



## Tajikistan Crisis Response Plan 2020

### 2020

#### Funding Required

\$1,075,000

#### Target Beneficiaries

10,350

#### IOM Vision

**"A stable Tajikistan, resilient against internal and external threats and risks"**

Supporting the Government of Tajikistan to mitigate impacts from disaffected returning migrants through effective reintegration, addressing complex and multifaceted border management challenges, and building the capacity of government and civil society actors to respond to mass displacement and disaster.

#### Context Analysis

The Tajik-Afghan border represents various ongoing challenges in terms of stability in Tajikistan. The first challenge is the proximity to unstable regions of Afghanistan, of which some areas are controlled by non-government forces (Dec 2019) and rumoured to harbour violent extremists from Tajikistan. Furthermore, Afghanistan is a major source for the smuggling of drugs and other goods, a factor destabilising the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO). Border forces have had some success in responding to these issues, but a more

comprehensive approach to capacity building of border guards and border communities is needed.

Secondly, ongoing tension between the government, communities and informal power brokers in GBAO is exacerbated by economic hardship and grievances experienced by the youth population and returned migrant workers, some of whom may have experienced serious rights violations. These workers lack access to information and support to aid their economic, social and psychosocial reintegration into Tajik society. This dynamic can often be a contributor to increased tension, risk of involvement in crime, and risk of recruitment into exploitative situations or even violent extremism, when structural, individual and enabling factors interlink. To mitigate these problems, community stabilization efforts and strengthening of the migration governance system are needed.

Thirdly, unrest or outright conflict in Afghanistan increases the risk of a significant influx of refugees. The capacity of the Committee of Emergency Situations (COES) and civil society actors to manage camps and displacement sites, implement accountability mechanisms and engage effective humanitarian communications, is weak and requires intensive capacity building.

In addition to the challenges at the Tajik-Afghan border, ongoing intra-border and cross-border tension at the Tajik-Kyrgyz border, and subsequent government requests for assistance, illustrate additional border guard-community engagement challenges and the need for social cohesion efforts along other borders.

## Coordination

IOM will work closely with the Tajik Border Force under the State Committee for National Security. IOM has extensive experience and an ongoing relationship with both the Tajik Border Force and the Afghan Border Police, facilitating IOM's capacity to work in border areas and with border security structures. IOM also works with the Migration Services of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population to build the capacity at the district level to deliver services to returned migrant workers. This relationship will be further developed to link migrant workers to service providers and establish stronger referral systems. IOM will engage with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection as part of the process of linking migrants to the primary health system and build the capacity of primary health care providers to respond to psychosocial needs. Finally, IOM will partner with the Committee on Emergency Situations to further develop the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster and will deepen this relationship through project capacity building.

## IOM Capacity

IOM has long term implementation experience working along the Tajik-Afghan Border, close relationships with key ministries, including the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population, and the Border Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan, and experience implementing successful community stabilisation and Border Management projects in the area. All IOM Tajikistan activities are further supported by robust regional and global expertise. For example, IOM has a comparative advantage as global co-lead of the CCCM cluster (with UNHCR) and takes primary responsibility for CCCM activities related to environmentally induced

displacement. As such, IOM manages CCCM response in numerous countries around the world. At the country level, IOM Tajikistan engages across the gamut of migration-related issues, leading UN work on migration and utilising experienced staff in both policy and field-level activities. Further, IOM has technical capacity in mental health and psychological support (MHPSS) and social cohesion, and in mainstreaming MHPSS into capacity building of border guards and border communities. IOM implements MHPSS interventions in line with its Manual on Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies and Displacement.

#### Objective

#### **Driving solutions to displacement**

\$950,000

**Funding Required**

10,350

**Target Beneficiaries**

Target beneficiaries include returning migrants who face a range of socio-economic and health issues, as well as the staff of the Ministries of Labour, Migration and Employment and Health and Social Protection who are responsible for addressing related needs.

### **Mental health and psychosocial support in transition and recovery**

#### **Funding Required**

\$150,000

As part of addressing anger and the frustration, dissatisfaction, and possible effects of violence and abuse amongst migrants arising from their migration experience, IOM will continue Reintegration Planning Sessions (RPS) which provide a space for migrants to support to each other and address their concerns to the relevant officials. This support will generate positive outlets for participants to direct their frustrations and efforts, increasing social cohesion. The sessions will also provide an opportunity for the referral of migrants to primary healthcare services for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). In addition, IOM will work with local governance and health structures to build a network of community-based workers trained in psychological first aid.

### **Community stabilization**

#### **Funding Required**

\$700,000

Many migrants face significant issues upon return, including poverty, health and psycho-social health issues, often as a result of maltreatment and abuse. Hazardous living and working conditions, and as well as heightened risk behaviour, can expose migrants to communicable diseases, which often remain undetected and/or untreated in the country of destination due to diverse factors such as fear of deportation. In addition, return migrants and youth in target areas face joblessness and are vulnerable to involvement in crime such as drug trafficking, or

in contributing to social unrest, and could become easy prey for opportunists and human traffickers. As part of addressing anger, frustration, dissatisfaction, and the possible effects of violence and abuse amongst migrants arising from their experiences during migration, IOM will carry out the following activities:

1. Reintegration planning and support for returned migrant workers. Building on a successful initial rollout of reintegration planning sessions through the Ministry of Labour, Population and Employment, IOM will focus on engaging youth at risk of crime or involvement in community conflict and returned migrant workers in planning for the future and engaging constructively with society. Direct assistance will be provided to vulnerable persons for recognition of skills, skills training and business development and health issues. This will include referrals for treatment of injuries suffered during migration and communicable diseases. Particular attention will be given to assessing and addressing challenges faced by returned migrant workers with disabilities arising from injuries suffered during migration.
2. Capacity building of local authorities, including migration services and local government, to extend basic services and support to returning migrant workers.
3. The identification and facilitation of community projects to build community cohesion and engage at-risk youth and migrant workers in joint government-community activities.
4. The establishment and development of migration sub-groups at the village level to build diaspora engagement and community connection between migrant worker networks and home villages.

## **Health system strengthening**

### **Funding Required**

\$100,000

IOM will work with other development partners to strengthen the primary health system to address mental health and psychosocial support needs amongst migrant workers and vulnerable populations in target areas. In particular, IOM will:

1. Strengthening of referral pathways for migrants to access the primary healthcare system, including improved coordination between migration and health services and efforts to reduce barriers to migrant worker access;
2. Comprehensive assessment of MHPSS needs and mapping of existing MHPSS services that need to be added;
3. Capacity building of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection staff and primary health care staff on MHPSS, identification and referral of migrants suffering from mental health issues and training on MHPSS assessment tools.

All activities will be in line with IOM standards and the [IOM Manual on Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies and Displacement](#).

Objective

**Strengthen preparedness and reduce disaster risk**

\$125,000

**Funding Required**

150

**Target Beneficiaries**

Staff from the Committee on Emergency Situations (COES) and civil society stakeholders working in disaster response.

Emergency preparedness

Funding Required

\$125,000

IOM plans to carry out the following activities:

- 1. Strengthening of camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) capacity amongst stakeholders through a CCCM awareness forum for disaster response stakeholders, trainings, support for simulation exercises under UNHCR and REACT, and a study tour to existing CCCM implementations for COES staff. This will include awareness sessions on the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), IOM’s framework for holistically addressing mobility-related aspects of crises.
- 2. Integration of prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and accountability to affected populations (AAP) into existing preparedness plans.
- 3. Building capacity in humanitarian communications, including establishing a working group, development of basic messaging library, pre-crisis mapping and perception survey, and training for media on reporting in disaster situations.
- 4. Training COES and development partners on the "Planning Mass Evacuation in Natural Disasters" (MEND). This knowledge will feed into the development of standard operating procedures (SOP) on relocation or movement of affected persons useful in both natural disasters and conflict scenarios.
- 5. Mainstreaming mental health and psychosocial support into CCCM and general response planning.

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

3		37		2
International staff and affiliated work force	and	National staff and affiliated work force		IOM Field Offices