REGIONAL ASSESSMENT: KEY INFORMANT SURVEY ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON RETURNEES AND STRANDED MIGRANTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

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REGIONAL OVERVIEW:
KEY INFORMANT SURVEY ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON RETURNEES AND STRANDED MIGRANTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

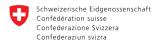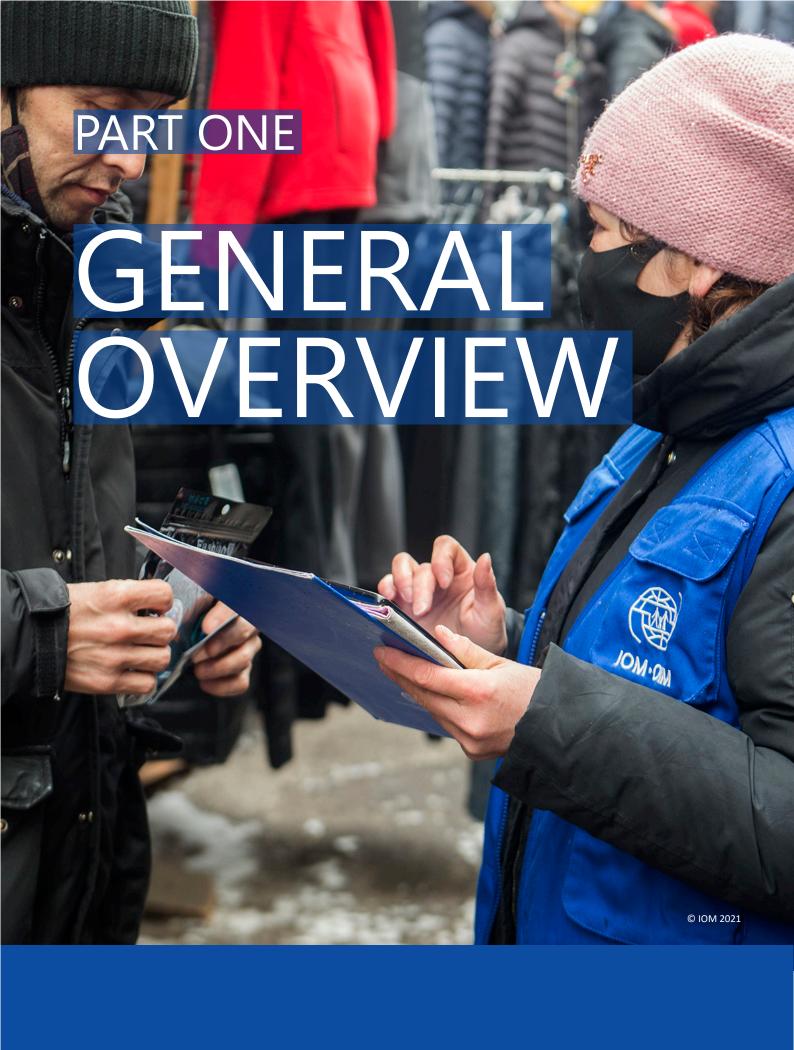INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
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PART ONE

GENERAL OVERVIEW

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1.1 Introduction

The Central Asian region is characterized by large regional, circular labour migration flows. With Kazakhstan acting as a migration catalysts and attracting migrants from neighbouring States, such as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which are primarily labour sending countries, international migration has always been crucial for many families in the region. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues across the world, governments of Central Asia have adopted early measures, seeking to crub the spread of, and improve preparedness for COVID-19. To reduce the impact of the pandemic, governments imposed travel restrictions as soon as the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed. The result of these policies on international migrants have been two-fold. On the one hand, hundreds of thousands of migrants have been stranded abroad in uncertainty about their future, while on the other hand, a number of migrants managed to return to their home countries, but are now unable to migrate again. Many of those who returned and those who were unable to return continue facing significant challenges and in most cases they are not covered by state social protection systems.

Due to the absence of data relative to this unprecedented situation, IOM decided to improve understanding of the migration dynamics and COVID-19 impacts on migrants and communities in Central Asia by collecting evidence and data through the IOM Displacement/Mobility Tracking Matrix (DTM) Mechanism. A regional key informant survey exercise was launched to gather more information on the situation of residents, stranded migrants, and returnees living in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In the first part of the survey, key informants provided information on population numbers (residents, stranded migrants, returnees, vulnerable individuals), COVID-19 related challenges and impacts, the current financial situation, access to goods and services, and COVID-19 information and knowledge. The second part of the survey specifically focused on the situation of either returnees or stranded migrants, depending on the country of analysis. This last part of the survey included questions on migration and employment, living conditions, access to services, and child protection.

In January and February 2021, under this project, a total of 533 key informants were surveyed in Kazakhstan (145), Kyrgyzstan (135), and Tajikistan (253). Through their interviews it was possible to assess a total of 138 locations, 26 of which were assessed in Kazakhstan, 26 in Kyrgyzstan and 86 in Tajikistan.

The findings of this study can be used as a basis to identify new migration patterns, common problems and vulnerabilities, and better inform policy makers working on international migration challenges. In addition, the population numbers and locations identified under this study represent a unique type of baseline data which can be used to run additional surveys and research studies.

1.2 Methodology

This research study is based upon a quantitative key informant methodology and analyses data collected during January and February 2021 in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The methodology used for this study builds upon the Mobility Tracking (MT) methodology of the DTM toolbox, and was developed at the regional level to enable comparisons between focus countries.

This assessment focused on four main population groups: residents/individuals, returnees, migrants and stranded migrants. Residents were defined as the whole population living in the location at the time of the assessment, irrespective of country of origin, document status, age, or any other socio-demographic characteristic. Returnees were defined as nationals of the country of analysis who returned to that country after living for at least 1 month abroad and who returned during or after March 2020. Migrants were defined as individuals with a different nationality from the one of the country of analysis, and who have been living in the country of analysis for at least 1 consecutive month at the time of the assessment. Stranded migrants were defined as migrants who wish to return to their home country but are unable to do so.

Two tools with a variety of close-ended questions were developed for this study. Each tool was divided in two main sections, the first one was linked to the resident population of each area assessed, and the second one to the specific needs of either returnees or stranded migrants living in that location.

As part of the first section of the survey tool, population numbers, number of vulnerable individuals, and presence of returnees or stranded migrants were recorded. In addition, data was collected on COVID-19 related challenges and impacts, and on the current financial situation of the residents of the location assessed. Questions linked to access to goods and services, and on COVID-19 information and knowledge level were also included in this part of the questionnaire. All questions asked in this first part of the survey tool reflect key informants views on the entire resident population of a certain location, irrespective of legal stuatus or migration background.

The second part of the survey tool specifically focused on the situation of either returnees or stranded migrants, depending on the country of analysis. This last part of the survey included questions on: migration and employment, living conditions, access to services, and child protection. All questions asked in this second part of the survey tool reflect key informants views on either stranded migrants (Kazakhstan), or returnees (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan).

The total sample of this study consists of 533 Key Informants (KIs) who were interviewed in Kazakhstan (145), Kyrgyzstan (135), and Tajikistan (253). A minimum of two KIs were interviewed in each location to enable triangulation of results. Whenever possible, information provided by KIs was triangulated with external sources. For the locations that were assessed in person, direct observations of enumerators were also used as a data source. Key informants were selected amongst the broader public by enumerators working in the countries of analysis. Key informants interviewed under this study were representatives of local government offices, representatives of health institutions, migrant representatives, returnees, religious leaders, representatives of educational institutes, and representatives of NGOs. A detailed list of key informants can be found at the beginning of each country's chapter.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a set of tools and methodologies, which enable systematic and regular primary data collection, analysis and dissemination of population movements, human mobility and forced migration (both internal and cross-border). DTM was first conceptualized in 2004, and it has since been adapted for implementation in over 80 countries, including many in Europe and Asia, such as Ukraine, Turkey, the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Mongolia. DTM operations are collabourative exercises, during which IOM engages with national authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure wide coverage and access, as well as the usefulness and relevance of data and trust in the results. Although originally designed to serve the humanitarian community during crises, DTM has been increasingly implemented in non-crisis situations. Similar to the labour migration context in Central Asia, DTM has in some cases been used not only as a tool to track the movements of a displaced population, but also to receive better and more detailed information on mobile populations. The activity that was implemented under this study is called Mobility Tracking (MT), which is a component of the DTM Toolbox which aims to quantify presence of population categories, thier needs and vulnerabilities within defined locations, with a frequency that captures mobility dynamics. This component is well suited to quantifying groups of people, whether internally displaced, migrants in transit locations, stranded migrants, returnees or other populations of interest.

Geographical Location Coverage

This assessment is covering the situation of stranded migrants in certain areas of Kazakhstan, and that of returnees in some key parts of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. For feasibility reasons related to limited time, human and financial resources, this assessment adopted different geographical focus depending on the country of analysis.

In Kazakhstan, a total of 12 key cities further divided in 26 locations were included in this study. In Kyrgyzstan, the geographical scope of this assessment was limited to Bishkek and Osh cities, which are the two largest cities and economic centers of the country. Both cities were further divided in 14 districts and 26 settlements. In Tajikistan, this exercise covered a total of 7 cities or districts, which were composed of 86 locations.

The different geographical scopes of these studies should be considered with particular care when reading the data analysis of this report. The information provided in fact only reflect the situation of some cities or settlements of these countries, rather than a country-level overview.

Data Collection Implementation

All data was collected by a total of 46 enumerators directly trained by the IOM lead researcher in two separate 16 hours workshop events. In addition, all enumerators received detailed one-on-one feedback and on the job training by IOM national researchers for the entire duration of data collection. In all countries, data was collected using the KoboCollect application installed on tablets. The KoboCollect application automatically uploads completed surveys online. This makes it easier to monitor daily data entries and target compliances. Data was closely monitored by national researchers and the international researcher both during and after data collection to ensure the highest possible data quality.

Data Limitations

The data presented in this study should not be considered as representative of all residents or stranded migrants living in Kazakhstan, nor of all residents or returnees living in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The limited geographical scope of assessments constrains any generalization beyond the geographical boundaries of the cities or settlements that were assessed. In addition, the adopted key informant methodology has only limited internal and external validity, and generalization of results should be avoided. Due to missing data at the location level, macro analysis of findings is sometimes constrained. The information gathered using this tool represents the estimates and perceptions provided by key informants rather than the facts, with varying precision depending on the size of the observation unit. The information provided is meant to provide basic information related to different sectors (food, wash, livelihood, etc.), and population groups, which can be used to flag areas for assistance or more detailed technical assessments by sector experts and partners. Data accuracy is ensured through further assessments and triangulation of information when feasible, and by using a credibility scoring methodology as outlined in the next section.

Credibility Score

For this study, the DTM Credibility Score was calculated based on four criteria, namely:

1. The availability of documentary evidence.
2. The degree of consistency between the information provided by the sources and the data collector observations from the field.
3. The degree of agreement among the KIs.
4. The reliability of the information provided by the KIs.

Since that these criteria have different levels of importance , they were assigned different points:

- The availability of documentary evidence is the most important criterion as it is the most objective proof of the presence/number of Migrants/Stranded Migrants/Returnees. It was given 4 points.
- Consistency of data with physical observation is more important than consistency of data among KIs and was given 3 points.
- Agreement among KIs was given 2 points.
- Finally, reliability of the information provided by the KIs is considered the least important criterion as it is more subjective, and was given 1 point.

Scoring system:

The four criteria were further ranked using a three-category scoring scale which correspond to different scores: 3, 2, 1. The points of each criterion were multiplied by the relevant category score and the four results added up. Depending on the final score, the locations were assessed as follow:

- Highly credible if the final score was between 24 and 30, inclusively.
- Acceptable if the final score was between 17 and 23, inclusively.
- Low if the final score was between 10 and 16, inclusively.

A table with the credibility score of each location assessed can be found in the methodology section of each country's chapter.

PART TWO

KAZAKHSTAN

2.1 Methodology

During January and February 2021, IOM DTM teams in Kazakhstan selected 12 key cities in which to implement this study and further unpack population dynamics, COVID-19 impacts, and needs. Four of these cities were further divided into 18 districts (following the official territorial-administrative division of Kazakhstan) to increase the precision of this exercise. In total, 145 key informants were interviewed as part of this assessment. A complete list of the locations assessed under this study can be found below.

In terms of limitations, the number of key informants interviewed in Kazakhstan is too low as compared to the size of the population assessed. For this reason, data should be considered as an indication of the situation on the ground, rather than the factual information. According to this data collection exercise, the share of migrants as the proportion of the total population varies between less than one per cent and six per cent (amongst locations assessed). However, according to UN DESA estimates from the 2019 migrant statistics revision, this number should be around 20 per cent.* Reasons behind this discrepancy might be linked to 1) the limited geographical scope of this assessment, 2) return migration not being captured systematically, 3) changes in migration patterns due to COVID-19.

Kazakhstan: Geographical Coverage

City	District
Aktau City	"
Aktobe City	"
Almaty City	Alatau District
"	Almaly District
"	Auezov District
"	Bostandyk District
"	Medeu District
"	Nauryzbay District
"	Turkisib District
"	Zhetisu District
Karaganda City	Kazybek Bi District
"	Oktyabr District
Kostanay City	"
Kyzylorda City	"
Nur-Sultan City	Almaty District
"	Esil District
"	Baikonyr District
"	Saryarka District
Petropavl City	"
Shymkent City	Abay District
"	Al Farabi District
"	Enbekshi District
"	Karatau District
Taldykorgan City	"
Uralsk City	"
Ust-Kamenogorsk City	"

* United Nations Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) (2019).
  International Migrant Stock: The 2019 Revision.

2.2 Summary of Key Findings

Population

Overall, this assessment covered 12 cities which were home to around 7 million individuals, and around 91,000 of whom were identified as migrants by the key informants. The largest share of migrants as a proportion of the total population was in Aktau (6%). However, due to missing data, the number of migrants is still considered to be higher. The share of stranded migrants as a proportion of the migrant population was highest (75%) in Aktau and Kyzylorda, followed by Karaganda (50%) and Nur-Sultan (50%). Aside from Petropavlovsk (where no migrant was stranded), the share of stranded migrants was around 25 per cent in all other locations. Looking at the whole resident population, irrespective of the migration background, the largest share of persons over 60 years old was in Kostanay (21%), and the largest share of persons with chronic diseases or other medical conditions was in Karaganda (43%). In all locations, the share of pregnant women as part of the total population was between zero per cent and two per cent.

COVID-19 Impacts and Current Financial Situation

The data indicates that COVID-19 had strong implications in all cities and districts assessed. The main challenges people have been facing since the outbreak of COVID-19 were insufficient income, unemployment, and wage reductions. The main challenges for children were the closure of schools, lack of access to online tools for home schooling, and lack of home care. Due to COVID-19, different shares of people had a partial or total income loss and were not able to meet family basic needs in all locations assessed. With around 75 per cent of the population having suffered a partial income loss, Shymkent, Almaty and Kyzylorda were the cities with the highest share of persons who suffered a partial income loss. Ust-Kamenogorsk was the city with the highest share of individuals who suffered a total income loss (75%). The highest share of persons unable to meet family basic needs (75%) was found in Ust-Kamenogorsk and Taldykorgan. Concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed were reported in 8 and 9 locations, respectively.

Access to Goods and Services

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the financial situation of people living in the cities assessed, the data indicates that access to goods and services was not impacted as strongly. In terms of access to goods, access to facemasks could be improved in 5 locations, to soap in three locations and to hand sanitizers in seven locations. In Shymkent and Nur-Sultan, 50 per cent of the population had access to face masks. The share of persons with access to hand sanitizers was lowest (50%) in Shymkent and Uralsk. Considering services, the largest gaps were linked to access to housing. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, the presence of myths or misperceptions about COVID-19, and that people can't afford the cost of personal protective equipment. KIs mentioned that the main services that people have difficulties in accessing were livelihoods/jobs/income generating opportunities, and access to documents, and housing.

COVID-19 Information and Knowledge

Overall, the data analysis indicates that the information and knowledge level on COVID-19 was quite high in all locations assessed. Between 75 per cent and 100 per cent of all residents in all locations assessed had heard of COVID-19, knew of COVID-19 symptoms and protection mechanisms, and who to contact if they got sick. In Petropavlovsk, Shymkent and Uralsk, the share of people who are aware of hand washing practices was between 25 per cent and 50 per cent, and this was identified as the main gap in terms of information provision. The main support systems used in case someone gets sick were local hospitals and pharmacies. Television, radio and print media, and word of mouth were the most commonly used tools to gather information about COVID-19. Information and communication material on COVID-19 was being distributed in all locations at the time of the assessment.

Stranded Migrants - Migration Trajectory and Employment

The short and long-term plans of stranded migrants living in Kazakhstan varied between locations. In the short term (<6 months), most stranded migrants plan to stay in the current location either voluntarily or involuntarily, while in the long term (>6 months) some wish to stay while others intend to return to the home country. The main reasons for staying in the current location were linked to the block of international travel, availability of jobs, and presence of extended family/relatives/friends. Reasons for not being able to return to the home country were the blocked international travel, lack of financial means to return, and document related restrictions. In six locations, there were some stranded migrants whose return was blocked by their home country. Almaty was the only location in which some groups of migrants needed a permit in order to move freely. The locations with the lowest employment rate amongst stranded migrants (25%) were Ust-Kamenogorsk, and Petropavlovsk, followed by Nur-Sultan (50%), Karaganda (50%) and Shymkent (50%). The primary income sources for stranded migrants were private employment, informal commerce or sporadic daily labour, and self-employment.

Stranded Migrants - Living Conditions

Overall, the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants were linked to employment/livelihoods, shelter/housing, reunification with family members who got separated during migration, and access to and replacement of personal and other documentation. Emlpoyment and livelihood opportunities were considered of low quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified) in 6 locations, and in KIs reported unequal access to employment in four locations. In terms of education, there were language barriers in Karaganda, price was too high in Nur-Sultan, and there was unequal access to education in Almaty. In seven locations, the price of shelter and housing was too high, in two locations rent assistance was inadequate, and in oone location there was unequal access to housing. In terms of healthcare, the main issues were linked to its costs (4 locations) and unequal access (4 locations). In Aktobe, the lack of rehabilitation services (including psychosocial support) was highlighted. The price of Non-food items was problematic in six locations and the quantity of NFIs was insufficient in one location. Overall, in nine locations there were issues linked to food which were primarily linked to its cost (7 locations), quality (1 location), or quantity (1 location).

Stranded Migrants - Child Protection

In 7 out of 12 locations assessed, the share of school aged (6–17 years old) migrant children attending school was 50 per cent or below. In Ust-Kamenogorsk and Taldykorgan, the share of migrant children attending school was nearly 0 per cent, while in Aktau it was 25 per cent. This share was 50 per cent amongst migrant children living in Karaganda, Shymkent, and Nur-Sultan. Other issues concerning migrant children were working withouth going to school, marriage before 18 years old, and being victim of sexual violence. All these issues were reported in four out of 12 locations. In three locations, it was reported that children faced substance abuse, in seven locations they were experiencing physical violence, and in eight locations they lacked birth certificates.

2.3 Data Analysis

In this section of the report a total of eight, two-page, location assessments will be presented. The first page of each assessment will refer to the overall situation of the location, and information refers to all people living in the location, irrespective of their migration background or legal status. The second page of each assessment illustrates the situation of stranded migrants only. The data will be presented at the city level. Data merging was done for all locations which were further divided in smaller administrative units. Following the approach illustrated in the introduction section of this document, a credibility score was given to each location to assess the quality of the information provided by key informants. A complete overview of the credibility score can be found below.

Kazakhstan: Credibility Score

Location name (City)	Credibility Score
Aktau	23
Aktobe	NA
Almaty	23
Karaganda	25
Kostanay	28
Kyzylorda	22
Nur Sultan	27
Petropavl	27
Shymkent	26
Taldykorgan	28
Uralsk	25
Ust-Kamenogorsk	28

Scoring system: 24–30: Highly credible
17–23: Acceptable
10–16: Low
NA: Not applicable/ missing (to be considered low)

AKTAU CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

185,000 (100%)
individuals

12,000 (6%)
migrants

75% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

20,000 (11%)
persons over 60 years old

20,000 (11%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

1,070 (Less than 1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Can't migrate again
- Unemployment
- Insufficient income

Children only
- No access to internet/ tools for home schooling

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Aktau City.

50% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Aktau have difficulties in accessing, key informants reported that livelihoods and income generating opportunities, documentation, and food were the most problematic areas. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and the fact that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but do not follow them.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Nearly everyone 100%

Face masks — Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 in Aktau City. The KIs reported that there were some myths or misperceptions on COVID-19 related to underestimating the seriousness of the pandemic. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were public megaphone/speaker, and word of mouth. If people get sick from COVID-19 they would tend to go to the local hospital or pharmacy.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

50% know hand washing practices

50% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

AKTAU CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

KIs reported that the majority of stranded migrants, in the short term, wished to return to their country of origin (voluntarily). However, they were not able to return due to travel restrictions, lack of income to return and restart, and lack of jobs in their home countries. Due to the inability to return, in the long term, the majority of migrants plans to locally integrate in Aktau City. This is mostly linked to the fact that returns were blocked (by both, the country of origin and destination), and the lack of financial means to return and restart. Other incentives to stay in Aktau City were linked to the availability of jobs, and sharing the same religious, linguistic or ethnic ties with the local population.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

75% **75%** of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour
- Borrowing money

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Shelter/housing — Price (rent too expensive)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most stranded migrants in Aktau City can move freely without a permit. Important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Aktau city were linked to employment/livelihoods, access to and replacement of documentation, and reunification with family members separated during migration. KIs did not report any problem linked to drinking water, Non-food items, health and education.

AKTAU CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

23/30 Acceptable

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

6 Key informants interviewed

AKTOBE CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

511,000 (100%)
individuals

3,000 (<1%)
migrants

25% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

79,500 (16%)
persons over 60 years old

26,253 (5%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

12,307 (close to 2%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Wage reduction
- Can't migrate again
- Health problems

Children only
- Lack of home care
- Lack of tools for home schooling
- Lack of socialization

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Aktobe City.

50% **50%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% **25%** had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% **25%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

In Aktobe City, the most problematic services were lack of access to health care and livelihood opportunities. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, the fact that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, and the cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water
Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing
Nearly everyone 100%

Soap
Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer
More than Half 75%

Face masks
More than Half 75%

Electricity
More than Half 75%

Housing
More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

NGOs and CBOs were distributing communication and information materials on COVID-19 in Aktobe City. The KIs reported that there were some myths or misperceptions on COVID-19 in this location. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were the international organizations followed by Instagram. If residents get COVID-19, they would turn to the local hospital or pharmacy.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

AKTOBE CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most stranded migrants in Aktobe City intended to stay put both in the short and long term. The main reasons for this were that returns to the home country were blocked, the idea that there was no other choice, and the safety of Aktobe City. Reasons for not wanting to return to the home country included that there was nothing to return to, lack of money to return and lack of job and income generating opportunities in the home country. KIs also reported that in Aktobe City most stranded migrants can move freely.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

75%

75% of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour
- Agriculture/ farming/ animal raising
- Paid job (private)

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATESS

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Health — Lack of rehabilitation services (including psychosocial support)

Shelter/housing — Rent assistance (lack or inadequate)

Employment/ livelihoods — Unequal access based on the fact that they are migrants (identity/ residence cards, work permits, freedom of movement, recognition of qualifications, discrimination)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Aktobe City were linked to employment/livelihoods, international movement and mobility, and access to and reunification with family members separated during migration. KIs did not report any issue linked to education, and drinking water.

AKTOBE CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

NA Not assessed, considered too low

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

12 Key informants interviewed

ALMATY CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

1,961,069 (100%)
individuals

60,567 (3%)
migrants

25% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

227,303 (12%)
persons over 60 years old

346,802 (18%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

23,943 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Insufficient income
- Unemployment
- Can't afford PPE

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Low quality teaching
- Lack of socialization

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Almaty City.

75% **75%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% **25%** had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% **25%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Almaty City have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned education, health care, and livelihoods and income generating opportunities. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and lack of knowledge on hygiene and sanitation.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water
Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing
Nearly everyone 100%

Soap
Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer
More than Half 75%

Face masks
Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity
Nearly everyone 100%

Housing
Nearly everyone 100%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, and NGO/CBO were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 in Almaty City. KIs reported that there were some myths or misperceptions on COVID-19, and that such myths revolved around various conspiracy theories and mistrust in official authorities. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and Facebook. KIs reported that if someone gets COVID-19, they would primarily turn to the local hospital or to friends and families for support.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

ALMATY CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short term (<6 months), most stranded migrants in Almaty City intend to remain in the current location (involuntarily). In the long term (>6 months) the majority of migrants intend to return to their country of origin. Main reasons for not being able to return include border closures, lack of jobs and income generating opportunities in the home country, no financial means to return and restart, document related restrictions, and lack of return assistance from official sources. Positive factors for staying in Almaty City include safety and availability of jobs. KIs noted that some of the returns were blocked by the country of origin of the migrants. Amongst stranded migrants in Almaty City, some groups move freely while others face restrictions.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

100%

100% of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily
- Self employed

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Quality (poor quality, not fresh, bad taste)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Health — Unequal access (stranded migrants are prevented from accessing health care)

Shelter/housing — Price (rent is too expensive)

Education — Unequal access (based on the fact that they are migrants)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Almaty city were linked to employment/livelihoods, shelter/housing, and access to and replacement of personal and other documentation.

ALMATY CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

23/30 Acceptable

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

21 Key informants interviewed

KARAGANDA CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

501,056 (100%)
individuals

5,435 (1%)
migrants

50% of whom
were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

110,711 (22%)
persons over 60 years old

214,222 (43%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious
medical conditions

619 (close to 0%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents

- Insufficient income
- Debt
- Health problems

Children only

- Low quality structures
- Lack of home care
- Domestic violence

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Karaganda City.

25% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Karaganda City have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned livelihoods and income generating opportunities, financial support to purchase protective equipment, and housing. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the fact that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and people could not afford the cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water		More than Half 75%
Water for bathing		More than Half 75%
Soap		More than Half 75%
Hand sanitizer		More than Half 75%
Face masks		More than Half 75%
Electricity		More than Half 75%
Housing		More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government, NGOs/CBOs, local hospitals, and the UN were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. KIs reported the presence of myths or misperceptions on COVID-19. Myths were mostly linked to the idea that COVID-19 was fictional, a biological weapon, or that death rate was artificially incremented. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were word of mouth and Government sources. The primary support mechanisms when somone contracts COVID-19 were family and friends, and local hospitals.

75% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

75% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

KARAGANDA CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short term (<6 months), the majority of stranded migrants in Karaganda City intend to stay in the current location (involuntarily). Main reasons for not being able to return to the home country were the lack of resources to return and restart, lack of assistance from official sources, and the idea that there is nothing to return to. Positive incentives to locally integrate were the encouragment to stay by community and religious leaders, and presence of family and friends with similar ethnic and religious composition. KIs reported that in the current location, there were families whose return was blocked by the country of origin. KIs also reported that in Karaganda City, most/all stranded migrants can move freely.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

50% 50% of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Savings
- Cash grants/ aid from NGOs or government
- Paid job (private)

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — No problem

Health — Unequal access (stranded migrants are prevented from accessing health care)

Shelter/housing — Rent assistance (lack or inadequate)

Education — Language barriers

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Karaganda City were linked to employment/livelihoods, international movement and mobility, and access to solutions for immobility related rights violations (justice, reparations and compensation). KIs did not mention any major problem linked to drinking water.

KARAGANDA CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

25/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

11 Key informants interviewed

KOSTANAY CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

251,712 (100%)
individuals

2,474 (1%)
migrants

25% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

52,847 (21%)
persons over 60 years old

58,388 (23%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

2,207 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents

- Insufficient income
- Wage reduction
- Can't migrate again

Children only

- Lack of tools for home schooling
- Lack of home care
- Lack of documents

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Kostanay City.

50% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Kostanay City have difficulties in accessing, key informants reported that livelihood, food, and healthcare were lacking the most. In Kostanay City, the main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and people could not afford the cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Nearly everyone 100%

Face masks — Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

According to KIs, in Kostanay City, no COVID-19 information material was being distributed by official sources. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and WhatsApp. KIs reported that most residents would go to the local hospital or to the family doctor if they get COVID-19.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

KOSTANAY CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short term, most stranded migrants in Kostanay City will remain in the current location (involuntarily). Incentives to stay in Kostanay City, were the presence of extended family and network with similar ethnic and religious ties, and the fact that children were enrolled in school in Kostanay City. In the long term (>6 months) most stranded migrants would like to return to their home country. Barriers that impede their return included the lack of financial means to return and restart, lack of jobs in the home country, lack of assistance from official sources, and lack of documents. Most stranded migrants in Kostanay City can move freely within the location.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

75% **75%** of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour
- Agriculture/ farming/ animal raising

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Quantity (insufficient, inconsistent or sporadic supply)

Non-food items — Quantity (insufficient, inconsistent, or sporadic supply)

Health — Unequal access (stranded migrants are prevented from accessing health care)

Shelter/housing — Price (rent too expensive)

Education — No problem (too expensive in terms of fees, books, material, uniforms...)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid, occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Kostanay city were linked to employment/livelihoods, access to and replacement of personal and other documentation, and health problems.

KOSTANAY CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

28/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

10 Key informants interviewed

KYZYLORDA CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

285,347 (100%)
individuals

789 (<1%)
migrants

75% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

27,065 (9%)
persons over 60 years old

56,135 (20%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

6,164 (2%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Unemployment
- Wage reduction
- Lack of housing

Children only
- Cannot play outside
- Schools are closed
- Lack access to health care

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported that, in Kyzylorda City, there were families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed.

75% **75%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% **50%** had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% **25%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Kyzylorda City have difficulties in accessing, key informants reported education, housing, and livelihoods and income generating opportunities. In this location, the main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the fact that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and the high price of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — More than Half 75%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Nearly everyone 100%

Face masks — Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, NGO/CBO and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 in Kyzylorda City. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were word of mouth and phone call/text messages. KIs reported that most people would turn to family and friends or to a farmacy if they got COVID-19.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

100% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

KYZYLORDA CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short term (<6 months), most stranded migrants in Kyzylorda City will remain here involuntarily (they have no other option), but in the long term (>6 months) they would like to locally integrate voluntarily. The primary reasons to stay in Kyzylorda were safety, availability of housing, and availability of jobs. On the other hand, reasons for not returning to the home country included the return country being unsafe, no financial means to return and restart, and no extended network or family in the home country. Most/all stranded migrants in Kyzylorda City can move freely within it.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

MISSING DATA the share of economically active stranded migrants was unknown to all key informants

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

MISSING DATA the main income sources of stranded migrants were unknown to all key informants

KYZYLORDA CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

22/30 Acceptable

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

12 Key informants interviewed

NUR-SULTAN CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

1,136,156* (100%)
individuals

Unkown migrants

50% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

Unkown
persons over 60 years old

Unkown
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

14,672 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Insufficient income
- Unemployment
- Debt

Children only
- No tools for home schooling
- Lack of socialization
- Lack of documents

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

50% 50% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% 50% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% 50% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Nur-Sultan City have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned access to financial support to buy personal protective equipment, housing, and documentation. In this location, the main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people could not afford the cost of hygiene items and personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — More than Half 75%

Soap — More than Half 75%

Hand sanitizer — More than Half 75%

Face masks — Half 50%

Electricity — More than Half 75%

Housing — More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 in Nur-Sultan City. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were WhatsApp and Government sources. KIs reported that in this location, people would turn to local hospitals and pharmacies if they get COVID-19.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

75% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

*This figure comes from official Government data from January 2020.

NUR-SULTAN CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short and long term, the majority of stranded migrants in Nur-Sultan City plan to stay in the current location. This is mostly due to blocked returns, document restrictions, and no financial ability to return and restart. Positive incentives to stay in Nur-Sultan City were the safety of the location and the availability of services and housing. KIs reported that in the current location, there were families whose return was blocked by the country of origin. KIs also reported that in Nur-Sultan City most/all stranded migrants can move freely.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

50% **50%** of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

• Paid job (private)
• Self employed
• Money from family and friends

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATESS

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Health — Price (treatment/medicines is too expensive)

Shelter/housing — Price (rent is too expensive)

Education — Price (too expensive in terms of fees, books, material, uniforms...)

Employment/ livelihoods — Unequal access based on the fact that they are migrants (documents, freedom of movement, recognition of qualifications, discrimination)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Nur-Sultan City were linked to shelter/housing, access to and replacement of personal and other documentation, and education. According to KIs, stranded migrants without documents cannot access humanitarian assistance and basic services (health, education). KIs did not find any specific problem linked to drinking water.

NUR-SULTAN CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

27/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

30 Key informants interviewed

PETROPAVLOVSK CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

219,780 (100%)
individuals

2,032 (1%)
migrants

0% of whom
were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

39,674 (18%)
persons over 60 years old

20,391 (9%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious
medical conditions

1,569 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Wage reduction
- Insufficient income
- Can't migrate again

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Lack of socialization
- Lack of home care

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Petropavlovsk City.

25% 25% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% 25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% 25% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

The main services that people living in Petropavlovsk City had difficulties in accessing were livelihoods and income generating opportunities, financial support to purchase personal protective equipment, and housing. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the fact that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, a general lack of knowledge on hygiene and sanitation, and the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19.

Share of residents with access to:

Service	Access
Drinking water	Nearly everyone 100%
Water for bathing	Nearly everyone 100%
Soap	Nearly everyone 100%
Hand sanitizer	More than Half 75%
Face masks	Nearly everyone 100%
Electricity	Nearly everyone 100%
Housing	More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. However, information was being partially understood. Reasons for this included beneficiaries being unable to read, information provided in a complex or different language from the one spoken by the local population. The KIs reported that there were some myths or misperceptions on COVID-19. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and word of mouth. Residents would primarily go to the pharmacy or local hospital if they get COVID-19.

75% know COVID-19 symptoms

50% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

PETROPAVLOVSK CITY - MIGRANTS*

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In both the short and long term, most migrants in Petropavlovsk City wish to stay in the current location (voluntarily). The presence of their extended family network, availability of jobs and safety were the main factors in shaping this desire. On the other hand, the primary reasons for not returning to the home country were the lack of financial means to return and restart, lack of jobs, and absence of family and network. Most/ all migrants can move freely in Petropavlovsk City.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

25% **25%** of the migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Money from family and/or friends
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour
- Paid job (private)

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Health — Price (treatment/ medicines too expensive)

Shelter/housing — Price (rent is too expensive)

Employment/ livelihoods — Unequal access based on the fact that they are migrants (identity/ residence cards, work permits, freedom of movement, recognition of qualifications, discrimination)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Petropavlovsk city were linked to employment/livelihoods, shelter/housing, and reunification with family members separated during migration. KIs did not identify any major problem linked to drinking water and education.

PETROPAVL CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

27/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

10 Key informants interviewed

*Almost none of the migrants in Petropavlovsk City was stranded at the time of the assessment.

SHYMKENT CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

1,086,588 (100%)
individuals

3,069 (<1%)
migrants

25% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION

95,260 (9%)
persons over 60 years old

214,293 (20%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

1,851 (close to 0%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Insufficient income
- Wage reduction
- Health problems

Children only
- No tools for home schooling
- Lack of home care
- Lack of documents

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Shymkent City.

75% **75%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% **50%** had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% **50%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Nur-Sultan have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned livelihoods and income generating opportunities and housing. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, they cannot affor the cost of personal protective equipment, and the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Half 50%

Face masks — Half 50%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. However, information was not always being understood. Reasons for this include different language from the one spoken by the local population, and complicated infographics/ language. KIs reported that there were some myths or misperceptions on COVID-19 in this location. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were word of mouth, and television, radio and print media. If residents get sick from COVID-19, they would tend to look for support at local hospitals.

75% know COVID-19 symptoms

50% know hand washing practices

75% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

SHYMKENT CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short and long term, the majority of stranded migrants in Shymkent City plan to stay in the current location. Reasons for staying included safety, and presence of family and friends with similar ethnic or religious ties. Reasons for not being able to return were that returns were blocked, and lack of housing, jobs and livelihood opportunities in the home country. KIs reported that in Shymkent City, there were families whose return was blocked by the country of origin. KIs also reported that most stranded migrants can move freely in this location.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

50% 50% of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

• Savings
• Cash grants/ aid from NGOs or Government
• Paid job (private)

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Health — Price (treatment/ medicines too expensive)

Shelter/housing — Price (rent too expensive)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants were linked to housing/ shelter, international movement and mobility, and reunification with family members separated during migration. KIs did not report any specific problem linked to drinking water, and education.

SHYMKENT CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

26/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

13 Key informants interviewed

TALDYKORGAN CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

176,029 (100%)
individuals

1,936 (1%)
migrants

25% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

25,646 (15%)
persons over 60 years old

43,011 (24%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

2,251 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Wage reduction

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Children can't play outside
- Lack of home schooling

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

50% **50%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% **50%** had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

75% **75%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Taldykorgan City have difficulties in accessing, key informants reported transportation, and document related services. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, the fact that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, and the high cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Nearly everyone 100%

Face masks — Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 in this location. The main information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and government sources. KIs reported that most people would go to a local hospital or call the national hotline if they get COVID-19.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

TALDYKORGAN CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short term (<6 months), most stranded migrants in Taldykorgan City wish to stay in the current location, while in the long term (>6 months), the majority desires to return to their country of origin. The main obstacle preventing their return was the closure of the border. The main factors influencing their decision to stay in Taldykorgan City include the availability of jobs, and the presence of family and friends with similar ethnic or religious background. In Taldykorgan City, migrants can move freely within the city.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

75%

75% of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Agriculture/ farming/ animal raising
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATESS

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Taldykorgan City were linked to health care, and limited internal movement and mobility. According to KIs, stranded migrants without documents cannot access basic services and legal employment, but they are also at risk of arrest.

TALDYKORGAN CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

28/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

7 Key informants interviewed

URALSK CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

314,657 (100%)*
individuals

Unkown migrants

25% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

Unkown persons over 60 years old

Unkown persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

Unkown pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents

- Cannot migrate again
- Lack of access to health care

Children only

- Schools are closed
- Lack of tools for home schooling

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the past 4 weeks, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Uralsk City.

50% **50%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% **25%** had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% **25%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Lack of access to health care, education, and housing were the most problematic in Uralsk City. In this location, the main barrier to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention was that people could not afford the cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — More than half 75%

Water for bathing — More than half 75%

Soap — More than half 75%

Hand sanitizer — Half 50%

Face masks — More than half 75%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than hald 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Overall, in Uralsk City, around 75 per cent of the population have heard of COVID-19. Local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 at the time of the assessment. The KIs reported that there were some myths or misperceptions on COVID-19 in Uralsk City. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and word of mouth. If the local population gets COVID-19, they would primary go to the local hospital or pharmacy.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

25% know hand washing practices

75% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

* This estimate is more than 10 per cent higher than government data from January 2020.

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URALSK CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short term (<6 months), most stranded migrants in Uralsk City want to stay in the current location, while in the long term (>6 months) the majority wish to migrate to a third country (not home country). In the short term, migrants intend to stay in Uralsk City because they feel that they have no other choice, because children were enrolled at school there, and because they feel that there was nothing to return to in the home country. Among stranded migrants currently in the location, there are families whose return was obstructed by the country of origin. In Uralsk City, most/all stranded migrants can move freely.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

100% 100% of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

• Paid job (private)

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Health — Price (treatment/ medicines are too expensive)

Shelter/housing — Price (rent too expensive)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants in Uralsk City were linked to food, shelter/ housing, and access to and replacement of personal and other documentation. KIs did not report any major problem linked to drinking water, Non-food items, and education.

URALSK CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

25/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

7 Key informants interviewed

UST-KAMENOGORSK CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

384,897 (100%)*
individuals

Unkown
migrants

25% of whom were stranded

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

74,797 (19%)
persons over 60 years old

98,387 (26%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

3,268 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Unemployment
- Can't migrate again

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Can't play outside

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in this location have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned livelihoods and income generating opportunities, and transportation. In this location, the main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, and presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Nearly everyone 100%

Face masks — Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than half 75%

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

25% | **25%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

75% | **75%** had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

75% | **75%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 in this location. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were government sources, and word of mouth. In this location, KIs reported that if people get COVID-19 they would tend to go to a local hospital or pharmacy.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

100% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

* This estimate is more than 10 per cent higher than government data from January 2020.

UST-KAMENOGORSK CITY - STRANDED MIGRANTS

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

In the short term (<6 months), most stranded migrants in Ust-Kamenogorsk City wish to stay in the current location. This was mostly due to the stop of international travels, but also to the insecurity of the home country and absence of family and friends in the home country. Reasons for staying in this City were related to the availability of jobs and presence of family and friends. In the long term (>6 months), most stranded migrants would like to return to their home country. However, at the time of the assessment, they had no financial means to return and restart, and they lacked support from official sources, housing, and services. In Ust-Kamenogorsk City most/all stranded migrants can move freely.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

25%

25% of the stranded migrants were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

• Paid job (private)
• Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour
• Money from family and/or friends

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATESS

Problems faced by stranded migrants by sectors: (according to key informants information)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Health — Unequal access (stranded migrants are prevented from accessing health care)

Shelter/housing — Unequal access (stranded migrants are prevented from renting)

Employment/ livelihoods — Unequal access based on the fact that they are migrants (documents, freedom of movement, recognition of qualifications, discrimination)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of stranded migrants were linked to shelter and housing, and employment/livelihoods. KIs did not report any major problem linked to drinking water, food, and education.

UST-KAMENOGORSK CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

28/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

6 Key informants interviewed

PART THREE

KYRGYZSTAN

3.1 Methodology

During January and February 2021, IOM DTM teams in Kyrgyzstan implemented this study in the two largest cities of the country, Bishkek and Osh cities, to further unpack population dynamics, COVID-19 impacts, and needs. According to the administrative division of Bishkek city, this administrative unit is further divided into four districts and various settlements. For this study, four settlements for each district were assessed. These settlements were randomly selected from the total number. Osh city is composed of six municipal territorial districts and Japalak rural administration (consisting of 13 villages). For this study, nine locations of Osh City were assessed. Whenever possible information was collected at the smallest administrative level to increase the accuracy of this exercise. In total, 135 key informants were interviewed as part of this assessment. A complete list of the locations assessed in this study can be found below. According to this assessment, the share of returnees as a proportion of the total population was between one per cent and seven per cent.

Kyrgyzstan: Geographical coverage

City	Disctrict	Settlement
Bishkek City	Leninsky	Ak-Ordo
"	"	Ak-Orgo
"	"	Ala-Too
"	"	Archa Beshik
"	Oktyabrsky	Altyn-Ordo
"	"	Kara-Zhygach
"	"	Kok-Jar
"	"	Ruhiy-Muras
"	Pervomaisky	Ak-Bosogo
"	"	Kalys-Ordo
"	"	Tynchtyk
"	"	Zhenish
"	Sverdlovsky	Ak-Bata
"	"	Bakai-Ata
"	"	Kelechek
"	"	Yntymak
Osh City	Alymbek-Datka	
"	Amir-Timur	
"	Dostuk	
"	Japalak territorial administration of villages (13 villages)	
"	Kerme-Too	
"	Kurmanzhan-Datka	
"	Manas-Ata	
"	Sulaiman-Too	
"	Turan	

3.2 Summary of Key Findings

Population

Overall, this assessment covered an area with almost half a million residents including migrants, returnees, and undocumented persons. The share of returnees amongst the total population was 7 per cent in Osh City and 1 per cent in Bishkek City*. Yet, due to missing data, the share of returnees is considered higher still.

COVID-19 Impacts and Current Financial Situation

According to KIs, the impact of COVID-19 on the financial situation of individuals was severe in both locations assessed. Concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed were reported in both cities. Overall, 50 per cent of the individuals living in Bishkek and Osh had a partial income loss, while 25 per cent had a total loss of income. In Osh, the share of individuals who was unable to meet the family basic needs was 50 per cent, while in Bishkek this was 25 per cent.

Access to Goods and Services

Despite the severe impact of COVID-19 on the financial situation of individuals living in Bishkek and Osh, the data analysis indicates that access to services was not impacted as much. However, it was observed that, in Osh City, some people had difficulties in accessing face masks, hand sanitizers, and housing. Other services that were limited by the pandemic included the availability of livelihoods, and income generating opportunities, healthcare, education, and financial support to buy personal protective equipment.

COVID-19 Information and Knowledge

The data shows that the population of Bishkek and Osh cities had a high information and knowledge level on COVID-19. In Osh, the only type of information that might be missing was on hand washing practices. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, WhatsApp, and websites on the internet. KIs reported that if someone gets COVID-19, they would likely turn to the family doctor or to local hospitals for support.

Returnees - Migration Trajectory and Employment

Most returnees returned to Kyrgyzstan after March 2020, and can move freely within Bishkek and Osh cities. In Bishkek City, in the short term (<6 months) the majority of returnees wish to stay in the current location (involuntarily), while in the long term they would like to migrate again. Instead, in Osh City, most returnees intend to stay in the current location both in the short and long term. In Osh city, 75 per cent of the returnees were economically active/employed at the time of the assessment, while this share was 50 per cent for returnees in Bishkek city. The primary income sources of returnees were paid jobs (private), informal commerce or sporadic daily labour, savings, and borrowing money from either family and friends or from other entities.

* This data only reflects the situation of the settlements assessed in Bishkek and Osh city, and does not refer to the whole administrative unit.

Returnees - Living Conditions

In terms of living conditions of returnees, it was observed that the situation in Osh was more critical as compared to the one in Bishkek. The only problematic service in Bishkek city was employment and livelihoods, as the quality of jobs available was too low. On the other hand, in Osh City the price of food, Non-food items, and rent were reportedly too high, and healthcare facilities lacked of focused psychological support services. Further, access to school and availabilty of jobs were reported as issues in Osh City. In both locations, there were some returnees without documents, and this can result in the inability to access basic services (health, education), humanitarian assistance, and legal employment. Returnees without documents also faced difficulties in claiming property and registering birth/marriages.

Returnees - Child Protection

This assessment found that nearly every (100%) returnee school-aged child (6–17 years old) was attending school at the time of the assessment. In terms of specific problems affecting returnee children, it was found that working without going to school, substance abuse, marriage before 18, and not having a birth certificate were issues in both cities. On the other hand, experiencing physical or sexual violence were reported as issues in Bishkek city only.

3.3 Data Analysis

In this section of the report the location assessments of Bishkek and Osh cities will be presented in a two-page assessment. The first page of each assessment will refer to the overal situation of the location, and information refers to all people living in the location, irrespective of their migration background or legal status. The second page of each assessment illustrates the situation of returnees only. The data will be presented at the city level. Data merging was done for all locations which were further divided in smaller admin units. A credibility score was given to each location to assess the quality of the information provided by key informants. This was done by following the approach illustrated in the introduction section of this document.

Kyrgyzstan: Credibility Score

Location name (city)	Credibility score
Bishkek City	27
Osh City	26

Scoring system: 24–30: Highly credible
17–23: Acceptable
10–16: Low

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BISHKEK CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

202,268* (100%)
individuals living in 16 settlements

2,199 (1%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

9,906 (5%)
persons over 60 years old

7,995 (4%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

4,133 (2%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Unemployment
- Insufficient income
- Wage reduction

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Children can't play outside

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the 4 weeks before the assessment, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Bishkek City.

50% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Bishkek City have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned livelihoods and income generating opportunities, health care and financial support to buy protective equipment. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the fact that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and that people could not afford the cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Nearly everyone 100%

Face masks — Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — Nearly everyone 100%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government, local hospitals, NGOs/CBOs, and the UN were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and WhatsApp. KIs reported that if someone gets COVID-19, they would likely turn to the local hospital or to the family doctor for support.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

100% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

* This represents only the population of the settlements assessed under this study.

BISHKEK CITY - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most returnees in Bishkek City returned since March 2020. KIs reported that the majority of returnees came back for the availability of housing, to join family members who already returned, and more generally, because of an emotional desire to return. Additional reasons for return included worsening of job/income generating opportunities abroad, lack of financial means to stay in migration, and various negative incentives (threat from local authorities, withholding of salaries or aid). In the short term (<6 months), most returnees wish to stay in the current location (involuntarily), while in the long term, they would like to migrate internationally again. Reasons for not being able to migrate internationally sooner included that travels are blocked, lack of financial means to migrate again, and document related restrictions. All/ most returnees can move freely within Bishkek City.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

50% **50%** of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Savings
- Borrowing money

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees in Bishkek city were linked to employment/livelihoods, shelter/housing, and food. Unfortunately, the specific problems linked to shelter and food were not captured by the previous question (reflected by the graph above). Some returnees lack official documentation and this can result in the inability to access basic services (health, education), humanitarian assistance, and legal employment. Returnees without documents also faced difficulties in claiming property and registering birth/marriages. KIs did not identify any major problem linked to drinking water, food, Non-food items, health, shelter/

BISHKEK CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

27/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

67 Key informants interviewed

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OSH CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

290,702 (100%)
individuals

20,808 (7%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

15,560 (5%)
persons over 60 years old

8,964 (3%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

3,556 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents

- Insufficient income
- Unemployment
- Can't migrate again

Children only

- Schools are closed
- Lack of home care
- Low quality teaching

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the 4 weeks before the assessment, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Osh City.

50% — 50% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% — 25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% — 50% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

The main services that people living in Osh City have difficulties in accessing were education, livelihoods and income generating opportunities, and financial support to purchase protective equipment. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the fact that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and the lack of access to hygiene items.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — More than Half 75%

Face masks — More than Half 75%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government, local hospitals, NGOs/CBOs, and the UN were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 in Osh City. Yet, there were some myths and misperceptions on COVID-19 in this location. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and websites on the internet. KIs reported that if someone gets COVID-19, they would likely turn to the family doctor or local hospitals for support.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

OSH CITY - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most returnees in Osh City returned since March 2020. Main reasons for their return linked to the situation in Kyrgyzstan were to join family members already returned, incentives/support to return by government authorities, and safety of the location. Other reasons for return related to the country of last migration were worsening of employment and income generating opportunities, and deportation/fear of deportation. In the short (<6 months), and long term, most returnees intend to stay in the current location (voluntarily). Reasons for staying included the same religious, linguistic or ethnic composition, presence of extended family network, and availability of housing. Deportation/fear of deportation, and lack of financial resources to migrate again were listed as main reasons not migrating again.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

75% of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour
- Money from family and or friends

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food		Price (too expensive)
Non-food items		Price (too expensive)
Health		Lack of focused psychosocial support services
Shelter/housing		Price (rent is too expensive)
Education		Quantity (insufficient classrooms or schools)
Employment/ livelihoods		Quantity (insufficient jobs in the area)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees in Osh city were linked to employment/ livelihoods, education, and participation in public affairs on an equal basis with the resident population. According to KIs, some returnees lack documents, and this situation restrict their freedom of movement, access to basic services (health, education), humanitarian assistance, legal employment and ability to register birth/marriages. KIs did not report any problem linked to drinking water.

OSH CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

26/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

68 Key informants interviewed

TAJIKISTAN

4.1 Methodology

During January and February 2021, IOM DTM teams in Tajikistan implemented this study in seven different cities or districts (which are the same administrative level in Tajikistan), to further unpack population dynamics, COVID-19 impacts, and needs. These seven cities or districts were further divided into 86 jamoats, to increase the accuracy of this exercise. In total, 253 key informants were interviewed as part of this assessment. A complete list of the locations assessed in this study can be found below.

Tajikistan: Geographical coverage

City/District	Jamoats
Khorugh City	Khorughi Bolo
"	Dashti Bolo
"	Chukht Khorugh
"	Andarsiti
"	Gulobod
"	Markazi
"	Zavodi Non
"	Saifullo Abdulloev
"	Sharifobod
"	Fyrydgoh
"	Tabobatkhona
"	Khuchordev
"	Khufak
"	Dashti Poyon
"	Nosiri Khusrav
"	Tirchid
"	Shirinshoh Shohtemyr
"	Ismoili Somoni
"	Nivodak
"	Imomobod
Khujand City	1- Mai
"	Jabor Rasulov
"	Dustii Khalqho
"	Sharq
"	Bofanda
"	Temurmalik
"	Tillokon
"	Navbahor
"	Razzoq
"	Mevagul
"	Vahdat
"	Sughdiyon
"	Chashmai Arzana
"	Chorcharogh
"	Sari Balandi
"	Khujand
"	Masjidi Nav
"	Saikhun
"	Qorirahmat Qurbonov
"	Tutikalon
"	Sodirkhon Hofiz
"	Sirdaryo

City/District	Jamoats
Kulob City	Dahana
"	Kulob
"	Zarbdor
"	Ziraki
"	Mahallai Ismoili Somoni
"	Mahallai Firdavsi
"	Mahallai Kasirzoda
"	Mahallai Shamsiddin Shohin
"	Mahallai Daminzoda
"	Mahallai Borbad
"	Mahallai 20 solagii Istiqloliyat
"	Mahallai Hofizi Sherozi
"	Mahallai Sino
"	Mahallai Hurullo Huvaidulloev
Mastchoh District	Buston
"	Paldorak
"	Obburdon
"	Sughdiyon
"	Navbahor
"	Mastchoh
"	Obshoron
Panj District	Namuna
"	Nuri Vahdat
"	Saifiddinov
"	Mehvar
"	Ozodagon
"	Township Panj
Vahdat City	Township Vahdat
"	Bahor
"	Romit
"	Simiganj
"	Chuyangaron
"	Guliston
"	Abdulvosiev
"	B. Brushov
"	Karim Ismoil
"	Rajab Isroilov
"	Chorsy
Vanj District	M. Abdulloev
"	Tekharv
"	Yazgulom
"	Rovand
"	Jovidon
"	Vodkhud

According to this assessment, the share of returnees as a proportion of the total population was between one per cent and five per cent.

4.2 Summary of Key Findings

Population

Overall, this assessment covered seven cities or districts which were home to around 1 million individuals, and around 9,000 of whom were identified as returnees. However, due to missing data, the number of returnees is still considered to be higher. The largest share of returnees as a proportion of the total population was in Vanj District (5%), while the largest share of persons 60 years old or more was in Vadhat City (25%), and the biggest share of persons with chronic diseases or other medical conditions was in Khujand (10%). In all locations, the share of pregnant women as part of the total population was between zero per cent and two per cent.

COVID-19 Impacts and current financial situation

The data indicates that COVID-19 had strong implications in all cities and districts assessed. The main challenges people have been facing since the outbreak of COVID-19 were unemployment, insufficient income, and the inability to migrate again due to travel restrictions. The main challenges for children were the closure of schools, lack of access to online tools for home schooling, and limited access to COVID-19 protection equipment. Due to COVID-19, people had a partial income loss and were not able to meet family basic needs in 6 out of 7 locations assessed. In 5 out of 7 locations assessed, part of the people had a total income loss due to COVID-19. The location with the largest share of individuals who had a partial income loss was Panj District, where around 75 per cent of the population had a partial loss of income. The locations with the largest share of individuals who suffered from a total loss of income (50%) were Khorugh and Vadhat. Khorugh and Panj were the locations with the largest share of individuals (50%) who were not able to meet family basic needs. Concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed were reported in all but one location.

Access to goods and services

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the financial situation of people living in the cities and districts assessed, the data indicates that access to goods and services was not impacted as strongly. In terms of access to goods, the main gaps were linked to facemasks and hand sanitizer. In Kulob and Panj, 25 per cent of the population had access to hand sanitizer. The share of persons with access to face masks was lowest (50%) in Khujand, Kulob, Panj, and Vadhat. Considering services, the largest gaps were linked to access to drinking water and water for bathing, and housing. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, the presence of myths or misperceptions about COVID-19, and that people can't afford the cost of personal protective equipment. KIs mentioned that the main services that people have difficulties in accessing were livelihoods/jobs/income generating opportunities, and financial support to purchase protective equipment.

COVID-19 information and knowledge

Overall, the data analysis indicates that the information and knowledge level on COVID-19 was quite high in all locations assessed. Between 75 per cent and 100 per cent of all residents in all locations assessed had heard of COVID-19, knew COVID-19 symptoms and protection mechanisms, hand washing practices, and who to contact if they got sick. The main support systems used in case someone gets sick were local hospitals and family doctors. Government sources, Facebook, television, radio and print media were the most commonly used tools to gather information about COVID-19. Information and communication material on COVID-19 was being distributed in all locations at the time of the assessment.

Returnees - migration trajectory and employment

Most returnees returned to Tajikistan from March 2020 onwards. The main reasons for return were linked to safety, availability of housing and to rejoin family members who already returned. The main factors for leaving the country of last migration were worsening of jobs and income generating opportunities, lack of financial means to remain in migration, and deportation or fear of deportation. Both, in the short (<6 months) and long (>6 months) term, the majority of returnees plan to remain in the current location within Tajikistan. Reasons for not migrating internationally again were that international travels are blocked, volatile situation due to COVID-19 regulations, and lack of financial means to migrate again. Between 25 per cent and 50 per cent of the returnee population was employed. The locations with the lowest employment rate (25%) were Khorugh, Kulob, Mastchoh and Panj. The primary income sources for returnees were paid job (private), agriculture/ farming/ animal raising, and informal commerce or sporadic daily labour.

Returnees - living conditions

Overall, the most important unmet needs of returnees were linked to food, employment/livelihoods, and access to or replacement of personal documentation. In all locations assessed, some families were forced to return. Emlpoyment and livelihood opportunities were considered too few in four locations, and of low quality in three locations. The quantity of water available was reported as an issue in two locations, and the price of food was considered too high in five locations. Non-food items were considered too expensive in four locations and of low quality in one location. The price of healthcare was considered an issue in four locations, while the quantity of housing was insufficient in 3 locations. Returnees lacked civil documentation in four locations.

Returnees - child protection

In 5 out of 7 locations assessed, nearly all school aged (6–17 years old) returnee children were attending school. In one location, returnee children attending primary and secondary school were less than 25 per cent. School attendance was also problematic in another location where the share of children attending primary school was 50 per cent, and for children attending secondary school 25 per cent. Other issues concerning returnee children were working without going to school, substance abuse, and experiencing physical violence. All these issues were reported in four out of seven locations. In five locations some returnee children had no birth certificate.

4.3 Data Analysis

In this section of the report the location assessments of seven different cities or districts will be presented in a two-page format each. The first page of all assessments will refer to the overall situation of the location, and information refers to all people living in the location, irrespective of their migration background or legal status. The second page of each assessment illustrates the situation of returnees only. The data will be presented at the city or district level. Data merging was done for all locations which were further divided in smaller administrative units. A credibility score was given to each location to assess the quality of the information provided by key informants. This was done by following the approach illustrated in the introduction section of this document.

Tajikistan: Credibility Score

Location name (City or district):	Total score
Khorugh City	30
Khujand City	27
Kulob City	28
Mastchoh District	30
Panj District	26
Vahdat City	22
Vanj District	27

Scoring system: 24–30: Highly credible
17–23: Acceptable
10–16: Low

KHORUGH CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

31,100* (100%)
individuals

703 (2%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

4,468 (14%)
persons over 60 years old

1,392 (4%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious
medical conditions

259 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Unemployment
- Debt
- Can't migrate again

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Lack of tools for home schooling
- Can't play outside

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the 4 weeks before the assessment, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in this location.

50% **50%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% **50%** had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% **50%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned education, transportation, and livelihoods and income generating opportunities. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, and the inability to buy personal protective equipment due to its high costs.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — More than Half 75%

Water for bathing — More than Half 75%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Nearly everyone 100%

Face masks — Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — More than Half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, NGOs, and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were Facebook, and television, radio and print media. KIs reported that, in this location, if people get COVID-19, they would tend to seek support from the local hospital or family doctor.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

100% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

* This data comes from official Government data from December 2020.

KHORUGH CITY - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Most returnees in Khorugh City returned from March 2020 onwards. KIs reported that the majority of returnees came back to the home country for safety reasons, availability of housing and to join family members who already returned. Reasons for returning also included the worsening of safety, housing and employment opportunities abroad. In the short term (<6 months), most returnees intend to stay in Khorugh City, while in the long term (>6 months) the majority wish to migrate internationally again. The main barriers for international migration were blocked international travels and volatile situation due to COVID-19. Some of the returnees in Khorugh City were forced to return by their country of last migration. All/most returnees have freedom of movement for day-to-day activities.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

25%

25% of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid Job (public)
- Savings
- Money from family/friends

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Drinking water — Quantity (insufficient, inconsistent or sporadic supply)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Shelter/housing — Quantity (insufficient houses so there is overcrowding)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quantity (insufficient jobs in the area)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees were linked to food, and employment/ livelihoods. KIs did not identify any problem linked to health, and education.

KHORUGH CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

30/30 Highly credible

62 Key informants interviewed

KHUJAND CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

180,000* (100%)
individuals

414 (close to 0%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

19,284 (11%)
persons over 60 years old

18,613 (10%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

2,968 (2%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Insufficient income
- Unemployment
- Debt

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Lack of health care
- Can't play outside

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Khujand City have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned health care, education, and transportation. In this location, the main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the lack of knowledge on hygiene and sanitation, presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — More than half 75%

Face masks — Half 50%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — Nearly everyone 100%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were government sources, and television, radio and print media. KIs reported that, in this location, if people get COVID-19, they would tend to seek support from the local hospital or family doctor.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know hand washing practices

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

* This data comes from official Government data from December 2020.

KHUJAND CITY - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most returnees in Khujand City returned in 2019. KIs reported that the majority of returnees, came back to the home country because it's safe, for an emotional desire to return and to join family members. The main reasons for leaving the country of their last migration were the worsening of the housing situation, lack of financial means to stay in migration, and deportation or fear of deportation. In the short term (<6 months), most returnees intend to stay in Khujand City, while in the long term (>6 months) the majority wish to move to another location within Tajikistan. Some of the returnees in Khujand City were forced to return by their country of last migration. All/most returnees have freedom of movement for day-to-day activities.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

50% **50%** of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Agriculture/ farming/ animal raising
- Self-employed
- Rent received from house or land

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATESS

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Employment/ livelihoods

Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees were linked to health, shelter or housing, and reunification with family members separated during migration. According to KIs, many or most returnees lack documents, and this situation restricts their access to basic services, legal employment, and prevents them from registering birth and marriages. KIs did not report problems linked to drinking water, Non-food items, health, shelter/housing, and education.

KHUJAND CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

27/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

44 Key informants interviewed

KULOB CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

210,976 (100%)
individuals

2,670 (1%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

16,679 (8%)
persons over 60 years old

8,522 (4%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

3,616 (2%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Unemployment
- Insufficient income
- Can't migrate again

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Lack of tools for home schooling

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the 4 weeks before the assessment, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Kulob City.

50% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Kulob City have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned livelihoods and income generating opportunities, food, and financial support to purchase protective equipment. In this location, the main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, and they could not afford the cost of hygiene items.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — More than half 75%

Water for bathing — Half 50%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — Less than half 25%

Face masks — Half 50%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — Nearly everyone 100%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, NGOs/CBOs, and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. However, information was not always understood due to complicated language or infographics, or because some people in this location could not read the written information provided. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media. KIs reported that, in this location, if people get COVID-19, they would tend to seek support from the family doctor or local hospital. More than half of the population of Kulob (75%) have heard of COVID-19.

75% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

75% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

KULOB CITY - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most returnees in Kulob City returned from March 2020 onwards. Safety and joining family members who already returned were mentioned as the main reasons for return. Other factors included the worsening of the employment situation in the destination country, lack of resources to remain in migration, and fear of deportation or deportation. Both, in the short (<6 months) and long (>6 months) term, the majority of returnees plan to stay in Kulob City. Reasons for not migrating again include travel restrictions, no financial means to migrate again, and volatile situation due to COVID19 regulations. Some of the returnees in Kulob City were forced to return by their country of last migration. All/most returnees have freedom of movement for day-to-day activities.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

25% **25%** of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

• Paid job (private)
• Agriculture/ farming/ animal raising
• Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Drinking water — Quantity (insufficient, inconsistent or sporadic supply)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Health — Price (visit/treatment/ medicines is too expensive)

Shelter/housing — Quantity (insufficient houses so there is overcrowding)

Education — Quantity (insufficient classrooms or schools so they are overcrowded)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quantity (insufficient jobs in the area)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees in Kulob city were linked to employment/ livelihoods, food, and access to and replacement of documentation. According to KIs, some returnees lack civil documentation.

KULOB CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

28/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

43 Key informants interviewed

MASTCHOH DISTRICT

POPULATION ESTIMATES

131,221 (100%)
individuals

629 (close to 0%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

7,751 (6%)
persons over 60 years old

4,226 (3%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

1,655 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Unemployment
- Can't afford PPE
- Can't migrate again

Children only
- Schools are closed
- Lack of health care
- Lack of PPE

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the 4 weeks before the assessment, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in this location.

25% — 25% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% — 25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% — 25% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in this location have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned food, livelihoods and income generating opportunities, and financial support to purchase protective equipment. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, lack of access to running/tap/piped water and people could not afford the cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water
More than half 75%

Water for bathing
More than half 75%

Soap
Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer
Half 50%

Face masks
Nearly everyone 100%

Electricity
Nearly everyone 100%

Housing
More than half 75%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, local hospitals, NGOs/CBOs, and the UN were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were Facebook, and public megaphone/speaker. KIs reported that, in this location, if people got COVID-19, they would tend to seek support from the local hospital or family doctor.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

100% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

MASTCHOH DISTRICT - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most returnees in this location returned from March 2020 onwards. The main reasons for returning to Tajikistan were safety, emotional desire to return, and to join family members who already returned. The primary reasons for leaving the country of last migration were worsening of job/income generating opportunities, lack of financial means to remain in migration, and fear of deportation or deportation. The majority of returnees in Mastchoh district intend to stay in the current location in the short and long term. Some of the returnees in this location were forced to return by their country of last migration. All/ most returnees have freedom of movement for day-to-day activities.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

25% of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Agriculture/ farming/ animal raising
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATESS

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food	Price (too expensive)
Non-food items	Price (too expensive)
Health	Price (visit/treatment/ medicines is too expensive)
Employment/ livelihoods	Quantity (insufficient jobs in the area)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees were linked to water, food and Non-food items. Yet, the specific problem linked to water was not captured by the previous question (illustrated in the graph above). According to KIs, some returnees lack some sort of civil documentation. KIs did not report any problem linked to drinking water, shelter/ housing, and education.

MASTCHOH DISTRICT - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

30/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

42 Key informants interviewed

PANJ DISTRICT

POPULATION ESTIMATES

123,206 (100%)
individuals

1,465 (1%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

15,227 (12%)
persons over 60 years old

3,229 (3%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

1,447 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents

- Insufficient income
- Can't buy PPE
- Can't migrate again

Children only

- Lack of tools for home schooling
- Can't access PPE

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Panj District have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned livelihoods and income generating opportunities, and financial support to purchase protective equipment. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, and the lack of access to hand sanitizers.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water
More than half 75%

Water for bathing
More than half 75%

Soap
Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer
Less than half 25%

Face masks
Half 50%

Electricity
Nearly everyone 100%

Housing
More than half 75%

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the 4 weeks before the assessment, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Panj District.

75% 75% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% 25% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% 50% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, and NGOs/CBOs were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and government sources. KIs reported that, in this location, if people get COVID-19, they would tend to seek support from a local hospital or a pharmacy.

75% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

75% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

75% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

PANJ DISTRICT - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most returnees in Panj District returned from March 2020 onwards. Main reasons for returning to the home country included the availability of housing and an emotional desire to return. Factors that influenced the decision to leave the country of last migration were the worsening of housing and job and income generating opportunities, and the lack of financial means to stay in migration. Both, in the short (<6 months) and long (>6 months) term, most returnees intend to migrate internationally again. The main barriers for migrating again were linked to travel restrictions, volatile situation due to COVID-19 regulations, and lack of financial means to migrate. Some of the returnees in Panj District were forced to return by their country of last migration. All/most returnees have freedom of movement for day-to-day activities.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

25% 25% of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Agriculture/ farming/ animal raising
- Paid job (private)
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATES

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — Price (too expensive)

Health — Price (visit/treatment/ medicines is too expensive)

Shelter/housing — Quantity (insufficient houses so there is overcrowding)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees in Panj district were linked to food, employment/livelihoods, and access to and replacement of documentation. According to KIs, some returnees lack civil documentation. KIs did not report any specific problem linked to education or drinking water.

PANJ DISTRICT - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

26/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

12 Key informants interviewed

VAHDAT CITY

POPULATION ESTIMATES

327,747 (100%)
individuals

1,726 (1%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

81,030 (25%)
persons over 60 years old

1,931 (1%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

11,745 (4%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Insufficient income
- Unemployment
- Debt

Children only
- Lack of tools for home schooling
- Lack of home care
- Lack of PPE

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the 4 weeks before the assessment, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in this location.

50% had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

50% had a total loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Vahdat City have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned food, livelihoods and income generating opportunities, and financial support to purchase protective equipment. In this location, the main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, people were aware of hygiene and sanitation practices but failed to follow them, and people could not afford the cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water — Nearly everyone 100%

Water for bathing — Nearly everyone 100%

Soap — Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer — More than half 75%

Face masks — Half 50%

Electricity — Nearly everyone 100%

Housing — Nearly everyone 100%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, local hospitals and the UN were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 in this City. However, KIs reported that there were some myths or misperceptions on COVID-19. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were telephone calls or text messages, and television, radio and print media. KIs reported that, in this location, if people get COVID-19, they would tend to seek support from the local hospital or family doctor.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

100% know hand washing practices

100% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

VAHDAT CITY - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most returnees in Vadhat City returned either in 2018 or from March 2020 onwards. KIs reported that the majority of returnees came back to the home country for safety reasons, availability of housing, and to join family members who already returned. The main reasons why they decided to leave the destination country were linked to the worsening of job and income generating opportunities, lack of financial means to remain in migration, and deportation or fear of deportation. In the short (<6 months) and long (>6 months) term most returnees plan to stay in the current location. Some of the returnees in Vadhat City were forced to return by their country of last migration. All/most returnees have freedom of movement for day-to-day activities.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

50%

50% of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Agriculture/ farming/ animal raising
- Informal commerce or sporadic daily labour

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATESS

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Employment/ livelihoods

Quantity (insufficient jobs in the area)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees in Vadhat city were linked to food, shelter/ housing, and employment/livelihoods. Yet, the specific problems linked to these sectors were not captured by the previous question (illustrated in the graph above). KIs did not identify any problem linked to drinking water, food, Non-food items, health, shelter, and education.

VAHDAT CITY - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

22/30 Acceptable

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

33 Key informants interviewed

VANJ DISTRICT

POPULATION ESTIMATES

35,514 (100%)
individuals

1,764 (5%)
returnees

VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

2,087 (1%)
persons over 60 years old

185 (6%)
persons with chronic diseases/ serious medical conditions

315 (1%)
pregnant women

COVID-19 IMPACTS

MAIN CHALLENGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 BY POPULATION GROUP

All residents
- Unemployment
- Insufficient income
- Receive less/no remittances

Children only
- Lack of tools for home schooling
- Lack of PPE
- Lack of home care

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INCOME AND CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Over the 4 weeks before the assessment, key informants reported of concerns about not having enough food to eat and of families significantly reducing the quantity of food consumed in Vanj District.

25% **25%** had a partial loss of income due to COVID-19 (according to key informants information)

25% **25%** can't fulfill their basic needs (according to key informants information)

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

When asked what were the main services that people living in Vanj District have difficulties in accessing, key informants mentioned livelihoods and income generating opportunities, and information on COVID-19. The main barriers to proper hygiene and sanitation for COVID-19 prevention were that people were unaware of COVID-19, the presence of myths and misperceptions about COVID-19, and that people could not afford the cost of personal protective equipment.

Share of residents with access to:

Drinking water
More than half 75%

Water for bathing
Nearly everyone 100%

Soap
Nearly everyone 100%

Hand sanitizer
Half 50%

Face masks
Less than half 25%

Electricity
Nearly everyone 100%

Housing
Nearly everyone 100%

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Government sources, and local hospitals were distributing information and communication materials on COVID-19 at the time of the assessment. Yet, KIs reported that there were some myths or misperceptions on COVID-19. The most common information sources on COVID-19 were television, radio and print media, and word of mouth. KIs reported that in this location if people got COVID-19, they would tend to seek support from a family doctor or a local hospital.

100% know COVID-19 symptoms

75% know hand washing practices

75% know how to protect themselves from COVID-19

100% know who to contact if they get COVID-19

VANJ DISTRICT - RETURNEES

MIGRATION TRAJECTORY AND EMPLOYMENT

Most returnees in Vanj District returned from March 2020 onwards. KIs reported that the majority of returnees, came back to the home country for safety reasons, availability of housing, and to join family members who already returned. The main reasons why they decided to leave the previous country of destination were linked to deportation or fear of deportation, worsening safety and security, and lack of documentation. Both, in the short (<6 months) and long (>6 months) term, the majority of returnees in Vanj district plan to stay put. The primary factors preventing them from migrating again were the block of international travels, the migration route being unsafe, and volatile situation due to COVID-19. Some of the returnees in Vanj District were forced to return by the country of last migration. All/most returnees have freedom of movement for day-to-day activities.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

50% of the returnees were economically active/ employed at the time of the assessment (according to key informants information)

MAIN INCOME SOURCES

- Paid job (private)
- Self employed
- Borrowing money from money lender/banks

LIVING CONDITIONS ESTIMATESS

Problems faced by returnees by sectors:
(according to key informants information)

Food — Price (too expensive)

Non-food items — Quality (poor quality)

Health — Price (visit/treatment/ medicines is too expensive)

Employment/ livelihoods — Quality (jobs available but low paid or occasional or under-qualified)

KIs reported that the most important unmet needs of returnees were linked to shelter/housing, water, and food. Yet, the specific problems linked to water and shelter were not captured by the previous question (illustrated in the graph above). Some returnees lack some type of civil documentation. KIs did not identify any specific problem linked to drinking water, shelther, and education.

VANJ DISTRICT - LOCATION INFORMATION

CREDIBILITY SCORE

27/30 Highly credible

NUMBER OF KEY INFORMANTS

17 Key informants interviewed

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