need to estimate the impact of environmental factors on the projected public expenditure, improving sectoral and inter-sectoral target indicators in environmental protection, promoting the use and development of optimal methods of production and implementation of Clean Development Mechanism and the establishment of monitoring systems for long-term outcomes in all aspects of environmental protection and natural resource management.

- **Human Development Index**

According to UNDP's Human Development Report (2009), between 1990 and 2007 Tajikistan's human development index (HDI) fell by -0.16% annually from 0.707 to 0.688 today.⁴ Tajikistan fares well below Latin America, East Asia and Arab states in HDI, mainly due to the drop since the collapse of the Soviet Union followed by the civil war in Tajikistan (1992-97). Tajikistan ranks 127th out of 182 countries listed.

According to the UNDP report, life expectancy at birth was 66.4 years in 2007 ranking Tajikistan 114th out of 176 countries listed.⁵ According to more recent data provided by the CIA World Factbook Life Expectancy Index for Tajikistan was set to 65.33 years in 2009.⁶

Notably, Tajikistan has a high (higher than Russian Federation, for instance) adult literacy rate, though with a lowly GDP per capita. While the adult literacy rate, according to the UNDP Report, was at 99.6 percent of total population aged 15 and above in 2007 placing Tajikistan in Top-Ten of countries listed,⁷ Tajikistan can be found in the bottom hundred of countries as regards GDP per capita. With 2.104 USD per capita Tajikistan ranks 149th out of 180 countries, according to the International Monetary Fund statistics for 2009.

⁴ UNDP, Human Development Report 2009. Tajikistan. *Human Development Index – Going Beyond Income*. http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_TJK.html

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ CIA World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>

⁷ UNDP, Human Development Report 2009. Tajikistan. *Human Development Index – Going Beyond Income*. http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_TJK.html

Tajikistan's human development index 2007				
HDI value	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Adult literacy rate	Combined gross enrolment ratio	GDP per capita
		(% ages 15 and above)	(%)	(PPP US\$)
1. Norway (0.971)	1. Japan (82.7)	1. Georgia (100.0)	1. Australia (114.2)	1. Liechtenstein (85,382)
125. Botswana (0.694)	112. Kyrgyzstan (67.6)	7. Lithuania (99.7)	104. Maldives (71.3)	142. Mauritania (1,927)
126. Vanuatu (0.693)	113. Guyana (66.5)	8. Slovenia (99.7)	105. Turkey (71.1)	143. Cambodia (1,802)
127. Tajikistan (0.688)	114. Tajikistan (66.4)	9. Tajikistan (99.6)	106. Tajikistan (70.9)	144. Tajikistan (1,753)
128. Namibia (0.686)	115. Nepal (66.3)	10. Kazakhstan (99.6)	107. Botswana (70.6)	145. Solomon Islands (1,725)
129. South Africa (0.683)	116. Mongolia (66.2)	11. Russian Federation (99.5)	108. Guatemala (70.5)	146. Côte d'Ivoire (1,690)
182. Niger (0.340)	176. Afghanistan (43.6)	151. Mali (26.2)	177. Djibouti (25.5)	181. Congo (Democratic Republic of the) (298)

UNDP also provides data for the Human Poverty Index. While the HDI measures the rank of the country in human development, the HPI provides measurement of proportion of people under the poverty threshold. It's an alternative to the \$1,25 a day index (PPP USD).⁸ Tajikistan ranks 74th out of 135 countries listed with 18.2 percent of population living under the poverty threshold.⁹

Selected indicators of human poverty for Tajikistan				
Human Poverty Index	Probability of not surviving to age 40	Adult illiteracy rate	People not using an improved water source	Children underweight for age
(HPI-1)	(%)	(%ages 15 and above)	(%)	(% aged under 5)
1. Czech Republic (1.5)	1. Hong Kong, China (SAR) (1.4)	1. Georgia (0.0)	1. Barbados (0)	1. Croatia (1)
72. Gabon (17.5)	94. Solomon Islands (11.6)	7. Lithuania (0.3)	115. Guinea (30)	78. Mauritius (15)
73. Belize (17.5)	95. Bangladesh (11.6)	8. Slovenia (0.3)	116. Cameroon (30)	79. Senegal (17)
74. Tajikistan (18.2)	96. Tajikistan (12.5)	9. Tajikistan (0.4)	117. Tajikistan (33)	80. Tajikistan (17)
75. Iraq (19.4)	97. Pakistan (12.6)	10. Kazakhstan (0.4)	118. Central African Republic (34)	81. Ghana (18)
76. Guatemala (19.7)	98. Comoros (12.6)	11. Russian Federation (0.5)	119. Yemen (34)	82. Oman (18)
135. Afghanistan (59.8)	153. Lesotho (47.4)	151. Mali (73.8)	150. Afghanistan (78)	138. Bangladesh (48)

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

A2. Recent migration patterns: a brief summary

Tajikistan, as all other former Soviet Republics, had to rely heavily on Soviet central distribution of goods, services and governance. Ethnic and religious tensions in Central Asia and other multi-ethnic regions of the Soviet Union were brewing fast in the late years of the Soviet rule. Independence and new nationalism led to large-scale emigration of ethnic minorities and created mass demographic upheavals. The civil war broke out between the regional pro-Islamic forces contesting the results of the 1991 election. It is estimated that the war took lives of 50 to 100 thousand people, and resulted in 1.2 million displaced persons and refugees.

The post-independence transition period marked a new wave of migration out of the country. It began with ethnic migration (Russians, Germans, Jews and others who came to live to Tajikistan during the Soviet period), and continued with rural and urban migration, internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees from Afghanistan, and finally labour migration¹⁰.

Migration is not a new phenomenon in Tajik history. In the recent past, when Tajikistan was part of the former USSR, a large percentage of the country was actively involved in labour migration. Many specialists from other parts of the Soviet Union were brought in to train locals on new technologies, education, and production sectors. Many Tajiks were relocated (at times entire villages) to work on the construction of water canals for cotton irrigation, collective farms and industries, and were also relocated to other parts of the USSR to work on other projects such as the railroad system. Currently, socio-economic and political causes have dramatically increased the number of labour migrants, making labour migration the main type of migration. Nevertheless, labour migration in the past is different from the current labour migration. While the former migration was within the border of one country, state supported, and as a part of a Soviet development program, the current labour migration is from one country to another. Labour migrants are motivated mainly by low wages, high levels of unemployment (particularly among young people) and poverty.¹¹

The crucial **trends and factors of labour migration** by Tajik citizens, before the global financial crisis (second half of 2008) are:

- Prevalence of labour emigration over immigration (for example, as of 2005 this ratio was 600:1)
- The push factors including the social and economic situation in the country, demographic problems, high unemployment level in Tajikistan, availability of the labour market and higher wages in the destination countries, geographical location of Tajikistan and destination countries, liberal entry rules in the destination countries, closeness of cultures, etc.;
- Tajikistan is characterized as a labour-sending country. The main destinations for Tajik labour are Russia and Kazakhstan;
- Labour migrants from Tajikistan are mostly employed in the informal sector. Only a small percentage of migrant workers use legal employment channels, including private employment agencies;
- Labour migrants from Tajikistan suffer from insufficient legal knowledge due to which Tajiks are considered among the least protected category of migrants in the destination countries, particularly in the Russian Federation;
- Due to the vulnerability of labour migrants from Tajikistan the cases of trafficking in people, particularly for the purpose of labour exploitation, are on the increase;

¹⁰ IOM Report "Abandoned wives of Tajik labour migrants, Dushanbe, 2009, p.12

¹¹ IOM Tajikistan, P. Khakimov, M. Mahmadbekov. "Economic Dynamics of Labour Migrants Remittances in Tajikistan." 2009, p. 15

- Remittances account for almost half of the country's GDP, according to official sources and even higher according to unofficial sources¹².

Labour migration trends have changed under the influence of the global financial and economic crisis; the number of returning migrants increased by 50%. Most of them came home due to large-scale downsizing; others were not paid their wages for several months. Despite the job fairs conducted throughout the country and the Government creating 150,000 new jobs for the returning migrants, labour migration remains an important phenomenon.¹³

¹² ACTED "Trends of labor migration from Sughd and Khatlon Region, Republic of Tajikistan, under the impact of global financial crisis". Dushanbe, 2009, p. 15-16

¹³ Ibid., p.56

B. Analysis of socio-economic context of migration

B1. Demographic changes

- **Population volume**

The transition from planned to market economy, changing political systems, independence, civil war, along with various other factors impacted the gender-sex structure of the population and the degree of labour migration. Political, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual crises ambiguously affected the demographic processes (fertility and mortality levels, the volume and intensity of internal and external migration) of the country in a short period of time. As a result of the Civil War, people became refugees and internally displaced (IDP). The spread of IDPs and refugees to other regions inspired the migration of people in the regions to which the IDPs and refugees fled. In 1996, 697,000 refugees fled their homes. Due to measures taken by the Government of Tajikistan, international organisations, and other political movements, 682,800 people returned to their original place of residence. As of September 1, 1997 the number of refugees who did not return to their homes was 14,800¹⁴.

The end of the Civil War (1997) became a turning point that led to the stabilization of Tajikistan's political, social and economic situation. From 1997 to 2005 the population grew by 20.1%.

A high birth rate and rapid population growth during the Soviet period created a large Tajik labour market. During the previous 17 years, Tajikistan's average annual rate of population growth was 2.1%, varying from 2.7% in rural to 0.2% in urban areas. The emigration of Tajik to other countries, beginning with the Civil War and continuing to this day, is partly responsible for the deurbanization in Tajikistan. However, in some years the rate is far lower than that explained by the emigration processes of those years that affected the population growth. From 1913 to 2007, the size of Tajikistan's population increased seven times. From 1897 to 2005, the size of Tajikistan's urban and rural population increased 20 and 5 times respectively. Although the total fertility rate decreased to 3.3 children per woman in 2003, compared with 5.9 children per woman in 1989, population growth still remains high. Approximately 36% of the population is under the age of 15 which puts demographic pressure on the population structure. The demographic potential of the country remains significantly high, although the recently declining fertility rate will further continue to negatively affect the economic development of the country¹⁵.

According to the UN World Population Prospects (2008), Tajikistan's population in the last five years has grown from 6,536 to 7,075 thousands.¹⁶ The annual rate of natural population increase in those years was 2.8%¹⁷.

Year	Both sexes combined	Male	Female
2005	6 536	3 237	3 298
2006	6 627	3 278	3 349
2007	6 727	3 324	3 403

¹⁴ P. Khakimov, M. Mahmadbekov. "Economic Dynamics of Labour Migrants Remittances in Tajikistan." April 2009, IOM Tajikistan, p. 14

¹⁵ Ibid, p. 15

¹⁶ World Population Prospects, 2008 Revision, Data Online. <http://esa.un.org/unpp/index.asp>

¹⁷ UNDP, Human Development Report 2009. Tajikistan. *Demographic Trends*.

http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_TJK.html

2008	6 836	3 376	3 460
2009	6 952	3 432	3 520
2010	7 075	3 492	3 583

- **Population density and urbanization:**

Between 1979 and 2000 Tajikistan experienced a process of de-urbanization, in which the urban population actually decreased by 10%. The urbanization and de-urbanization processes in Tajikistan are connected with external migration of the population to other former USSR republics. Until 1976, Tajikistan had a positive net migration rate with other former USSR republics, especially with Russia. Many of the immigrants came to train the local Tajik population in professional specialties. They predominantly settled in urban areas and created a significant increase in the urban population.

Indicator	2005	2010
Rural population (thousands)	4 821	5 188
Urban population (thousands)	1 729	1 874
Percentage urban (%)	26.4	26.5

Indicator	2005-2010
Rural annual growth rate (%)	1.47
Urban annual growth rate (%)	1.61

Capital city population (thousands)

Capital city	2007
Dushanbe	553

Urban population, number of cities and percentage of urban population

Size class	2005	2010
500 000 to 1 million		
Number of agglomerations	1	1
Population	551	567
Percentage of urban population	32	30
Fewer than 500 000		
Population	1 178	1 308
Percentage of urban population	68	70

According to the CIA Factbook, 26% of the population in Tajikistan lives in urban areas (2008), with 1.6% urbanization rate of change for 2005-2010.¹⁸

- **Population growth rate**

Natural population growth, by regions, 2005 – 2008 (thousands)¹⁹

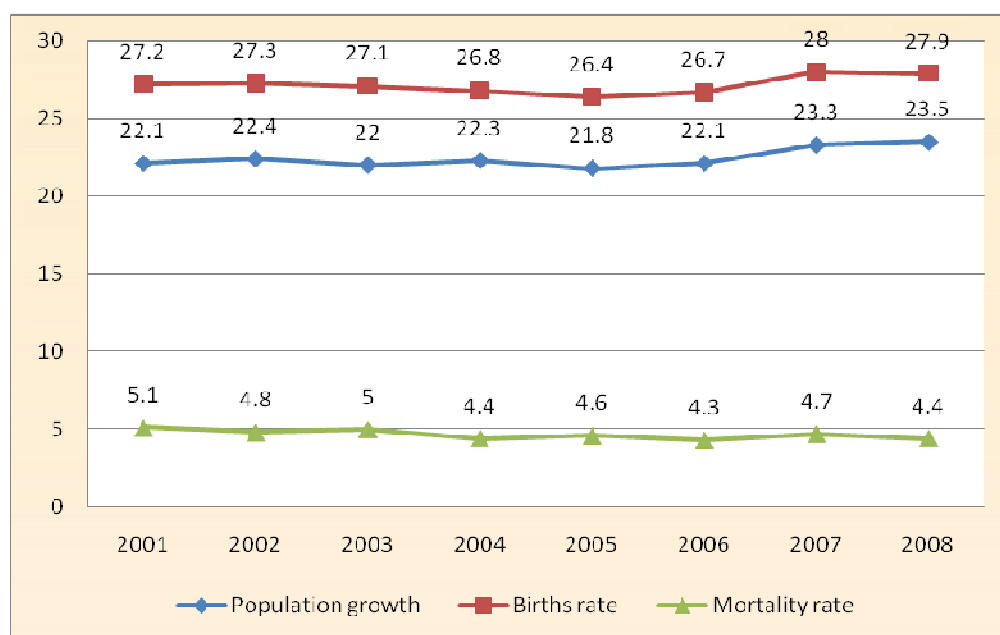
	2005	2006	2007	2008
Tajikistan	149,3	154,5	166,3	171,3
GBAO	2,2	3,3	2,2	2,6

¹⁸ CIA World Factbook. Tajikistan. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>

¹⁹ Statistical Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan; www.stat.tj

Sogd oblast	35,9	38,7	41,7	44,2
Khatlon oblast	65,7	62,5	67,1	68,9
Dushanbe city	11,5	13,0	16,1	15,1
RRP	33,9	37,0	39,2	40,5
<i>per 1000 of population</i>				
Tajikistan	21,8	22,1	23,3	23,5
GBAO	10,2	15,1	9,8	11,9
Sogd oblast	17,6	24,0	19,8	20,5
Khatlon oblast	27,1	25,1	26,3	26,4
Dushanbe city	18,1	19,9	24,0	22,1
RRP	22,4	23,8	24,7	24,9

Population growth rate, birth rate and mortality rate in Tajikistan (per 1000 population)²⁰:



B2. Economy and economic climate

Tajikistan has one of the lowest per capita GDPs among the 15 former Soviet republics. Less than 7% of the land area is arable. Cotton is the most important crop, but this sector is burdened with debt and obsolete infrastructure. Mineral resources include silver, gold, uranium, and tungsten. Industry consists only of a large aluminium plant, hydropower facilities, and small obsolete factories mostly in light industry and food processing. The civil war (1992-97) severely damaged the already weak economic infrastructure and caused a sharp decline in industrial and agricultural production.

Without the support of barter-based Soviet economy, the now uncompetitive Tajik domestic industry is unable to create jobs for the native labour force. Weak infrastructure and obsolete roads and railway connections create major obstacles for industrial development. An overdependence on cotton and aluminum production further hindered the diversification of Tajik economy. After the civil war, Tajikistan's economy plummeted into a profound crisis, with declining living standards and government inability to provide the social protection enjoyed under Soviet rule. The majority of the active labour force found themselves unemployed and without many opportunities, and labour migration emerged as the only economic possibility.²¹

Tajikistan's economic situation remains fragile also due to uneven implementation of structural reforms, corruption, weak governance, seasonal power shortages, and the external debt burden. A debt restructuring agreement was reached with Russia in December 2002, including a \$250 million write-off of Tajikistan's \$300 million debt. Completion of the Sangtuda I hydropower dam - finished in 2009 with Russian investment - and the Sangtuda II and Rogun dams will add substantially to the electricity output. Tajikistan has also received substantial infrastructure development loans from the Chinese government to improve roads and an electricity transmission network. To help increase north-south trade, the US funded a \$36 million bridge which opened in August 2007 and links Tajikistan and Afghanistan. While Tajikistan has experienced steady economic growth since 1997, nearly two-thirds of the population continues to live in poverty. Economic growth reached 10.6% in 2004, but dropped below 8% in 2005-2008, as the effects of higher oil prices and then the international financial crisis began to register - mainly in the form of lower prices for key export commodities and lower remittances from Tajiks working abroad, due to the global economic downturn. In 2009 GDP growth dropped to 3.4% as a result of the world recession.²²

According to the CIA World Factbook and United Nations Statistics Division latest statistics, Tajikistan's **main macroeconomic indicators** look as follows:

Year	GDP - real growth rate	Rank	Percent Change	Date of Information
2003	5.00%	38		2002 est.
2004	7.00%	27	40.00%	2003 est.
2005	10.50%	12	50.00%	2004 est.
2006	6.70%	47	-36.19%	2005 est.
2007	7.00%	50	4.48%	2006 est.
2008	7.80%	37	11.43%	2007 est.
2009	7.90%	22	1.28%	2008 est.
2010	3.40%	52	-56.96%	2009 est.

²¹ L. Jones, R. Black, R. Skeldon, "Migration and Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan." *Working Paper C11*. Institute for Development Studies. Sussex Centre for Migration Research. February, 2007.

²² CIA World Factbook. Tajikistan. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>

Nominal and Real GDP, 2000– 2008:²³

	Nominal GDP	Real GDP (Index, 1995=100)	Percent change of real GDP
2000	1 786,7	100,2	8,3
2001	2 563,8	109,8	9,6
2002	3 375,3	121,7	10,8
2003	4 761,4	135,0	11,0
2004	6167,2	149,0	10,3
2005	7206,6	158,9	6,7
2006	9335,2	170,1	7,0
2007	12804,4	183,3	7,8
2008	17706,9	197,8	7,9

- **GDP per capita (level in US Dollars):**

\$1,800 (2009 est.)

\$1,900 (2008 est.)

\$1,700 (2007 est.)

- **Inflation rate:**

Year	Inflation rate (consumer prices)	Rank	Percent Change	Date of Information
2003	12.00 %	28		2001 est.
2004	16.30 %	16	35.83 %	2003 est.
2005	8.00 %	179	-50.92 %	2004 est.
2006	7.10 %	167	-11.25 %	2005 est.
2007	7.50 %	165	5.63 %	2006 est.
2008	13.10 %	210	74.67 %	2007 est.
2009	20.50 %	205	56.49 %	2008
2010	6.40 %	158	-68.78 %	2009 est.

- **Public Debt of Tajikistan:**

Year	Debt - external	Rank	Percent Change	Date of Information
2003	\$1,000,000,000	134		2002 est.
2004	\$1,000,000,000	140	0.00 %	2002 est.
2005	\$888,000,000	148	-11.20 %	2004 est.
2006	\$888,000,000	153	0.00 %	2004 est.
2007	\$829,000,000	155	-6.64 %	2006 est.
2008	\$1,560,000,000	137	88.18 %	31 December 2007 est.

²³ www.stat.tj

2009	\$1,643,000,000	139	5.32 %	31 December 2008 est.
2010	\$1,691,000,000	136	2.92 %	31 December 2009 est.

- **Debt service as percentage of exports of goods and services**

Year	Value
2002	9
2003	5.4
2004	5.6
2005	4.8
2006	3.4
2007	3.4

- **Informal Economy**

The labour market is not capable of absorbing the current working age population. The informal sector and migration currently absorb large numbers of the surplus labour force and help to maintain social stability. The increase of the working-age population has affected the informal sectors in particular. Employment in the informal sector grew by almost 300% over the period 1991-2005. Teachers' salaries for instance covered only 20% of basic expenditure and the remaining 80% had to be covered by additional informal income (seems to be the main reason why there was a deficit of 8,000 teachers in general education)²⁴.

The development of informal employment, as a rule, does not bring a high and stable income. Workers are vulnerable and socially not protected. Informal employment does not contribute to the tax system and this has an impact on welfare. However, the informal sector also has a socially positive effect because it has an impact on poverty and increases the access of population to social services (education, public health) which require income.

²⁴ ETF "Tajikistan Country Plan" 2009, p. 1-2

B3. Labour market analysis

- **Recent developments on the labour market in the country**

During the transition period the labour market in Tajikistan has faced difficult challenges, with mass lay-offs from state-owned companies, a lack of capacity in the formal private sector to absorb the increasing population into employment, an exodus of skilled workers and professionals, and massive seasonal migration, especially to Russia and Kazakhstan. In parallel, an informal sector has developed, mainly in the form of subsistence farming and trading. The nature of employment has also changed since 1991. The state is no longer the main employer, but has been replaced by the private sector. The large state-owned companies in industry and agriculture, which previously employed the vast majority of Tajikistan's labour force, collapsed. Many companies were either destroyed or ceased to operate during and following the years of civil conflict. Despite the privatization of some industries and services, and the introduction of land reform allowing small private farming, the private sector is developing slowly and has by no means been able to make up for the employment losses of the former state companies. Large industrial and agricultural complexes remain state owned, but are so heavily indebted or in need of modernization investment that they are difficult to privatize. The importance of different sectors has also changed. The greatest drops in employment took place in the construction and manufacturing industries. Agriculture, however, remains by far the dominant employment sector. Another changing feature of employment is that much of it is created in small and micro-businesses and through self-employment. The former large state-owned enterprises, which required sets of fixed skills, have given way to large numbers of small and medium private sector companies, mainly in the informal sector. Consequently, the types of knowledge, skills and attitudes required are no longer the same. These developments have resulted in high levels of unemployment, widespread poverty, a growing informal subsistence-based economy, and high levels of internal and external labour migration.²⁵

High birth rates during the last decades have led to an increase of the working-age population. The working-age population increased from about 2.5 million in 1991 to 3.9 million in 2006 (total population 7.1 million in April 2007 with an urban population of almost 2 million).

The Tajik labour market lacks qualified people in most branches of industry (medicine, construction, etc.), it is not sufficiently structured and 70% is rural. It is characterized by unemployment and low salaries. The position of women in the formal labour market is very weak. Women are mostly engaged in low-wage jobs, in particular in the sectors of education, health-care and agriculture, where the female percentage is higher but the level of professional skills very low.²⁶

During the first quarter of 2009, 119 job fairs were conducted; 3,058 people were employed through the job fairs and 1,827 were referred for vocational training. However, labour migrants reported that the enterprises offering vacancies at the job fairs have low wage levels, which do not even meet the minimum wage level stipulated by the government.

“The concept of creating and preserving jobs in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2008-2015” was adopted, which provides for “performing activities to create new jobs in agriculture”, “designing a mechanism to create new jobs in the small and medium enterprise sector”, “providing funds for staff training and retraining”, and for possible social support of the population.”²⁷

²⁵ ETF (European Training Foundation) “The reform of Vocational Education and Training” 200, p. 16-17

²⁶ Ibid., p. 3

²⁷ ACTED, p. 48

The Employers' Union represents all employers in the private sector (agriculture, food-processing, commerce, energy and water supply and construction being the main economic sectors – aluminum is a public monopoly). Privatization is still ongoing, while the private sector accounted for 65% of the economy (35% public sector) in 2008. On average, companies have between 20 and 30 employees.²⁸

Under these conditions, migration is a complex phenomenon, mostly in rural areas, but it also implies brain-drain with negative consequences on the internal labour market. It is not easy to develop a clear picture of the labour market situation in Tajikistan since there is no regular comprehensive collection of labour market data. Likewise there is a lack of data on the informal sector, in terms of both quantitative and qualitative information²⁹.

- **Labour force growth and employment rate**

Number of employed people in Tajikistan³⁰

Employed persons are defined as those of either sex of age 15 years and older.

2005	2006	2007
2,1	2,1	2,2

In millions

Labour resources and employment

	2005	2006	2007
Population	6920	7064	7216
<i>of which:</i>			
Working age	3984	4121	4254
Non-working age	2936	2943	2962
Urban	1825	1858	1897
Rural	5095	5206	5319
Labour force participation rate	56	57	58
Total labour resources	3893	4047	4210
<i>of which:</i>			
Economically active population	2154	2185	2201
<i>of which:</i>			
Total employment	2112	2137	2150
<i>of which:</i>			
Government	542	537	521
Public sector	470	496	493
Private sector	1082	1083	1113
Clergy and other religious activity	6	6	6
Unallocated	18	21	23
Registered unemployment	42	48	52

²⁸ Ibid., p. 2

²⁹ ETF "The reform of Vocational Education and Training", p. 48

³⁰ Data of the State Committee on Statistics (now Statistical Agency under the President of Tajikistan) in: "Labour market", 2009, p. 185

Non-working students	476	506	518
Working age population at home	1263	1356	1491
Total labour resources	184,0	189,7	195,8
<i>of which:</i>			
Economically active population	102,0	102,2	102,4
<i>of which:</i>			
Total employment	100,0	100,0	100
<i>of which:</i>			
Government	25,6	25,1	24,2
Public sector	22,2	23,2	22,9
Private sector	51,2	50,7	51,8
Clergy and other religious activity	0,2	0,3	0,3
Unallocated	0,8	1,9	1,1
Registered unemployment	2,0	2,2	2,4
Nonworking students	22,0	23,7	24,1
Working age population at home	60,0	63,5	69,3

Employment, 2009 – 2010 (thousands):

	2009 I Q	2009 II Q	2010 January	2010 February	2010 March
Total employed	1012,4	1035,1	1004,1	1019,2	1017,4
In production sphere	655,7	672,9	647,6	653	646,2
Industry	79,2	80,6	76,7	76,4	75,8
Agriculture	501,9	515,8	498,6	502,5	495,7
Forestry	1,9	2	1,7	1,7	1,7
Fishery	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
Transport	19,5	19,5	18,7	19,2	19
Communication	7,7	7,4	8,2	8,1	8,3
Construction	24,3	25,8	22,8	23,7	23,8
Trade, catering, procurement	12,5	12,9	12,9	13	13,4
Computer services	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2
Real estate, commerce	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
Geology, hydrometeorology	1,9	1,9	1,8	1,9	1,9
Other sectors	6,5	6,6	5,8	6,1	6,2
In non-production sphere	326,4	330,1	329,4	338,4	343,2
Communal services	20,8	21,4	20,9	21,9	22,2
Health care, social security	73,3	73,7	74,1	76	76,9
Education	170,2	172,2	173,1	178,6	181,5
Culture & arts	12,4	12,5	12,5	12,7	12,9
Science & scientific services	4,5	4,7	4,4	4,4	4,5
Credit, insurance, pensions	12,4	12,5	12,3	12,5	12,5
General government	32,8	33,1	32,1	32,3	32,7
Private sector	30,3	32,1	27,1	27,8	28

Demand and supply of labour force on the labour market ³¹:

(at the end of a year, in thousands)

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Non-working population, job-seekers, registered with public employment services	72,5	62,5	60,5	53,3
Out of which persons with the unemployed status incl.	43,6	46,6	51,7	43,6
- Women	23,8	25,3	28,3	23,3
- Youth aged 15-29	25,5	22,7	26,9	23,1
Demand for labour reported by companies	15,7	16,3	15,5	14,0
Oversupply of non-working population for one vacancy	4,6	3,8	3,9	3,8

- **Unemployment rate:**

2008	Total	Receiving benefits
January	49,3	0,3
February	49,9	0,3
March	52,7	0,1
April	52,8	0,7
May	50,9	0,3
June	49,4	0,7
July	48,3	0,7
August	48,2	0,2
September	47,1	0,4
October	46,2	0,4
November	45,7	0,3
December	43,6	0,8
2009		
January	43,4	0,3
February	44,3	0,1
March	44,8	0,1
April	44,6	0,2
May	44,2	0,1
June	44,5	0,2
July	44,8	0,4
August	45,0	0,4
September	44,4	0,5
October	45,3	0,4
November	46,5	0,5
December	44,5	1,0

³¹ Ibid., p. 101

Registered unemployment remains low in Tajikistan; although there were no figures available from the time of independence, over 54,000 people (2.9%) were registered in 1998, in 2004 there were only 38,800 (2.0%) registered unemployed. Given the lack of incentives to register (low compensation levels, and the unattractiveness of the limited number of vacancies, training opportunities and other initiatives offered through the employment services) combined with strict rules for being accepted as unemployed, this level does not even remotely reflect reality. Moreover, massive levels of migration have also resulted in decreasing unemployment figures.³²

Unemployment of Tajik citizens by age, gender and region (2009)³³

Region/ Sex	In total (number of persons)	Below 20 yrs	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-75
In TAJ	195952	46303	37058	34373	19656	21565	13936	11652	8515	2294	602
Dushanbe	45876	6909	12576	6944	5094	5224	4121	2729	1688	319	271
Sogdyjski Region	38271	14682	6948	5936	2077	2367	1754	2289	1814	405	-
Khatlonski Region	62747	14402	10236	12166	6419	8711	4228	3145	2603	535	302
RRP	31435	7317	4556	5208	3863	3065	2332	2277	1866	951	-
GBAO	17623	2993	2741	4118	2203	2198	1501	1213	543	83	29
Men	101604	23030	23434	18004	8593	8608	6256	6638	4848	1591	602
Women	94349	23273	13624	16368	11063	12957	7680	5014	3667	703	-

Unemployment rate of Tajik citizens by age, gender and region, % (2009)³⁴

Region/ Sex	In total (%)	Below 20 yrs	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-75
In TJK	100,0	23,6	18,9	17,5	10,0	11,0	7,1	5,9	4,3	1,2	0,3
Dushanbe	100,0	15,1	27,4	15,1	11,1	11,4	9,0	5,9	3,7	0,7	0,6
Sogdyjski Region	100,0	38,4	18,2	15,5	5,4	6,2	4,6	6,0	4,7	1,1	-
Khatlonski Region	100,0	23,0	16,3	19,4	10,2	13,9	6,7	5,0	4,1	0,9	0,5
RRP	100,0	23,3	14,5	16,6	12,3	9,8	7,4	7,2	5,9	3,0	-
GBAO	100,0	17,0	15,6	23,4	12,5	12,5	8,5	6,9	3,1	0,5	0,2
Men	100,0	22,7	23,1	17,7	8,5	8,5	6,2	6,5	4,8	1,6	0,6
Women	100,0	24,7	14,4	17,3	11,7	13,7	8,1	5,3	3,9	0,7	-

Unemployment of Tajik citizens by age and level of education (2009)³⁵

Level of education	In total	Below 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60- 75
Tertiary education	14711	-	2969	3092	1972	2557	1306	1102	1714	-	-
Tertiary incomplete	3428	287	2860	281	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

³² ETF "The reform of Vocational Education and Training" 200, p. 50

³³ Data of the State Committee on Statistics, "Labour market", 2009, p.209

³⁴ Ibid., p.210

³⁵ Ibid., p.212

education											
Specialised secondary education	16936	543	3384	3145	1963	3213	1605	915	1254	610	302
Basic Vocational education	14832	1038	1467	2946	2923	1656	1024	2323	1125	301	29
Secondary education	95403	23419	16476	16091	8864	11827	8441	6241	2906	867	271
Basic education (incomplete secondary education)	36126	13774	6396	7515	3338	1779	1032	1071	923	298	-
Primary education	11758	6178	2992	1302	319	321	-	-	428	218	-
Without primary education	2758	1062	514	-	277	211	528	-	166	-	-
In total	195952	46303	37058	34373	19656	21565	13936	11652	8515	2294	602

- **Level of income**

In 2007-2008 the median monthly income of the Tajik population (unemployed and employed) was 29.6 somoni (USD 8). The median monthly income of employed Tajik population, before labour migration, was 108.6 somoni (USD 31). The median monthly income of labour migrants is 1319.7 somoni (USD 387) i.e. 12 times higher gains in comparison to their income in Tajikistan before labour migration. The median amount remitted per labour migrant annually in 2007-2008 was 3608.2 somoni (USD 1080).³⁶

Average salary and pension per month per person³⁷

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Average monthly salary per person				
in somoni	83,58	116,26	163,27	231,53
in dollars	26,8	35,2	47,4	67,5
Average monthly pension per person				
in somoni	27,51	42,33	45,21	87,36
in dollars	8,82	12,83	13,13	25,48
Minimum monthly salary per person				
In somoni	12,00	20,00	20,00	60,00
In dollars	3,85	6,1	5,8	17,5
Minimal monthly pension per person				
In somoni	12,38	20,43	20,97	62,03
In dollars	3,97	6,38	6,08	18,1

The average salary per employee in Dushanbe³⁸

In somoni	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total economy, incl. the following sectors:	168,06	247,13	361,32	490,22

³⁶ P. Khakimov, M. Mahmadbekov. "Economic Dynamics of Labour Migrants Remittances in Tajikistan", 2009, p. 20

³⁷ Data of the State Committee on Statistics, "Labour market", 2009, p. 13

³⁸ www.stat.tj

industry	123,11	163,90	233,92	391,19
agriculture	63,34	85,51	106,51	175,13
transportation	242,45	312,04	531,36	818,27
telecommunication	377,23	894,51	631,55	1238,96
construction	294,88	436,17	702,74	888,82
trade and supplies	91,99	106,98	156,57	240,66
healthcare and social allowances	66,02	84,86	106,75	220,23
education	111,49	167,45	227,15	299,44
culture	89,58	140,47	197,84	228,24
art	120,79	132,12	148,48	386,33
credit services and state social insurance services	620,02	984,12	1574,05	1741,11
public authorities and institutions	207,78	298,47	596,95	440,79

Aggregate income of population 2005-2008³⁹

Data based on sampling observation of households (per member of household per month)

	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	In somoni	in %	In somoni	in %	In somoni	in %	In somoni	in %
Total	55,48	100	75,86	100	100,54	100	153,16	100
wage and salary income	25,27	45,5	32,91	43,4	42,48	42,3	65,2	42,6
pensions, benefits, scholarships	1,7	3,1	2,68	3,5	3,1	3,1	4,16	2,7
compensatory payments including beneficent aid	2,17	3,9	2,68	3,5	3,1	3,1	4,16	2,7
property income	0,02	0,0	0,07	0,1	0,02	0,0	0,18	0,1
income from property sale	0,12	0,2	0,21	0,3			2,64	1,7
income from personal subsidiary plot	16,03	28,9	19,55	25,8	22,17	22	33,41	21,8
other cash income (including trading income and income from independent professional activity)	10,17	18,3	19,91	26,2	32,09	31,9	47,46	31

³⁹ www.stat.tj

B4. Human Capital

- Levels of literacy and education:

General education, 2005-2008⁴⁰

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Number of institutions	3804	3830	3810	3810
<i>including</i>				
Day (stationery)schools	3761	3789	3801	3803
<i>including</i>				
primary schools	671	670	662	644
basic (incomplete secondary)	834	826	790	806
secondary (complete)	2245	2282	2349	2343
schools for children with physical and mental disabilities	11	11	10	10
Night schools	43	41	9	7
Number of students (thousands)	1682,2	1688,4	1692,1	1691,9
<i>Learning In:</i>				
Day schools	1663,5	1672,8	1690,6	1690,5
Night schools	18,5	15,6	1,5	1,4
Total number of basic school (incomplete secondary) graduates	149,8	158,3	147,9	145,3
Total number of secondary school (complete) graduates	79,6	79,2	76,3	82,2
Number of teachers	98,9	99,9	99,4	96,1

Secondary Vocational Schools, 2005-2008⁴¹

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Number of secondary vocational schools, units	54/1	52/1	52/1	52/1
Number of students in secondary vocational schools, (in thousands):	31,8	32,4	34	34,1
Incl. women (in thousands)	17,9	18,6	19,7	19,9
in % to total number	56	57	58	58
Incl. students studying (in thousands) at:				
day schools	22,4	23,5	25,3	26,3
night schools	-	-		
externally	9,4	8,9	8,8	7,9
Number of students per 10.000 of population	46	46	47	47
Number of matriculates to secondary vocational schools (in thousands) incl.:	11,5	10,8	10,8	10,8
day schools	8,7	8,1	8,3	8,9
night schools	-	-		
externally	2,8	2,7	2,5	1,9

⁴⁰ www.stat.tj

⁴¹ www.stat.tj

Number of graduates (in thousands)	8,0	7,5	7,8	8,5
Incl. studying at:				
day schools (in thousands)	4,9	5,1	5,3	6,1
<i>per 10 000 of population</i>	11,6	10,7	10,8	11,6

- **Level of schooling⁴²:**

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of stationary general schools				
no. of students (in thousands)	1663,5	1672,8	1690,6	1690,5
Number of tertiary schools (higher education)	36 (incl. branches)	34	33	33
no. of students (in thousands)	132,4	146,2	154,2	156,3
for 10.000 of population	191	207	214	212
Number of secondary vocational schools	54	52	52	51
No. of students (in thousands)	31,8	32,4	34,0	34,1
for 10.000 of population	45,9	45,9	47,1	46,7

Higher education⁴³

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Number of higher education institutions	36/1	34/1	33/1	33/1
Number of students (in thousands)	132,4	146,2	154,2	156,3
<i>per 10 000 of population</i>	191	207	214	212
Incl. women (in thousands)	35,4	40,1	43,5	45,3
<i>per total number of students</i>	27	27	28	29
Incl. studying at departments (in thousands)				
day	84,4	61,4	94,9	95,8
external	48	38,6	59,3	60,5
Total number of matriculates (in thousands)	33,5	32,0	33,2	30,3
Incl. to departments:				
day	23,5	22,9	24,3	23,6
external	10,0	9,1	8,9	6,8
Number of graduates (in thousands)	15,1	17,1	19,3	21,3
Incl. studying at:				
day department (in thousands)	8,2	10,8	11,6	12,4
<i>per 10 000 of population</i>	22	24	27	29

⁴² Data of the State Committee on Statistics, "Labour market", 2009, p.15

⁴³ www.stat.tj

Quality of education

The education and training system has experienced a decrease in enrolment and attendance rates, with a decrease of almost 2,000 students in two years (from 25,546 in 2005 to 23,549 in 2007). The education system is facing a deficit of schools. The government would like to develop private schools, with incentives like tax exemptions. As a consequence of such a deficit, around 130,000 people every year join the labour market without any qualification. Most of them migrate to Russia and Kazakhstan without any skills. Only 3.3% of GDP is invested in the overall education system. Widespread corruption at all levels of higher education remains a major concern for the quality of, and access to higher education.⁴⁴

The educational level of Tajik labour migrants is very low. Although 73% of labour migrants have secondary education, 10% and 8.2% have only technical secondary and/or higher educational levels respectively. The educational level of labour migrants varies depending on geographical region. For example the level of education of migrants from MBAR is higher than the educational level of labour migrants from Khatlon region. In MBAR, 34% of labour migrants have university degrees, and 50% and 16% of them have secondary and/or technical secondary education. In Khatlon, only 4% (twice less than the country level) of labour migrants have university degrees and the number of migrants with secondary education is 8% higher. Most migrants with incomplete secondary education are from DRS⁴⁵.

In 2006 a **National Action Plan for the Reform of the Initial Vocational Education and Training System** in Tajikistan was adopted. Key policy issues addressed in the Plan include the content and organisation of education processes, the structure of qualifications, adult education, social partnership, VET system management and quality control, links between the labour market and migration and international and regional co-operation. In December 2006 the responsibility for initial VET was transferred from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection remains responsible for Employment, Migration and Adult Education, which includes training for unemployed and re-qualification with a particular focus on migrants.

In the framework of human capital development in the country, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, under the Government decree of 5 March 2008, has established a **National Adult Training Centre (NATCT)** in Dushanbe with four regional branches in Kurgantube, Kulyab city of the Khatlon region, Konibodom city of the Soghd region, and in the Tajikabad district. All 15 adult training centres of the state employment service in the country and a modular training centre in Dushanbe with branches in Kulyab and Garm region will be attached to the NATCT⁴⁶.

⁴⁴ACTED "Trends of labor migration from Sughd and Khatlon Region, Republic of Tajikistan, under the impact of global financial crisis", p.56

⁴⁵ IOM, p.62

⁴⁶ ACTED "Trends of labor migration from Sughd and Khatlon Region, Republic of Tajikistan, under the impact of global financial crisis", p.56

C. Analysis of the migration situation in the country

C1. Immigrants

C1.1 Total number of immigrants

According to *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, the total stock of immigrants in Tajikistan in 2005 was estimated at **306,433 persons, which comprised 4,7%** of the total population. The female percentage of immigrants in Tajikistan was 57%, with 1,1% as refugees. Top source countries are Uzbekistan, Russia and the Kyrgyz Republic.⁴⁷

According to *World Population Prospects by the UN Population Division*⁴⁸:

Indicator	2005	2010
Estimated number of international migrants at mid-year	306 433	284 291
Estimated number of refugees at mid-year	1 426	1 031
Population at mid-year (thousands)	6 536	7 075
Estimated number of female migrants at mid-year	174 809	162 305
Estimated number of male migrants at mid-year	131 624	121 986
International migrants as percentage of the population	4.7	4
Female migrants as percentage of all international migrants	57	57.1
Refugees as a percentage of international migrants	0.5	0.4

C1.2 Type of immigrants

- Refugees/asylum-seekers

Number of asylum seekers in Tajikistan⁴⁹:

	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Afghanistan	243	229	449	745	1,361	2,579
Iran		15		2	3	0
Iraq				2		2
Sri Lanka					2	0
Total	243	244	449	749	1366	2581

The vast majority of asylum seekers come from Afghanistan. They usually cross the border as tourists (with a valid visa) subsequently applying for refugee status in Dushanbe. According to the Department for Refugees and Citizenship within the Migration Service there has not been a single case of asylum seeker lodging an asylum claim after crossing the border illegally since 2009. Data provided by the Department for Refugees and Citizenship differ slightly from UNHCR data (see above): in **2009** there were 1,682 asylum applications lodged. **From June 2009 to the end of April 2010, 2,420** applications were collected by the Department of which 418 are still pending. According to the Department, there were only two final negative decisions on refugee status issued in 2009.⁵⁰ According to UNHCR mission

⁴⁷ World Bank. *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, 2008.

⁴⁸ World Population Prospects, 2008 Revision, Data Online. <http://esa.un.org/unpp/index.asp>

⁴⁹ UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 24/06/2010, www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase

⁵⁰ BMP Expert Mission Report, 2010, p. 4

in Tajikistan only in July 2009 about 500 asylum seekers were refused to be granted refugee status in the first instance. However, later after re-examination of those applications refugee status was granted to all previously rejected claimants⁵¹.

On April 2, 2008 UNHCR and the government of Tajikistan agreed to strengthen their co-operation and open the door for the **integration** of some 1,000 Afghans who have been refugees in the Central Asian country for up to 20 years. These goals were enshrined in a joint communiqué signed by Tajik Foreign Minister H. Zarifi and UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. UNHCR and Tajik authorities stressed that refugees who had been in the country for a long time could apply for permanent residence as well as for Tajik citizenship. Some 1,000 Afghan refugees have been in Tajikistan since the late 1980s and the 1990s.⁵²

Number of recognized refugees residing in Tajikistan⁵³:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Afghanistan	3,304	1,816	1,006	917	1,126	1,790	2,673
Iran	1	14	9	8	4	5	0
Iraq	1	4	3	4	3	4	5
Sri Lanka							1
Total	3 306	1834	1118	929	1133	1799	2679

- **Labour migrants:**

According to the International Migrants Stock (2008), of the UN Population Division, the total number of employed migration population in Tajikistan is 1,389. Main countries of origin of employed immigrants **are China, Iran, Russia, and Turkey.**⁵⁴

According to the data of the Tajik Migration Service in **2009**⁵⁵:

- **4,523 applications for the work permit** were submitted. Out of that number:
 - 4,066 permits were issued to the foreign nationals from non-CIS countries, which is 90% of all permits issued;
 - 457 permits were issued to the citizens of the CIS countries which is 10% of the permits issued.

Only 75.4% of the established quota of work permits for foreigners were used.

- **56,483 foreign residents** were registered (in 2008 – 44,265) of which:
 - 40,092 were on a private visit (in 2008 – 24,129);
 - 12,981 were on a business trip (in 2008 – 14,636);
 - 724 tourists (in 2008 – 3,014);
 - 2,457 students (in 2008 – 2,302);
 - 229 refugees (in 2008 – 184)

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 9

⁵² <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e4872e6>

⁵³ UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 24/06/2010, www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase

⁵⁴ UN Population Division. International Migration Stock, 2008. <http://esa.un.org/migration/>

⁵⁵ Internal data of the Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2009

- **2,212 permits to visit border areas** of the Republic of Tajikistan were issued (in 2008 – 1,710 permits);
- **599** foreign citizens were granted **permanent residence** in the Republic of Tajikistan (in 2008 – 487);
- **276 applications for permanent residence** in the Republic of Tajikistan were submitted of which 104 applications have been approved, 99 rejected and 73 are still under consideration. Out of these:

	Name of areas	2008	2009	+ / -
1.	Dushanbe City	128	52	-76
2.	Sughd	18	64	+46
3.	Khatlon	0	29	+29
4.	GBAR	0	7	+7
5.	Department for Refugees and Citizenship of MOI	120	124	+4
	Total:	266	276	+10

Activity data in regard to the citizenship issues	Dushanbe		Sughd		Khatlon		GBAR		MS of MOI		Total	
	April 2010	April 2009	April 2010	April 2009	April 2010	April 2009	April 2010	April 2009	April 2010	April 2009	April 2010	April 2009
Foreign citizens, permanently residing in the republic, registered under the reporting period	316	310	124	103	27	22	3	1	144	78	614	514
Applications for permanent residence received	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	17	14	25	15
Citizenship applications approved (applications/persons)	0	0	0	0	74/ 119	54	-	-	219/ 248	124/ 201	293/ 367	178/ 201
Consideration of applications on approval of citizenship by foreign residents living in the RT without ID	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	10	-	16
Inspection of foreign citizens residing permanently in the Republic of Tajikistan	0	0	2	1	8	37	-	-	12	0	22	38
Approval of citizenship of the Republic of Tajikistan to minors	159	78	807	780	-	-	0	-	346	438	1312	1296
Foreign citizens who were drawn to administrative responsibility for violation of immigration rules	-	-	-	-	224	199	-	-	1	-	225	199

C1.3 Irregular immigrants

The body responsible for border management and tackling of the irregular migration in Tajikistan are the Border Guards who are subordinated to the National Security Committee (NSC). However, information and data collected on illegal migration to TAJ is very general. As a result, statistical information on irregular migration is not publically accessible.

In order to tackle irregular migration relevant Tajik authorities conducted special operations “Illegal”, “Foreigner”, “Search”, “Transport”, “Filter” and others. The following results were recorded:

- **44.614** protocols on administrative proceedings were issued (in 2008 – **42.566** protocols);
- Administrative proceedings were initiated with **113** foreign nationals for the violation of rules and regulations on residency in 2009. Protocols were submitted to the relevant institutions with the recommendation to deport the foreign nationals concerned from the country. **26** protocols were submitted in 2008.⁵⁶

In 2010 (as of April 29th), 66 foreigners violated the law on registration (46 in Dushanbe and 20 in other regions). For the last three months 14 foreigners were deported including 9 from Dushanbe⁵⁷.

⁵⁶ Internal data of the Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan

⁵⁷ BMP Expert Mission Report 2010, p.5

C2. Emigrants

C2.1 Total number of emigrants

According to the *Migration and Remittances Factbook* the total stock of emigrants originating from Tajikistan stood at **796,593 in 2008**.⁵⁸ This equals **12.2% of the total population**. The top destination countries are: Russia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan.

- **Population of citizens of Tajikistan in EU-27⁵⁹:**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Belgium	:	0	0	0	10	17	:	:	:	:	47	:
Bulgaria	:	:	:	7	:	:	:	:	:	:	6	6
Czech Republic	:	:	:	27	29	31	46	46	52	53	75	160
Denmark	2	8	8	10	12	13	15	15	15	13	17	18
Germany	970	1002	1019	963	936	905	831	740	708	770	797	812
Greece	1	:	:	10	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Spain	0	6	9	13	11	11	6	9	12	12	15	20
France	:	9	:	:	:	9	:	97	:	:	:	:
Italy	:	:	15	17	19	:	:	19	21	17	22	22
Latvia	16	18	16	18	18	18	20	17	17	19	17	20
Lithuania	:	:	:	18	:	:	:	6	6	8	8	:
Hungary	0	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	3	3
Netherlands	:	10	13	10	14	16	17	16	17	15	15	20
Austria	:	:	:	68	31	44	50	46	34	43	51	60
Poland	:	:	:	:	9	:	:	:	:	6	9	9
Portugal	0	:	0	0	0	0	:	:	:	3	3	1
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	:	:	:	:	:	:	2	1	2	5	5	14
Finland	7	14	15	16	14	18	17	16	17	20	18	28
Sweden	35	33	41	44	45	50	53	61	59	75	81	93

Valid residence permits issued to citizens of Tajikistan in EU-27⁶⁰:

	2008	2009
Belgium	70	69
Bulgaria	4	8
Czech Republic	229	199
Germany	558	563
Estonia	2	2
Ireland	17	11
Greece	4	4
Spain	15	24
France	75	65
Italy	26	20
Cyprus	3	3

⁵⁸ World Bank. *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, 2008.

⁵⁹ Source of data: Eurostat; Extracted on: 12.5.2010

⁶⁰ Source of data: Eurostat; Extracted on: 30.11.2010

Latvia	34	30
Lithuania	13	15
Hungary	18	11
Malta	0	0
Netherlands	63	58
Austria	30	29
Poland	28	25
Portugal	1	2
Romania	3	2
Slovenia	0	0
Slovakia	14	5
Finland	27	28
Sweden	98	97
Total	1,333	1270

C2.2 Type of emigrants

- **Refugees and asylum seekers from Tajikistan**

According to the Migration Information Source of the Migration Policy Institute, during the Tajik Civil War approximately 20,000 refugees fled to Kyrgyzstan from Tajikistan, and there were over 15,000 registered refugees in Kyrgyzstan in 1996. While more than 7,000 of these refugees, including most of the ethnic Tajiks, have returned to Tajikistan, approximately 9,000 of them, almost all ethnic Kyrgyz, have expressed no desire to return.⁶¹

Currently the number of citizens of Tajikistan, recognized as refugees and residing abroad is on the decline: according to UNHCR, in 1996 there were 107,503 Tajik refugees residing abroad (mainly in the Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan), in 2002 – 63,264 refugees, and in 2009 – only 562⁶². This trend is related both to the naturalization of refugees and their return home.

Refugees from Tajikistan residing abroad⁶³:

	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Afghanistan	18,769									
Australia	8				1	1	1	1	1	1
Austria		5	28	34	37	40	42	51	49	44
Belarus			14	18	18	20	20	19	16	15
Belgium				0	0	0	0			
Bulgaria	3		0							
Canada	3	104	113	122	15	91	113	34	40	45
Cyprus						1	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic								1	1	1
Denmark		6	7	6	6	6	6	1	1	0
Finland		7	7	13	17	17	17	23	16	16

⁶¹ Aaron Erlich. "Tajikistan: From Refugee Sender to Labor Exporter. Migration Information Source. Migration Policy Institute. July, 2006. URL: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?id=411>

⁶² UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 24/06/2010, www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase

⁶³ UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 24/06/2010, www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase

France		6	0	13	21	25	27	24	25	29
Georgia						3	3	3	3	3
Germany			0	291	190	152	98	125	129	129
Iran							1	1	2	2
Ireland			2	8	4	4	4	9	9	9
Italy		2	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	1
Kazakhstan	6,000	5,637	4,982	3,477	1,446	1,446	0			
Kyrgyzstan	16,436	13,992	9,805	6,828	3,472	2,320	0		0	
Lithuania									1	1
Mexico			1	1						
Netherlands	17	28	45	45	62	62	63	64	55	52
Norway		4	12	28	30	32	32	30	34	34
Pakistan				0			3			
Poland		4	4	4	1	1	0			
Moldova							4		1	1
Russia	54,031	22,952	2,061	698	15	15	13	9	16	23
Spain	4	4	4	4	4	0				
Sweden	22	29	36	44	45	42	41	54	52	48
Switzerland			7	2	1	2	2	2	3	2
Turkey				0			0			
Turkme- nistan	12,170	13,501	12,659	12,272	12,085	11,173	0			
Ukraine			33	38	17	15	14	14	12	12
Great Britain								1	3	3
USA	27	59	117	114	83	80	137	73	73	90
Uzbekistan	13	9	30,001	39,202	39,202	39,202	0			
Total	107,503	56,349	59,940	63,264	56,775	54,753	645	541	544	562

After the end of the civil war and stabilization of the situation in Tajikistan the number of asylum seekers from Tajikistan dropped and now does not exceed 300 persons annually.

Asylum seekers from Tajikistan⁶⁴:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Afghanistan					1	
Austria	10	21	9	5	8	25
Azerbaijan	1	7				
Belarus	8	11		1		1
Belgium	11	4	5	6	1	5
Bulgaria				0	0	0
Canada	6	5	0	5	10	5
Croatia					5	
Cyprus	1					
Denmark	1					3
Egypt	1	6				
Finland			7	0	1	
France	18	7	8	5		14
Germany	17	8	7	2	21	48

⁶⁴ UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 24/06/2010, www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase

Greece	1				1	0
Hungary					1	
Iceland	1					
India						5
Iran		18	6	0	3	0
Ireland				1		
Italy	1	1	0			
Kazakhstan						10
Kyrgyzstan	23		3			1
Latvia					1	0
Lithuania				1	1	2
Luxemburg	1	1			0	0
Netherlands	9	1	10	5	12	9
Norway	15	6	1	1	3	26
Pakistan			0			
Poland		1	1	1	0	2
Moldova	1		0		1	1
Russia	23	3	7	43	48	29
Slovakia		1	1	7	2	
Slovenia			1		1	
Spain	1	1	5		4	0
Sweden	63	31	15	7	27	34
Switzerland	7	1	1	3	1	2
Syria	1				4	0
Turkey			1			22
Turkmenistan	1					
Ukraine	9	5	8	4	3	4
Great Britain	0	0		0	5	0
USA	12	4	7	13	30	55
Uzbekistan	5		0			
Yemen					1	
Total	248	143	103	110	196	303

- **Labour migrants**

There are two basic categories of Tajik migrants working abroad: migrants staying abroad on a permanent basis (permanent migrants) and seasonal, temporary migrants (they work from spring to autumn and come back to Tajikistan for winter).

In accordance with the Presidential Decree No. 378 of August 1, 2008 registration of Tajik labour migrants leaving the country is conducted. Data collected according to the decree provide the total number of **692.943** Tajik nationals who left for work abroad **in 2009**. Out of this number about 15.000 migrants found work through private employment agencies. There are 378 private employment agencies in Tajikistan, including 35 agencies entitled to recruit TAJ workers for working abroad.

Tajik authorities recently used two different methods to collect data on Tajik nationals purportedly leaving the country for work: a system of migration cards filled at the borders and a door-to-door survey. As one would expect, certain discrepancies in data collected using both methods can be found. According to the door-to-door survey about 400,000 Tajik nationals left for work abroad in 2009, while

according to the system of migration cards 792,000 Tajik citizens leaving the country declared their intention to look for work abroad. As for the 1st quarter of 2010, according to data collected by migration cards, 129,465 people left TAJ and 58,877 Tajik citizens reentered as declared labour migrants. According to the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation 943,000 Tajik citizens residing in Russia were registered in 2009.⁶⁵

Number of Tajik labour migrants who left abroad through organised recruitment of the Migration Service (temporary labour migrants)⁶⁶:

Age, years	2005	2006	2007	2008
In total (both women and men)	1,681	1,656	1,500	11,044
under 18	-	-	-	307
18-29	468	823	...	3,565
30-39	593	455	...	4,638
40-49	423	303	...	2,290
50-54	197	63	...	224
55-59	-	9	...	20
60 and over	-	3	...	...
women (in total)	-	342	...	1,850
men (in total)	1,681	1,314	...	9,194

Number of Tajik labour migrants who left abroad on their own (data according to the Migration Cards system) by age and gender⁶⁷

Year	Total (male and female)	Age			
		Under 18	18 – 29	30 – 59	60 and above
2005	412123	...	...	...	...
2006	609316	22706	322836	257083	6691
2007	573953	...	...	...	...
2008	646298	...	...	...	...
	Only male, total				
2005	402370	...	...	...	...
2006	553513	17470	297666	232786	5591
2007	...	...	...	...	...
2008	564872	...	...	...	...
	Only female, total				
2005	9753	...	...	...	...
2006	55803	5236	25170	24297	1100
2007	...	...	...	...	...
2008	81426	...	...	...	...

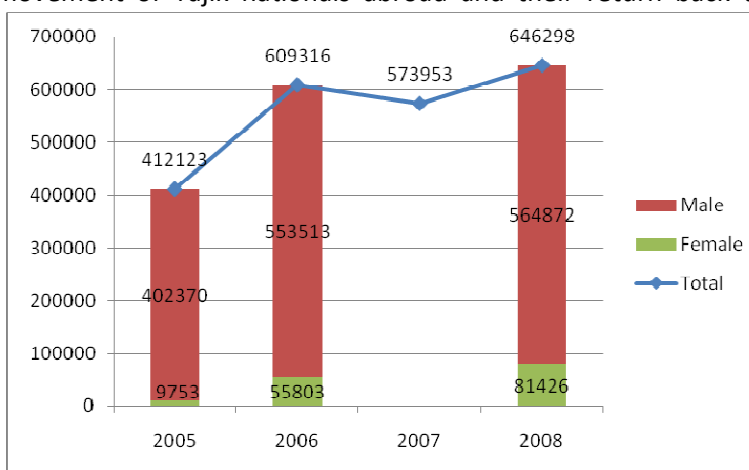
⁶⁵ Expert Mission Report, 2010, p. 5

⁶⁶ State Committee on Statistics, p. 79

⁶⁷ Ibid., p.80

In order to monitor and register the movement of Tajik nationals abroad and their return back to Tajikistan the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan issued the Resolutions no. 378 dated August 1, 2008 and no. 622 dated October 31, 2009. For the period covered 850,561 migrants were registered of whom 692,943 were labour migrants and 144,053 were residents of foreign countries. Out of the total number of labour migrants the following were from:

- Sughd Oblast - 283,531;
- Khatlon Oblast - 56,149;
- Dushanbe City and DRS - 510,881.



Data on the travel and return of labour migrants in 3 months of 2010⁶⁸

Spheres of activity	Dushanbe	Khatlon	Sughd	Total
Labour migrants travelled	83475	11623	34367	129465
Men	77116	11199	30011	118326
Women	6359	424	4356	11139
By air	78160	5780	26723	110663
By train	5315	5843	4926	16084
Overland transport	-	-	2718	2718
Labour migrants returned	39280	6445	13152	58877
Men	34204	6252	11189	51645
Women	5076	193	1963	7232
By air	32624	3391	8527	44542
By train	6656	3054	2877	12587
Overland transport	-	-	1748	1748

⁶⁸ Internal data of the Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan

C2.3 Irregular emigrants

According to IOM's definition, an irregular migrant is someone who, owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country. The term applies to migrants who infringe upon a country's admission rules and any other person not authorized to remain in the host country (also called clandestine/ illegal/undocumented migrant).

Based on this definition, an irregular migrant can be a Tajik labour migrant who failed to register within the prescribed time with the competent Russian authorities. In practice, when he pays a fine, he becomes a legal migrant. **But the Tajik labour migrant duly registered but not holding a work permit is by this definition not an illegal migrant.**

Many experts state that the trends of **illegal employment** will increase under the impact of the global financial crisis due to the fact that the Russian Federation reduced the quota for foreign labour by 50% in 2009. In this short period it is unlikely that many migrants would change professional orientation, finding jobs at home or leaving to other countries with larger quotas. The Russian Federal Migration Service is investigating 15 cases of non-payment of wages to 400 labour migrants from Tajikistan in 2009⁶⁹.

According to the Russian Federal Migration Service the number of illegal migrants in the Russian Federation is in the region of 600,000-800,000, or 10-15 percent of all illegal migrants.⁷⁰

- **Number of the deported Tajik nationals**

In 2009 **1395** Tajik nationals were deported from abroad i.e. 661 people less than the same period last year (in 2008 – **2056** Tajik nationals were deported)⁷¹.

- **Trafficking in Human Beings**

Tajikistan is a source country for women and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution, and for men, women, and children in conditions of forced labour. Women from Tajikistan are subjected to forced prostitution in the UAE, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. These women often transit Kyrgyzstan before reaching their destination country. IOM estimates that a significant percentage of Tajikistan's one million labour migrants are victims of forced labour, primarily after voluntarily migrating to Russia in search of work. Men from Tajikistan are subjected to conditions of forced labour in Russia's agricultural and construction sectors and, to a lesser extent, the same sectors in Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. An issue of concern is also the exploitation of Tajik children within Tajikistan as well as exploitation of adults during the annual cotton harvest⁷².

⁶⁹ ACTED "Trends of labor migration from Sughd and Khatlon Region, Republic of Tajikistan, under the impact of global financial crisis". Dushanbe, 2009, p. 26

⁷⁰ International Monetary Fund, Aleksey Kireev "Macro-economy of remittances: case of Tajikistan", <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2006/wp0602.pdf>

⁷¹ Internal data of the Tajik Migration Service

⁷² US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/>

C3. Diasporas abroad

Information is not available

C4. Remittances of nationals living abroad

- **Total amount of incoming migrant remittances; % of GDP**

According to different data sources, from several hundred thousand to almost one million Tajik nationals were considered labour migrants in 2009. This number could be even exceeding 1 million people using unofficial estimates that account for unregistered workers. Labour migrants send home between 20-50% of their earnings (on average, 400 USD annually) depending on their expenses in the host country, which include living expenses, bribes or supporting another family. The range of annual remittances is more than 2,000 USD (11.2%); up to the following amounts: 2,000 (25.9%); 1,000 (25.4%); 500 (22.4%); 200 (7.3%); 100 (4.9%); or none at all (2.9%). The significance of this remittance data is that if one compares the annual remittances received by the families of labour migrants and the World Bank's poverty level of 2.15 USD a day and extreme poverty level of 1.15 USD a day, an estimated 37 percent live in poverty or extreme poverty and therefore are vulnerable. This percentage could be much larger since the 25 percent that receives more than 500 USD but less than 1,000 USD annually may also be at risk⁷³.

According to IMF Statistics, Tajikistan has the highest remittances share of GDP in percentage in the world (45,5% in 2007).

Workers' remittances (in millions)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Remittances as a share of GDP in 2007
Tajikistan	79	146	252	467	1,019	1,691	1,750	45.5%

The median amount remitted per labour migrant in 2007-08 was 3608.2 somoni (USD 1,080). The volume of remittances in the Sughd region was 18% higher, and the volume of remittances in MBAR was 30% lower compared to the country level.

Median Size of Remittances in 2007-2008⁷⁴:

	Sughd	Khatlon	DRS	MBAR	In total (somoni)
Median amount of money remitted by migrants during 2007-2008	4273.8	3832.8	3551.2	2775.0	3608.2

More than 20% of labour migrants sent home a variety of goods, and the value of the goods sent averages 2,251 somoni per migrant (for 100% of labour migrants the amount would have been 552 somoni per migrant). The median amount of cash brought by migrants is 2,144 somoni (USD 629).

⁷³ IOM Report „Abandoned wives of Tajik labour migrants”, 2009, p. 18-19

⁷⁴ IOM “Economic dynamics of Labour Migrants’ Remittances in Tajikistan”, 2009, p. 56

- **Share of households depending on remittances**

More than 60% of Tajik households in 2007 had a member working abroad, of which 37% households had only one member employed in a foreign country, 14% and 5% had two and three respectively. Only 1% of migrants' households had 4 or more members employed abroad. In the first 8 months of 2008 it was 74% households in total. The average number of Tajik labour migrants increased 3 times from 2003 to 2008.⁷⁵

Larger households have a higher number of labour migrants and vice-versa. The average size of a household in the Khatlon region is 1.8 times larger than in the Sughd region, but the number of migrants per household is almost identical. The remittances by labour migrants have a stronger positive effect on the economy of smaller households; hence the households in the Sughd region will profit more from labour migrants' incomes than those in the Khatlon region.⁷⁶

The size of remittances also depends on labour migrants' income, while their income depends on their skill level and full-time employment. Variations in remittances are subject to the duration of labour migrants' stay in the host country; the longer the labour migrant stays in the host country the lesser he/she sends money home and vice-versa. For instance, migrants from MBAR who tend to stay longer remitted less; whereas migrants' experience in Sughd is identically the opposite.⁷⁷

- **Means of transfer**

During the last few years remittances through official channels increased significantly. For instance, in 2007 remittances through official channels increased by 23 times compared to 2002. The highest percentage of remittance transfers is made through official channels (82% bank transfers); through friends and relatives (12%); and through other means (6%).

Channels for Remitting Migrant Earnings (%)⁷⁸

Bank transfer with code	73.6
Bank transfer without code	8.6
Brought by labour migrant in person	2.2
Agent/Courier	2.5
Through friends and relatives	11.7
Transfer by post	0.2
Other	1.2
Total	100.0

- **Uses of remittances (investment, consumption, savings...), % distribution⁷⁹**

	First most important use	Second most important use	Third most important use	Actual use
Purchase of food and basic necessities	90.2	3.2	2.5	43.2
House construction/repair	4.9	43.2	3.2	17.1
Purchase of durable goods	0.5	8.1	9.5	3.3

⁷⁵ Ibid., p. 58

⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 59

⁷⁷ Ibid., p.20-21

⁷⁸ Ibid. p.73

⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 61

Educational expenses	0.9	17.1	11.3	7.4
Medical expenses	0.7	14.8	17.3	11.7
Expenditure for wedding, circumcision or funeral ceremonies	1.2	7.5	22.5	6.7
Payoff debts	0.7	2.6	13.0	4.7
Other aims (savings used for farm equipment and land improvement)	0.9	3.5	20.7	5.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

According to a survey conducted by the National Bank of Tajikistan, the size of remittances tends to determine their end use – either consumption or investment. Remittances of under US\$1,000 a year tend to be spent mostly on consumption, primarily food, clothing and medical care; sums from US\$1,000-5,000 are spent on durables and home improvements, and to finance small-scale import transactions; sums over US\$5,000 are invested into rural house construction; whilst sums over US\$10,000 are invested in real estate and large scale imports⁸⁰.

Tajik labour migrants' remittances are used on nutrition, investments, and savings. Part of the remittances households used on re/-construction, building small hydro power stations, building infrastructures in communities (such as roads, water pipelines and bridges, creating small trade sectors and providing them with goods, organising family businesses, transport, services and more). The actual usage of labour migrants' remittances completely differs from their initial purpose. The primary reason for remittances (90%) was to cover personal consumption; however, actually only 43% of the money was used for that purpose. The secondary purpose for remittances sent (more than 43%) was for construction; although the actual number shows that only 17% of that money was used on re/-construction of houses. Moreover, the rest was spent on educational (17.1%) and health related (14.8%) fees, weddings, circumcisions and funeral ceremonies (7.5%), sustainable goods (8.1%) as well as to cover debt⁸¹.

⁸⁰ Institute for Development Studies, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, L.Jones, R. Black, R. Skeldon "Migration and Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan", 2007, p. 21-23

⁸¹ IOM "Economic dynamics of Labour Migrants' Remittances in Tajikistan", p. 60

D. Analysis of the factors driving migration in the country

D1. Main characteristics of current migration trends

Due to the specific conditions described, there is a continuous prevalence of **labour emigration** over immigration in Tajikistan. A significant part of the Tajik labour force is dispersed over other CIS countries, mainly the Russian Federation, which is currently receiving the overwhelming majority of Tajik nationals leaving the country to go abroad for work. Migration from Tajikistan is, however, of a global character as Tajik long-term migrants and diaspora are also present in other economically developed regions of the World, including Europe and North America.

The labour migration from Tajikistan is estimated at 800,000 or 11% of the entire population, though due to fractional documentation and statistics the figure could be higher. Russia is the main destination country receiving labour migrants from Tajikistan (95-97%). The main bulk of emigrants is young males working in Russia; only 6 % of the emigrants are female.

Mainly due to the recently reduced demand on the Russian Federation's labour market, as well as the uncertain economic recovery of the RF in the near future, the Republic of Tajikistan is more willing to strengthen its co-operation on migration with other regions, including the EU, in order to safeguard working opportunities for the domestic population. Tajikistan had already taken steps to diversify markets for its domestic workforce by preparing/signing bilateral agreements on labour migration with several third countries, including South Korea and Saudi Arabia. However, a steady outflow of labour migrants to the Russian Federation is expected to continue. Labour migrants from Tajikistan are mostly employed in informal economic sectors. Only a small percentage of migrant workers use legal channels, including employment agencies. As a result of this manner of migration, labour migrants from Tajikistan have insufficient legal knowledge, so that Tajiks are considered among the least protected category of migrants in the destination countries, particularly in the Russian Federation. Due to the vulnerability of labour migrants from Tajikistan cases of trafficking in people, particularly for the purpose of labour exploitation, are increasing.

Immigration of third-country nationals entering or residing in the country legally is very limited. Several thousand Uzbek and Kyrgyz nationals reside and work mainly in the border regions. Some of them reside in the country under the visa obligation. Recently, Tajikistan introduced a quota system on employment of skilled third-country nationals (6.000 worker migrants in 2009 and 7.000 in 2010). The majority of migrant workers entering the country under the quota system come from Turkey, China and Iran.

Despite the very limited capacity and rather underdeveloped asylum policies Tajikistan accepts applicants for **international protection** (in hundreds per year). The vast majority of asylum seekers come from Afghanistan, including ethnic Tajiks.

D2. Identifying the key push and pull factors of migration

Push-factors include the social and economic situation in the country, high rate of unemployment, availability of labour market and higher wages in the destination countries, geographical proximity of Tajikistan to the destination countries, liberal entry rules in the destination countries and closeness of cultures.

The very limited opportunities provided by the Tajik labour market seem to be the main push-factor for emigration, which in most cases is of seasonal character. Due to geographical and cultural (language) factors, substantively higher wages and liberal entry rules the Russian Federation remains the most

attractive destination for Tajik labour migrants. However, the global economic downturn has brought certain limitations to the absorbing capacity of the Russian Federation labour market causing a decrease in numbers of Tajik emigrants in Russian Federation in 2009.

Very specific demands in certain sectors of Tajik economy (construction and electricity generation) attract limited numbers of qualified immigrants to the country (see above). Tajikistan is currently a destination country for a substantive amount of asylum seekers originating from Afghanistan.

D3. Possible future trends in migration

Even if certain actions by the Tajik Government to improve the conditions of the local labour market are taken into account, the current state of Tajik economy doesn't provide for employment possibilities that would supplement the earnings provided by Tajik labour migrants abroad.

Due to the global economic downturn the Russian Federation is currently introducing more protective immigration policies, including fostering a policy on returns of irregular migrants originating in the Central Asian region. The Russian Federation is keen on signing the readmission agreement with Tajikistan as soon as possible, thus providing even more limitations to pull-factors driving the labour migration to the country.

Bearing the ambiguous situation regarding labour markets in the Russian Federation (and CIS countries in general) in mind, Tajik authorities should remain focused on the diversification of possibilities for exporting its workforce abroad through fostering co-operation with partners in other geographical regions, including the EU, willing to make their labour markets available to Tajik labour migrants.

The **National Strategy on (Labour) Migration of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2010-2015**, currently being prepared by Tajik authorities, is the main document on future migration strategy. Export of the Tajik labour force abroad, the Russian Federation included, would remain one of the main policies under the future concept of migration management in Tajikistan.

A limited numbers of qualified foreign workers would continue to be attracted by the specific demands of the Tajik economy as well.

Regarding asylum seekers, Afghans should form a clear majority in an inflow of asylum seekers in the near future.

E. Country specific Module, following the issue of special interest

Labour migration of Tajik nationals, in particular to Russia

Three waves of labour migration from Tajikistan since independence can be distinguished⁸²:

- **The first wave of migration** dates from the early to mid 1990s, and was composed primarily of highly educated people from Dushanbe and surroundings. Many of these migrants, who included ethnic Russians, Germans and Jews, as well as native Tajiks, were employed in the health sector and education, although there was also emigration of highly skilled, qualified industrial and construction workers who went to work in the extractive (oil and gas), metallurgical, engineering and construction industries in Russia. The main reasons behind this wave of emigration were the sharp decline in living conditions, a decline in public sector salaries, coupled with the beginning of an ‘economic boom’ in Russia.
- **The second wave of migration** started at the end of the 1990s, when the rural population started to migrate from a countryside devastated by war. They included older people – fathers, heads of households, and consisted of people less educated compared with the first wave. In Russia, this period was one of economic stabilization and then rapid development of the private sector. Tajik migrants were employed in services, private construction, and agricultural enterprises.
- **Present day migration**, where the overwhelming majority of migrants are aged 18 to 29 years. These are emigrants who migrate straight after the completion of secondary school, with no specialized education, and often with very little knowledge of the Russian language. They work as unskilled labourers on construction sites, in agriculture, or on markets.

The labour migration from Tajikistan is estimated at 800,000 or 11% of the entire population, though due to fractional documentation and statistics the figure could be higher. Russia is the main destination country receiving labour migrants from Tajikistan (95-97%). The main bulk of emigrants is young males working in Russia; only 6% of the emigrants are female. According to data from the Russian Central Bank, some 2,5 billion USD is annually transferred to Tajikistan, which comprises about 45% of Tajik GDP, with the figure rising every year.⁸³

Characteristics of Tajik labour migrants⁸⁴

Tajik migrants statistics	Labour Migrants in Russia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 800,000 labour migrants • 97.6% work in Russia • 95.3% males • 77.9% are married and have 3-4 children • 72% are from rural areas • 46% are up to 30 years of age • 31% are between 31-39 years of age • 24% are 40 years or older • 5.9% migrant live outside Tajikistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 49% work in the Moscow area • 14% in the Siberian Federal District • 11% in the Urals area • 10% in the Privoljsky federal district • 5% in St. Petersburg

⁸² Institute for Development Studies, L.Jones, R. Black, R. Skeldon “Migration and Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan”, 2007, p. 9.

⁸³ A. Riester, “Impact of the Global Recession on International Labour, Migration, and Remittances: Implications for poverty reduction and development in Nepal, Philippines, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan”, p.3. URL:[<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2009/Poverty-Social-Development/impact-on-migration-Riester-paper.pdf>] [accessed 2 March 2010]

⁸⁴ IOM :Abandoned wives of Tajik labour migrants”, p. 16

with their wives

- 52% have irregular status
- 58% of the national economy is from remittances (2008 figures from IMF)

Labour migrants come from all regions of Tajikistan but the highest numbers are from Sughd (36.8%) and Khatlon (32.7%) which have the highest concentration of population and where the largest families exist. Labour migrants earn an approximate average of 400 USD per month and in general send home approximately 20-50% of their earnings from abroad, depending on their expenses in the host country. Remittances are also shown to diminish if the labour migrant stays longer in the host country, most likely because their expenses increase and because they start a new family and decide to resettle in the host country.⁸⁵

Due to the low level of education of labour migrants, they predominantly occupy low-paid jobs that require minimum skills. More than half of the labour migrants work in construction, where only 7.3% have higher professional qualifications. The remaining labour migrants are employed in the service sector (26%). Labour migrants with university and technical secondary degrees that have their own businesses and who are employers themselves make up 17.7%, while the figure for unemployed labour migrants is 3%.⁸⁶

There are two main categories of Tajik migrants working in Russia: migrants staying abroad on a permanent basis and seasonal migrants (they work from spring to autumn and come back to Tajikistan for winter since winter in the RU is severe).⁸⁷ Most workers are seasonal, though it's hard to distinguish between seasonal and permanent, especially since the majority are working on an almost permanent basis, with a very short stay in Tajikistan upon return, and some of them having social connections to the host country (via unofficial marriages or the diaspora).

Much of Tajik migration is taking place irregularly, especially in Russia. Russia has strict laws on the residence of foreigners (*propiska* system). Tajik citizens enter Russia legally under the non-visa regime. However, following legal entry, there are two ways to become 'illegal' or 'irregular' migrant. First, Tajik citizens are required to register with the relevant Russian authorities (OVIR) within 3 days from the date of arrival and failure to do so automatically renders them 'illegal'. Registration within such a short time limit is difficult, and sometimes even impossible. Besides, the registration procedure is usually costly, because although it is supposed to be straightforward and free, in fact is bureaucratized, full of corruption and extortion. The second way of becoming 'illegal' in the view of Russian legislation is the failure to obtain a work permit. This procedure is also costly and time-consuming for employers, who as a result prefer not to apply for work permits and employ without labour/civil contracts. Both forms of illegality – illegal stay, as well as illegal work – can entail a fine and even deportation as a maximum penalty.

Protection of human and labour rights

Apart from many agreements signed with the Russian authorities, both human and labour rights of Tajik migrants are often violated in RF. According to MS the major problems of Tajik migrants in RF are:

- registration of stay ("propiska"), which should be done within 3 working days from the date of arrival (which is sometimes unrealistic);
- social protection of workers; Russian employers prefer not to sign labour contracts thus avoiding

⁸⁵ IOM Report „Abandoned wives of Tajik labour migrants” Dushanbe, 2009, p.14-15

⁸⁶ P. Khakimov, M. Mahmadbekov. “Economic Dynamics of Labour Migrants Remittances in Tajikistan.”, p. 19

⁸⁷ BMP Expert Mission Report 2010, p. 6

the costs for medical and social protection of the migrants (according to MS this practice fosters the irregular manner of TAJ labour migration);

- unlawful conduct by the Russian law enforcement authorities, including cases of unlawful detention, fabrication of criminal cases (e.g. planting drugs).⁸⁸

In order to enhance protection of labour migrants' rights and interests a separate Department on Labour Migration under the Tajik Embassy in Moscow was established in 2009 (with 5 employees who directly deal with problems of Tajik labour migrants and collect information on the Russian labour market). There are also employees in the General Consulate in Yekaterinburg dealing with the protection of Tajik labour migrants and also co-operating with the embassy in Moscow. In Sankt Petersburg, Kaliningrad and Petrozavodsk there are honorary consuls representing interests and protecting Tajik migrants' rights. Some of them are leaders of Tajik organisations set up on the basis of Russian law. Information on means of legal protection and useful addresses are included in leaflets which are disseminated e.g. at the airport in Dushanbe. There is also a representation of the Migration Service in RU with 11 employees.⁸⁹

Consequences of the global financial crisis on Tajik labour migration

Due to the global economic crisis the situation of labour migrants in the Russian Federation has deteriorated, and especially Tajik construction workers were hardest hit by the recent crisis (which started in the second part of 2008). Tajik migrants are complaining about losing jobs, and employers not paying their salaries, or only part of them. As a result of the recession, Russia reduced the quotas for immigration by half in late 2008.⁹⁰ In Moscow, the 2009 quota for foreign labour was initially set at 500,000; later it was halved to 250,000 migrant workers. The situation is the same throughout the Russian Federation, even though the quota for 2009 was set at 3,946,747 work permits, which is slightly higher than the quota set by the Russian Government for 2008 – 3,384,129 work permits.⁹¹ In 2010 a quota for foreign workers in RU was set at 2 million. However, the actual total number of foreign nationals working in Russia should be about ten times more, as the estimated number of total illegal migrants working in RF is about 10-15 million⁹².

There is a correlation between the economic downturn and xenophobic violence directed at migrants; based on UNHCR reports a number of cases of racially motivated attacks on Tajik citizens have taken place since 2008, with about 113 migrants killed and 330 injured.⁹³

According to the latest estimates, the flow of remittances shrunk significantly in 2009.⁹⁴ The recent report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs indicated that every third migrant

⁸⁸ P. Khakimov, M. Mahmadbekov., p. 4

⁸⁹ Ibid., p. 7

⁹⁰ Claire Bigg. "Russia Reduces Quotas for Foreign Workers. *RFERL*. URL http://www.rferl.org/content/Russia_Reduces_Quotas_On_Foreign_Workers/1358782.html [accessed 2 March 2010]

⁹¹ ACTED "Trends of labor migration from Sughd and Khatlon Region, Republic of Tajikistan, under the impact of global financial crisis". Dushanbe, 2009, p. 15

⁹² BMP Expert Mission Report 2010, p.4

⁹³ "Russia: Situation and treatment of visible ethnic minorities; availability of state protection". 1 October, 2009. UNHCR.URL:[<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4b7cee862d.html>] [accessed 2 March 2010]

⁹⁴ .Riester, "Impact of the Global Recession on International Labour, Migration, and Remittances: Implications for poverty reduction and development in Nepal, Philippines, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, p. 4. URL:[<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2009/Poverty-Social-Development/impact-on-migration-Riester-paper.pdf>] [accessed 2 March 2010]

has been affected by the economic crisis.⁹⁵ According to a recent survey conducted by the ILO and the Tajik Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (2009) of 6,000 returnees, 63.6% would be willing to migrate for work again, only 14.5% have found work upon return, and nearly all of them were dissatisfied with wages in Tajikistan and the inability to find sustainable jobs.⁹⁶

⁹⁵ Riester, p.5

⁹⁶ Ibid.

F. Migration policies and programmes and their effectiveness in managing migration and development challenges

F1. Overview of the national institutional and policy framework governing migration

F1.1 An overview of recent migration policy developments

The Order of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan *“On improving the structure of central executive power bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan”* to strengthen the reform of state management and social and economic development of the Republic of Tajikistan was adopted on November 30, 2006. In accordance with the Order, the competences of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan with regard to labour migration were transferred to the Ministry of Interior.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan developed the **Concept of Labour Migration** in 2001 for the purpose of state regulation of labour migration and social legal protection of Tajik citizens working abroad. The Concept covers all aspects of external labour migration. It emphasizes the importance of legal and managed migration. For the first time, the issue of establishing employment agencies that attract migrants and provide them with job opportunities abroad was raised. The document also makes reference to the economic purposes of labour migration. Among them, the need for reduction of the level of unemployment and solving the issue of social protection of labour migrants plays an important role.

The concept was implemented by adopting on 31 January, 2006 the **State Program on External Labour Migration of Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period of 2006-2010**. The key issues included in the Program are: *“attracting and developing the system of education for the unemployed youth on the basis of the state employment service and basic vocational education system”* (Chapter 7, paragraph 7.1), *“organizing information and consultative assistance to labor migrants”* (Chapter 7, paragraph 7.2.2), and *“assisting the establishment of an extensive network of intermediary organizations and creating a databank on their activities”* (Chapter 7, paragraph 7.3).⁹⁷ The program provides measures assisting labour migration and protection of labour migrants’ rights, preventing infections and professional diseases among migrants, and optimizing the volume and structure of migrant flows. The document underlines the significance of co-operation between ministries, agencies and bodies with executive power, civil society and mass media.

The institution responsible for organising information campaigns and consultations for labour migrants leaving Tajikistan is the Migration Service under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Migration Service, together with the Department for Employment, Social Protection and Migration under the Executive Staff of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, conducted field consultative activities in almost all districts of Tajikistan in 2008- 2009. In addition to government-provided information services, eight Information and Resource Centers for labour migrants are operating in eight districts of Tajikistan. These are supported by international organisations and are established on the basis of local non-governmental organisations⁹⁸.

⁹⁷ ACTED “Trends of labor migration from Sughd and Khatlon Region, Republic of Tajikistan, under the impact of global financial crisis”. Dushanbe, 2009, p. 29

⁹⁸ Ibid, p. 29

The above mentioned Program of External Labour Migration provides measures for protection of labour migrants' rights and freedoms abroad. The Program states that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan is supposed to *“design a mechanism for accounting minimum standards when signing bilateral agreements securing social and legal protection to migrant workers”*. This function has been delegated to the Ministry of Interior's Representative Office on Migration in Russia, stipulating among other things that responsibilities of this office include “the protection of migrants' rights and interests in case of their violation by employers or authorized employees of the Federal Migration Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs and other competent authorities of the Russian Federation.

Recently the government has started to prepare the **National Migration Strategy for the period 2010-2015** which would focus mainly on the protection of labour migrants' rights, opening new labour markets abroad and provision of decent living and working conditions for labour migrants. Currently a single act on labour migration is also drafted. Furthermore, it is planned to establish **one state agency responsible for migration issues**. This concept is supported by the President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rahmon. For the time being, the name, structure and range of competences of the agency have not been decided⁹⁹.

⁹⁹ Expert Mission Report, 2010, p. 3

F1.2 An overview of key domestic legislation

Tajik migration legislation is relatively young and composed of both domestic regulatory and international legal acts, including regional agreements. The main trends in development of Tajik migration legislation in the last years are characterized by a number of innovations undertaken by the Government due to the importance of (external) labour migration for Tajikistan. According to most researchers, it is necessary to bring the current legislation of Tajikistan into compliance with international standards and design the mechanisms for implementation of regional agreements.¹⁰⁰

The national legislation on migration issues comprises of:

- Act “On migration” of December 11, 1999 (No 882), amended on May 10, 2003 (No 31), December 28, 2005 (No 145), December 31, 2008 (No 470), and January 12, 2010 (No 591);
- Act “On refugees” of May 10, 2002 (No 50), amended on January 12, 2010 (No 590);
- Act “On licensing certain types of activity” dated May 17, 2004, amended on April 3, 2007” (No 37), amended on March 01, 2005 (No 81), July 28, 2006 (No 195), June 13, 2007 (No 277), January 05, 2008 (No 349), June 18, 2008 (No 399), October 6, 2008 (No 435);
- Act “On assisting employment of the population” 44 dated August 1, 2003 (No 44), amended on December 28, 2005 (No 137) and July 30, 2007 (No 325);
- Act “On counteracting trafficking in human beings” of 2004;
- Act of the Republic of Tajikistan " On Citizenship"
- Act of the Republic of Tajikistan "On legal status of foreign citizens", dated on February 1, 1996, No. 230, amended on December 3, 2009 (No 565).

The executive acts related to labour migration¹⁰¹:

- Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On measures to regulate external labor migration of Tajik nationals” No 15, dated January 24, 1994;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the concept of labor migration abroad” No 242, dated June 09, 2001;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the Regulation on State Employment Service” No 168, dated May 10, 2005;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the Program of external labor migration of Tajik nationals for 2006-2010” (No 61), dated January 31, 2006;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the Concept of Social Protection of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan” No 783, dated December 29, 2006;
- Decree by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the Regulation on Migration Service under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan” No 101, dated February 20, 2007;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the State agency for social protection, employment and migration” No 102, dated March 03, 2007;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On representative office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan on migration in the Russian Federation” No 124, dated March 29, 2007;

¹⁰⁰ ACTED “Trends of labor migration from Sughd and Khatlon Region, Republic of Tajikistan, under the impact of global financial crisis”. Dushanbe, 2009, p. 23

¹⁰¹ Ibid. p. 24

- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the Regulation on licensing certain types of activities”, amended on April 03, 2007 (No172), April 01, 2008 (No 179), and August 27, 2008 (No 443);
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On regulating the issues of employment” No 531 dated December 04, 2003, amended on June 30, 2007 (No 362);
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the Program of assisting the employment in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2008-2009” No 632, dated December 30, 2007;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the Concept of establishing and preserving jobs in Tajikistan for 2008-2015” #74, dated March 05, 2008;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On establishing State institution – Adult Education Center” No 115, dated March 05, 2008;
- Decree by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On accounting external labour migration of the Tajik nationals” No 378 dated August 01, 2008;
- Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the Protocol on amendments to the Agreement on cooperation in the area of labor migration and social protection of migrant workers of April 15, 1994” of June 11, 2009;

Other legal acts on migration related issues¹⁰²:

- Regulation of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, "Types, procedures of processing and issuing of visas of the Republic of Tajikistan", January 26, 2008, No27;
- Regulation of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, "On measures providing simplified processing and issuing of visas of the Republic of Tajikistan to citizens of some foreign countries", dated on April 3, 2006, No. 134;
- Order of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan of 2001 “On strengthening the struggle against illegal migration in the Republic of Tajikistan”;
- Regulation on the Licensing Committee under the Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, approved by the Decree of the Minister of Internal Affairs, dated June 4, 2008;
- Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the rules of issuing foreign passports containing electronic media and certificates for return to the Republic of Tajikistan for the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan”, dated April 2, 2009;
- Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On approving the plan of additional anti-crisis measures by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for a short-term period”, dated April 29, 2009.

¹⁰² Ibid.

F1.3 A brief description of key institutional actors involved in migration management and diaspora

The main body co-ordinating the migration agenda in Tajikistan is the **Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan** (Department of Employment and Social Protection). It co-ordinates activities of all governmental bodies responsible for migration issues, including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Border Guards as well as non-governmental and international organisations (IOM, ILO). The PA prepares complex information for the meetings of the intergovernmental **Commission on Regulation of Migration Processes**. Roundtables with all stakeholders of migration process are held regularly.¹⁰³

The key actor involved in migration management is the **Migration Service under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan** established by the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on December 29, 2006. According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan “On improving the structure of central executive power bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan” of November 30, 2006 the competences of the **Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan**, in the field of labour migration, were transferred to the Ministry of Interior. The Migration Service is the main source of data on migration and provides the data on labour migration since 2007 and also data on refugees in Tajikistan since 2009. By that time data on labour migration were submitted by the Ministry of Labour. However, data on internal migration is still provided by the Ministry of Labour. Additionally, the former Representative Office of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Russian Federation was transformed to the Representative Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Russian Federation. The main tasks of the Representative Office are: promoting legal employment of migrants, protection of their rights and interests, assistance in signing contracts with economic subjects/employment agencies, study of foreign labour markets and providing legal consultations to the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan staying in Russia temporarily.¹⁰⁴

The relevant departments of the Migration Service are: Department for Refugees and Citizenship, Department of Labour Migration and Immigration Control Department.

The Department for Refugees and Citizenship was transferred from the Ministry of Labour to the Ministry of Interior in June 2009. Once a month members of the Commission on Refugee Status gather in order to review asylum applications and issue asylum decisions. Another unit of the Department - Unit of Citizenship – deals with the applications on acquiring citizenship. After 6 months of legal stay in TAJ refugees are entitled to apply for permanent residence (10-15% of refugees apply). The permanent residence permit is issued for 5 years and entitles its holder to a large number of benefits and rights, including free access to the labour market. After staying for five years in TAJ as a permanent residence permit holder one can apply for a citizenship.

The Department of Labour Migration consists of the following divisions and one specific unit:

- External labour migration (promoting employment of TAJ nationals abroad, e.g. via job fairs, explanatory publications)
- Immigration control of foreign migrants (conducting surveillance of foreign labour migrants in TAJ, in charge of sanctions against illegal migrants including deportations)
- Issue of licenses for employment agencies
- Unit assisting Tajik citizens deported from abroad.

¹⁰³ BMP Expert Mission Report, p.7

¹⁰⁴ Ibid. p. 2

There is also OVIR – Office for Visa and Registration in Dushanbe (OVIR is in every Tajik city). Foreigners have to register with OVIR.

The Division for Immigration Control collects data on migration flows:

- by means of migration cards – collecting information on declared purpose of exit (since 2009) and entry (since 2010) of TAJ nationals by a special unit at the Dushanbe airport, as well at railway stations.
- by means of a door-to-door survey conducted by the local authorities every six months since 2009.¹⁰⁵

Another key player in migration processes is the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Consular Department)**. In 2009 a separate Department on labour migration under the Tajik Embassy in Moscow was established. There are also employees in the General Consulate in Yekaterinburg dealing with the protection of Tajik labour migrants and also co-operate with the Tajik embassy in Moscow. In Sankt Petersburg, Kaliningrad and Petrozavodsk there are honorary consuls representing interests and protecting Tajik migrants' rights.

The measures for protection of labour migrants' rights and freedoms abroad are stipulated in the Program of External Labour migration of the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2006-2010. The Program states that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan is supposed to "*design a mechanism for accounting minimum standards when signing bilateral agreement securing social and legal protection to migrant workers*". This function has currently been delegated to the MOI Representative Office on Migration in Russia, stipulating *inter alia* that responsibilities of this office include "the protection of migrants' rights and interests in case of their violation by employers or authorized employees of the Federal Migration Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs and other competent authorities of the Russian Federation".

The **Statistical Agency under the President of TAJ** (former State Statistic Committee) is the central statistical office of the country. The Agency is responsible for population census, household surveys, collecting complex demographic statistics, including such on migration flows of the domestic population and a wide range of economic statistics.

The main source for statistical data on migration flows of foreigners and also of Tajik citizens is the system of "Migration Cards" filled at the TAJ borders upon entry or exit, as well as a survey among household members of workers abroad based on a questionnaire prepared by the ILO. Data obtained on the basis of Migration Cards are submitted monthly to the local statistical offices and then to the central Calculation Office under the Statistical Agency for further analysis. Final data are published annually in the Demographic Compilation of the Republic of Tajikistan. The main publication of The Agency is the monthly report "*Socio-Economic Situation*" and annual report such as "*Statistical Yearbook of Tajikistan*".¹⁰⁶

International organisations (e.g. IOM, ILO, UNHCR, ACTED) **as well as non-governmental organisations** are also important stakeholders of the migration policy in Tajikistan. Generally speaking, they play a complimentary role by providing migrants with support in those areas in which the state is not fully capable. They contribute to development of the legislative and policy framework of migration by conducting field research and submitting recommendations to the government to improve the current legislation and practices. One of the key tasks of the NGOs and international organisations is protection of migrants' rights and interests, which is fulfilled, among others, by conducting information and

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., p. 4-5

¹⁰⁶ Ibid., p. 8

awareness activities, providing migrants with legal and material support, monitoring migrants' rights and intervening when they are violated.

International organisations and non-governmental organisations are also consulted on migration legislation developments or invited by Tajik migration authorities to participate in projects on different migration aspects.

F2. An analysis of policy coherence issues

- **Policy co-ordination**

The Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (EAP) is the main body co-ordinating the migration agenda in Tajikistan. All administrative bodies responsible for migration issues, including the Ministry of Interior (the Migration Service, respectively), the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Border Guards (National Security Committee) should submit all relevant information to the EAP which then prepares complex information for the meetings of the intergovernmental **Commission on Regulation of Migration Process**. The EAP co-ordinates the tasks of all governmental bodies as well as the activities of international organisations (IOM, ILO) and NGOs. Roundtables with all stakeholders of the migration process held regularly.

The coherence of Tajik migration policy was challenged by the transfer of competences between governmental bodies in 2006. As mentioned, the main executive competences in the field of migration were transferred from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population to the Ministry of Interior (the Migration Service).

Recently, the President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rahmon, presented his intention to establish one state agency responsible for migration issues. It is expected that the Migration Service will play this role. However, the agency's final structure and range of competences have not yet been decided. The President's proposal of setting-up a central administrative body for the co-ordination of migration agendas still needs to be further developed by the Parliament.

Even though certain steps are to be taken in the near future in order to centralise and streamline migration management, the lasting independent position of the National Security Committee (Border Guards) could generate further incoherence in migration policies and pose a challenge to the efficient collection of consistent data. It would be easier to predict the future level of co-operation between the National Security Committee, the EAP and the Ministry of Interior (Migration Service) after one single agency has been established and assigned the responsibility for migration issues.

- **Mainstreaming migration into development plans**

Labour migration of Tajik nationals abroad is of the main concern to the Tajik state authorities dealing with migration. Even though a substantive part of (very limited) capacities allocated to migration management in Tajikistan is consumed by the state policy of exporting labour force abroad, it seems that this policy lacks a development dimension. It should be remembered in this context that a substantive part of Tajik labour migrants abroad enter an informal economic sector and remittances are not to be tracked easily.

With more than half of the population living below the national poverty line, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan developed a Poverty Reduction Strategy in June 2002 that contains a programme of structural reforms towards economic development and pro-poor growth. The main objective is reducing poverty to 32% by 2015 according to the **National Development Strategy Paper** of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period to 2015, adopted in August 2006, anticipating the target of the Millennium Development Goals. Within this strategy, the government aims to ensure that 99% of

children attend primary education and expect an increase in the participation of children from poor families and girls. It describes the country's macroeconomic, structural, and social policies in support of growth and poverty reduction, as well as associated external financing needs and major sources of financing. Among the most important challenges identified by the Strategy to reach long term economic growth and poverty reduction are: weak investment climate and infrastructure, inadequate competitiveness, inefficient economic structure, weak human capital and civil society development, slow reform implementation, limited results from international co-operation and **high labour migration level**.¹⁰⁷

A nexus between migration and development would be further developed under The National Strategy on (Labour) Migration for 2010-2015 which is currently being prepared by the Tajik authorities.

F3. Regional and International Co-operation

- **International co-operation**

The Republic of Tajikistan is a party to the following **international treaties**:

- International Convention on protecting the rights of all migrant workers and their family members, December 18, 1990;
- ILO Convention 143 on migration-related abuses and about providing equal opportunities and treatment to migrant workers, December 9, 1978;
- ILO Convention on migrant workers of 1939, revised in 1949, ratified on October 2, 2006;
- 1951 Geneva Convention on refugee status and 1967 New York Protocol were ratified in 1993

- **Regional co-operation**

Tajikistan is also a party to a number of **regional agreements** on migration, concluded mainly with the CIS countries:

- Agreement on mutual non-visa regime between the government of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Russian Federation, dated 30 November 2000;
- Agreement on co-operation in the migration field and social protection of labour migrant, dated 15 April 1994, between the CIS Member States;
- Agreement on co-operation between the CIS Member States in fighting illegal migration, dated 6 March, 1998
- Convention on the legal status of migrant workers and their family members from the CIS Member States, dated November 14, 2008;
- Program for co-operation between CIS Member States in combating illegal migration for 2009-2011, dated November 14, 2008.

- **Bilateral co-operation Agreements**

- Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the **Russian Federation** on the labour activities and protecting rights of Tajik nationals in the Russian Federation and Russian nationals in the Republic of Tajikistan (October 16, 2004). Tajikistan approved this agreement in January 2005, but Russia ratified it in July 2006 and implemented in January 2007. A Tajik-Russian Group on Migration was created and Heads of the Migration Services of both countries meet twice a year in order to discuss and solve bilateral problems related to migration

¹⁰⁷ ETF, Tajikistan Country Plan, 2009, p. 3-4

issues (next meeting will be held in 2010 in Sochi). Another practical step under this agreement was that Russia extended the period for registration from 3 to 7 days¹⁰⁸.

- Program for co-operation in the area of labour exchange between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of Moscow, Russian Federation, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 271, dated May 30, 2008;
- Agreement on co-operation on labour migration and social protection of migrant workers (Moscow, April 15, 1994);
- Bilateral agreements with regions of the Russian Federation, for example with Penza, Ryazan and Yekaterinburg (negotiations also with Samara region) on the organised recruitment of workers;
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the **Republic of Kazakhstan** on labour activities and protection of the rights of Tajik migrants temporarily working in Kazakhstan, and Kazakh migrants temporarily working in Tajikistan of 4May 2006
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the **Republic of Kyrgyzstan** on labour activities and social protection of migrant workers, dated May 6, 1998;
- The Memorandum of Understanding on labour migrant recruitment between TAJ and **Saudi Arabia** was signed in 2009, providing no quota system for the recruitment of Tajik workforce. At the beginning of June 2010, at the latest, first Tajik labour migrants would be employed in Saudi Arabia;
- With EU countries: a draft of MoU on labour migration was prepared by the Tajik authorities and submitted to the migration authorities of the Czech Republic for consideration.

So far Tajikistan has not signed any agreement on **readmission**. The Russian Federation proposed that Tajikistan signs an agreement on readmission, which is expected to be signed by the Russian Federation by the end of 2010.

F4. Overall assessment of the migration policy context

Current Tajik migration policy is challenged by incoherence mainly due to competences being split between the National Security Committee and the Migration Service of the Ministry of Interior as well as due to the lack of an efficient co-ordination mechanism (currently streamlined by the Presidential Administration). All previous reform efforts were driven by the policy of exporting the domestic workforce. Major changes in the migration policy context are not to be expected in the near future. However, a streamlining of migration policies (excluding border management and interception of irregular migrants) is to be envisaged in the coming months through the centralisation of policies under one administrative body (possibly the Migration Service of the Ministry of Interior).

The main competences for tackling irregular migration (especially trafficking in human beings and border control in general) would probably remain with the Border Guards under the National Security Committee. Substantive changes in the fields of immigration policy and changes in the patterns of irregular migrant flows are not to be expected. However, there is a need to strengthen the capacities of the Tajik Border Guards through co-operation with other countries, as well as with international organisations. The co-relation between illegal border crossings and other organised crime (drug smuggling) will remain one of the main challenges for the Tajik authorities.

¹⁰⁸ L. Jones, R. Black and R. Skeldon, Institute for Development Studies, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, “Migration and Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan”, 2007, p.19

The main areas of Tajikistan interest are connected with labour migration management and to some extent, given their limited experience and capacity, to co-operation on the protection of refugees. Also, co-operation on improving capacities for the prevention and combat of illegal migration would be of particular interest, even though this demand has not been verified as so far, no contacts with the National Security Committee (or Border Guards) have been established. The remaining topics covered by the Prague Joint Declaration are not yet fully developed, therefore migration and development and integration require further action and attention.

Mainly because of the recent uncertain situation of the Russian Federation's labour market demand, as well as the uncertain economic situation of the RF in the near future, the Republic of Tajikistan would be more open to strengthen co-operation with the EU on migration issues. Tajikistan had already taken steps to diversify markets for its domestic workforce by preparing/signing bilateral agreements on labour migration with several third countries, including South Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Labour migration is the most crucial macro and micro economic development element in Tajikistan, but it is hardly a sustainable economical development strategy in the long-term perspective. It should also be noted that the labour migration vector to Russia during the recent years became the cause for economic and political pressure on Tajikistan. Therefore the search for new international labour markets to minimize the external pressure should be continued. The main problems of diverting the labour migration flows are the language barrier and the lack of inter-state agreements for the international labour markets in the West and in Asia.

G. Evaluating the impact of migration and migration policy on the socio-economic development

G1. Impact of migration on the socio-economic development of the country of origin

Labour migration plays an important role in the development processes in any country with a labour surplus, as it forms the country's economic system.

Remittances transferred by Tajik labour migrants are substantial for the Tajik economy. There is a strong link between remittances and poverty reduction. There is also evidence of a significant positive impact of remittances on the micro-level (household) as also on the macroeconomic level. For many Tajik households, labour migration and remittances received are the key strategy to sustain their livelihood and escape poverty. Besides, remittances help to keep the current account deficit manageable. They have also a positive impact on public finances, providing an additional source of revenue in the form of VAT. They contribute to exchange rate stability and they help to strengthen the banking system. However, although certain macro-economic indicators strongly point towards the positive effect of remittances on economic growth, the connection between remittances and pro-poor economic growth is more ambiguous. A balanced view on remittances should weigh their short-term benefits and volatility against their long-term sustainability. The impact of remittances on the development of the domestic economy depends on whether they are spent on consumption or investment. A large proportion of remittances is spent on consumption and social functions, and little is 'invested' in the economy.¹⁰⁹

The negative impact of remittances on the national economy can be seen on internal producers. The goods they produce are neither competitive on external nor on internal markets; an effect caused by the dollarization of the economy and the strengthening of the national currency. Because of the decline in migration flows caused by the global financial and economic crisis, less incomes were received through remittances. This again caused the development of national production to combat the depreciation of the national currency (caused by the scarcity of foreign exchange in the internal market as the remittances decreased, in addition to the low prices and demand in the world market for the essential goods exported by the country, such as cotton and aluminum).¹¹⁰

In addition to the intergovernmental agreements with Russia a number of bilateral agreements have been signed with regions of the Russian Federation, for example with Penza, Ryazan and Yekaterinburg. As a rule, the Tajik authorities guarantee to provide a number of workers with a certain level of qualification required by the Russian regional labour market, while the administration of the region guarantees to provide Tajik workers with labour/civil contracts, insurance, to look after the migrants' living and working conditions and to protect their rights. Agreements of this nature are considered to be the future of migration management strategies between Russia and Tajikistan: Russia gets qualified workers that the labour market badly needs (doctors, drivers, teachers, medical nurses), whilst Tajikistan gets certain guarantees securing the status of Tajik citizens.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁹ Institute for Development Studies, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, L.Jones, R. Black, R. Skeldon "Migration and Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan", 2007, p. 21-23

¹¹⁰ P. Khakimov, M. Mahmadbekov. "Economic Dynamics of Labour Migrants Remittances in Tajikistan." 2009, IOM Tajikistan, p. 38

¹¹¹ Institute for Development Studies, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, L.Jones, R. Black, R. Skeldon "Migration and Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan", 2007, p. 19

However, taking into account that the proportion of unskilled workers is rising, the fact that bilateral agreements for contract workers with Russian regions have focused on the provision of skilled workers is worrying. A country such as Tajikistan, which has insufficient health and education services, cannot afford to lose doctors, nurses or teachers to its richer neighbour. More evidence is required to identify the real impact of such agreements – and past skilled labour migration – on broader development outcomes in the health and education fields¹¹².

Labour migration also has other negative consequences, especially in the **social dimension** as it could lead to family separation, inability to raise children and break-up of the family unit.

According to the Save the Children Report 2007, more and more migrants' wives are obliged to leave their children in orphanages because they are unable to maintain them or because they migrate themselves to join their husbands. There are already around 10,000 street children, who often go to Dushanbe. There is also an increasing trend of very young people who migrate with their parents and abandon school. An increase of HIV is also an issue in the case of labour migrants¹¹³.

One of the increasing and more visible social problems is the abandoned women of Tajik labour migrants. Although it is difficult to quantify the number of women that have been abandoned by their migrant husbands without having proper statistics on the group, 37 % of Tajik labour migrants send home an equivalent of 500 USD or less each year in remittances. As this percentage is applied to the total labour migrant population range (800,000 by current IOM labour migration estimates and up to 1 million by unofficial estimates that include unregistered migrant workers), the estimate of the households that could be considered economically abandoned and living at or below the poverty level is between 230,880 to 288,600 and, based on IOM's figures, out of this number 78% are considered married with children. This is not a small number and could grow even higher, taking into account the impact of the global financial crisis on Russia that is leaving many labour migrants jobless or without pay. The majority of abandoned women are not well informed about their husbands' whereabouts. Many labour migrants have another woman in the country in which they work. Abandoned wives live in poverty and in inadequate housing, mostly on what they can produce and with the infrequent help from relatives. Some children have never met their father because they were not yet born or very small when he left. Abandoned labour migrants wives' economic, social, physical, and cultural experiences have not received appropriate attention to fully understand the impact of labour migration. In particular, an assessment on the psycho-social impact of abandonment on women and children and the capacity of the local community to address such issues is urgently needed.¹¹⁴

Furthermore, because of the socio-economic situation migrant wives face after their husbands leave and abandon them financially and emotionally, the risks of depression, suicide, physical health, famine, prostitution, or polygamous marriages is high. A 2006 joint project by IOM, UNIFEM, and UNDP focused on the empowerment of migrants' wives. It recognized the vulnerability of these women to social and economic problems and the need to support them in developing coping mechanisms to sustain the family. These women may have to engage in certain illegal activities to survive when the only income source is a remittance that has ceased, there is no alternative for employment or other source of income like benefits from living with their in-laws or own parents or relatives¹¹⁵.

¹¹² Ibid., p.25

¹¹³ETF "TAJ country plan", p.3

¹¹⁴ IOM Report "Abandoned wives of Tajik migrants", p. 6-7

¹¹⁵ Ibid., p. 26

G2. The socio-economic development effects of migration policies and other forms of interventions targeting migration

The state migration policy and governmental efforts to manage migration enhance the development benefits of migration in the following way:

- The government's efforts to ensure legal and organised external labour migration contribute to better protection of Tajik migrants' rights in destination countries which will secure migrants' income and also a regular flow of remittances to Tajik households that may lead to reducing poverty. Beside, migrants transfer not only money but also social and professional skills to their home country.
- Current migration reforms and the review of migration legislation aim at establishing more comprehensive and better managed migration policy;
- The government's efforts to diversify the destination countries for Tajik labour migrants by preparing/signing bilateral agreements on labour migration with third countries other than Russia aims at securing employment possibilities for Tajik nationals.

However, it should be highlighted that the external labour migration should in the long run not remain the main and the only strategy for all social and economic problems (i.e. reduction of unemployment and poverty) and therefore a long-term strategy aiming at increasing job opportunities on the internal labour market and economic development is urgently needed.

H. Conclusions

H1. Main findings on current migration trends

- Prevalence of labour emigration of Tajik nationals over immigration to the country;
- Main push factors for labour emigration are the lack of job opportunities in Tajikistan and the general socio-economic situation in the country. Among the main pull factors are: availability of foreign labour markets, higher wages in the destination countries, geographical proximity of Tajikistan and the culturally close destination countries and liberal entry rules in the destination countries;
- Main destinations for Tajik labour force are Russian Federation and Kazakhstan;
- Labour migrants from Tajikistan are mostly employed in informal economy sectors. Only a small portion of migrant workers use legal employment channels, including private employment agencies;
- Labour migrants from Tajikistan have insufficient legal knowledge. Due to the vulnerability of labour migrants from Tajikistan cases of trafficking in people, particularly for the purpose of labour exploitation, were increasing;
- Migrants' remittances account for almost half of the country's GDP according to official sources and even higher according to unofficial sources;
- Due to the global economic crisis the situation of labour migrants in RU has deteriorated and many Tajik migrants lost jobs or were not paid their salaries;
- Tajikistan is a destination country for hundreds of asylum seekers from Afghanistan, as well as a transit country for migrants coming from other Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan or India.

H2. Improvement of migration statistics

Existing data gaps and problems encountered in data collection

- Transfer of competences in the field of migration from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population to the Ministry of Interior (the Migration Service) caused loss of data on some aspects of migration covering especially 2007;
- Lack of data on Tajik diaspora abroad (long term migrants);
- Lack of regular flow of data on illegal migration from the State of the Security Committee to the Migration Service.

Recommended actions/strategies to improve migration data

- An improved strategy on collecting migration data oriented not only on labour migration, but on all aspects of migration including immigration, emigration in general and asylum is needed. Comprehensive material, updated annually, could be of a great value to the further development of migration management policies;
- The flow of relevant statistical data on illegal migration including data on apprehensions of irregular immigrants in Tajikistan and data on immigrants deported from Tajikistan from the Border Guards/the State Security Committee to the Migration Service (or Statistical Agency) should be secured;

- The flow of the relevant data on Tajik emigrants including data on apprehensions while staying abroad illegally and data on Tajik emigrants deported from abroad, from the Tajik embassies in destination countries to the Tajik Migration Service (or Statistical Agency) should be secured;
- An automated electronic database on migration, updated on a regular basis and accessible to all relevant stakeholders, should contribute to improve the exchange of data between key players and enhance the credibility of statistical data.

H3. Recommendations regarding migration management

Main areas where more policy development and programme interventions are needed

- The government should enhance efforts to encourage and advocate legal migration (e.g. by disseminating information about legal labour migration opportunities and other awareness raising campaigns, ensuring organised and legal recruitment of Tajik workers abroad);
- The government should work on improving the protection of human and labour rights of Tajik migrants working abroad, especially in Russia:
 - by fostering co-operation between the Tajik Diaspora in Russia and Tajik Embassies\Consular Offices for the sake of Tajik labour migrants,
 - by advocating a joint Russian-Tajik Working Group for Protection of Migrants' Rights which would meet on regular basis, discuss and solve problems concerning protection of migrants' rights. The Group could consist of: representatives of migration authorities, law enforcement agencies and justice authorities (prosecutors, judges) and other relevant institutions);
 - Moscow, St Petersburg and Yekaterinburg, in the first place, should be targeted for activities to support migrants, as these are seen as particularly affected by racially-motivated attacks and discrimination;
- Refugee protection needs to be improved by establishing reception facilities and providing regular material support for the time of the asylum procedure;
- Integration policy for Afghan refugees residing in the country and Tajik returnees should be developed further. Also, re-integration measures for Tajik returnees should be introduced;
- The strategic concept regarding external labour migration enhancing a nexus between migration and development should be further elaborated and implemented;
- Maximizing benefits from labour migration (remittances) in terms of investments at the micro level (individual and community development) should be promoted;
- In addition to policy measures on migration itself, there is also a need for continued structural reforms to ensure the positive impact of migration on the development of the country. While growing quantity of capital is potentially available for development from migrants' remittances, efforts to address the poor investment climate in the country are essential;
- Strengthen the activities of private employment agencies as well as the activities of specialized institutions providing professional and language skills to labour migrants. International donors should support local public organisations in order to secure the feasibility of these activities.

Key recommendations on how to improve migration management

- Further legislative initiatives to foster the coherence of migration policies are needed;

- Bringing the migration legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan into compliance with international principles of parity and harmonization of the legislation, while taking into account the social, economic, administrative and other peculiarities of Tajik labour migration should be considered;
- Tajik labour migration needs to be redirected – efforts in searching for new foreign labour markets need to continue;
- Strengthening the role of bilateral co-operation with primary migration destinations, in particular in terms of introducing a system of benefits (social, labour, administrative) as a part of unified Agreements;
- Amending the Agreement between Tajikistan and the Russian Federation with regard to migration registration deadlines (up to 90 days) and contract duration (2-3 years) should be considered;
- Agreements with particular Russian regions and cities could be further expanded, as these appear to provide better guarantees for decent working conditions for Tajik labour migrants. However, in order to secure Tajikistan's interest, such agreements should move beyond highly-skilled areas (e.g. doctors, nurses) towards more general labour migration, in order to reduce the possible brain drain;
- Fostered regional co-operation with other Central Asian countries is essential; despite the joint migration challenges such as combat of transit illegal migration, management of joint borders, and increasing intra-regional labour migration flows the Central Asian countries have not developed effective regional co-operation. The improved co-operation within the CIS framework does not fully substitute this gap and is rather steered and dominated by the Russian Federation;
- Improving the credibility and quality of the statistical data as well as the flow of the data between the relevant key players of the migration process;
- Tightening the co-operation between other relevant stakeholders of the migration process i.e. national and international NGOs, international organisations, immigrant communities and diasporas by involving them in the activities and programmes on migration issues run by the governmental bodies;
- More information about internal migration in Tajikistan and a comprehensive research concerning this issue would be useful;
- Improving the range and geographical distribution of consular services in Russia in order to provide better protection and support for Tajik migrants and to connect the Tajik government more closely with its migrant population.