



IOM

KAZAKHSTAN

COUNTRY

PROFILE

This booklet gives a brief information about IOM Kazakhstan and its activities.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

LAYOUT AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Dulat YESNAZAR

Disclaimer: This publication has been issued without formal editing by IOM.

PUBLISHER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Official address:

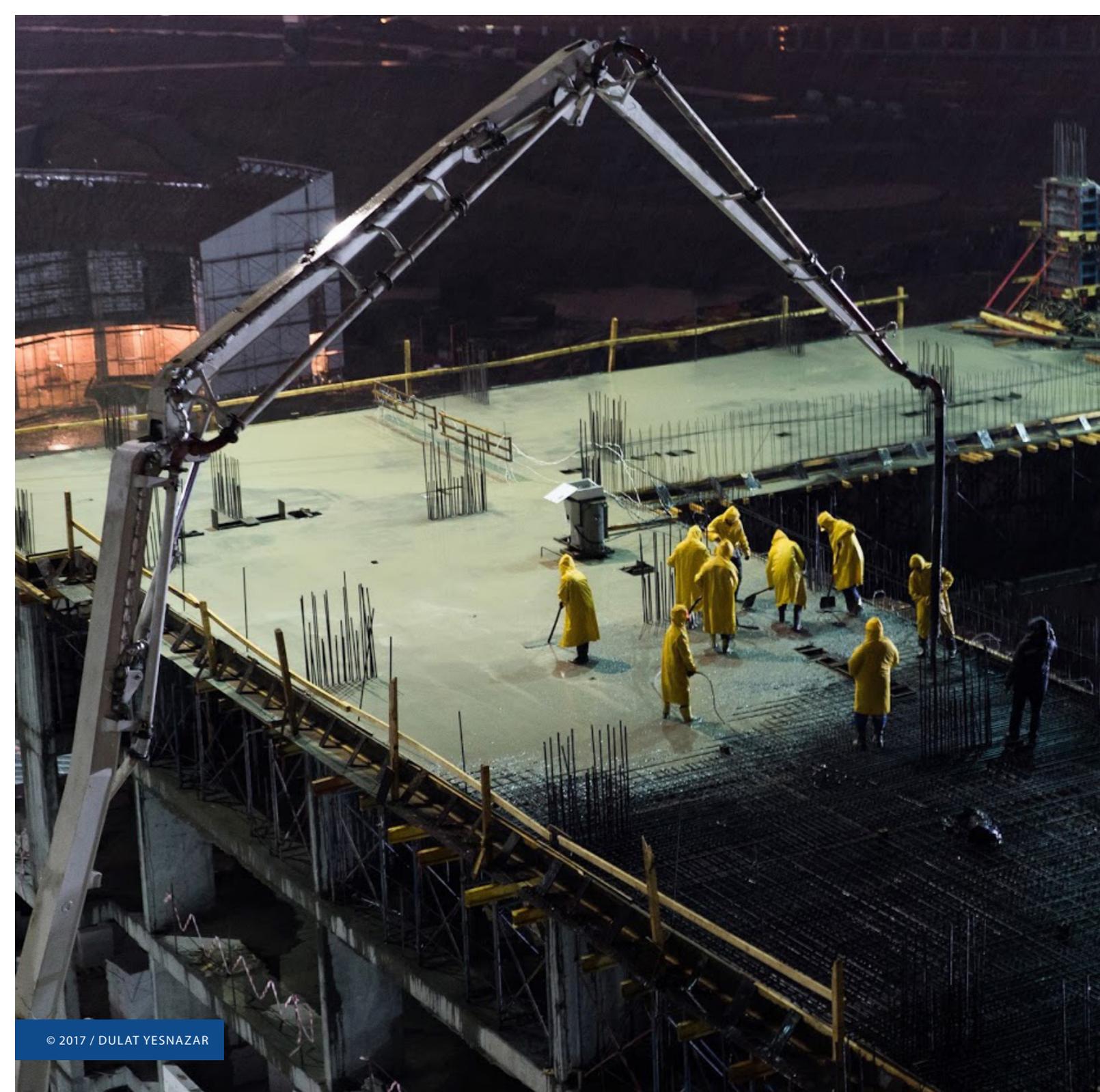
IOM Almaty
303 Baizakov Street, UN Building
Almaty 050040
Republic of Kazakhstan
Tel: + 7 727 258 26 43
iomalmaty@iom.int

IOM Nur-Sultan
14 Mambetov Street, UN Building
Nur-Sultan 010000
Republic of Kazakhstan
Tel: +7 7172 69 65 53
iomastana@iom.int
www.kazakhstan.iom.int

© 2019 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.





FOREWORD



We live in an age of unprecedented human mobility. Migration is considered one of the defining global issues of the early twenty-first century, with more and more people on the move today than at any other point in history.

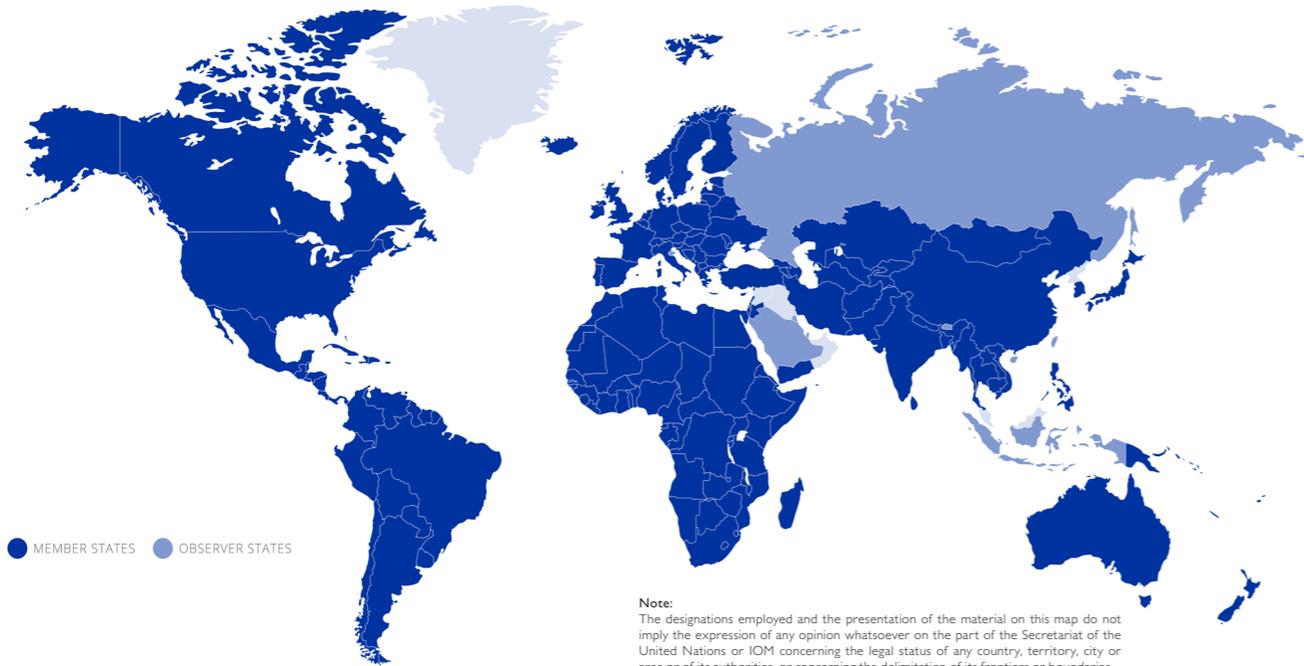
In Central Asia, which has been a crossroads of goods and people from the days of the Silk Road, hundreds of thousands of people move daily across the international borders in search of employment and opportunity. Millions of Central Asians work abroad and remit funds to their families. Over the last decade, migration became a major contributor to development throughout Central Asia, but also created many complex challenges for migrants, societies and governments alike, including but not limited to: increase in irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling of human beings; population displacements as the result of conflict, natural disasters, and economic crisis; security, law enforcement and public health issues; as well as difficulties of inter-state cooperation on migration issues.

IOM has been present in Central Asia since 1992, providing sustainable and collaborative solutions for managing migration to all five region's states through the network of IOM offices, IOM partner NGOs and through regional information sharing and training.

IOM believes that migration is a potential catalyst for development and economic growth in Central Asia and can play a key role in helping countries realize their development goals. In order to harness the positive benefits of migration and reduce its negative impacts, IOM in Central Asia supports efforts of governments, societies and migrants to promote humane and orderly migration, facilitate integration and uphold human dignity and well-being of migrants, encourage social and economic development through migration, assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management and advance the understanding of migration issues.

Dejan Keserovic

IOM Coordinator for Central Asia, Chief of Mission in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan



MEMBER STATES OBSERVER STATES

Note:
The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Every effort is made to ensure this map is free of errors but there is no warrant the map or its features are either spatially or temporally accurate or fit for a particular use. This map is provided without any warranty of any kind whatsoever, either express or implied.

ABOUT IOM

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

With 173 Member States, a further 8 States holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

After 65 of existence and global operations, on 19 September 2016, IOM formally joined the UN system as a related agency.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as the right of freedom of movement.

IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management

01 Migration and Development

02 Facilitating Migration

03 Regulating Migration

04 Forced Migration

IOM activities that cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.

Mission

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:



IOM HISTORY



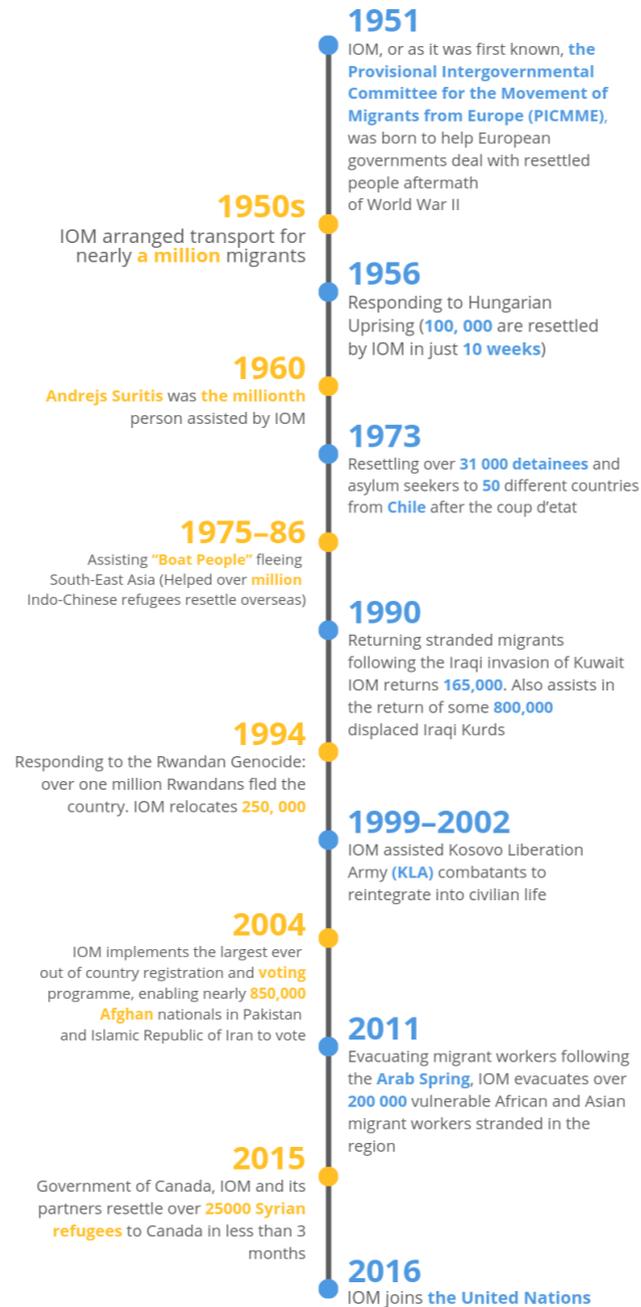
IOM, or as it was first known, the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME), was born in 1951 out of the chaos and displacement of Western Europe following the Second World War.

Mandated to help European governments to identify resettlement countries for the estimated 11 million people uprooted by the war, it arranged transport for nearly a million migrants during the 1950s.

A succession of name changes from PICMME to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) in 1952, to the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) in 1980 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 1989, reflects the organization's transition over half a century from logistics agency to migration agency.

While IOM's history tracks the man-made and natural disasters of the past half century - Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, Chile 1973, the Vietnamese Boat People 1975, Kuwait 1990, Kosovo and East Timor 1999, and the Asian tsunami and Pakistan earthquake of 2004/2005 - its credo that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society has steadily gained international acceptance.

From its roots as an operational logistics agency, it has broadened its scope to become the leading international agency working with governments and civil society to advance the understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and IOM Director General William L. Swing, New York, 2016

The broader scope of activities has been matched by rapid expansion from a relatively small agency into one with an annual operating budget of an estimated USD 1.5 billion and more than 12,000 staff working in over 100 countries worldwide. IOM currently has 173 Member States and a further 8 states holding Observer status.

At the United Nations Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants which took place on Monday 19 September 2016 in New York, IOM Director General William Lacy and UN Secretary-General Ban ki-Moon signed a document linking IOM to the UN as one of its related organizations, giving the United Nations, for the first time, an explicit, official migration mandate.

IOM's collaboration with the UN has already been close, and became even more so with the organization as part of the UN system. This helps ensure that the issues surrounding the world's 244 million international migrants are well addressed. IOM has become the point of reference in the heated global debate on the social, economic and political implications of migration in the 21st century.

IOM IN KAZAKHSTAN



“KAZAKHSTAN BECAME AN IOM MEMBER STATE ON 2 DECEMBER 2002.”

Kazakhstan became an IOM Member State on 2 December 2002. As the Country Office with Coordinating Functions for Central Asia, the IOM mission in Kazakhstan helps to address specific subregional migration issues and emerging trends in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, establishing priorities for project development and resource mobilization, and stimulating, directing and supporting project development in the country offices in the context of subregional strategies, policies and consultative processes.

IOM in Kazakhstan has played an important part in reforms of migration management and counter trafficking through capacity-building, advising and shaping policy, research, technical assistance, public awareness, direct assistance to vulnerable groups of migrants and victims of trafficking. IOM has strategic partnerships with a variety of partners including governments, inter-governmental organizations, international organizations, NGOs, academia and the private sector in Kazakhstan.

IOM provides international expert advice to the Kazakh Parliament in harmonizing the national legislation in compliance with the international conventions on migration and human rights: Law on Migration; Law on amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on combating human trafficking. IOM provided ad hoc policy advice to migration practitioners and policymakers from the Kazakh Government on diverse migration management issues. IOM has provided comments to new Concept on Migration policy document and assisted to the working group under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan tasked with development of a new Concept on Migration Policy.



MIGRATION TRENDS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan's vast territory covers about 2.7 million sq. km (which makes it the 9th largest country in the world), but it is inhabited by a relatively small population of approximately 18 million people. The major trends in migration processes in Kazakhstan have been: emigration; transit and labour migration from countries of Central Asia; immigration, mainly related to inflow of the ethnic Kazakhs; internal migration, mainly resettlement of the population from rural areas, small and medium-sized cities to the metropolis. There are three main phases that can be highlighted in the development of immigration and emigration processes in Kazakhstan since its independence (1991 – present):

1. The 1990s was a decade of the major crisis in the country's sociopolitical and socioeconomic development which was associated with the migration "donation". During that period migration outflows surpassed insignificant immigration numbers by several times leading to a substantial reduction of the population of Kazakhstan;
2. The first half of the 2000s was the period of socio-economic stability and economic growth, significant reduction of emigration and the gradual rise of immigration (mainly from Central Asian countries). During this phase, Kazakhstan became a recipient of immigration (although positive external migration balance is minor in absolute numbers, favorable dynamics can be traced very clearly);
3. Global financial crisis of 2008–2009 and drop in oil prices in 2013 have heavily affected oil dependent economy of Kazakhstan. Since 2012 net migration rate in Kazakhstan has always been negative. More people than ever before have left Kazakhstan for permanent residence;

TOTAL LEFT KAZAKHSTAN FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE



COUNTER-TRAFFICKING AND ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

IOM has been working on the problem of human trafficking in Central Asia since 1998. IOM was the first organization to raise this pressing issue and direct the attention of Central Asian governments to the illegal exploitation of their citizens abroad for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation. Over the last ten years, IOM, in support of the international drive to fight human trafficking, has implemented numerous projects aimed at the prevention of human trafficking, protection of victims of trafficking, prosecution of recruiters and traffickers and development of regional co-operation among the countries of Central Asia. IOM also works closely with intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

IOM Counter-Trafficking Programme in the Republic of Kazakhstan started in August 2002. IOM response to human trafficking focuses on three broad areas known as three 'P's: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. The various components are funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Due to its economic situation and geographical location, Kazakhstan serves as a destination, transit and source country for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour. Despite the consequences of the global economic crisis, Kazakhstan remains attractive for citizens from less economically stable countries of Central Asia. The absolute majority of victims trafficked to Kazakhstan comes from neighbouring Uzbekistan. The main destination countries for Kazakhs are the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and the Russian Federation. Local labour market is mainly restricted to the biggest cities, therefore, a number of in-country trafficking cases increased in past years.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

A key objective of the Migration Management is to encourage dissemination and understanding among IOM counterparts of the international legal standards that govern migration and provide protection of the rights of individuals involved in migration. The Unit thereby promotes migration governance within the rule of law. In 2018–2019 IOM has been developing study materials for teaching government officials on international migration law, labour migration, assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) and ethnic migration in the context of Central Asian region. This course builds the capacity of State authorities in managing migration processes and facilitating orderly, safe, regular and humane migration in the region.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP



ALMATY PROCESS

The Almaty Process is a regional consultative process on refugee protection and international migration to, from and within Central Asia. The Almaty Process aims to address the multiple challenges resulting from mixed migration dynamics and enhance regional cooperation and coordination on mixed migration through:

- promoting dialogue on the challenges of international migration and refugee protection;
- developing mechanisms to monitor and address irregular migration;
- fostering a common understanding of causes and consequences of displacement and migration;
- promoting coherent, comprehensive and differentiated policies for persons on the move;
- developing project-based actions to enhance State capacity to manage migration and provide refugee protection.

Almaty Process is represented by seven Member States: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan, and three observer States: the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. Chairmanship in the Almaty Process rotates among Member States every two years, determining the place and agenda of regional Almaty Process consultations. IOM and UNHCR perform the duties of the secretariat supporting quarterly technical expert group meetings of the Almaty Process, annual Senior Officials' Meetings and Ministerial Conferences.

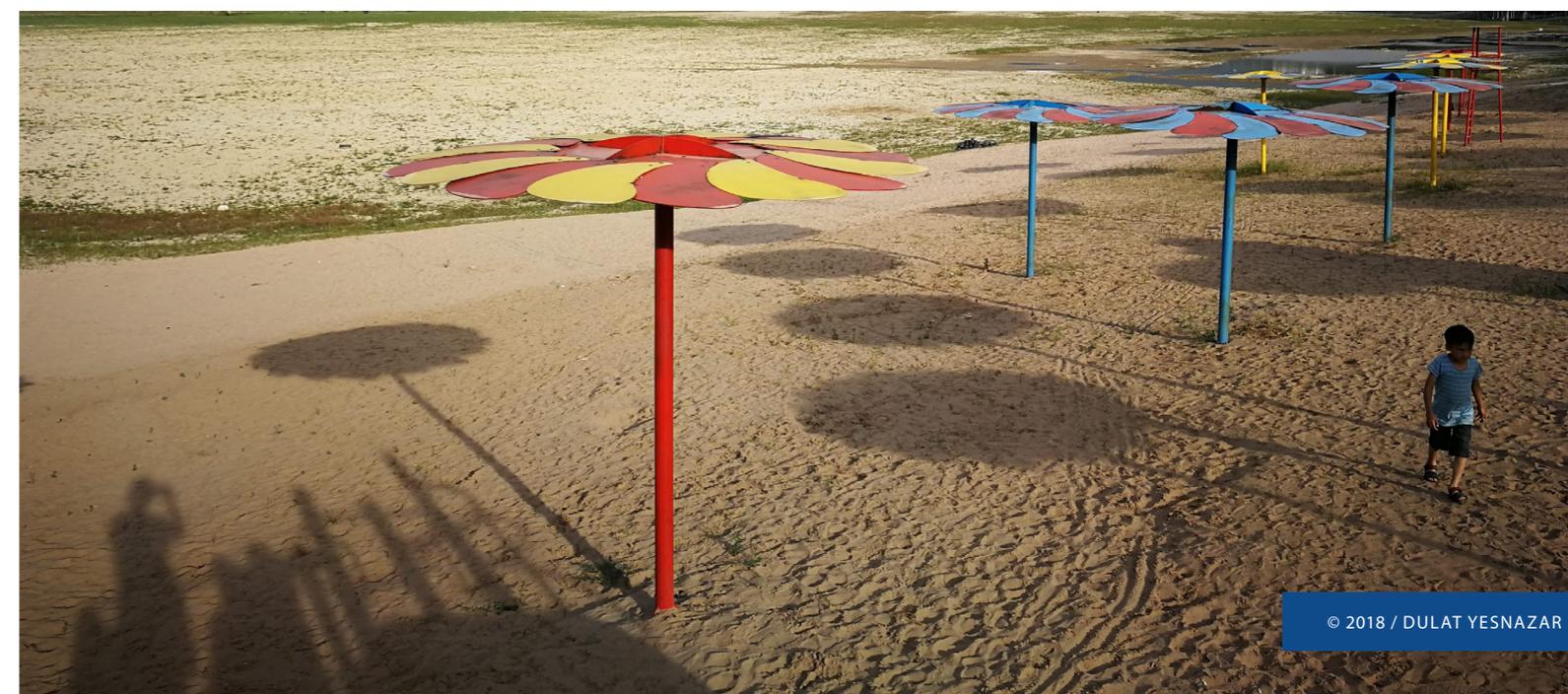
LABOUR MIGRATION

Support to institutional, policy and legislative developments. IOM provides both policy and capacity-building assistance to authorities in Kazakhstan. Being a member of the ministerial legislation working group and working group on migration legislation in the Parliament, IOM with its State partners organizes a variety of fora to discuss migration legislation development. IOM provides assistance in estimating the demand for foreign labour. It also provides expert advice on revision of migration legislation and rules for bringing foreign labour.

Capacity-building to manage labour migration processes. Together with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, IOM has been conducting training and coordination meetings at local level to upgrade professional skills of local level migration officials and streamline inter-agency coordination mechanisms. IOM also developed training manuals for relevant authorities, and thematic training sessions for NGOs working in the field of migration.



Information-counselling services and other assistance to migrants and their families. Together with network of NGO partners IOM runs Migrants Support Centres and provides a variety of information counselling services and other assistance to migrants and their families. In addition, IOM provides a wide range of services to labour migrants including legal aid, ad hoc material help, facilitates access to medical assistance, social services and provides return assistance on a case by case basis. Finally, IOM has conducted information campaigns which included production and dissemination of information materials on labour migration opportunities in Kazakhstan.



© 2018 / DULAT YESNAZAR

MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Recognizing the necessity to address human mobility challenges associated with environmental factors and climate change, IOM Kazakhstan aims to integrate environmental, disaster and climate change factors across all areas of migration management, such as: prevention, preparedness and response to displacement, border management, labour migration and integration, and return and reintegration.

IOM Kazakhstan' objectives concerning migration, environment and climate change are:

- Increased awareness among relevant policy level stakeholders contributes to building a common approach in mainstreaming issues related to migration and climate change planning and programmes;
- Increased access to adaptation solutions with a special focus on managing drought or other forms of water stress;
- Effective knowledge management contributes to the success of an adaptation solution.



RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

IOM Kazakhstan is involved in arranging safe, orderly and cost effective movement of refugees, migrants and other persons of concern to IOM to the countries of their destinations. Movements from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are conducted under direct supervision of IOM Mission in Kazakhstan. Leading resettlement countries for refugees from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are the United States and Canada.



**Government
of Canada**

**Gouvernement
du Canada**

Canada Visa Application Centre (CVAC) is the exclusive service provider for the Government of Canada, authorized to accept applications in all temporary resident categories (visitor visas, study and work permits) and travel document applications from Canada's permanent residents in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. CVAC is authorized to provide administrative support services, such as: the collection of visa applications and return of passports in sealed decision envelopes to applicants. The decision to issue or refuse a visa is made solely by immigration officers of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). CVAC has no role or influence over the outcome of an application and does not offer any evaluative advice.

MIGRATION AND HEALTH

Health assessment programme. IOM Kazakhstan established a medical unit in Almaty and started providing health assessment of refugees and immigrants for resettlement in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States in December 1999. IOM Almaty medical staff contributed a lot into refugees' resettlement programmes in the neighbouring Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan by providing medical examinations of Canada and US-bound refugees in the field. In January 2014 IOM Kazakhstan launched UKTB programme to screen UK applicants for tuberculosis and considering great demand by people in Astana, in November 2014 IOM Kazakhstan opened a second clinic in Astana for the United Kingdom and Canadian applicants. The total caseload over the period from 2009 to 2018 was estimated 1,100–1,200 individuals a year for resettlement in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. The yearly average number of screened applicants for United Kingdom from 2014 to 2018 is 2,000 persons.

Health promotion and Assistance for Migrants. IOM offices throughout Central Asia developed and implemented a range of projects in the domain of migration and health. Inadequate access to health services, poor living conditions, restrictive laws and policies, low educational background of migrants can subject them to many health risks and make them vulnerable to infections like PTB, HIV and other STIs. IOM projects aim to facilitate migrants to better medical access, promote migrants' rights to health, prevent communicable and non-communicable diseases in mobile populations, enhance regional and bilateral cooperation of governments in Central Asia to manage major infections and implement migrants' sensitive policies.



© 2017 / RICHARD LEE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes for the first time the contribution of migration to sustainable development. Migration is a cross-cutting issue, relevant to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 11 out of 17 goals contain targets and indicators that are relevant to migration or mobility. The Agenda's core principle to "leave no one behind", including migrants, requires data disaggregation by migratory status, opening up significant migration data needs but also the opportunity to improve migration data.

SDG TARGET 10.7

"Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people"

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programmes provide administrative, logistical and financial support to migrants who decide to return home, but lack the means to do so. This includes individualized counselling with IOM or its partners and is often complemented by reintegration assistance to help beneficiaries rebuild their lives within the communities to which they return.

Beneficiaries of AVRR programmes may include stranded migrants, irregular migrants, regular migrants, asylum seekers who decide not to pursue their claims or who are found not to be in need of international protection. AVRR assistance can also be provided to migrants in vulnerable situations, such as victims of trafficking, elderly people, unaccompanied migrant children or migrants with health-related needs.

IOM Kazakhstan is involved in arranging safe, orderly and cost-effective movement of refugees, migrants and other persons of concern to IOM to the countries of their destinations. Movements from Uzbekistan are conducted under direct supervision of IOM Mission in Kazakhstan. Leading resettlement countries for refugees from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are the United States, Canada and the Nordic countries.

IOM's AVRR programmes provide a means of meeting the most challenging aspects of return and reintegration, in that they address migrant aspirations and government concerns concurrently:

FOR MIGRANTS

AVRR represents a humane and dignified approach to return, enhancing reintegration perspectives at home. For migrants who decide to return home but lack the means to do so, assisted voluntary return and reintegration is often the only way to address their immediate plight. AVRR allows migrants concerned to plan for their return, thereby facilitating the sustainability of their reintegration.

FOR GOVERNMENTS OF HOST AND TRANSIT COUNTRIES

AVRR is a consensual and cost-effective option that helps strengthen the integrity of regular migration and asylum systems, as opposed to more arduous and often more costly law enforcement means.

FOR GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

AVRR is an acceptable option to support the reinsertion of returning nationals. IOM assists governments of countries of origin in the development of strategies and programmes facilitating the management of return migration and strengthening capacities for reintegration in these countries. AVRR also facilitates and enhances a cooperative approach to return between the relevant authorities in host and transit countries and countries of origin.

THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF AN AVRR PROGRAMME*



* THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF SUPPORT PROVIDED UNDER AVRR VARY DEPENDING, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, ON THE BENEFICIARIES' NEEDS, THE PARAMETERS OF EACH PROGRAMME AND THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

MIGRANTS IN COUNTRIES IN CRISIS INITIATIVE

A number of recent humanitarian crises have shown that migrants are often among those who suffer the most both in conflicts and in natural disasters. With growing international mobility and an unprecedented number of people displaced by conflicts, violence and disasters, most countries today host some kind of migrant population. The presence of such a significant number of people living outside of their countries of origin has specific consequences in times of crisis, especially when individuals are undocumented and with limited income and/or access to local resources. Migrants are likely to need specific forms of support and assistance, which are not always provided to a sufficient extent by the institutional and non-institutional actors of the country in which they are residing.



Over the last years, a number of calls have gone out to make sure that the needs of migrants in crises situations are adequately addressed. As a consequence of these calls, a small group of actors started working to explore and define the issues, look at best practices, collect the evidence base, and propose a set of guidelines to strengthen national and international capacities to address the migrants' vulnerability in disasters through the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative. The voluntary and non-binding Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or natural Disasters were launched at the United Nations in June 2016.

Since 2014 IOM conducts annual trainings on MICIC in the Central Asian region, where participants review potential crisis situations and learn how to address migrants' need in these situations. It is apparent that, due to significant regional mobility, current planning among the Central Asia States requires enhanced migration focused response mechanisms in the event of disasters or other emergencies affecting large numbers of migrants. IOM is well-positioned to provide expertise and capacity-building assistance.

In order to support efficient preparedness capacity-building measures, IOM will provide a platform to collate and coordinate current national and regional planning efforts, suggest possible areas of further work and provide concrete recommendations on the way forward, based on the content of the MICIC Guidelines and on the practices collected throughout the MICIC Initiative process. Better capacity by all relevant actors to address migrants' specific needs in times of crisis is key to reducing their vulnerability.



Dejan Keserovic, IOM Coordinator for Central Asia, Chief of Mission in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION

As the result of irregular migration trends, and costly, time-consuming and bureaucratic legal channels, many migrant workers travelling fall victim to human trafficking, labour exploitation, debt bondage or suffer physical and verbal abuse, and threats to themselves and family, often as a means of control by employers, agents or recruiters.

In response to these challenges, the objective of the Asia Regional Migration Program is to strengthen the capacities and resources of Governments in Asia to manage the complex migration flows in the region, particularly migrants in vulnerable and crisis situations, through enhanced structures, policies, processes, safe and legal migration pathways, and effective partnerships at the national, subregional, and regional level. An example is IOM's contribution to the development of the Migration Policy Concept of Kazakhstan (2017– 2021) to ensure that the document is developed according to international standards and good practices. The policy document was elaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection o Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan and endorsed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in September 2017. Promoting and facilitating dialogue with Governments at the regional level, particularly through the Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration, has served to safeguard stability and security in the region, and drawn countries closer to the international arena. "Asia Regional Migration Program" funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).



Almaty, 2019